



Red Dog Wrap Up!

A little bit of celebrity spark has boosted the Animal Welfare League of Queensland's bid to stay alive. But it was a different breed of celebrity that came to the rescue.

AWLQ rolled out the red carpet for the star of the Australian movie *Red Dog* at a special screening at Event Cinemas Robina on July 20th. An overwhelming 300 AWLQ supporters turned out for the one-off event, raising \$6,500 for the shelter, which is struggling financially.

A special appearance by none other than *Red Dog's* leading male himself, Koko, added a little extra sparkle to the sold-out screening. Many movie-goers even had the privilege of a cuddle and a photo with the charismatic Kelpie.

Accompanied by trainer Luke Hura and film producer Nelson Woss, Koko worked his undeniable charm, showcasing exactly why he is Australia's newest big screen star.

Red Dog tells the heart-warming tale of a Kelpie who roamed the Western Australian outback in the 1970s, hitching rides, adopting people and uniting communities along the way. A statue was erected in honour of the legendary Red Dog at the entrance to the mining town of Dampier in the 1980's. Locals claim he created a sense of community in the outback town when it was barely even established.

The search for the perfect pooch took 3 months, spanning right across Australia's vast terrain. It was Koko's on-screen charisma, cheeky nature and striking presence, which instantly won over the filmmakers and landed him the role. He was the perfect candidate for the job, however he did need a trip to the hairdresser to give him the rusty red tones of Red Dog.

AWLQ supporters mingled with fellow animal lovers and enjoyed a glass of bubbly before the screening and were treated to a bag of doggie goodies. In the cinema there were smiles, laughter and tears as hundreds witnessed the life-changing effect dogs can have on people's lives.

Red Dog hits screens nationally on August 4.

Ends

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