

## A Safer Space for Dogs to Play



It began as a dream over a year ago and is now a reality, with Emu Plains local Tracey Horey launching Sniffspace, Australia's only directory of privately-owned, secure off-leash spaces for dogs and their owners, last month.

Tracey's motivation to create Sniffspace came from her own personal experiences with Rafferty, her Kelpie X rescue dog.

"I rescued Rafferty when he was 4 months old. He had been dumped outside a country pound when he was 2 months old. He is my life and I love him to bits. We do obedience and agility, and he is great with everyone he knows, but is very wary and scared of strange dogs and people" explained Tracey to the Emu and Leonay Gazette.

"Rafferty isn't suited to busy dog parks, but he does need to get out and about and enjoy some off-leash time. Time in different environments is hugely important to a dog's mental health" she added.

Tracey and her team would one day like to see secure Sniffspaces all over Australia. No matter where you live, travel or holiday they hope that there will be secure spaces for our fur babies to have a run in and enjoy.

"We hope this gives the off-leash dogs and their owners alternatives to the sometimes-volatile environment of a dog park or having them leashed at all times at local parks (and there are now many in other states where dogs are prohibited completely now). This gives them a safer space to play, hence improving their mental health and safety.

"It will provide an outlet for all those people that are now getting dogs in apartments or on much smaller blocks. We also hope to be able to provide more spaces for dog trainers and dogs and their select friends in the future with multi-dog bookings" said Tracey.

For more information or to get involved, visit [www.sniffspace.com.au](http://www.sniffspace.com.au).

△ Tracey and Rafferty at Bella Vista Farm | Image: Tracey Horey