

# Media Release

## The Hon Gayle Tierney MP

Deputy Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council  
Minister for Training and Skills  
Minister for Higher Education  
Minister for Agriculture



Thursday, 21 July 2022

## HELPING HUSKIES FIND THEIR FOREVER HOME

The Andrews Labor Government is backing a Victorian animal rescue group specialising in rehoming Siberian Huskies.

Minister for Agriculture Gayle Tierney visited Leopold Gateway Sanctuary today to announce almost \$10,000 in funding for Happy Huskies Victoria through the Labor Government's Animal Welfare Fund (AWF) Grant program which supports not-for-profit organisations that improve animal welfare outcomes.

Happy Huskies Victoria is a volunteer based charity that takes in surrendered Siberian Huskies and helps them find a loving forever home through rescue, rehabilitation, and rehoming programs.

The team of volunteer rescue coordinators and foster carers will use the grant to purchase equipment including crates, bedding, training tools, grooming equipment and first aid kits.

Happy Huskies Victoria works with a community foster care network across Geelong and in two years of operation, the charity has rehomed over 70 Siberian Huskies and rehabilitated 28 to remain in their family home.

Siberian Huskies can be a challenging breed with unique personalities, requiring a lot of time and attention.

Since 2014, the AWF Grant program has awarded more than \$5.9 million in funding to not-for profit animal shelters, foster care organisations and community vet clinics to directly improve the welfare of companion animals in Victoria.

Animal welfare is a priority of the Government, with a record \$18.6 million package to support animal care and protection in the *Victorian Budget 2022/23*.

More information about the Animal Welfare Fund Grants can be found at [agriculture.vic.gov.au](http://agriculture.vic.gov.au).

### Quotes attributable to Minister for Agriculture Gayle Tierney

*"It's important to invest in organisations like Happy Huskies Victoria, which play such a significant role in improving animal welfare outcomes in our communities."*

*"Pets are such a big part of our lives, so it's great to see the positive impact these grants have on rehoming and rehabilitating animals."*

### Quote attributable to Happy Huskies Co-Director and Rescue Coordinator Jocelyn Peucker

*"Happy Huskies' priority is to prepare rescued Siberian Huskies to live a beautiful life with their forever families. This grant will help us to continue to care for these dogs who have become homeless through no fault of their own."*