

A heart-warming series that connects  
pound dogs with people in need

New  
**Leash**  
on  
**Life**





# THE HEALING POWER OF CANINE COMPANIONSHIP IS ON SHOW IN THIS MOVING 6-PART SERIES

Comedian Joel Creasey and dog expert Laura V are on a mission to rescue pound dogs whose lives are on the line, train them up, and pair them with a family or person in need of a dog in their life.

Each year thousands of dogs are impounded for a variety of reasons. In some places, unclaimed dogs can be euthanised after just seven days – resulting in thousands of healthy dogs being put to sleep each year.

*New Leash on Life* seeks to reduce the number of dogs in pounds as Joel and Laura work towards a mutual rescue – for both the dogs and their new owners.

But these matches can be complex, and Laura must ensure the dog will work well in the prospective new home, and just as importantly, that the owner is the right fit for the dog.

Through a series of touching encounters and activities, this series takes viewers on an emotional, and ultimately uplifting, journey as it highlights the remarkable impact dogs can have on human lives.

**HD 6 x 30'**  
**Artemis Media**  
**FORMAT AVAILABLE**





# EPISODE SYNOPSES



## EPISODE 1

Joel and Laura meet father of five, Paul, his wife Kirsten and their son Patrick. Paul looks reasonably well but beneath the surface, he is lonely and grieving.

Paul suffered a critical spinal injury from a motorcycle accident several years ago, damaging his nerves, and stopping him from working at full capacity. For five years his little soulmate, Prince the pug, helped him through this difficult recovery. However, Prince was tragically killed in an accident on Paul's hobby farm, leaving Paul bereft.

His concerned family have never seen him so low, and they are convinced that a dog will help make Paul happier again.

In their search to find Paul a rescue dog, Joel and Laura are drawn to Ringo – a vocal young German Shepherd/Siberian Husky-cross. He is both big and black, and the hardest type of dog to rehome.

Laura and Joel also meet a beautiful white Kelpie cross, Lilly. Laura and Joel must choose which of these dogs is best suited to Paul and life on his farm.



# EPISODE SYNOPSES

## EPISODE 2

Laura and Joel face a huge challenge with an abandoned dog in desperate need of a second chance. Memphis is a strong, three-and-a-half-year-old male Doberman/Staffy cross, with a ferocious bark which terrifies anyone who comes near him. For Joel it's a big learning curve in not judging a book by its cover. Through Laura, he learns how to understand dogs better, especially aggressive ones.

Laura bravely enters Memphis's only safe space, his cage. While there's no way Memphis is ready to be paired with a family, Laura is determined to help him all the same.

Joel and Laura learn there is only one man who can get close to this traumatised dog – single father, Derek, the facility's animal care officer. Derek is the only human Memphis trusts.

But Derek faces a race against time to get Memphis out of the pound and into temporary foster care. If he doesn't find a new home, this misunderstood hound faces being euthanised. To help Derek's cause, Laura wants to train Memphis to trust people again to improve his chances of finding a foster carer.



# EPISODE SYNOPSES

## EPISODE 3

Joel and Laura meet 57-year-old Tracy or 'Nana Skids' as she's known to her grandsons. At the age of 43, Tracy's life was turned upside down in a motorbike accident. The once adventurous thrill seeker became a paraplegic and her life changed forever.

Fourteen years on, she is feeling isolated and depressed. When she was refused a rescue dog by a shelter group, due to her disability, Tracy had given up on the idea of finding a loving companion. But she knows a rescue dog would give her purpose and get her engaged with the world outside her front door again. She is happy with the idea of any type of dog – apart from a Chihuahua.

Joel and Laura want to match Tracy with a compatible canine who won't overpower her and who will get along with Darla, her daughter's Rottweiler. They meet a newly arrived bonded pint-sized pair of dogs, who are brimming with character – Jasper the Fox Terrier and Jade the Chihuahua.

Will big hearted Tracy embrace the idea of having two dogs, and will she overcome her prejudices and fall in love with a Chihuahua?





# EPISODE SYNOPSES

## EPISODE 4

Nurse Rosey migrated to Perth from the north of England six years ago, with her husband of almost two decades, Tom. After a short illness a year ago, Tom passed away leaving Rosey grief stricken.

Ten months on, Rosey is determined to break through her oppressive grief, and work her way through the bucket list that she and Tom once shared. Top of the list is getting a dog which she hopes will help her meet new people.

Rosey is looking for a big dog with a presence who she can pour her love into, and who in turn will make her feel safe. At the pound there are no shortages of large dogs. Joel and Laura meet a chocolate Labrador-cross and a very big handsome Bullmastiff-cross, Arty.

When Laura first meets Arty, he is wary and showing signs of high anxiety. Arty is a gentle giant with a presence. But he is a 'project dog', needing a lot of time, training, and patience to blossom. Is he the right match for Rosey, a first-time dog owner?



# EPISODE SYNOPSSES



## EPISODE 5

Joel and Laura meet loved up couple Ian and Gail, who for 16 years, kept active with the help of their 'pocket rocket' pup, Pearl. Ian has Type 1 diabetes, a bone disorder and recently suffered two heart attacks – forcing him to stop work.

Alone at home after losing Pearl, Ian feels unmotivated to pursue much in or out of the house. Ian's mental slump has Gail worried, and Gail's own morning exercise routines have lapsed as well.

The couple are ready for another rescue dog in their life. They're convinced a new pooch will reinvigorate Ian and spur Gail to resume her morning walks again. Ian and Gail want a small dog they can take on the back of their tricycles when they ride to the foreshore.

This presents a challenge for Joel and Laura as pounds are full of medium-to-large sized dogs, but the few smaller ones that come in get snapped up. Will they find a suitable dog for these two love birds?



# EPISODE SYNOPSES

## EPISODE 6

Joel and Laura meet newlyweds, Ned and Gabriella. Despite their recent nuptials, the couple have been through an emotional rollercoaster. Gabriella is recovering from a traumatic workplace accident while Ned is grieving the tragic loss of his youngest son.

This compassionate couple agree a pooch would give them the comfort and joy they need right now – but they don't always agree on what kind of dog they want. Gabriella wants a good-looking 'fur baby' she can

snuggle up with while Ned wants an active dog he can take to the construction site where he mentors ex-prisoners.

At the pound, Joel and Laura meet Scout, a young, handsome and totally untrained Kelpie/Staffy-cross who could be the ray of sunshine Ned and Gabriella are looking for... if he can ever learn to stop barking. Scout will need a lot of training to channel his exuberant nature.



# MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

‘A delightful show... You’re going to absolutely adore this’

– **The West Australian**

‘Entirely free of sensationalism or gimmick, simply presenting us with dogs who need people, people who need dogs, and the unutterable sweetness when the two match up’

– **The Age**

‘Audiences are taken on an emotional journey (tissues at the ready) as it highlights the healing power of canine companionship’

– **Who**

‘Stands out from the pack thanks to its refreshing honesty’

– **Geelong Advertiser**





# PRESENTER: JOEL CREASEY

**'It breaks my heart that people could abandon or mistreat their dogs. It makes sense... because they really are man's best friend, as cliché as that sounds.'**

— Joel Creasey

Joel Creasey is one of Australia's most popular, acclaimed and charmingly controversial stand-up comedians, radio and television presenters. He's also the man, inspired by his stand-up act, the legendary Joan Rivers called "a f\*cking star!" after she hired him to open for her in New York. He has since sold-out tours of Australia, the UK, Asia and the USA.

Joel's stand-up special *Thirsty* launched globally to rave reviews as part of Netflix's Comedians of the World, and a second broadcast stand-up special, *Fame Whore*, airs on Amazon Prime worldwide.

In 2022, Joel toured his stand-up show *Basic AF* around the country, including Melbourne's International Comedy Festival and Adelaide Fringe Festival. He also hosted *Eurovision: Australia Decides* and *Eurovision Song Contest* in Italy for his sixth consecutive year.





# PRESENTER: LAURA V

**'I will never stop fighting for dogs.  
Not until I am sure we deserve them.'**

**— Laura Vissaritis**

*B.A | Grad Dip Ed | Grad Dip Psych | Member  
Centre Veterinary Education University  
of Sydney | Veterinary Behaviour Medicine  
Course | National Dog Trainers Federation*

Laura Vissaritis is a qualified dog behaviourist with more than 15 years' experience. With her expertise in psychology and education, she formulated the 'Dognitive Therapy' approach to dog training, helping thousands of people not only develop better relationships with their dogs but also improve their own lives.

Laura is the author of three books and has a regular radio slot where she helps answer listeners' most pressing canine questions.

Having grown up on a small farm, Laura has always been surrounded by animals, and remains convinced that dog training is not about dogs, it is about people.

She has a Staffordshire Bull Terrier, Chester, two rescue dogs, Harry and Cashew, and a rescue cat, Mouse.





**PRODUCTION  
COMPANY**

### **ARTEMIS MEDIA**

Artemis Media produce high quality factual TV and are renowned for stories that can engender social change. Their work includes the Walkley Award nominated *Saving Andrew Mallard*, seven seasons of the hit history series *Who Do You Think You Are?* (SBS), factual series *The Dream House* (ABC), *Monash and Me* (ABC), *Don't Stop the Music* (ABC), *Every Family has a Secret* (SBS), the Walkley nominated *Storm in a Teacup* (ABC), *Australia's Health Revolution with Dr Michael Mosley* (SBS) and *Ningaloo Nyinggulu* (ABC).

