Abandoned, injured dogs’ best friends

5 women set out to rehabilitate, give dogs that have lost limbs good homes

By JUDITH TAN

WHEN Ms Lillian Wang, 38, read on Facebook about a puppy whose leg had been severed, she decided to open up her home to him.

The dog had lost a leg, but that did not mean he could not have a perfectly normal life, thought Mrs Wang, a film-maker and a committee member of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

“How difficult is it to adopt a three-legged dog, I thought to myself, only to find out that once Trip got used to running around on three legs, he was tearing up and down the garden like any four-legged dog,” she said of the puppy.

He was found in the Sembawang area by a kind cabbby, who took it to the vet and paid for the surgery.

In January, Ms Wang roped in her friends – pet sitter Adeline Ang, 39, and Ms Suzanne Lim, 38, who is senior assistant director of the Nanyang Technological University’s Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine – to start a new animal welfare group.

The group is literally giving a leg-up to dogs that have lost their limbs to road accidents or illegal traps.

The group is not a shelter, but it is working with animal welfare groups and rescue shelters to help find these dogs new homes. Its main aim, for now, is to create awareness.

It is also looking at the possibility of providing affordable wheelies for dogs that have lost more than one limb. Wheelies are custom-designed wheeled carts to extend the mobility of crippled or injured pets.

Of course, the group will not discriminate against other dogs, said Ms Lim. While its focus is on rehoming mongrels, it will also help pedigree dogs dumped by owners or hurt in road accidents.

One of them is a two-year-old husky, Braven, who was abandoned and became a hit-and-run victim.

The group’s first activity since its inception will be a photo exhibition fund-raiser next month. Four photographers – Teo Keng Beng, Jean Qingwen Loo, Nicholas Lee and Colleen Goh – will donate proceeds from the sale of their prints to an animal welfare group of their choice.

Ms Lim said it is a coincidence that the volunteer group is made up of women only.

“We’re just a group of girl friends, and we just so happen to be the crazy dog ladies.”

To find out more about Three Legs Good, log on to its Facebook page at www.facebook.com/threeloggood

The three women were schoolmates at law school in the National University of Singapore. Two other friends have joined, and the five women have eight dogs among them – not all of them are “imperfect”.

Ms Wang has another adopted dog – three-year-old Chase, a victim of a hit-and-run accident. His hip and back legs were shattered and replaced with metal ones.