

# ANNUAL REPORT 2020–2021





**“Rescue: it’s not just  
a verb, it’s a promise.”**  
– Anonymous

*Phoenix was surrendered to the RSPCA in August, limping from a painful injury to his leg, which his owner couldn’t afford to get treated. It was thought the 8-month-old’s leg was either fractured or infected in the joint, but vets were determined to do everything possible to save it. Phoenix underwent surgery, which revealed he had a torn cruciate ligament—an injury rarely seen in cats. Through careful work, the surgeon was able to stabilise his knee. With love and care, Phoenix made a full recovery and was adopted by his ‘furever’ family in October.*

# 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.

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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### ANIMAL CARE

1885 injured, neglected, abandoned or stray animals cared for.



### INSPECTORATE

6637 cases of animal cruelty investigated by Inspectors.



### EDUCATION

970 students and young people reached through programs in schools.



### ADVOCACY

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



### COMPLIANCE

710 direction notices issued, 12 prosecutions and 2 civil forfeitures conducted.

Cover: On an extremely hot day in January, the RSPCA received a call about two eight-week-old puppies shaking uncontrollably. They were rushed to the Animal Care Centre where tests showed they had a birth defect known as 'shaking puppy syndrome.' Jester (cover photo) and Josie received loving care and medical attention until they each found 'forever' homes 6 weeks later.



## CHAIR'S REPORT

**This year has been one of positive change and growth at RSPCA WA with so much to reflect on and celebrate.**

In the lead up to the state election in March, RSPCA WA released an Animal Welfare Matters policy document we urged all candidates to support.

In it, we outlined six key animal welfare actions we see as crucial to improving the lives of animals across Western Australia.

They ranged from increasing the number of inspectors, particularly in regional areas, to including animal welfare themes in the primary school curriculum, and improving the lives of animals in agriculture.

In January we were rewarded with an announcement by the WA Labor party that a re-elected McGowan Government would commit additional funding to support RSPCA WA's animal protection work.

The pledge included a boost of almost \$600,000 to RSPCA WA's Inspectorate, which is responsible for enforcing the *Animal Welfare Act 2002*. These funds will allow us to appoint an

inspector in Broome for the first time in our 130-year history and appoint an additional inspector in the metro area.

This pledge to increase total Government support marked the first ongoing funding increase in a decade.

Additionally, WA Labor's election commitment of \$250,000 towards a pilot Pet Sterilisation Program for concession cardholders will have far-reaching benefits for animals across WA. This RSPCA WA-run program will help begin addressing one of the underlying issues inspectors deal with on a daily basis, namely overbreeding and unwanted litters.

Another welcome announcement this year was the government's commitment to continued funding of the Pets in Crisis Program to at least mid-2023. This is such an important program offering a temporary home for pets from households experiencing family and domestic violence, while their owners seek refuge or temporary accommodation of their own.

While we are grateful for this financial support, the harsh reality is it isn't enough. You can read more about this in the advocacy section of this report.

In June, we welcomed two major milestones in improving the lives of countless animals around Western Australia.

The first was the State Government's response to the independent review of the *Animal Welfare Act 2002* (the Act). RSPCA WA played an integral role in the review process, and we were pleased to see the State Government support many of the recommendations we had put forward.

For example, the government agreed with us that a 'duty of care' obligation be included in the Act and that it would be an offence to breach it.

June was also when the McGowan Government reintroduced a bill to stop puppy farming into parliament. This legislation is vital to prevent cruelty, neglect and abandonment of dogs and we eagerly anticipate it becoming law.



There is a lot to look forward to in the coming year including increased inspectorate coverage, improved legislation and much needed upgrades to our Animal Care Centre in Malaga. All will help us further look after the welfare of WA's animals.

I'd like to thank the Board of Directors for their strategic leadership, CEO Ben Cave for his hard work in strengthening our operational footprint, the entire staff and all volunteers for their commitment whilst continuing to navigate RSPCA WA through the continued impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, ensuring the very best outcomes we can achieve for animal welfare in Western Australia.

Finally, my heartfelt thanks to our generous donors and supporters without whom we simply would not be able to exist.

**Lynne Bradshaw AM**  
Chair, RSPCA WA

## CEO'S REPORT

2020-21 continued to produce many challenges for the RSPCA WA team as we worked our way through snap lockdowns and other COVID-19 related restrictions, a bushfire in February that put our Animal Care Centre in Malaga at risk, and increasing demand for our services as we worked with decreased capacity while kennels were undergoing refurbishment.

Grants from Lotterywest and various levels of government helped us immensely during the year, enabling us to enhance our operations through upgraded technology, run Community Assistance Days for people struggling to look after their pets, complete much-needed site upgrades, and run important animal welfare programs. We are very grateful to each and every one of our partners for their support in helping to make lives better for animals across the state.

Our Animal Care Centre in Malaga saw building upgrades throughout the year including the opening of a much needed, larger vet clinic and the long-awaited reopening of two newly refurbished kennel blocks.

These allowed us to cope with the ever-increasing demand on our services including a spike in pet surrenders during WA's rental crisis as people struggled to find pet-friendly accommodation. We have called on the State Government to change tenancy laws to make it easier for people to rent with pets and I eagerly anticipate a positive outcome.

Educating children about how to responsibly and safely interact with animals, and to build empathy and compassion in our community, was a focus of RSPCA WA in 2020-21.

In February we introduced the RSPCA AWARE program to a Yanchep primary school and the early response is overwhelmingly positive. We are currently talking to other schools about expanding the program. We also introduced a school holiday program where 67 children aged between 7 and 10 took part in one day workshops for a behind-the-scenes look at the RSPCA Animal Care Centre, including safe interaction with animals. The program fosters kindness and empathy and teaches children how to care for pets. It has been a huge success with places for future programs booking out fast.

In the financial section of this report, you will note that RSPCA WA has recorded a sizeable surplus for the year. This can be largely attributed to the number of legacies and bequests we received during the year from those incredibly generous supporters who decided to include the RSPCA in their wills.

Their legacy will be improved animal welfare for many years to come and we are grateful beyond words for their generosity. Understandably, it is impossible to accurately forecast the amount of income we will receive from bequests and the \$5.65m we received this year is well over double what we usually see and by far the most we have ever seen.

Finally, I would like to extend my thanks to Chair Lynne Bradshaw and the Board of Directors for their continuing support, as well as my executive team and all staff, volunteers, donors and supporters. It is truly a privilege to work with such dedicated people who are passionate about animal welfare, and to see the positive outcomes from that work every day.

**Ben Cave**  
CEO

# RSPCA WA DIRECTORS

All of RSPCA WA's Directors are among the leading animal welfare advocates in WA.



**Lynne Bradshaw AM (Chair)**

- Leadership
- Business Development
- Government Relations



**Darren Smith (Deputy Chair)**

- Strategic Growth
- Management
- Business Innovation



**Ian Cowie PSM**

- Governance
- Strategy
- Policy



**Michelle Mackenzie**

- Community Relations
- Public Policy
- Local Government



**Michelle De Ronchi**

- Business Acumen
- Leadership
- Risk Management



**Alice Manners**

- Marketing & Communications
- Partnerships
- Business Innovation



**Jamie Hamilton**

- Corporate Finance
- Project Management
- Stakeholder Management



**Gregory Paust**

- Agriculture
- Corporate Services
- Government Relations

We would like to thank Giselle di San Marzano, who retired from the Board during 2020-21, for her service.

# RSPCA WA EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT



**Ben Cave**

Chief Executive Officer



**Hannah Dreaver**

Animal & Enforcement  
Operations



**Ken Doran**

Fundraising & Programs



**Emma Philips**

Corporate & Commercial



**Louise Rowe**

Media, Marketing & PR



**Sara Broadhurst**

Finance & Shared Services



**Ian Weldon**

General Counsel

# 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*. In 2020-21, our 11 Inspectors covered nearly 270,000kms investigating 6637 reports of cruelty.

Inspectors operate in the Perth metro area and out of Kalgoorlie, Albany, Bunbury and Geraldton. Not every animal we work with ends up in our care. RSPCA inspectors work with people to try and educate them and give them a better understanding of how to care for their animals. This helps break the cycle of neglect; not only does the animal in question benefit, so do any future animals the person may own. If the owner has a family, they also get to see responsible pet ownership in action.

## Sylvester's lucky rescue

**Sylvester was rescued by Inspector Sam after becoming trapped between two fences. The poor thing had been there for several days and was well and truly stuck—Inspector Sam had to use an angle grinder to remove a panel from the fence to free him.**

Sylvester was in a bad way, crying his little lungs out, and had to be transferred to an external vet overnight for intensive care and X-rays. Turns out he'd slipped out past his owners a few nights prior, and they'd been desperately searching for him ever since. While asking around the neighbourhood, the owners were informed that he'd been found, and taken in by RSPCA WA.

The owners had assumed Sylvester's microchip had been updated when they adopted him from a local shelter, but this wasn't the case—which is why RSPCA WA couldn't locate them. The owners were so grateful to Inspector Sam for rescuing Sylvester—they were reunited in time to celebrate his birthday on 26 November.



## Big rabbit rescue

Over two scorching days in November, 100 rabbits were removed from a Perth home after they were found stacked in cages, boxes, birdcages and even laundry baskets, cramped, distressed and suffering heat stress.

The RSPCA and other rescue groups worked together to relocate them all to better living conditions after the owners surrendered them, admitting the situation had become out of control.

The owners started out with four rabbits just two years earlier, showing how quickly the situation can get out of hand if bunnies aren't sterilised.



**17,623**  
number of calls



**269,695km**  
distance travelled



**6637**  
cases investigated



**11**  
inspectors

## Prosecutions

In most cases, issues can be resolved when inspectors work with owners to educate them on ways to better care for their pets. In 2020-21, inspectors issued 710 direction notices, and carried out more than 4987 follow up visits to ensure the welfare and safety of animals.

The worst cases of animal cruelty were prosecuted. In 2020-21, 14 people were prosecuted for cruelty relating to 17 animals.

A key theme in many of these prosecutions is that cruelty could have been avoided if the owners had taken reasonable steps to alleviate the suffering of their pets. Our animals rely on us for everything. At the absolute least this means food, water, shelter and vet care. In the examples below, people didn't meet these most basic of needs. People having difficulty looking after their animals are urged to ask for help sooner rather than later.



12 cases

14 offenders

17 animals involved

(8 dogs, 5 horses, 2 pigeons, 1 kitten and 1 rat)

\$2000–\$15,000

Range of fines

3 years–lifetime

Pet ownership bans



### Missy

In August, a Yanchep woman was fined \$5000 and banned from owning an animal ever again after her dog, Missy, was found wandering the streets. Her fur was so matted the ranger couldn't tell if she was wearing a collar; her claws were embedded 1.5cm into her paw, she was emaciated, and she had an old injury that had been left untreated. Missy made a full recovery and is in a permanent, loving home.



### Shakira

In October, a woman from Jelcobine was fined \$18,000 and prohibited from owning livestock for five years for cruelty to her horse, Shakira. Shakira was found with a large open wound near her shoulder—so large and the resulting infection so severe that part of Shakira's spine was exposed. Vets estimated the infection had been present for at least two weeks. Unfortunately, Shakira did not survive her injury.



### Angel and Rat

In December, a Midland man was fined a total of \$4000, prohibited from owning any animal for 10 years, and ordered to forfeit his dog, Angel, after being convicted of animal cruelty. When reported to the RSPCA, Angel was emaciated and had a large wound to her vulva. She has since recovered in the RSPCA's care and has been adopted into a loving home. A rat was also found in a cage at the property—he had no food or water and was suffering renal failure. He couldn't be saved.



### George and Robin

In March, a Collie couple was banned for life from owning horses, fined a total of \$30,000 and banned from owning any other animals for the next five years, after being found guilty of cruelty to a horse named George and a pony named Robin. Both animals were in a terrible way when inspectors found them—George had a large open wound and both were really skinny. Our inspector couldn't see any feed and there was only minimal water in the paddock. George and Robin made a full recovery after being seized by the RSPCA and have been rehomed.



### Benny

In April, an Embleton couple was fined \$11,000 and banned from owning any animal for 10 years for leaving their dog to suffer from a massive, untreated tumour on his penis. Benny, a Staffy-cross, was skin and bone and had been forced to endure the cancerous growth for months before the RSPCA was alerted. Sadly, it was determined that euthanasia was the most humane option for Benny.



### Xanadu and Sunny

In May, a Collie woman was fined \$22,500 and was prohibited from owning, or being in contact with, horses for 10 years, after pleading guilty to cruelty to two horses found in poor condition on her property. Responding to a cruelty report, RSPCA inspectors found a bay gelding, Sunny, and a chestnut mare, Xanadu, without any water and just half a round bale of poor-quality hay in the paddock. Sunny had severe signs of starvation, renal failure and was fitting. He was humanely euthanised. Xanadu gained weight, recovered from her ordeal and the RSPCA has found her a loving home.



### Bobbi

In June, a Broome woman was fined \$3750 and banned from owning a dog for 10 years after her dog, Bobbi, was found covered in thousands of ticks and severely emaciated. The woman was also found guilty of failure to comply with a written direction, for not following a direction from the RSPCA to have the dog seen by a vet. The court heard it would have taken weeks, if not months, for Bobbi to get to the state she was in. Bobbi was transported to Perth where she soon became an RSPCA office favourite and has since been fostered to a loving family.

The RSPCA relies on the community to report incidents of suspected cruelty and neglect.  
Report cruelty 24/7 on **1300 CRUELTY** (1300 278 358) or online at [rspcawa.org.au](https://rspcawa.org.au)



## CARING FOR ANIMALS

**Over the past year, 1885 animals were cared for by the RSPCA across WA. These included animals rescued by our inspectors, as well as those surrendered to us by owners who could no longer care for them.**

In 2020-21, this included people who were unable to find pet-friendly housing during WA's rental crisis. We also took in a number of animals who were lost or abandoned and whose owners couldn't be located, despite every effort.

The length of time each animal stays with us varies dramatically from a few days to over a year. Regardless of the length of stay, every animal is treated with compassion. We do everything we can to provide the best treatment and care they need so they can find permanent, loving homes.

Of these animals, 293 remained in our care into the new financial year, 941 were adopted, 218 were transferred to other shelters, 111 were reclaimed by their owners, 64 were returned to their owners (or released in the case of wildlife), 45 died in care and 213 were humanely euthanised due to horrific injuries, serious terminal medical conditions, often left untreated by their owners, or severe behavioural issues that were unable to be corrected and posed a serious threat to people or other animals.

Employees and volunteers at the RSPCA love and respect animals, are passionate about animal welfare and do everything possible to rehabilitate and rehome suitable animals. Euthanasia decisions are never taken lightly and, heartbreakingly, are often taken after long periods of time caring for, and trying to rehabilitate an animal.

*Reggie was abandoned at a vet clinic then held in a council pound for 10 days before being surrendered to the RSPCA. He spent four months being treated for a range of conditions, including having an eye removed, before being adopted by his loving forever family.*



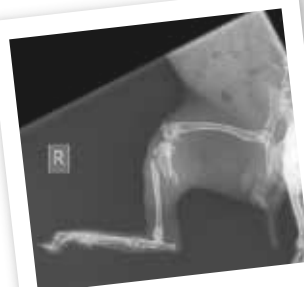
## A typical day in the life of vet nurse Candy

**As a vet nurse at RSPCA, I see neglect and abuse far too often. But having a hand in healing these animals is what keeps me going. It's been two-and-a-half years... and I haven't had a dull day yet!**

|         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|---------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 7AM     | I check the diary to see what's on today. There are animals booked in for dental and sterilisation surgery and lots of check-ups... but you can guarantee there will be a few surprises too.                                                                                                                           |
| 7.15AM  | Time to say good morning to the animals who've been in hospital overnight. I give them their medicine and a quick cuddle.                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 8.30AM  | The vets are in and it's time for morning rounds. Dr Dawne will be in surgery for most of the day and Dr Mairi will be with me doing check-ups, intake assessments and everything in between.                                                                                                                          |
| 9.25AM  | Our first patient has arrived. Deer was born without eyelids and had delicate reconstructive surgery yesterday. She's healing well, so I give her eyes a gentle clean and send her out on foster care to recover in comfort.                                                                                           |
| 10.10AM | A stray rabbit had just been handed in. He is in a lot of pain and looks to have a broken leg. I set up the X-ray machine to check the extent of the damage. He'll be on pain relief while we make a plan.                                                                                                             |
| 10.45AM | A litter of pups has just arrived from Geraldton. They were abandoned with no food or water—I'm so glad we got to them in time. It's all hands on deck to vaccinate, flea treat, microchip and worm all eight wriggly pups. They'll need four meals a day to help them gain weight.                                    |
| 12PM    | There's trouble in surgery. A dog isn't doing well under anaesthetic. I help him breathe manually while nurse Annie works to stabilise him. Only lunch time—there's more to come.                                                                                                                                      |
| 2PM     | An inspector just called—they need to bring in a seized dog straight away. That means everything else is on hold while we gather evidence. They'll need blood, urine and faeces samples, plus lots of pictures for evidence.                                                                                           |
| 4PM     | A cat from a recent hoarding case is back for a check up. He's got a nasty ear infection and needs regular flushes with saline and medicated ointment. Lucky he's a total smooch and doesn't give me any trouble.                                                                                                      |
| 4.30PM  | Phew! It's been a busy day with over 30 animals through the clinic. No time to rest just yet—I check all the meds are stocked up, make sure our overnight patients are fed, warm and comfy, and make note of animals who need to be fasted for surgery. Sorry guys, no breakfast tomorrow, but it's for your own good! |
| 5PM     | Deep breath: I wonder what tomorrow will bring.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |



DEER



THE STRAY  
RABBIT'S X RAY



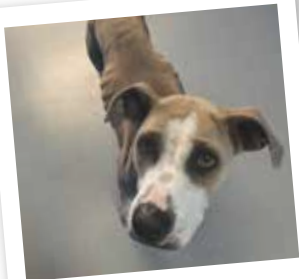
ARRIVAL OF PUPS  
FROM GERALDTON!



VET NURSE CANDY

## A typical day in the life of animal attendant Richelle

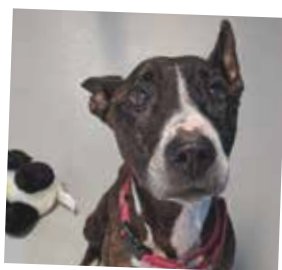
Being an animal attendant can be tough—emotionally and physically. We're hands-on with neglected and abused animals every day. But I love being there to offer a kind word, a cuddle and a warm bed. It might just be the closest thing to love they've known.



AUDREY ONE OF  
THE EMACIATED DOGS



ROSIE



HARVEY



ANIMAL ATTENDANT  
RICHELLE

7AM

As I open up the kennel for the day, there's a chorus of 16 dogs letting me know it's breakfast time. I say a quick good morning, then it's off to the dog kitchen. Order up!

8AM

Six of my dogs are under vet care, so I get prepped with some roast chicken to help the medicine go down. They haven't caught on to this trick just yet.

9.15AM

Time to clean. This part of the job isn't glamorous... but it has to be done—and done well to keep everyone comfortable and stop disease spread. A parvo or kennel cough outbreak would be a disaster for the animals (and our already stretched resources!). I grab fresh bedding from the laundry—and a few extra blankets. It's going to be chilly tonight.

10.15AM

Inspector Sam has just called. She needs kennel space for four emaciated dogs. I set these up on the west side—it's quieter and the low light will help them adjust. I grab some coats to keep their skinny bodies warm. Poor things!

11AM

A trip up to the offices for the day provides great respite for the dogs. Today, it's Rosie and Bailey's turn. They're sensitive dogs, so a bit of quiet time and some sunbathing will do them the world of good.

11.15AM

It's the best time of the day—walkies! Our amazing volunteers lend a hand, and some dogs will benefit from some kennel relaxation time and enrichment too. With 20 dogs, it never stops.

2PM

Harvey boy is sweetheart, but very reactive to other dogs. It's time for a walk so I radio the team to check the yard is free—they'll keep the path clear while we're on the move. He has a blast playing tug and getting some good sniffs in.

3PM

Everyone loves puppies—but they're a real handful. I've got eight rascals in the kennel who are currently being weaned. They need six meals a day of biscuits in warm water—so I'm always running back and forth.

3.45PM

Off to the kitchen to get dinner bowls ready. Tonight will be cold, so I make sure the blinds are down and pop jackets on those dogs who need them before I leave.

4.45PM

One last check to top up water and make sure the kennels are clean. Now I get ready to do it all again tomorrow!



## ADOPTION PROGRAM

Over 900 animals, from dogs and cats to rabbits and guinea pigs, sheep, horses, chooks and ducks, 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.

### Happy horse tail many years in the making

Storm, Maggie, Lilly, Bruce and Abby may have come from different properties, but sadly they all had a similar story to tell.

Neglected by their owners, these intelligent creatures were deprived of attention for so long. However, that all changed when they were reported to RSPCA WA. Thanks to the generosity of our donors and supporters we were able to rescue them all and let their rehabilitation begin.

Abby (14) and Bruce (16) were first to be rescued in 2016, before Maggie (24), Storm (19) and Lilly (6) followed in 2018. Given their health issues, lack of riding history and age, we knew it was going to be a challenge finding someone willing to give these horses a second chance.

All five went into foster care, where they could finally experience the comforts of a loving home. It was a good life but, after several years, the cost of their agistment, food, vet treatment, and teeth and hoof care was really adding up for RSPCA WA.

We'd searched high and low for potential new forever homes, but sadly they'd all fallen through. So a plan was hatched with the help of passionate horse lover Louise, who took Bruce, Abby and Lilly on for some extensive equine training at HorseWest. They built their confidence, got used to being handled and learned not be scared of the float.

Storm, Maggie, Abby and Lilly have now found the perfect retirement home at Moore River Ranch—a sanctuary for mistreated animals. Bruce found his forever home with a kind vet who will take great care of him and his special needs.



## 941 ANIMALS ADOPTED

232  
Puppies & dogs

436  
Kittens & cats

7  
Horses

89  
Livestock

177  
Other



## VOLUNTEERS

Our network of treasured volunteers is so vital to helping animals in need. In 2020-21, 892 people contributed an extremely valuable 26,526 volunteering hours at the RSPCA WA Animal Care Centre. Countless additional hours were kindly given by foster carers and off-site volunteers at our events, and as part of the education program.

According to the Volunteering WA Volunteer Benefits Calculator, RSPCA WA volunteers delivered \$1,273,513.26 in value to the WA community last year. That's a tremendous achievement!

RSPCA volunteers are part of the fabric of our organisation and are behind everything we do. Volunteers help to care for the animals in the shelter, they foster animals in their own homes, they help with fundraising and without them, we could not do half of what we achieve. With dozens of volunteer sign-ups per month, we are in the fortunate situation to witness WA's love for animals every day.

Some volunteering opportunities you may not have been aware of:

- Dedicated, expert **pro bono legal personnel** who help us seek justice for abused and neglected animals through prosecutions.
- Our **Directors** who bring to us their considerable skills and knowledge in a wide range of business and administration areas.
- **Animal enrichment** volunteers whose one-on-one activities add enormously to an animal's health, well-being and recovery.
- Our network of 397 **foster carers** which allows us to help many more animals than we could fit into our Animal Care Centre, and it means they get to recuperate in a proper home.
- **Admin:** many people serve as skilled volunteers in HR, event organising, data capture and all things admin.
- **Op Shops and Reloved stores:** 61 volunteers doing an average of 600 hours every month.



### Maureen McKenzie

Maureen started as an RSPCA volunteer in 2016. She now volunteers with the Cat Corp and Dog Corp, supporting our animal behaviouralists who help get animals ready for adoption. She has helped train countless of new volunteers and makes sure everyone feels welcome. In 2020-21, Maureen joined the amazing volunteer team that runs the School Holiday Program. She also helps with Bunnings Sausage Sizzles, represents RSPCA at events and does whatever else we require.

Recorded volunteer hours to date: 967



**892** volunteers  
**26,526** hours total  
**2210** hours (avg. per month)  
**\$1,273,513.26** value added



## FOSTER CARE PROGRAM

In 2020-21, our foster care network provided safe homes for animals recovering from the trauma of cruelty and neglect and those fleeing with their humans from family violence. Every animal's recovery is helped so much if they can recover in a home environment with round-the-clock love and care.

### Foster fail a win for Panda

Panda is a one-year-old medium cross breed who was rescued by one of our inspectors in August. She had horrendous alopecia and secondary skin infections due to severe mange. She also had some unusual growths under her tongue, which we were concerned could potentially be contagious to other dogs.

She required a special diet, a cocktail of medications, regular medicated shampoo baths and biopsies for her countless lesions.

An electrician who's worked at the Animal Care Centre many times fell in love with her from afar and offered to foster her—which of course we jumped at once the vet team were happy with her progress.

After a couple weeks in foster care, we finally received the results of Panda's biopsies. They ruled out autoimmune disease, which we were concerned was causing some of her neurological issues, and instead indicated that a lot of her problems were actually due to a long history of heavy parasite infestations! They also indicated that the lesions on her tongue were not contagious after all, but just calcium deposits and easily removed.

By October, Panda looked like a new dog—well, she actually looked like a dog! Her fur had started to grow back, her scabs and sores were healing, and she was much happier and more comfortable.

Panda remained with her loving foster carer as she healed, and their bond was growing every day. When she was well enough to be adopted in January, her foster carer knew he couldn't say goodbye and his foster fail became Panda's win.

## PETS IN CRISIS

In 2020-21, we assisted 19 pets and their families through the *Pets in Crisis* program, which offers a temporary home for pets from households experiencing family and domestic violence, while their owners seek refuge or temporary accommodation of their own.

Under the program, pets are placed with short-term foster families in confidential locations, giving their owners peace of mind that their pet will be safe and well cared for while they focus on their own safety.

Individuals and families will often put off fleeing a violent situation due to concerns regarding the safety of their companion animal, with one study reporting that 35 per cent of women delayed seeking refuge for this reason.

In December, the Department of Communities extended funding for *Pets in Crisis* through to 2023.



**435**  
animals fostered

**397**  
foster carers

# ADVOCACY

In 2020-21, RSPCA WA continued to work with government, industry and other stakeholders to promote better welfare outcomes for all animals in Western Australia.

## A small price to pay

**Most West Australians are shocked to learn that of the millions of dollars it costs RSPCA WA to operate every year, only around 10 per cent comes from State Government funding. That's despite the fact a large chunk of our work is carried out on behalf of the government under the *Animal Welfare Act 2002*.**

We are the only non-government organisation with inspectors who can investigate and prosecute abuse, cruelty and neglect—and we are a charity relying on donations to do that work. We do so much more than that too by rescuing sick, injured and neglected animals, and teaching the community about animal care.

Before the March election, the Government pledged to increase our yearly grant which contributes to funding our inspectors—the first permanent funding increase in 10 years. We are grateful and have already planned how to make best use of the boost, including employing an inspector in Broome and adding another inspector to the metropolitan area.

In 2020-21 we had just 11 inspectors to cover the whole of WA. This year they received over 17,500 cruelty calls and investigated more than 6500 incidents.

This year, RSPCA WA asked for a long-term increase in funding from the State Government to \$5 million a year. That's just \$2 per West Australian per year and would still represent only half of what a well-resourced, State-wide inspectorate operation would cost.

An increase in funding of just \$2 per West Australian a year would allow the RSPCA to implement our six-step plan to extend services further into the regions, address serious unmet need, implement generational change, and genuinely work towards ending the level of neglect and abuse across the state, for all creatures great and small. It's a small price to pay.



## Animal Welfare Act review

**In June, the State Government released its response to the independent review of the *Animal Welfare Act 2002*. RSPCA WA played an integral part in the review process and broadly supported the State Government's response while being encouraged by the government's commitment to improving animal welfare.**

In particular, we were pleased to see many of the recommendations put forward by RSPCA WA supported. For example, the government agreed that a 'duty of care' obligation be included in the Act and that it would be an offence to breach it. Similarly, government supported the Animal Welfare Act review committee's recommendation that the Act expressly recognise that animals are living beings, able to perceive, feel, and have positive and negative experiences. This will have a profound and far-reaching effect on animal welfare across the board.

The independent review recommended the government inquire into the sufficiency of resources relevant to the enforcement of the Act by all organisations, including the RSPCA. This recommendation, along with the recommendation that all appointed inspectors be fully funded by the State, would help correct the current situation where the majority of RSPCA WA's costs of enforcing the Act are covered by donations and bequests from its generous supporters.



## Changes to tenancy laws

**In April, WA's rental crisis brought the need for rental reforms in this state into sharp relief.**

In just one month, RSPCA WA received more than 50 calls from desperate pet owners who couldn't find rental accommodation that allowed pets. Sadly, many people had to make the heartbreaking choice between surrendering their beloved pet or putting a roof over their family's head.

At RSPCA WA we believe that in the midst of a global pandemic when so many had been hit financially hard, it seemed unnecessarily cruel to add yet another devastating blow to those suffering such a large amount of stress and uncertainty.

Currently, WA landlords can simply say no if a prospective tenant wishes to keep a pet, regardless of the type of property or the type of animal, and the renter has no recourse.

RSPCA WA urged the State Government to follow the lead of Victoria and the ACT by changing the *Residential Tenancies Act 1987* to require landlords to provide a good reason to refuse a renter's request to keep a pet. This is a much more sensible approach where the landlord and tenant can have a mature conversation about whether it is reasonable for the proposed pet to live in a particular dwelling.

Pleasingly, the State Government invited us to make a submission to a review of the Act and we eagerly await the outcome.

## Stop puppy farming

**In June, the State Government reintroduced a Bill to stop puppy farming into parliament.**

RSPCA WA believes the *Dog Amendment (Stop Puppy Farming) Bill 2020* is vital to prevent cruelty, neglect and abandonment of dogs by helping put an end to indiscriminate backyard dog breeding in WA. The sooner the legislation comes into law, the sooner it will help prevent some of the suffering and cruelty to dogs that RSPCA WA inspectors see almost every day.

The four key pillars to this legislation—mandatory sterilisation, registration of anyone wanting to breed from their dog, a centralised registration system, and pet shops that sell dogs to become adoption centres—will have a huge impact on the number of unwanted dogs and puppies in WA each year.



## COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

### RSPCA AWARE Program

At the RSPCA, we believe education is the key to lasting change. Our main aim is to help young people develop responsible and caring behaviour towards animals, preventing animal cruelty and neglect in the long term.

In 2020-21, we introduced a series of resources aimed at educating young people about animal welfare.

RSPCA AWARE (*Animal Wellbeing: Awareness, Responsibility and Education*) provides resources for educators, students and parents that help young people develop knowledge, skills and understanding around improving the welfare of all animals, be they companions, farmed or wild animals.

Nationally, teachers in over 500 primary, secondary and other educational institutions are already using the program and in February, a primary school in Yanchep became the first in WA to introduce it.

We are talking to other schools about the success of the Yanchep pilot and hope to have them on board with AWARE in the coming year.

### Community Action Days

RSPCA WA *Community Action Days* are free events designed to help people who are struggling financially to look after their pets. They are traditionally held in areas that generate a high number of cruelty reports.

Despite COVID-19 restrictions at various times throughout the year, RSPCA WA held two *Community Action Days* in 2020-21 in Rockingham and Swan View.

People who are experiencing financial hardship or finding it difficult to care for their pets are invited to attend to receive free health checks for their dogs and puppies, free dog microchipping, free flea, worming and tick treatments for dogs and cats, free chain exchange (swapping choke collars for a humane flat collar), free pet food, free nail-clipping for dogs, educational information about pet care and responsible pet ownership, and dog training advice.

We are very grateful to our partners who make *Community Action Days* possible; South Metropolitan TAFE for providing free veterinary consultations and advice; Elanco for providing free Advocate tick, flea and worm treatments for dogs and cats; Time Pet for providing Rogz flat woven collars to offer in our chain exchange; and Vetwest for their continued support of RSPCA WA activities to improve the lives of animals in the community.



**970**

Students and young people reached



**144**

Animals health checked



**229**

Parasite control collars handed out



**29**

Animals microchipped



**355kg**

of food distributed



### School Holiday Program

In 2020-21 we were excited to offer a school holiday program for children aged 7 to 10. The *RSPCA School Holiday Program* offers a fun, activity-packed one day workshop offering a behind-the-scenes look at the RSPCA Animal Care Centre, including safe interaction with animals in our care.

The day includes an educational presentation about the work of the RSPCA and how we rescue, rehabilitate and rehome animals, basic skills demonstration of animal training and safety around animals, arts and craft activities making toys or treats for shelter animals, interaction with animals such as reading to dogs or cats, and feeding pocket pets, basic animal first aid training and an animal scavenger hunt around our site.

The program is designed to encourage kindness, empathy and caring for animals and teach children how to care for pets. School holiday programs will continue in 2021-22.

### RSPCA WA Animal Welfare Awards

October saw a celebration of animals and animal welfare warriors in our annual *Animal Welfare Awards* which recognise acts of bravery, compassion and advocacy carried out by individuals and groups to save animals lives and improve animal welfare standards in WA.

This year, for the first time, two furry friends were celebrated as joint winners in the Animal Award category for their efforts to improve human lives in the community.

The six award winners, nominated by their friends and families, were chosen by a committee made up of five experienced individuals who work in the not-for-profit, media and animal welfare sectors.

#### The RSPCA WA Animal Welfare Award winners for 2020 were:

- **Joint Animal Award winners:**  
Rambo the reading dog, and Captain Cat the nursing home hero
- **Humane Award winner:**  
Dean Huxley
- **Community Action Award winner:**  
Dreamers Dream Wildlife Rehabilitators
- **Youth Award winner:**  
Mikayla Evans
- **Volunteer of the Year Award winner:**  
Janet Ingham

# ENGAGING THE COMMUNITY

## Poorly Drawn Pets

In July and December, RSPCA WA held a fun new fundraiser named *Poorly Drawn Pets*.

For a small donation of \$15 per submitted photo, participants had one of RSPCA WA's volunteers, staff members, Inspectors or Junior Ambassadors try their unskilled hand at drawing their pet. A few genuinely talented artists took part too, so the results were a mixture of hilarious, quirky and magnificent pieces of art.

A total of 690 people registered to have their pets drawn across the two events, raising over \$10,000 for animals in need.

## Give to Get Them Home

On 1 October, for one day only, every donation was doubled in our *Give to Get Them Home* fundraiser.

Thanks to generous partners like Peter Alexander, Petbarn Foundation, Carole Lenders, and Anne Ashbrook, every donation received was matched!

On the day, our *Give to Get Them Home* volunteers also hit the city streets, shaking tins for people's spare change. In total, more than \$16,000 was raised to help us continue our vital animal welfare work.

## RSPCA Cupcake Day

October 26 saw one of our biggest fundraisers of the year with the annual *RSPCA Cupcake Day*.

Animal lovers were encouraged to bake a change in the fight against animal cruelty by registering to host a bake sale at home, school, work, social club—anywhere they liked!

143 hosts baked and ate their way to a fantastic \$24,000 raised to help animals in need.

## Quiz Night

All brains were on deck in February for RSPCA WA's *Tricky Trivia Night*.

250 people gathered to test their knowledge in a fun-filled night that raised over \$5,500 to help us rescue, rehabilitate and rehome animals.

A massive thank you to the army of volunteers who helped set up, run and pack away the event, as well as the many businesses and individuals who kindly donated prizes.



## Anzac Day

April saw RSPCA WA's first ever Anzac Day ceremony which honoured those who have fought in conflicts, as well as the many furry and feathered friends who risked their lives in wars to support their humans.

Creatures of all types have played an important role in war; pigeons flew long distances without stopping to deliver emergency messages, cats were mascots and companions, and camels carried heavy loads through hot, dry country.

There are also countless stories of sacrifice by dogs, who served as guards, messengers and lifesavers during wars and conflicts.

The very moving ceremony was attended by the RSL, members of the armed forces, government representatives, staff, volunteers and assistance dog Enya who was there to help spread the word about how man's best friend supports our veterans long after conflict is over.

The RSPCA acknowledges that animals have been incredibly valuable during wartime. However, it is important the welfare of military animals is also monitored, evaluated, and prioritised.

## Million Paws Walk: Walk this May

The RSPCA's much-loved *Million Paws Walk* dog-walking event was back in 2021 with a virtual alternative: *Walk This May*.

Dog lovers were encouraged to walk their pet for 30 minutes a day throughout the month of May to raise money for the RSPCA and be a hero for dogs in need.

*Million Paws Walk: Walk This May* celebrated a mutual love of animals while keeping owners and pets healthy and safe as they hit the pavement.

585 people (and their pooches—and a cat or two on harnesses) raised an amazing \$44,000. Thank you!

# 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

- |                                  |                            |                                |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| - Ali Abdul Latiff Ayob Abdullah | - Frank Parker             | - Lyn Patchett                 |
| - Amelia Mary Davies             | - George Mottram           | - Margaret Mary Woolcock       |
| - Barbara (Paddy) Downing        | - Glenys Audrey Lawrie     | - Marina Sadie Pegrum          |
| - Beryl Joan Hillary             | - Gwenda Florence Norton   | - Maurice Jackson              |
| - Betty Snow                     | - Gwendolyn Taylor         | - Maxine Lawn                  |
| - Bronwyn Kaye Meharg            | - Helen Dorothea Whitfield | - Muriel Ming                  |
| - Catherine Margaret Mayne       | - Jean Dawkins             | - Myra Anne Seghers            |
| - Cheryl Joy Marshall            | - Jean Evelyn Simon        | - Nancy Gwendoline Mann        |
| - Cornelis Jacob van Dalsen      | - Jeanette Stevenson       | - Penelope Veronica Bird       |
| - Daniel Richard Fuller          | - Joan Gertrude Miles      | - Rose Margaret Stevens        |
| - Diana Mary Burnell             | - John Anthony Jefferies   | - Roy Beresford                |
| - Doris Ruby Broun               | - June Margaret Mulder     | - Sheila Mary Rooke            |
| - E N Baker                      | - Kenneth Charles Hawke    | - Shirley Elizabeth Hope Ellis |
| - Elizabeth Cartier              | - Leita Eva Bell           | - Thelma Irene Criddle         |
| - Faye Agnes Waters              | - Lucie Avis Walton        | - Treena Lewis                 |

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## Trusts and Foundations

- |                                      |                                         |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| - Agnes Margaret Jones Trust         | - Mary Kibble Trust                     |
| - Doris Janet Frith Charitable Trust | - SSG Endowment Fund                    |
| - Jean Bladen Foundation             | - The Elizabeth Stamos Charitable Trust |
| - Jean Marion Isobel Balston Trust   | - The Girls Trust                       |
| - Karen Simcoe Animal Welfare Trust  | - The Margaret Chalmers Charitable Fund |

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## RSPCA WA would like to acknowledge the following firms and practitioners for providing pro bono support of RSPCA WA throughout the year:

- Sarah Oliver, Barrister, Francis Burt Chambers
- Cassandra Ferrier, Jordan Hurley, Catherine Palfrey and Ellen Richmond of K&L Gates
- Sam Rumenos of Clayton Utz, formerly of K&L Gates
- Sarah Herford of Circle Green CLC, formerly of K&L Gates
- Rachel Dawson, Lucy Gordon, Christopher Hicks, Georgia Kalyniuk and Libby Mussard of Herbert Smith Freehills
- Andrew Hanna of Corrs Chambers Westgarth, formerly of Herbert Smith Freehills
- Roselina Kruize of Jackson McDonald
- Trinh Le, Mike Hales and David Suttner of Minter Ellison
- Oliver Marshall and Duncan Fletcher of Kingston Reid and Xanthe Shaw, formerly of Kingston Reid



Transforming Lives™

## Hill's

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.

# FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Western Australia (RSPCA WA) for the year ended June 30, 2021.

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 23 September 2021.

## The Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, Western Australia Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income for the financial year ended 30 June 2021

|                                                                                           | Note | 2021<br>\$        | 2020<br>\$        |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Revenue                                                                                   | 2    | 13,409,956        | 11,559,417        |
|                                                                                           |      | <b>13,409,956</b> | <b>11,559,417</b> |
| <b>Expenses:</b>                                                                          |      |                   |                   |
| Employee expense                                                                          |      | (5,623,471)       | (5,411,523)       |
| Depreciation and amortisation expense                                                     | 9-10 | (588,773)         | (562,056)         |
| Operating lease expense                                                                   |      | (43,490)          | (92,741)          |
| Other operating costs                                                                     | 3    | (2,790,286)       | (2,366,043)       |
| Finance and investment costs                                                              |      | (17,092)          | (21,265)          |
| Interest paid - leases                                                                    |      | (28,153)          | (25,137)          |
| (Loss)/profit on sale of assets                                                           |      | (56,459)          | 498               |
| <b>Net Surplus</b>                                                                        |      | <b>4,262,232</b>  | <b>3,081,150</b>  |
| <b>Other Comprehensive Income that may be reclassified subsequently to profit or loss</b> |      |                   |                   |
| <b>Items that cannot be reclassified subsequently to profit or loss:</b>                  |      |                   |                   |
| Changes in fair value of equity instruments through other comprehensive income            | 17   | 617,301           | (222,973)         |
| <b>Total comprehensive income for the year</b>                                            |      | <b>4,879,533</b>  | <b>2,858,177</b>  |

*The above statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.*

**The Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, Western Australia**  
**Statement of Financial Position as at 30 June 2021**

|                                  | Note | 2021<br>\$        | 2020<br>\$        |
|----------------------------------|------|-------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Current assets</b>            |      |                   |                   |
| Cash and cash equivalents        | 4    | 5,956,793         | 4,031,744         |
| Trade and other receivables      | 5    | 422,933           | 670,707           |
| Contract Assets                  | 6    | -                 | 5,000             |
| Inventory                        | 7    | 64,148            | 47,577            |
| Financial assets                 | 8    | 213,045           | 212,915           |
| <b>Total current assets</b>      |      | <b>6,656,919</b>  | <b>4,967,943</b>  |
| <b>Non current assets</b>        |      |                   |                   |
| Financial assets                 | 8    | 5,957,194         | 3,139,638         |
| Property plant and equipment     | 9    | 3,288,576         | 3,077,370         |
| Right-of-use assets              | 10   | 191,822           | 308,450           |
| Intangible assets                | 11   | 15,520            | 20,367            |
| <b>Total non current assets</b>  |      | <b>9,453,112</b>  | <b>6,545,824</b>  |
| <b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>              |      | <b>16,110,031</b> | <b>11,513,767</b> |
| <b>Current liabilities</b>       |      |                   |                   |
| Trade and other payables         | 12   | 508,430           | 646,153           |
| Lease liability                  | 13   | 156,847           | 244,657           |
| Contract Liability               | 14   | 123,980           | 207,027           |
| Employee provisions              | 15   | 307,560           | 272,501           |
| <b>Total current liabilities</b> |      | <b>1,096,817</b>  | <b>1,370,339</b>  |
| <b>Non current liabilities</b>   |      |                   |                   |
| Employee provisions              | 15   | 78,398            | 66,293            |
| Lease liability                  | 13   | 52,540            | 74,392            |
| <b>Non current liabilities</b>   |      | <b>130,938</b>    | <b>140,685</b>    |
| <b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>         |      | <b>1,227,755</b>  | <b>1,511,024</b>  |
| <b>NET ASSETS</b>                |      | <b>14,882,276</b> | <b>10,002,743</b> |
| <b>EQUITY</b>                    |      |                   |                   |
| Retained surplus                 | 16   | 14,084,569        | 9,822,337         |
| Financial assets reserve         | 16   | 797,707           | 180,406           |
| <b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>              |      | <b>14,882,276</b> | <b>10,002,743</b> |

*The above statement of financial position should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.*

RSPCA WA relies on **donations** and **community support** to generate **around 90 per cent of the funds** required to sustain its animal protection work.

To donate, please visit [www.rspcawa.org.au/donate](http://www.rspcawa.org.au/donate)

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