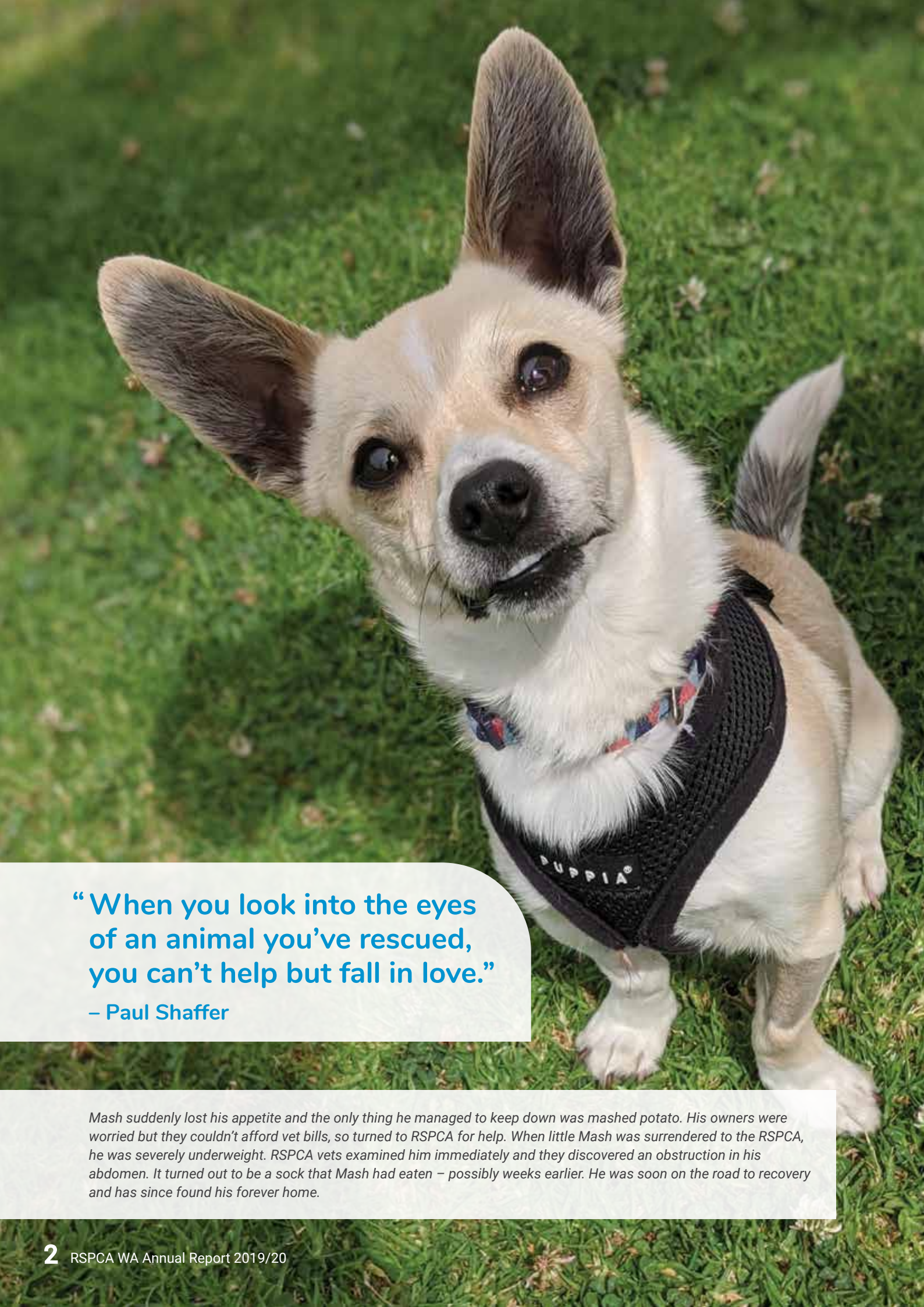
RSPCA
Western Australia

ANNUAL REPORT
2019–2020



“When you look into the eyes of an animal you’ve rescued, you can’t help but fall in love.”

– Paul Shaffer

Mash suddenly lost his appetite and the only thing he managed to keep down was mashed potato. His owners were worried but they couldn’t afford vet bills, so turned to RSPCA for help. When little Mash was surrendered to the RSPCA, he was severely underweight. RSPCA vets examined him immediately and they discovered an obstruction in his abdomen. It turned out to be a sock that Mash had eaten – possibly weeks earlier. He was soon on the road to recovery and has since found his forever home.

The Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, Western Australia (RSPCA WA) is the state's oldest, largest and leading animal welfare charity, dedicated to improving the lives of all animals throughout Western Australia.

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RSPCA WA DIRECTORS

Lynne Bradshaw (Chair)

Darren Smith (Deputy Chair)

Ian Cowie

Michelle De Ronchi

Giselle di San Marzano

Jamie Hamilton

Michelle Mackenzie

Alice Manners

Gregory Paust

We would like to thank Pamela Hass and Heather MacFarquhar, who retired from the Board during 2019-20, for their service.

Cover: Aleksandr, Carrie, Miranda and Charlotte were approximately a week old when they were found in a Gosnells park. Inspector Anita brought them to the RSPCA Animal Care Centre in Malaga. They were fostered together until they were ready to be desexed and have all found permanent loving homes.

CHAIR'S REPORT

This year has certainly been a year of two halves. At the start of the year we implemented a number of measures aimed at reducing costs which made for a more nimble operation while still delivering our core services and meeting community expectations. We restructured our operations, which provided opportunities to continue with some long awaited and vital upgrades to two kennel blocks and the refurbishment of a disused building on the Malaga site to create a larger, better-equipped vet clinic.

Our team of staff and volunteers implemented all the required changes and soldiered on to ensure the animals in our care were always the first priority. But early in 2020, none of us could have predicted how circumstances would change and how we would need to pivot with such agility to adapt to the outbreak of COVID-19.

Throughout it all, one constant remained: Animal cruelty did not stop. Our Inspectors remained on the roads responding to the community's calls for help and rescuing animals from cruelty and neglect. Our vets, vet nurses and animal attendants continued to provide medical care and behavioural treatment for those animals most in need. And we continued to help those animals find permanent, loving homes.

We welcomed the WA Government's review of the *Animal Welfare Act 2002*. For many years we have said the Act is no longer fit for purpose and we have taken this opportunity to outline how a new Act could be more effective. We met with the Review Panel twice, attended the public forum in Perth, and we made a number of formal submissions during the review process. The Review Panel's final report was delayed due to the outbreak of COVID-19 but we look forward to its release early in the new financial year, and to working with the Government to implement any sound recommendations that would improve the efficacy of WA's animal welfare legislation. Equally, we will make sure animal lovers' voices are heard where we believe proposed changes are not in the best interests of animals.

In October, media reports exposed horrible cruelty to retired racehorses taking place in knackeries in Queensland. This quickly became a national issue, and we welcomed the WA Government's release in November of the *Western Australian Racehorse Welfare Plan*. A key pillar of the Plan focuses on the welfare of racehorses once they retire, with the establishment of the WA Racehorse Passport. The Government has also invested in a multi-purpose equine welfare property for retraining and emergency care for retired racehorses. These measures will reduce the number of horses being sent to knackeries when they are no longer earning money from racing. It will also reduce the number of retired thoroughbred horses which need rescuing as their new owners are not resourced to adequately care for them.

We were disappointed that the WA Government failed to consult with us in regard to the *Animal Welfare and Trespass Amendment Bill 2020*. We welcome the concept of providing powers of entry for Animal Welfare Inspectors to make proactive visits to commercial animal operations, but the Bill limits the types of properties that can be inspected and restricts those powers of entry to staff of the WA Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development only. We have asked the WA Government to explain why professionally trained, independent, and objective RSPCA Inspectors are excluded from these powers, when they are the same Inspectors who are called upon to respond if cruelty reports are received about those businesses. The introduction of this Bill was delayed due to COVID-19 and will likely be debated in Parliament early in the new financial year.

We are on the cusp of the biggest improvement to animal welfare in WA since the current Act was updated in 2002. After a number of years in development and following extensive public consultation, the *Dog Amendment (Stop Puppy Farming) Bill 2020* was introduced into the WA Parliament in February and has passed the Lower House. The proposed new laws are a good first step in bringing accountability to the dog breeding industry. In the first six months of 2020, RSPCA WA responded to over 350 cruelty reports relating to puppies – many of these incidents could have been prevented with regulations in place. The suite of proposed measures includes minimum mandatory welfare standards for dogs which will be enforceable under the *Animal Welfare Act 2002*. The debate of the Bill in the Upper House was delayed due to COVID-19, and we will be doing everything we can to ensure all parties support these important new laws.

It is hard to believe that in 2020, we are still fighting to save Western Australian sheep from the cruel live export trade. In June, when the Northern Summer Moratorium was supposed to prevent sheep being subjected to the extreme heat and humidity of the Middle East, we were blindsided by the Federal Government's backflip decision to grant an exemption to a notorious exporter. We worked with RSPCA Australia to lodge our objections to the original exemption application because of animal welfare concerns. However, a new, largely secret application by the exporter was approved by the Government, and over 33,000 sheep were sent to a dreadful fate. We continue to urge the Federal Government to heed their own scientific evidence and ban the long haul export of live sheep altogether, and help WA farmers to transition away from reliance on this cruel trade.

We are coming up to an election year in WA. We will be talking to all candidates about the animal welfare issues that are most important to Western Australians, and will be imploring them to put animal welfare firmly among their top priorities.

By the end of the year, following some generous bequests from lifelong supporters, and financial assistance from the Federal and State Governments to soften the impact of COVID-19, our financial position was better than expected. A grant to upgrade vital systems and equipment will enable us to remain agile and resilient to future external impacts while facilities upgrades, once completed, will ensure greater capacity to rescue, rehabilitate and rehome more animals in need.

I'd like to thank the Board of Directors who have volunteered their valuable time and expertise to help steward the organisation through these uncertain times. Following our AGM last year Darren Smith became Deputy Chair and our nominee on the RSPCA Australia Board, taking over from Ian Cowie whose hard work and dedication over many years leaves big shoes to fill. Already, Darren has been instrumental in helping to set an ambitious strategy for RSPCA WA's future. Now, more than ever, a strong vision built on a solid foundation is so important to ensure we can continue to provide a voice for the animals of Western Australia.

Thanks, too, to our Finance, Audit and Risk Committee whose support and expertise has been invaluable during this period of uncertainty and financial constraint.

Finally, I'd like to thank the dedicated RSPCA WA staff and volunteers, ably and professionally led by Ben Cave, who faced the uncertainty of last year, embraced change and never wavered from their commitment to improving the lives of animals in our care. And my heartfelt thanks to our generous supporters who share our vision of a community free from animal cruelty.

Lynne Bradshaw AM
Chair, RSPCA WA

VISION

A Western Australian community free of animal cruelty where the welfare of all animals is respected and maintained at all times.

MISSION

Prevent animal cruelty and improve the welfare of all animals by providing leadership and quality service to WA in collaboration with our partners and stakeholders.

ANIMAL CARE
1828 injured, neglected, abandoned or stray animals cared for

EDUCATION
945 students and young people reached through programs in schools

RSPCA Western Australia

INSPECTORATE
6866 cases of animal cruelty investigated by Inspectors

ADVOCACY
continued to fight for better welfare for all animals in WA

COMPLIANCE
714 direction notices issued, 5 prosecutions and 3 civil forfeitures conducted

IMPACT OF COVID-19

In March, RSPCA WA enacted a Pandemic Action Plan so that we could continue to fulfil our mission and regulatory functions during COVID-19 government-imposed restrictions. This ensured the safety of the animals in our care, and protected the health of our customers, volunteers and staff.

Our focus remained on providing vital animal protection services to the community throughout this period.

During this time, unfortunately animal cruelty did not stop. Inspectors remained on the road responding to reports of cruelty and neglect; our animal services teams remained on site to care for rescued animals, and our administration team worked throughout the period to keep the community updated, and to ensure as little disruption to our operations as possible.

Major changes to operations were implemented from 28 March 2020. From the end of April, operations were evaluated and adjusted to align with the relaxation in government-imposed restrictions. By 31 May 2020, most operations had returned to pre-COVID-19 status.

Inspectorate Services

The RSPCA WA Cruelty Hotline remained open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to take legitimate, urgent reports of animal cruelty.

To protect the health of Inspectors on the road, and the community while fulfilling our regulatory functions, the following contingencies were implemented:

- Inspectors were equipped with additional Personal Protective Equipment;
- Inspectors were assigned specific geographic regions in which to operate to minimise exposure to any hotspots;
- Inspectors were equipped with additional technology to carry out desk-top investigations where appropriate, and conduct administrative tasks remotely; and
- Inspectors were issued with letters of authority enabling them to travel between regions in WA to ensure they could respond to calls for assistance wherever needed.

Between 1 April and 31 May 2020, RSPCA WA received 6% more cruelty reports compared to the same period in 2019. There was a 9% decrease in the number of reports of abandonment, and a 14% decrease in reports of failure to alleviate harm compared to the same period in 2019.

However, there was an 8% increase in reports of ill-treatment; 7% increase in reports of insufficient food/water; and a 56% increase in reports of unnecessary harm over the same period the previous year.

Adoptions and Shelter Services

Public interest in adoptions increased during the restriction period, as people who had already been considering adopting a pet took the opportunity while they were at home to welcome a new member to their family.

To protect customers and staff, an adoption appointment system was set-up to manage the number of people coming to the site at any one time.

Results show that there has been no discernible increase or decrease in the number of animals returned when restrictions eased at the end of May.

Animal Shelter rosters were adjusted to ensure caring for animals could continue with the most essential staff remaining on site. Measures were put in place to protect all staff at the Animal Care Centre and to minimise the risk of exposure.

Vets and vet nurses continued to work on site throughout the restrictions period. Two teams of veterinary staff were kept on separate schedules to minimise risk of infection.

Some staff were able to carry out administrative duties while working remotely, but most of the animal services team members were required to attend on site throughout the restriction period to care for animals in the Shelter.

IMPACT OF COVID-19

Continued.

Volunteers and Foster Carers

Many regular volunteers were in high-risk categories, so all volunteer positions were suspended from 28 March until mid-May, to protect their health and safety.

We were overwhelmed with applications for foster care at the beginning of COVID-19 restrictions. The application process was temporarily suspended in mid-April due to the immense volume of interest. The team worked hard to place animals with foster carers throughout the restriction period to ensure the best possible outcome for animals during their rehabilitation.

The volunteer program recommenced from mid-May, following a carefully managed approach to re-introduce them to daily operations.

Events

Restrictions on public gatherings impacted on RSPCA WA community and fundraising events over this period.

Community Action Days, where RSPCA supports people who may be experiencing financial hardship with free pet medical checks, free microchipping and free pet food, were cancelled until further notice. We continued to promote seeking help individually with caring for pets.

The RSPCA Million Paws Walk, our largest public fundraising event, was cancelled in all locations around Western Australia. This event usually sees thousands of dogs and their owners meet to walk 1km, 2½km or 5km to help raise money to fight animal cruelty. The event was replaced with *Million Paws Walk: Walk this May* – a virtual event where supporters were encouraged to exercise their dogs safely (and in compliance with any government restrictions) and log their steps on their fundraising page as a way of raising money.

People who had already registered to attend the event were invited to convert their registration fee into a donation. Over 90% of the 488 people who had already registered opted to donate their registration fee rather than seek a refund and we thank them for their generosity.

The second RSPCA Really BIG Quiz Night scheduled for the end of June was cancelled. This event is usually attended by around 600 people, raising much needed funds for animals in need.

Dog Training and Puppy Kindy

Dog training and puppy kindy classes were conducted online via video conferencing, with small classes of up to four dogs or puppies. Class formats were very similar to in-person classes, and provided better accessibility to regional supporters and those with anxious dogs who could train in the comfort of their own homes.

At the beginning of May, physical classes resumed. However, due to the success of the online dog training format, virtual dog training online remains an option for Puppy Kindy, Level One and Level Two classes.

While Dog training and puppy kindy classes continued throughout this period, revenue for April and May was down 72% compared to the same period last year.

Retail Stores

RSPCA Op Shops and Reloved Stores were temporarily closed on 28 March 2020. When trading resumed on 19 May, staff and volunteers implemented additional precautionary measures to protect themselves and customers from COVID-19. Limits were put on the number of people permitted in each store at a time; additional hand hygiene supplies were made available, and donations of preloved clothing and household items were quarantined for up to five days.

When business resumed, the level of donations increased as people had used the time during restrictions to sort their items, and business levels started to return to pre-COVID-19 levels.

It is estimated that RSPCA retail networks lost well over $100,000 in revenue during COVID-19 restrictions.

Donations

RSPCA WA relies on community support and generous donations for the majority of what it costs to carry out our animal protection work.

As consumer confidence declined with the onset of government restrictions, our fundraising appeals were impacted negatively and we lost revenue from our main fundraising event, Million Paws Walk.

During the restrictions period, we were unable to accept donations of used bedding and towels for animals in the shelter. Donations to RSPCA Op Shops and Reloved stores also stopped when the shops closed, but donations of preloved clothing and household items resumed as soon as trading re-commenced.

Thankfully, Western Australians showed their amazing belief in our cause and dug-deep to provide significant support in our end of financial year campaign.

COVID-19 and your pets

Throughout the coronavirus restrictions, RSPCA WA continued to share responsible pet ownership messages via social media networks, to keep the community updated with the latest research into how COVID-19 was impacting animals.

Key messages included:

- Longer term considerations before adopting a pet during restrictions
- Providing enrichment for pets at home during restrictions
- Hints and tips for maintaining social distancing when taking your dog for a walk
- Precautions when needing to visit the vet
- Evidence-based research about COVID-19 and (the lack of) transmission from pets
- Hints and tips for transitioning back to working from an office.

Throughout this time, the public were continuously reminded to seek help from their vet, family and friends, or the RSPCA if they were struggling to care for their animals.

COVID-19 Financial support from Government

Federal and State Government assistance programs were made available to RSPCA WA and proved invaluable in helping offset the impacts from COVID-19 restrictions.

RSPCA WA applied for, and received the following grants:

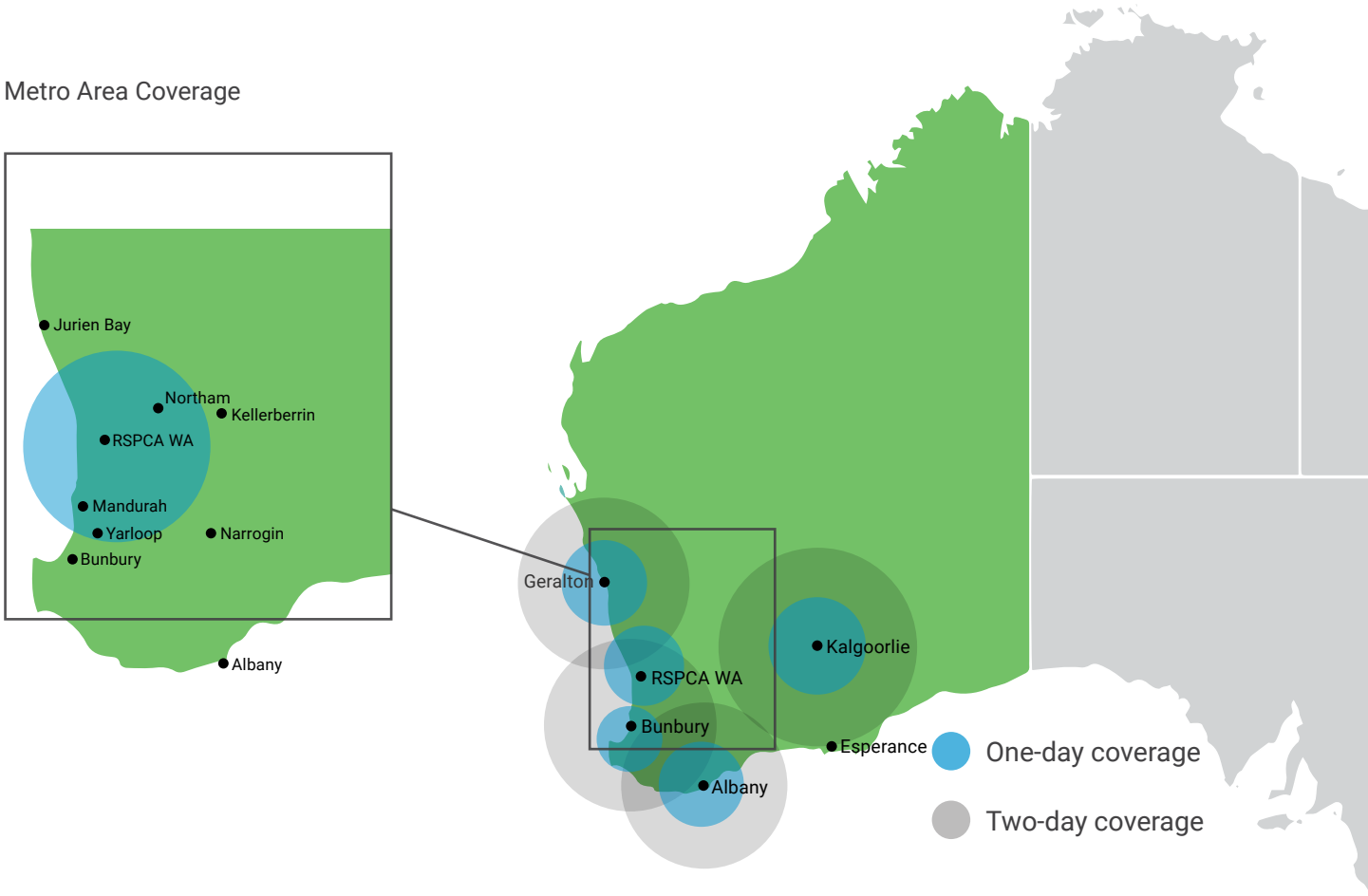
- Federal Government Job Keeper Program and Australian Tax Office cash boost
- Lotterywest grants to:
  - make up for the lost revenue resulting from the cancellation of Million Paws Walk, RSPCA WA Quiz Night and other smaller events.
  - assist RSPCA WA with providing essential ongoing core services in FY20 and into FY21.
  - upgrade our technology and other innovations to ensure organisational resilience against impacts of future potential restrictions.

Please refer to the Financial Statement appendix for detailed information.

INSPECTORATE REPORT

RSPCA WA is the State's only animal welfare charity with Inspectors empowered to investigate and prosecute offences under the *Animal Welfare Act 2002*. Our 11 Inspectors covered over 272,000kms investigating 6866 reports of cruelty.

RSPCA WA Inspectorate Coverage



14907
number of calls

272,264km
distance travelled

6866
cases investigated

11
inspectors

Prosecutions 2019-20

In most cases, issues can be resolved when Inspectors work with owners to educate them on ways to better care for their pets. Inspectors issued 714 written and verbal directions, which required more than 1800 follow up visits to ensure the welfare and safety of animals.

The worst cases of animal cruelty were prosecuted. Five people were prosecuted for cruelty relating to six animals.

A key theme in all prosecutions is that severe cruelty could have been avoided if the owners had taken reasonable steps to alleviate the suffering of their animals. In addition to their basic needs of food, water and shelter, pets rely on their owners for all their needs, and when they need medical attention, it is the owner's responsibility to seek timely, professional medical care.

Date of outcome	Charges	Animal details	Sentence/Orders
28 August 2019	Failure to take reasonable steps to alleviate harm; ill-treatment.	1 dog	Fined $3500; legal costs order of $941.49; Ten-year prohibition from keeping an animal.
22 November 2019	Failure to take reasonable steps to alleviate harm.	1 dog	Fined $2500; legal costs order of $450.70 and care costs order of $1810.86; two-year prohibition from having any other dogs, apart from her current dog.
19 May 2020	Confined in a manner that caused unnecessary harm.	1 dog	Fined $3500; costs order of $1464.80.
26 May 2020	Failure to take reasonable steps to alleviate harm.	1 dog	Fined $3500; legal costs order of $345.60; care costs order of $3055.69; three-year prohibition from being in charge of, or in contact with, any animal.
12 June 2020	Use of a prescribed inhumane device.	2 magpies	Fined $4000; legal costs order of $221.30; steel-jawed traps forfeited to the Crown.

In addition to the above prosecutions, RSPCA successfully conducted three civil forfeitures against four people for three animals.

(Please refer to the COVID-19 report on page 7 for the impact that restrictions had on Inspectorate operations).

CARING FOR ANIMALS

Over the past year, 1828 animals were cared for at the RSPCA Animal Care Centre in Malaga. This includes animals rescued by Inspectors, animals surrendered as their owners could no longer care for them, and animals who were lost or abandoned whose owners could not be located.

Every animal is treated with compassion and we do everything we can to provide the best treatment and care they need so they can find permanent loving homes.

Little Benji Banks, a nine-year old Silky Terrier Chihuahua cross, was just one of those animals who found themselves in our care.

In April, he was found wandering the streets. His fur was thick and matted and he couldn't close his mouth properly. RSPCA WA was called for help, and after checking for a microchip, his owners were located. They told us he had been attacked by a much larger dog some time ago, and while they had tried to care for him, they couldn't afford the vet bills. They surrendered him to the RSPCA Inspector so he would finally get the treatment he needed.

Once he arrived at the RSPCA Animal Care Centre, vets went to work straight away. X-rays revealed his lower jaw was badly broken, and was only connected by soft tissue. An external specialist vet was consulted, and confirmed that it would not be possible to reattach his jaw – it would have to be removed.

Before the delicate surgery could be performed by RSPCA vets, they had to remove some damaged teeth and treat a painful infection in his mouth. Once Benji Banks's tiny bottom jaw was removed, his road recovery began. He was placed with an experienced foster carer, who provided a cosy, loving home environment where he could recover in comfort and learn to eat again.

Benji Banks made a full recovery, and seven weeks after being found wandering the streets he met his new owner and is now living his best life.

It's only thanks to the generosity of our donors and supporters that we were able to provide Benji Banks with everything he needed for his second chance at a happy life.

ANIMALS IN CARE

- **687** dogs and puppies
- **713** cats and kittens
- **11** horses
- **192** livestock
- **225** other
  including birds, poultry, rabbits, pocket pets and wildlife
- **5599** vet consultations and medical procedures
- **689** sterilisation surgeries

ADOPTION PROGRAM

Over 1000 animals, from dogs and cats, to rabbits and guinea pigs, sheep, horses, poultry and birds, all found permanent loving homes in the last year. That's all thanks to members of the public who chose to adopt rather than shop.

These animals came to us from various situations – some were rescued from cruelty and neglect, some were surrendered because their owners couldn't look after them, some were injured and rescued by Inspectors, and others were strays brought in by rangers. It's so important to keep your pet's microchip details up to date, so that if they ever end up in our Shelter, you can be reunited.

During the year, two kennel blocks were out of service being upgraded, so our capacity to take in dogs and puppies and care for them was halved. Despite this 50% reduction in capacity, the number of dogs and puppies cared for was only 20% lower than the previous year.

1006 ANIMALS ADOPTED

302	486	2	56	160
Dogs & puppies	Cats & kittens	Horses	Livestock	Other

(Please refer to the COVID-19 report on page 7 for the impact that restrictions had on pet adoptions).

Peter, a long-time volunteer at RSPCA WA, helped out earlier this year by driving half way to Kalgoorlie to meet Inspector Fi from the Goldfields. Due to COVID-19, restrictions on air travel meant we had to make alternative arrangements to make sure animals could still be rehomed.

VOLUNTEERS

Our network of treasured volunteers are so vital to helping animals in need. Just like Kate Black, our RSPCA WA Volunteer of the Year for 2019. Kate was integral to the creation of RSPCA WA's Cat Corps team – a group of highly knowledgeable volunteers who work intensively with the cats to improve their behaviour and bring them out of their shell – helping them find loving homes, sooner.

Volunteers with specialist animal care-related qualifications or experience, and those who have given over 100 hours of their time, continued to take on additional responsibilities in the vet clinic, in behaviour training, and mentoring new volunteers.

Volunteers in RSPCA Op Shops and Reloved stores continued to provide crucial support for the retail teams, contributing to the welfare of animals in need in different ways.

It was a quiet year for our events volunteers, with just one event – RSPCA's Really BIG Quiz Night – in February, before COVID-19 restrictions prevented public gatherings for the rest of the financial year. We look forward to welcoming them back to make our schedule of 2020-21 events truly memorable!

1094 volunteers, average monthly contribution of 2360 hours

FOSTER CARE PROGRAM

Our foster care network provided safe homes for animals recovering from the trauma of cruelty and neglect. Every animal's recovery is helped so much if they can recover in a home environment with round the clock care.

Along the way, we've had a few "foster fails", too – but that's a good thing. Little "Chance" *(pictured below)* was found abandoned and scared at a property. A thick, heavy chain around his neck was horrifically embedded in his skin. And infection had started to set in. Chance came to the RSPCA Animal Care Centre for treatment, and when his wounds started to heal, and he'd had some training, he was placed with foster carer Kevin.

Chance was in our care for a long time. Kevin and Chance formed a strong bond, and it didn't take long before Chance's temporary foster arrangements became more permanent. Kevin adopted Chance and the two are now inseparable!

RSPCA WA's *Pets in Crisis* program provides temporary care for pets from families affected by domestic and family violence. In 2019-20, we assisted 41 families and their 55 pets. We thank the WA Government Department of Families for their support of this vital community service.

406 animals fostered
330 foster carers

ADVOCACY

RSPCA WA continued to work with government, industry and other stakeholders to promote better welfare outcomes for all animals in Western Australia.

Live Export

RSPCA WA worked with RSPCA Australia on pushing for changes to the live export industry. Most of the sheep being exported to the Middle East come from Western Australian farms, and in May, we found ourselves on the frontline once again, fighting for the welfare of these animals.

At the end of May, we activated our supporter base to lobby the federal Department of Agriculture to uphold the ban on live sheep exports to the Middle East during the Northern Hemisphere summer. The *Al Kuwait* ship had arrived in Western Australia very late and due to a Coronavirus outbreak on the ship, was not ready to depart before the Northern Summer Moratorium deadline. RSPCA WA worked with RSPCA Australia on a submission to uphold the ban, but sadly, after a largely secret new application was lodged by the exporter, an exemption was granted and over 33,000 sheep were exported.

While the mortality rate on that voyage fell within "acceptable" levels, the Government's on-board observer report following the voyage confirmed that all sheep on board suffered heat stress, with approximately 1000 sheep suffering the highest heat stress score of 4 (showing open-mouth panting and tongues protruding), and approximately 4000 experienced a heat stress score of 3 (showing open-mouth panting).

RSPCA WA, together with RSPCA Australia, will continue to fight for changes to the live export industry.

Puppy Farming

In February, the *Dog Amendment (Stop Puppy Farming) Bill 2019* was introduced by the WA Government into Parliament. This proposed legislation is the result of an extensive process to develop regulations around dog breeding in Western Australia, with the aim of stamping out puppy farms and reducing the number of homeless and abandoned puppies and dogs in Western Australia.

The legislation proposes four key measures that, together, would bring transparency and accountability to this industry. Those measures are:

- Mandatory sterilisation of dogs by the age of two years. Exemptions will apply for certain circumstances.
- Owners will be required to obtain an Approval to Breed if they own a dog that is not sterilised by the age of two-years, or if they want to breed their dog.
- Introduce a centralised registration system to identify and trace every dog in WA.
- Transition pet shops to adoption centres, where they will only be permitted to sell dogs and puppies from bona fide shelters and rescue organisations.

The proposed laws were passed in the Legislative Assembly, but the outbreak of COVID-19 delayed the process for the Bill to be read and debated in the Legislative Council. This is scheduled for later in 2020.

Throughout this process, RSPCA WA has been an active proponent for these new regulations to come into effect. We have communicated with our supporters to educate them about the impacts of the proposed laws on them and their pets, and to encourage them to contact their Parliamentary representatives to back the Bill so that it becomes law.

If passed, these laws will mean better welfare for dogs in Western Australia.

Animal Welfare Act Review

RSPCA WA has been an active participant in the WA Government's review of the *Animal Welfare Act 2002,* announced in May 2019.

RSPCA WA made a formal submission through the public consultation process. Representatives met separately with the Review Panel, and RSPCA representatives also attended the public forum with the Review Panel in Perth on 3 February, 2020.

The RSPCA WA submission put forward the following points:

- The Act is no longer fit for purpose as it is a largely reactive offence-based law. This limits the ability of RSPCA Inspectors to be proactive and prevent cruelty before it occurs. We would prefer to see a "duty of care" based law, which sets out what is expected of people who are in charge of animals, so action can be taken before harm is caused to an animal.
- Inspectors cannot enter a place to check compliance with animal welfare directions or prohibition orders issued to people convicted of animal cruelty, without reasonable cause to suspect that an animal cruelty offence has occurred. We think Inspectors should be able to check compliance before another incident of cruelty is imminent.
- RSPCA Inspectors should be able to issue infringement notices for minor animal welfare issues where a breach of the legislation has occurred, but is not of the level of seriousness that would warrant a full prosecution. This has been proven to be effective in other states.

While the work of the Review Panel was delayed following the outbreak of COVID-19, we remain engaged in the process and will continue to strive for a better Animal Welfare Act to protect the animals of Western Australia.

Animal Welfare and Trespass Legislation Amendment Bill 2020

In June, the WA Government introduced the *Animal Welfare and Trespass Legislation Amendment Bill 2020* to Parliament. The Bill aims to deter illegal forms of trespass on farms, while protecting the welfare of animals in abattoirs, knackeries, intensive egg and poultry farms and piggeries through increased powers of entry for Animal Welfare Inspectors.

RSPCA WA raised concerns that it was not consulted in relation to the *Animal Welfare and Trespass Legislation Amendment Bill 2020* and while RSPCA WA supports better access and oversight of intensive producer premises, it does not support the notion that such access should be limited to employees of the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development.

There are a number of fundamental problems with the proposed laws as they have been drafted:

1. Only a new class of inspector called a "designated general inspector" will be able to conduct proactive inspections. However, only animal welfare inspectors employed by the State Government at the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development can be appointed designated inspectors. This excludes RSPCA WA Inspectors, who are independent, objective and professionally trained in enforcing animal welfare laws.

2. The laws only apply to abattoirs, knackeries and intensive poultry and pig farms. RSPCA WA believes all farms should be subject to the same level of transparency, and that all farm animals should be given the same level of animal welfare protection.

We will continue to advocate strongly for RSPCA WA Inspectors to be permitted to perform these important proactive welfare inspections on all commercial animal premises in WA to prevent cruelty before it occurs.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

Community Action Days

RSPCA WA held two Community Action Day events in Swan View in August and Rockingham in October 2019. These events are designed to assist pet owners who may be experiencing financial hardship and finding it difficult to care for their pets.

On the day, visitors are invited to bring their dogs along for free medical checks, free microchipping, free flea, tick and worm treatments, free pet food, and free nail clipping. They can also talk to local government rangers about animal by-laws in their area, and seek advice from RSPCA dog trainers to address any behavioural issues their pets might be having.

Our sincere thanks to the South Metropolitan TAFE faculty and students for providing free veterinary consultations and advice at every event.

Thanks also to Advocate for providing free flea, tick and worm treatments for cats and dogs.

And our heartfelt appreciation to Rogz for providing flat woven collars for the RSPCA Chain Exchange – where people can exchange their prong and choke collars for a sturdy, attractive Rogz collar.

Community Action Days were due to restart in March, but were cancelled due to COVID-19 restrictions on public gatherings.

School presentations

The Education team, lead by volunteer, Janet, visited schools and community groups with Hamish, her rescue dog, delivering vital animal welfare messages to children.

Presentations explain the role of RSPCA WA, and give children and young people practical ways that they can actively participate in caring for the animals in their lives and build empathy for all living creatures.

24 schools and groups visited

945 students and young people reached

(Please refer to the COVID-19 report on page 8 for the impact that restrictions had on Community engagement operations).

ENGAGING THE COMMUNITY

RSPCA Cupcake Day

The sweetest day of the year, RSPCA's Cupcake Day, was held on Monday, 19 August 2019.

The event encourages animal lovers (and those who want to show off their baking skills) to register and host an event where they sell cupcakes (and other sweet and savoury treats) to friends, family, colleagues or community groups.

238 hosts raised an amazing amount of money between them. Best of all? Every cent went towards rescuing, rehabilitating and rehoming animals in need!

Clear the Shelters

In February 2019, we joined the national RSPCA campaign to Clear the Shelters, to find as many homes for animals in need as possible over one weekend.

We are so pleased that 51 rescued animals found their fur-ever homes over the weekend, and we said goodbye to some long term residents, too, including Prickles, who had been in our care for 464 days.

Cat Haven, Greyhounds as Pets and a number of our corporate partners were invited to attend on the Saturday, helping to create a festival atmosphere as we celebrated so many animals finding their permanent loving homes.

RSPCA's Really BIG Quiz Night

In February, 350 people gathered for RSPCA's Really BIG Quiz Night, where we put everyone's brains to the test to raise money for animals in need. We didn't know it at the time, but this would be our last public gathering for 2020.

We're so thankful to the many local businesses who donated prizes and items for the silent auction. And to the many volunteers who helped to set up, run the event, and pack down at the end of a very fun night.

RSPCA's Really BIG Quiz Night is a great way to engage the community and deliver some important animal welfare messages while having a bit of fun. Together, we raised over $15,000 – all going to help animals in need.

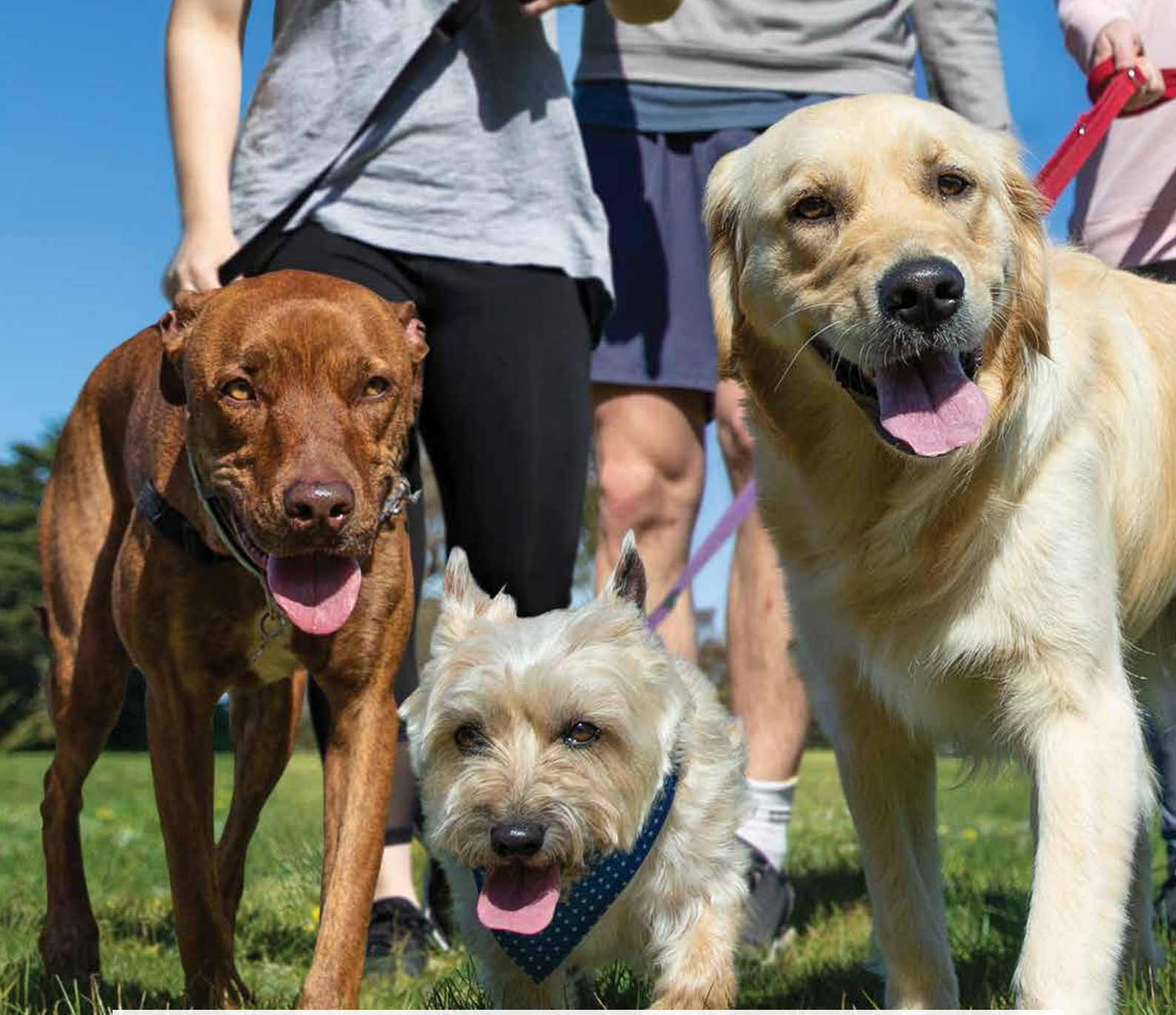
Junior Programs

RSPCA WA continues to recognise young people in the community who set an outstanding example among their peers by working to improve the lives of animals in WA. Junior Ambassadors work actively in their communities to promote responsible pet ownership and influence their friends and families to better care for the animals in their lives.

RSPCA WA also engages younger children in animal welfare through the Junior Rescue Officer Program. The JRO Program is ideal for primary school-aged children and introduces them to animal welfare concepts through practical, fun activities where they build empathy for all living creatures.

89 Junior Rescue Officers

9 Junior Ambassadors



Million Paws Walk

Just as we were getting ready for our biggest fundraiser of the year, RSPCA's Million Paws Walk, we were impacted by the outbreak of COVID-19. This meant that for the first time in 23 years, we would not be able to get together with our four-legged friends and walk to fight animal cruelty.

Instead, we took WA's biggest doggy day out online, and launched the virtual event – *Million Paws Walk: Walk This May*. Participants were encouraged to take their dogs for a walk daily – following COVID-19 restriction guidelines – and log their steps online on the Paw-dometer on their fundraising page.

The Vetwest Pet Parade, which is an annual highlight of the Million Paws Walk, was also taken online – this time, our Facebook community engaged every week for the month of May to share their prettiest, funniest and quirkiest pet pics for a good cause.

The online event was a huge success, and we're looking forward to catching up with everyone in person next year!

(Please refer to the COVID-19 report on page 8 for the impact that restrictions had on our fundraising events).

OVER 90%
of people who had registered before the event cancellation donated their registration fee

35,847
people reached via social media in the Vetwest Pet Parade

164,329,480
steps logged in WA on MPW Pawdometers

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

RSPCA WA would like to gratefully acknowledge the generosity of these animal lovers whose legacies live on through gifts they have left in their Wills to support animals in need.

Estates

- Archibald Murray Arthur
- Lee Bickford
- Flora Giovanna Elsa Bobone
- Olga Muriel Blundell-Wignall
- Ann Claire Bunting
- Pamela Jean Cahill
- Elaine Marjorie Dacre
- Alan Norman Davies
- Anne-Marie Drew
- Edith Blanche Ferralora
- Georgena Margaret Elphick
- Kenneth Gordon Findlay
- Margaret Firman
- Pamela Gauci
- Robert Lawrence Hawke
- Janet Huggett
- Beryl Johnson
- Helga Keating
- Suzanne Kennedy
- Ingo Krug
- Robert William Lee
- Nadine Mary Lovering
- Nancy Gwendoline Mann
- Verna Lesley Clare McAullay
- Delta F McGill
- Eileen Doris Mills
- James Morton
- Michael Mullender
- Elveen May Nicholls
- Christa Paula Nimmo
- Philippa Orr
- Frank Parker
- Doreen Powell
- Robert William Price
- Lorraine Debra Rann
- Anne Ferguson Riedinger
- Michael Joseph Savage
- Hazel Lavinia Sinclair
- Audrey Mabel Suckling
- Barbara M Viveash
- Peter Waller
- James Howard Woodward
- John B Q Woolls
- Lillian Agnes Young

Trusts and Foundations

- Agnes Margaret Jones Estate Trust
- Doris Janet Frith Charitable Trust
- Jean Marion Isobel Balston Estate Trust
- Jean Bladen Foundation
- The Elizabeth Stamos Charitable Trust
- The Girls Trust
- The Margaret Chalmers Charitable Fund
- The Margaret Harper Charitable Trust

Legal Support

RSPCA WA acknowledges and gratefully appreciates the support we have received from a number of law firms and legal practitioners who provide their services on a *pro bono* basis to help animals in need throughout the year.

Hill's Pet Nutrition

Hill's has supported the RSPCA for over 10 years. As well as sponsoring the annual Million Paws Walk event, the company provides Hill's Science Diet to feed cats and dogs in every RSPCA shelter throughout the year.

Hill's™ Transforming Lives™

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For The Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, Western Australia (RSPCA WA) for the year ended 30 June 2020.

The financial statements cover RSPCA WA as an individual entity. The financial statements are presented in Australian dollars, which is RSPCA WA's functional and presentation currency.

The financial statements were authorised for issue on 24 September 2020.

The Royal Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, Western Australia Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income for the financial year ended 30 June 2020

	Note*	2020	2019
		$	$
Revenue	2	11,559,417	8,872,218
		11,559,417	**8,872,218**
Expenses:			
Employee expense		(5,411,523)	(6,171,811)
Depreciation and amortisation expense	9–10	(562,056)	(354,708)
Operating lease expense		(92,741)	(382,418)
Other operating costs	3	(2,366,043)	(3,750,764)
Finance and investment costs		(21,265)	(45,057)
Interest paid – leases		(25,137)	–
Profit/(Loss) on sale of assets		498	(11,138)
Net Surplus/(Deficit)		**3,081,150**	**(1,843,678)**
Other Comprehensive Income that may be reclassified subsequently to profit or loss			
Items that cannot be reclassified subsequently to profit or loss:			
Changes in fair value of equity instruments through other comprehensive income	17	(222,973)	(101,408)
Total comprehensive income/(loss) for the year		**2,858,177**	**(1,945,086)**

** Refers to Notes in the full copy of the Financial Statements Appendix, including the Statement by the Board of Directors, the Independent Auditor's Report and Statement of Significant Accounting Procedures, which can be found on the RSPCA WA website at rspcawa.asn.au.*

The Royal Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, Western Australia
Statement of Financial Position as at 30 June 2020

	Note	2020 $	2019 $
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	4	4,031,744	1,205,027
Trade and other receivables	5	670,707	372,146
Contract assets	6	5,000	–
Inventory	7	47,577	54,923
Financial assets	8	212,915	212,617
Total current assets		4,967,943	1,844,713
Non-current assets			
Financial assets	8	3,139,638	3,207,168
Property plant and equipment	9	3,077,370	3,243,686
Right-of-use assets	10	308,450	50,157
Intangible assets	11	20,367	9,128
Total non-current assets		6,545,824	6,510,139
TOTAL ASSETS		**11,513,767**	**8,354,852**
Current liabilities			
Trade and other payables	12	646,153	775,386
Lease liability	13	244,657	–
Contract liability	14	207,027	37,801
Employee provisions	15	272,501	334,421
Total current liabilities		1,370,339	1,147,608
Non-current liabilities			
Employee provisions	15	66,293	62,678
Lease liability	13	74,392	–
Non-current liabilities		140,685	62,678
TOTAL LIABILITIES		**1,511,024**	**1,210,286**
NET ASSETS		**10,002,743**	**7,144,566**
EQUITY			
Retained surplus	16	9,822,337	6,741,187
Financial assets reserve	16	180,406	403,379
TOTAL EQUITY		**10,002,743**	**7,144,566**

The above Statement of Financial Position should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

RSPCA
Western Australia

RSPCA WA relies on **donations** and
community support to generate
the majority of the funds
required to sustain our animal protection work.

To donate, please visit www.rspcawa.asn.au

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