

# All because of you

YOUR YEAR IN REVIEW  
2022/2023





Our mission is to protect and care for animals by preventing cruelty and empowering communities to value humane treatment through education, advocacy, and support.



Royal Canin, Official National Nutritional Partner of the RSPCA

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Cover Image: Greg and his loyal companion, AJ in Bourke, NSW.

We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land where we care for animals in need. We pay our respects to Elders past, present, and emerging. We celebrate the stories, culture, and traditions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elders of all communities who continue to work and live on this land.

For over 150 years, RSPCA NSW has championed the health, care, and protection of all creatures, great and small. Although the latest financial year presented some unique operational challenges, we spent countless hours assisting animals across NSW.

Your unwavering support, kindness, and compassion have been our driving force through every challenge and triumph; we cannot thank you enough. Together, we have accomplished so much this year. Your generosity impacts every endeavour we undertake in NSW, and the stories and programs contained in this report were only possible because of you. We are confident that, after taking a glance at what we've achieved this year, you will share our profound sense of pride.

Despite economic hardship, capacity constraints, pet rental challenges, and workforce shortages, we were able to change the lives of animals and pet owners in need. Because of you, we were able to ensure that, even in the most challenging situations, we could help pet owners experiencing hardship keep their animals healthy and safe.

Helping people help animals lies at the heart of what RSPCA NSW does. This financial year, our teams reached thousands of animal lovers in communities all over NSW, giving them the knowledge and resources to give their pets a healthy life. Through our targeted programs, we supported those experiencing hardship,

trauma, and in crisis. From supporting victims of domestic violence to people struggling to find accommodation, we emerged as a beacon of hope for animals and their humans in their hour of need.

We have remained steadfast in our fight against animal cruelty and neglect. In the last 12 months, our Inspectors investigated **13,883 reports of animal cruelty**, and provided resources and assistance to people who needed a guiding hand. We initiated **108 prosecutions involving 517 animals**, upholding our organisation's pledge to protect all creatures great and small.

As we reflect on our enduring commitment to the protection and care of animals, we remain grateful for your continued reinforcement. However, there is still plenty left to be done, and we hope you will continue on this journey with us. Together, we can pave the way for a brighter future for people and animals. Your continued support and generosity ensure that our mission remains resolute, and we're excited for you to join us on the next step of our journey.

Thank you for being a part of our RSPCA NSW family.



Steve Coleman,  
RSPCA NSW CEO



Dr Peter Wright  
President

**“Every day, RSPCA NSW works to protect the welfare of animals in our state, by providing care and preventing cruelty. Together our staff, volunteers, supporters, and animal-loving community share RSPCA NSW’s mission to help them, care for them, and advocate for them and protect them. We want to do everything in our power to make a tangible impact on vulnerable lives.”**

– Steve Coleman,  
RSPCA NSW CEO



-  **5** RSPCA NSW SHELTERS
-  **2** BEHAVIOUR & REHABILITATION CENTRES
-  **3** VETERINARY HOSPITALS
-  **1** EDUCATION CENTRE
-  **43** PETBARN PARTNER LOCATIONS
-  **560** STAFF
-  **1,836** VOLUNTEERS GAVE 8,856 HOURS
-  **\$33,471,321** INVESTED IN TREATING ANIMALS



## JULY

Our Inspectorate charged a man and woman with animal cruelty offences relating to failure to provide veterinary care, nutrition, and appropriate housing for 50 birds. The birds had been residing in deplorable living conditions, forced to share overcrowded enclosures with 42 other deceased birds.



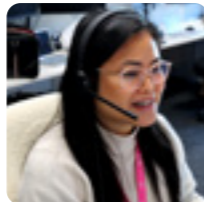
## AUGUST

In the month of August, we released our Cat Behaviour Guide, giving **2,726 people** valuable insight into feline enrichment and the habits of their cats. Our Cat Behaviour Guide helps curious feline lovers by providing information on the customs and quirks of their furry friends.



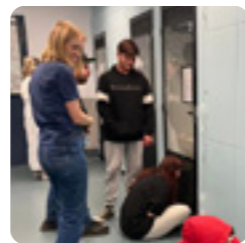
## SEPTEMBER

After the floods in Moree Plains, our Inspectors and Animal Transport Officers rallied with State Emergency Services, the Department of Primary Industries and other rescue groups for a collaborative flood response. We would like to extend our gratitude to everyone involved in supporting the community and their animals through times of stress and fear.



## OCTOBER

Thanks to the **4,224 contributions** made on National Dollar Matching Day, our Give to Get Them Home campaign **raised a massive \$467,681**. Every gift from our selfless donors was doubled by our Dollar Matching Partners, helping us prepare the **3,117 animals** in our care for a loving, forever home.



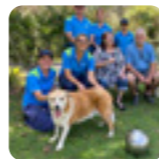
## NOVEMBER

Our Port Macquarie Volunteer Branch sponsored a new Cat Enhancement Program, thanks to a gift left in the Will from generous animal lover and volunteer, Marie Maxine Cathcart. The program focuses on improving feline welfare at all our sites, including auditing our shelters, and veterinary hospitals to raising our standard of feline care, all the way to training our staff to keep our cats more enriched and comfortable while in care.



## DECEMBER

Providing preventative veterinary services under our Community Animal Welfare Scheme (CAWS), our outreach team **desexed 23 Greenacre cats** in one day with the help of Sydney Dogs and Cats Home. Since 2020, we have been actively targeting this LGA to reduce the number of local feline surrenders and have **desexed 1,123 cats from Canterbury-Bankstown**.



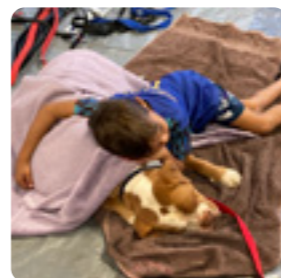
## JANUARY

Inspired by Triple J's 'Hottest 100' annual listener poll, we reduced adoption fees for animals who had spent more than **100 days in care**. Over three days, 25 of our long-term animals finally found their forever homes, getting their second chance at life during this heart-warming promotion.



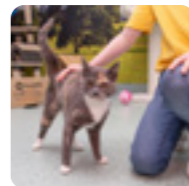
## FEBRUARY

We hosted the NSW State Emergency Service for a training day in our brand-new Education Centre. The successful event was a promising early step in using our state-of-the-art facilities to nurture valuable learning experiences.



## MARCH

Our outreach teams travelled more than 900km to Wilcannia, in North West NSW, where we provided veterinary care, support and guidance to the community and their pets. Over the course of three busy days, **we assisted a total of 110 pets, desexed 52 cats and dogs and admitted 11 pups into shelter care**. We also distributed food, vaccinations, and much needed long-lasting tick preventatives.



## APRIL

To encourage more cat lovers to keep their felines happy and safe at home, we initiated a School Incursion Program as part of our Keeping Cats Safe at Home project. To date, we've engaged four councils, eight schools and over **560 students** from the Kyogle, Tweed, and Byron local government areas.



## MAY

At our annual Million Paws Walk, **4,322 people and their pooches** marched to combat animal cruelty. Generously sponsored by Royal Canin, the heroic dog lovers of NSW raised more than **\$330,000** across 12 different locations, making unforgettable memories at the best and biggest dog walk in Australia.



## JUNE

Alongside Counterpoint Community Services and the Cat Protection Society, RSPCA NSW hosted the City of Sydney Pet Day on Saturday, 18 June. This outreach event catered to over **500 social housing residents** and provided aid to **264 companion animals**. Services included vaccinations, microchipping, and facilitating access to subsidised **desexing for 203 dogs and 61 cats**. Attendees also received giveaway bags of goodies to keep their animals healthy and happy.

## Helping people help animals

At the heart of our mission lies the belief that the human and animal bond is a source of stability and joy, especially during times of hardship and grief. Our targeted support programs consider the needs of both people and pets, improving human welfare outcomes by assisting the animals in their care.

In the face of homelessness, health emergencies, and even domestic and family violence, our Programs team provided crucial support and services to **460 people** as well as safe accommodation and veterinary care for **643 pets**.

We understand that financial challenges alone are not reflective of a person's capacity to care for their animal companion. That is why we endeavour to assist pet owners who might be experiencing financial stress.

This year, we provided **\$96,636** worth of pet emergency treatment, helping **138 people** support **155 animals** without the burden of financial constraints. We also had the privilege of assisting pet owners through our donor-funded Affordable Veterinary Care program, providing **1,888 people** with discounts valued at **\$203,554**.

Our dedicated Outreach initiatives reached people and animals far and wide, providing life-saving services and resources in communities throughout NSW. From free and subsidised desexing, parasite prevention, microchipping, and vaccinations, we delivered essential veterinary services to **2,959 animals** this year.

The continuation of these transformative initiatives reflects the compassion shared by our supporters. Your commitment helps build communities defined by love for creatures great and small.



**“While travelling across NSW to support communities and their pets, we have heard inspiring stories of the bonds between humans and animals. The strength of these connections continues to inspire us, a reminder of why we work so hard to keep these families together. By offering essential veterinary care to those who need it most, we can ensure that people remain with healthy animals by their side.”**

– Dr Ann-Margret Withers, Senior Manager, Outreach, Education & Programs

## Over 145 animals assisted in Albury Desexing Drive

From the 5th to the 9th of June, the RSPCA NSW Albury Volunteer Branch helped run a free community desexing drive in the Albury-Wodonga area. Using local funds raised in collaboration with Dunroamin Animal Rescue, **146 animals were desexed, microchipped and vaccinated** after an intensive five-day effort.

The community drive united experts from within RSPCA NSW as well as professionals from other generous health and welfare groups. Between our Inspectorate, Education and Outreach teams, the Hume Animal Hospital, and the Albury City Council, it was inspiring to see so many so many teams helping people help their animals.



**\$300,190**  
IN DISCOUNTS PROVIDED  
TO PET OWNERS IN NEED

**\$295,478**  
RAISED BY BRANCHES  
FOR VET ASSISTANCE



**2,959** ANIMALS ASSISTED THROUGH  
COMMUNITY OUTREACH



**5** INDIGENOUS  
COMMUNITY  
ANIMAL HEALTH  
PROGRAMS

**396 ANIMALS ASSISTED**  
**167 DESEXED**  
**386 VACCINATED**  
**387 PARASITE PREVENTION**



**643 ANIMALS OF 460**  
**CLIENTS RECEIVED**  
**EMERGENCY**  
**TREATMENT**

**PROVIDED POSITIVE**  
**PET CARE & BEHAVIOUR**  
**ADVICE TO 3,020 ADULTS**  
**& 240 KIDS**



**2,647** ANIMAL DESEXED THROUGH  
OUTREACH, PROGRAMS & BRANCHES



**AGED CARE**  
**129 CLIENTS**  
**192 ANIMALS**



**HOMELESSNESS**  
**22 CLIENTS**  
**26 ANIMALS**



**EMERGENCY**  
**BOARDING**  
**107 CLIENTS**  
**166 ANIMALS**



**DOMESTIC**  
**VIOLENCE**  
**64 CLIENTS**  
**104 ANIMALS**

## Thanks to you, we can shelter and provide for thousands of animals in need!

Each of the remarkable achievements in this report are a testament to the dedication of our compassionate community of animal lovers. Individuals like you, who share in our belief that no animal should endure suffering, are the driving force behind every endeavour we undertake.

Thanks to life-saving gifts from **61,526 generous donors**, the **8,074 participants of our many fundraising events**, and the support of **207 bequests** left in Wills, **\$40,516,594 was donated for animals in need**. Each dollar contributed, every legacy of love received, plays an integral role in transforming your giving into real-life stories of hope and healing. Your compassion fuels our shared vision of a world where animals are cared for and protected. RSPCA NSW could not continue without your support; you drive the sanctuary, care, and change we bring to animals every day.

In the last 12 months, **19 volunteer branches and supporter groups** donated their time and expertise, championing animal welfare causes in events and communities across NSW. They supported people, pets and communities around NSW by providing **\$197,185 for free or subsidised desexing and \$98,293 in community vet assistance**. We would not have made the same impact without their selflessness and skills. **Our volunteers generously donated 200,254 hours** of their valuable time this year; their continued support ensured that help reached those who needed it most.



**"With 1,836 individuals contributing their time and expertise, the enduring commitment of our volunteers is profoundly moving. Devoting 200,254 hours to helping animals this year alone, our volunteers continue to be the driving force behind improved animal welfare in their local communities. Without them, we simply wouldn't be able to achieve the things we do."**

– Jodie Eldridge, Senior Manager, Branches and Volunteers

## RSPCA NSW awards Graham Isaac with 2023 Volunteer of the Year Award

To celebrate the change-makers working to improve the lives of animals every day, RSPCA NSW awarded Graham Isaac with the 2023 Volunteer of the Year Award. Graham's selfless service at the Coffs Harbour Shelter have touched countless animals' lives, embodying the spirit of generosity and inspiring us all.



**"I get so much satisfaction volunteering with RSPCA NSW. I really enjoy working with the great staff and fellow volunteers at the shelter, and I love working with and supporting the beautiful animals too. Volunteering is not only enjoyable, but it helps keep you mentally and physically fit; I always look forward to going into the shelter."**

– Graham Isaac, RSPCA NSW 2023 Volunteer of the Year

## Taking a stand against animal cruelty

Our team of **over 40 Inspectors** delivered Australia's largest animal welfare enforcement unit and investigated **13,883 new reports of animal cruelty**. No two reports are the same, with RSPCA NSW Inspectors responding to an array of welfare concerns, from deliberate acts of animal cruelty to cases of unintentional neglect. Our Inspectorate's prosecutions represent just one fraction of their positive impact on NSW communities.

With financial hardship and mental health challenges impacting the welfare of people and animals, many of our investigations are resolved through a proactive, preventative approach, involving education, practical support, and referrals to our helpful programs.

**Whether it be conducting large-scale operations, or assisting local communities affected by floods, RSPCA NSW's Inspectors and Outreach teams stood shoulder-to-shoulder with local communities who needed a helping hand. Our collaborations with pet owners, farmers, welfare groups, NSW Police, and all government agencies contribute to keeping our communities and our animals healthy and safe every day.**


– Scott Meyers, Chief Inspector

 **1,861**  
ANIMALS BROUGHT INTO OUR  
SHELTERS VIA INSPECTORATE

**108** PROSECUTIONS  
COMMENCED | **59** PROSECUTIONS  
FINALISED

 **48**  
ONGOING  
PROSECUTIONS | **49**  
MATTERS FINALISED  
FROM PREVIOUS YEARS

 **420**  
OFFENCES | **517**  
ANIMALS INVOLVED

 **13,883**  
CRUELTY INVESTIGATIONS  
AN AVERAGE OF 53.3 JOBS PER DAY

**18** OFFICIAL  
CAUTIONS | **799** WRITTEN  
DIRECTIONS

 **111** PENALTY INFRINGEMENT  
NOTICES ISSUED

## Second-oldest prosecution finalised at the Sydney District Court

In September 2022, RSPCA NSW finalised its second oldest matter at the Sydney District Court. The defendant, a man from the Eastern Suburbs, was convicted of failing to provide veterinary treatment to his 14-year-old pet Maremma dog, named 'Shep'.

In January 2018, RSPCA NSW Inspectors seized Shep after his owner repeatedly ignored veterinarian advice and refused treatment for the elderly dog, who was suffering from various health problems including muscle wastage, liver damage, anaemia, and a large visible growth on his chest. Despite multiple recommendations from the local vet, Shep's owner refused to take him to hospital for urgent treatment or euthanasia, citing that he could not consent to euthanasia for religious and moral reasons, and that he could not afford any veterinary treatment.

When inspectors arrived at the property, they found Shep on the balcony, covered in urine, dirt, and faecal matter, and unable to walk. An ambulance transported Shep to the RSPCA NSW Sydney veterinary hospital, where he was deemed cruel to be kept alive, and humanely euthanised.

After at least 20 court appearances and three days of appeal proceedings, the defendant was given a 12-month intensive correction order and banned from owning an animal for five years.



Image: Sydney Metro Inspector, Leah

**"For four consecutive years, we have commenced and completed more prosecutions than ever before. More sophisticated prosecutions can take longer to resolve, but we devote ourselves entirely to every case we bring to court."**

– Kathryn Jurd, General Counsel

## Compassion for all creatures, great and small

Our inspiring veterinary team boasts a diverse range of expertise. Their wide-ranging knowledge allows us to provide high quality medicine and surgery, ensuring that our efforts, ensuring that our efforts make a lasting impact for animals in care and in the community.

Our veterinary teams are equipped with modern diagnostic and surgical equipment, which were put to good use in the **1,209 major surgeries** we conducted throughout the year. Our highly skilled teams and well-equipped hospitals mean that we can simultaneously meet the complex and often urgent veterinary needs of the animals that come into our shelters, whilst also providing optimal care to the private patients that come through our doors.

**“At any given time, our veterinary hospitals can receive a large intake of animals in need of urgent diagnostic workups and treatment. We are so grateful for our incredibly kind-hearted and compassionate donors, whose generous support means that our team can access state-of-the-art equipment when animals need it most.”**

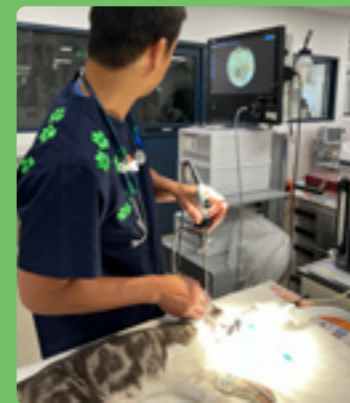
– Dr Liz Arnott, Chief Veterinarian



Vet Nurses, Tessa Docen and Isabella Fitzgibbon-Solis

## Donor generously funds new equipment for our Sydney Veterinary Hospital

One supporter's gift expanded our ability to care of thousands of animals every year. In December 2022, Mrs Kazuko De Angeli generously funded the purchase of a brand-new endoscope system for our Sydney Veterinary Hospital. Our staff



Managing Veterinarian, Jeffrey So

at the Sydney Veterinary Hospital **treat more than 18,900 animals** a year and offer subsidised services to clients unable to afford the full cost of veterinary care. Countless animals can now experience improved health outcomes thanks to the diagnostic and treatment capabilities afforded to us by this gracious animal lover's gift. Thank you, Mrs De Angeli, for helping us expand our treatment capabilities.



**\$33,471,321**

INVESTED IN TREATING ANIMALS



**24,553**  
VETERINARY CONSULTATIONS

**24**  
VETS

**36**  
VET NURSES



**140** ANIMAL CARE SHELTER STAFF



**5,590** ANIMALS DESEXED



**1,209** MAJOR SURGERIES



**15,574**  
VACCINATIONS



**9,164**  
MICROCHIPS



**2,282**  
X-RAYS



**1,038**  
DENTALS



## Paving the way to a brighter future for people and pets in NSW

We recognise that the welfare and wellbeing of animals is a major concern to most people in NSW. Consequently, we have continued in our unwavering commitment to reshape the future of animal welfare by working to modernise and improve the legislative and regulatory structures.

As an organisation that has operated for over 150 years, it is our responsibility to advocate on behalf of all creatures, great and small. This year, we contributed to five parliamentary inquiries and legislation and policy reviews, providing our knowledge, expertise and resources on a diverse and complex array of topics. From the delimitation of pets in rental properties, to veterinary workforce shortages, it remains essential that we continue to use our voice to create positive change for the animals of NSW.

**“Given our unique and historically informed insight into what it takes to improve the quality of animals’ lives, it’s important that we support and help shape legislation with the protection of animals in mind. The hurdles facing people and animals are changing with every passing year, and it’s up to organisations like ours to help communities adapt.”**

– Steve Coleman, RSPCA NSW CEO



## RSPCA NSW working with the NSW Parliament

For 150 years, we have worked alongside welfare groups to strengthen animal cruelty laws and improve animal welfare.

### The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Amendment (Prohibitions for Convicted Persons) Bill

Working with Members of the NSW Parliament, we secured amendments to the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act. These reforms ensure that persons convicted of serious animal cruelty will be prohibited from owning, breeding, or working for a business relating to animals. Those who disobey these laws and are found in possession of an animal will not only face serious additional charges, but enforcement agencies like RSPCA NSW have the power to seize all animals found in their possession..

### The Animal Research Amendment (Right to Release) Bill

In October, we again collaborated with Members of the NSW Parliament to provide all cats and dogs used in research the right to be released into family homes.

The ‘Right to Release Bill’, known as ‘Buddy’s Law’, will give thousands of animals used in medical experiments a second chance at life rather than being killed at the research’s conclusion.

The reform was championed by RSPCA NSW Member Patrice Pandelos, who cares for the Bill’s namesake, Buddy, a Beagle subjected to scientific experiments for the first eight years of his life. Like all RSPCA NSW Members, Patrice’s drive and determination to improve the lives of animals like Buddy is a testament to our shared passion for animal welfare, and we are incredibly proud to have her involvement in our community.

## Nurturing the animal lovers of the future

In reaching **2,983 children** through an array of education initiatives, we know that everyone has the potential to positively impact animals' lives. After learning about our furry friends and the importance of their wellbeing, even the youngest animal lovers can nurture the happiness and health of their pets.

That is why we happily conducted **129 school visits** this year, educating students and their teachers about the essentials of animal health. Along with the **424 participants of our 40 school holiday programs**, we are proud to have inspired so many champions of animal welfare.

We feel honoured to be able to nurture the next generation of veterinary professionals. As a Registered Training Organisation, we are helping to shape the future of animal welfare by offering a range of both accredited and short non-accredited courses. We mentored **150 graduates** through our accredited courses alone, **36 of whom found work at RSPCA NSW**.

Our veterinary hospitals also provide insightful learning opportunities to veterinary students in their final year of study, exposing them to the specialised fields of forensic and shelter medicine. By bolstering their confidence and proficiency across a spectrum of medical skills, we have worked to create a network of compassionate, capable hands.



**“At the core of our education program lies a fundamental goal: to teach the next generation of animal welfare advocates that kindness matters. We believe that everyone, regardless of age, has the power to make a difference in animals’ lives. This is why our education programs focus on helping individuals develop a sense of care, respect, and empathy towards all living creatures.”**

– Emma Davidson, Outreach and Education Manager



## Our new Education Centre hosts first-ever school excursion

In August last year, our Education Centre hosted its first ever school excursion by welcoming more than a dozen students from Merrylands High School. These eager animal lovers learned about various animal health and welfare topics, from positive pet ownership and animal sentience to ways to safely greet new dogs.

By facilitating educational opportunities like these, we aim to raise awareness about animal health and the role of organisations like RSPCA NSW. By doing so, we aspire to transform our communities into safer, more compassionate spaces for creatures, great and small.

## Adapting to the needs of the animals in our care

Animal welfare and shelter care can be incredibly complex. Pet rental challenges and economic hardship led to an increased demand for our shelter services which, along with a burgeoning surrender waitlist, made for a very challenging year.

In the last 12 months, **our adoption rates have declined by 30%**, resulting in animals waiting longer to be happily rehomed. In October 2020, the average adult dog waiting to be adopted was just over seven days. In October 2022, that number had risen to just over 16 days. Now, the **average length of stay for adult dogs is 34 days**, with an average cost of care reaching up to **\$1,000 per stay**.

With **310 animals requiring intensive treatment** or rehabilitation in the last 12 months, it can take us up to **22 days to prepare an animal for adoption**. The longer an animal is in a shelter environment, the greater the risk to their health and wellbeing. That is why it is imperative that we use our resources to find these animals happy homes.

The pressure on our shelters is why we are thankful for our network of foster carers, generous guardians who provided some extra love and care to **4,548 animals** this year. At any one time, animals in foster homes can

account for up to 21% of all the animals in our care. This year, our animals were welcomed into **904 foster homes**; we are grateful for the caring and selfless caregivers for all they have done for animals in need.

Despite the challenges that emerged this year, we remain committed to not only leading but raising the standard of shelter care. We strive to ensure that every one of our shelters is a comfortable environment, so that our animals can undergo treatment or wait for adoption free from stress.

Earlier this year, we introduced an hour of mandatory kennel 'quiet time' after consultation with veterinary behaviour specialists Sarah Heath and Gabrielle Carter. To prevent our dogs from developing hyper-arousal issues while in care, we minimise noise and animals' exposure to staff and visitors alike, ensuring our dogs can enjoy some necessary relaxation every day.



We also appointed our first-ever Feline Behaviour and Rehabilitation Advisor. Isobel Bonello, our qualified expert on all things kittens and cats, now lends her focused expertise to improve the lives of our feline friends. **6,895 felines turned to our shelters this year**, and her work ensures they are healthy and happy while waiting to find their forever homes.

## Our corporate supporters

Our partners and sponsors continue to contribute to the life-saving work carried out in our shelters.

Our National Adoption Partner, Petbarn, continues to support our rehoming efforts by providing crucial alternative ways to find our animals new homes. Last year, **1,034 animals were successfully adopted from 43 Petbarn stores in NSW alone**.

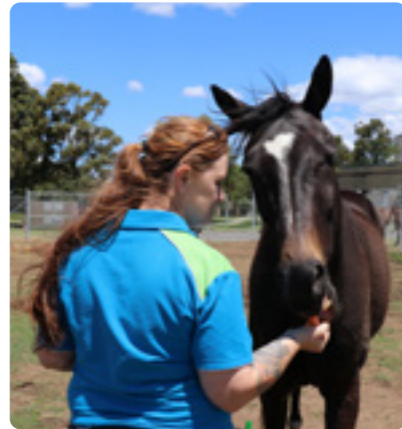
Nutrition also plays a pivotal role in keeping our animals healthy and happy, and since 2022, Royal Canin has been our National Nutritional Sponsor. Royal Canin supplies the food for the cats and canines in our care. This year, they provided **41,925kg of product – valued at \$999,480** – to our shelters throughout NSW.

This year, our National Pet Health Partner, **Elanco, provided \$308,544 in products** to keep the animals in our care protected against fleas, ticks, and worms. Contributing **\$30,090 in care products to our disaster relief efforts**, their generosity was vital in aiding pet owners affected by the July 2022 floods.



## Giving animals a second chance at a happy and healthy life

In the last 12 months, **our shelters welcomed 14,535 animals in need**, from livestock, horses, and pocket pets to a wealth of cats and dogs. Our strategic goal of keeping pets safe, healthy, and at home was complemented by our healthcare initiatives, desexing campaigns, and outreach assistance.



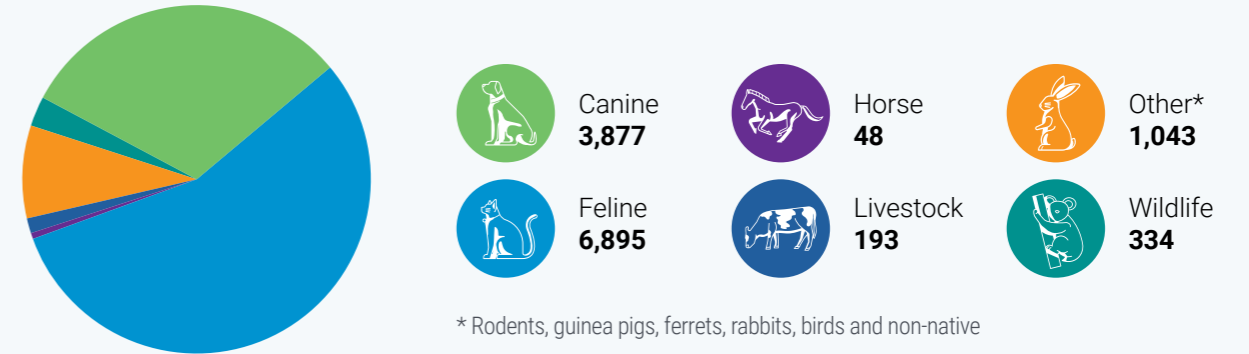
While **our overall animal intake decreased by 21%**, the needs of individual animals are becoming increasingly complex. The number of animals that have experienced cruelty, or need behavioural or medical care, has regrettably only risen in the last financial year. In 2022, our Inspectorate rescued 1,275 animals and, in 2023, that number rose by nearly 46%. The number of animals that our Inspectors brought in for emergency care and rehabilitation also rose by 31% from the last financial year. Hence, even with fewer incoming animals, the year still posed an exceptional challenge as our animals required more intricate medical and psychological care than ever before.



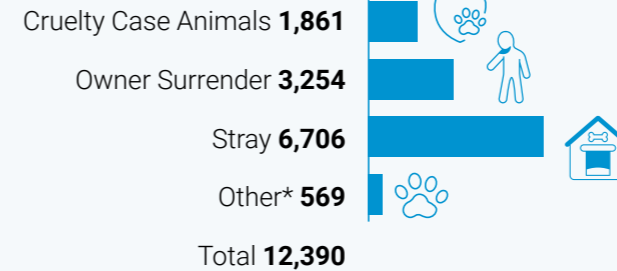
## Keeping cats off the street with targeted desexing

Our targeted desexing programs have contributed to an **11% reduction in feline intake from 2022**. The impact of our focus on cat overpopulation is particularly evident in the Canterbury and Bankstown area, where we **desexed 375 cats** under our Companion Animal Welfare Scheme (CAWS) this year. Thanks to the ongoing financial support of the Canterbury Bankstown City Council, we have **desexed 1,560 local cats** in the last four years. The targeted desexing has **halved our feline intake from the area, from 2,000 cats last year to only 1,042**.

### INTAKE BY ANIMAL TYPE



### INTAKE BY PATHWAY



\*Other: Bequest to shelter, born in care, returns, transfers in.

We encounter animals from all walks of life such as pets, injured strays and survivors of cruelty and neglect. We strive to rehabilitate and rehome – particularly when animals require special behavioural or medical care. But when an animal's welfare is compromised, or if our efforts come too late, we must often make sad and tough decisions to prevent further suffering.

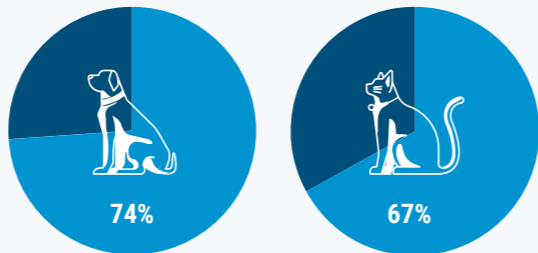
In the past year, we achieved the remarkable feat of **rehoming 6,956 animals**, thanks to our staff, foster carers, volunteers, and partners. Their tireless commitment and your gifts have been instrumental in finding them homes and forging a path towards a brighter tomorrow for the **1,384** animals waiting in our care.

## ANIMAL OUTCOMES



- Adopted **6,956**
- Reclaimed **1,470**
- Still in care **1,384**
- Wildlife Released **4**
- Other **13** (Stolen, escaped, wildlife released-to-habitat)
- Transferred to Council **57**
- Transferred to Rescue **461**
- Died in Care **186**
- Euthanised **4,004**

## LIVE RELEASE RATE



**“Wherever an animal can be supported to live a good life, RSPCA NSW continues to invest all available resources to treat their medical and behavioural conditions.”**

— Dr Liz Arnott, Chief Veterinarian



 **14,535** ANIMALS CARED FOR

 **6,956** ANIMALS ADOPTED

 **4,512** CATS & KITTENS

 **1,578** DOGS & PUPPIES

 **30** HORSES

 **108** LIVESTOCK

 **728** OTHER ANIMALS  
POCKET PETS, BIRDS, FISH, FOWLS, & RODENTS

 **1,470** ANIMALS RECLAIMED

 **852** FOSTER CARERS

**4,548** ANIMALS

 **70** RESCUES REHABILITATED

**460** ANIMALS

## Building a kinder, brighter future for communities and animals alike

We are excited to introduce our new three-year strategic plan, which will cement our ongoing dedication to improving animal welfare. This plan represents a shared commitment from our dedicated staff, volunteers, and supporters, who have all contributed their valuable insights and experiences to shape our vision for the future.

By improving access to veterinary care, educating our communities, and improving Inspectorate activity, we can begin building a world where animals are loved and treated with respect. Education, access, and advocacy will serve as the means through which we forge a path toward a more promising future for people and animals alike.

Your passion, dedication, and involvement will be crucial to our success as we take the next step on our journey of improving animal welfare throughout NSW.

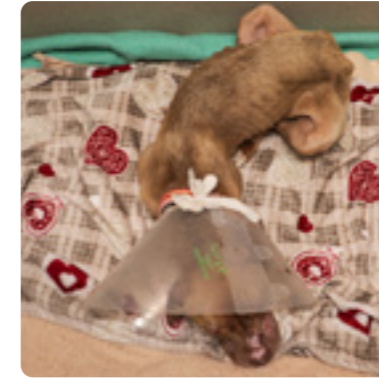


Photo: Behaviour and Rehabilitation Trainer, Rianna Carmody



## Ivy's Story of Rescue and Recovery

Earlier this year, Ivy was injured after a fight with another dog. After a member of the public reported a serious welfare concern, Inspector Natalie was called to investigate. Ivy had been kept in a small backyard with the dog she eventually fought. But while the latter had sustained only minor injuries, Ivy herself had been seriously hurt, her condition worsened by dehydration, emaciation, fever, hookworm, and infection.



Inspector Natalie rushed her back to our Sydney Veterinary Hospital for treatment. Ivy spent a week in the hospital's Intensive Care Unit (ICU) where our team could monitor her closely, providing IV fluids and medications to make her more comfortable.

Though Ivy's wounds began to heal, it quickly became clear that she would require further treatment to properly recover. It was a tough few weeks for Ivy, who bravely endured the road to improvement. She underwent surgery for her front right leg, which had been unable to bear weight, and our team even tailored special medication for the infection affecting her ears.

Her recovery was long and taxing, but at only three years old, we knew that Ivy deserved the chance to live, run, and play without pain.



Meow, Woof, Neigh, Baa, Oink, Chirp, Squeak,  
Moo, Cluck, Bleat, Cock-a-Doodle, Quack.

Thank you!

**RSPCA**<sup>®</sup>  
New South Wales



  
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**PETBARN**

  
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