



**Bully's The Bulldog Magazine** journalist Athena Hart recently went down under to assess work-related opportunities. Having visited Oz twice before, she noticed something was different. While enjoying the sights that never disappoint she stumbled on the growing yet untold story of homeless in Australia, and the stark reality of dogs suffering the same fate due to their owners plight. Here is her firsthand account of the story!



**Journeying** to Sydney Australia to ring in the new year had been on my to do list for some time and as luck would have it, I would be kickstarting 2023 down under. Travelling solo with plans to meet up with some old and new friends I wanted to make sure I was staying in a safe central location. The Skye Suites proved to be an excellent choice and provided the comforts of home, in an apartment style space with a full kitchen, which allowed me to stay for close to a month to enjoy the pleasant summer weather.



Walking down Kent, York, and George Street on route to many of my desired destinations

(Harbour Bridge, Sydney Opera House District...) I was at times

saddened and shocked by the amount of homelessness I witnessed particularly those who also had homeless cats and dogs. I saw young and old males and females who destitute and living on the streets with their beloved pets.



Homelessness is a serious problem in all major cities, particularly port cities and Sydney is no exception. According to some reports high

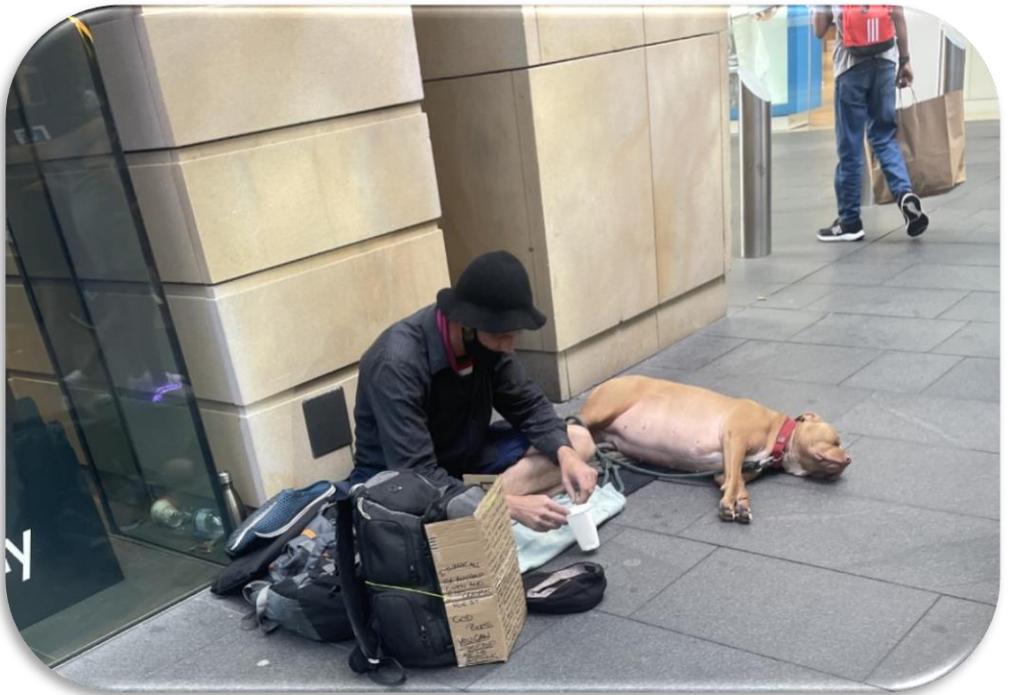
rent and the increased cost of living is forcing pet owners into homelessness and since many hostiles and homeless shelters do not allow pet many vulnerable Australians are choosing to live on the streets in order to keep their pets. It also doesn't help that landlords who have affordable housing for rent prefer tenants who are without pets.



But there is one small silver lining. A charity entitled Paws For A Purpose, is determined to aid in providing veterinary assistance to homeless pet parent's animals across Australia running a free veterinary clinic in parks. What a wonderful humanitarian gesture.



Despite the sadness I felt seeing the homelessness I did, I enjoyed Australia so much I have decided to return on a work visa, and perhaps given my background as a Veterinarian





Assistant I might even volunteer to help with this charity given my love of animals.

I quite enjoyed all my adventures in Australia and one of my favorite things to do was visit the wildlife reserves. Seeing all the native animals was such a treat, but my favorite was seeing the beautiful koala bears, who sleep approximately 23 out of 24 hours a day. What a life!

