

# Art shows the way to help dogs

■ Annelies Gartner

A new exhibition is giving every dog a chance to have its day.

Dogs' Lives features the works of Perth artist Helen Norton and will raise money for the Dogs' Refuge Home in Shenton Park.

Norton has been working with her favourite charity for almost 10 years and is inspired by the refuge that saves about 1500 dogs a year.

Money raised through the

event will be used to fund the refuge's regional rescue work.

Dogs have appeared in Norton's art since she started painting while living in remote Australia.

"I've been painting for 30 years professionally and dogs are always a large part of my life," she said. "When I started painting my life was in the outback and the dog was like your foot or your head, it was something that was never not there."

Norton says the exhibition is a celebration of dogs' lives and she has painted two portraits in honour of long-term refuge residents Diesel and Dorothy.

"I've painted them in the hope someone will fall in love with them and go and get them because they are just such personalities," she said.

**The exhibition will be held at Heathcote Cultural Precinct, Applecross, from June 14-17, then Applecross Art & Framing until July 1**



**Helen Norton in her studio with her dog George.** Picture: Nic Ellis