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**How it all started….**

In 2012, in the small rural town of Pahiatua, an ageing heading dog named Tod became the start of something life-changing.

At 12, Tod was no longer able to work. He had arthritis in most of his joints from a hard life working the hill country, and had been up to mischief teaching the pups bad tricks at home.

So, with regret, he was bundled onto the rural mail bus for his final trip to the vets. This is where our story began.



Tod went home with Natalie, our founder and President. His story sparked the interest of the rural community. Before long, we were receiving requests from farmers wanting to retire their dogs with us.

Since then, RWD has grown from one vet nurse’s vision to a nation-wide movement. It is run by a growing number of passionate volunteers and an ever-increasing network of fosterers.

We now have over 16,000 followers on our Facebook page. In the last year, we had 31,000 users on our website and advertised about 500 dogs looking for new homes. We also became a charitable trust this year.

And Tod? He passed away at the grand old age of 17. A great mate, a legend and an inspiration.

**How we can help you**

RWD rehomes old, failed or injured working dogs. Most of the dogs we re-home are from the North Island.

Many of the dogs that we are asked to re-home are not retired in the sense that they are old. A good proportion of them are young dogs that simply couldn't, or didn't want, to work. They make great pets, as even a 'failed' working dog knows basic commands and they generally have fantastic recall.

Some of the dogs that we re-home come from large stations and are unable to keep up with the demands of a busy working life but would suit a smaller farm or lifestyle block, while others are referred to us through vet clinics, after they have sustained career ending injuries. These dogs are taken into our foster program, receive the surgeries and medical care they need, and are then re-homed.

Alternatively, we can advertise your dog for re-homing on our Facebook page and website. We have successfully rehomed hundreds of dogs including blind and three-legged dogs.