RSPCA Western Australia

ANNUAL REPORT 2022-2023

130 YEARS OF RSPCA WA

Introducing the first monthly report for R. S. P. C. A.

— R.S.P.C.A. NEWS—

The strength in preventing cruelty to animals lies in membership figures of the R. S. P. C. A., as people who become members are obviously interested in animals and the prevention of cruelty to them.

R.S.P.C.A. AMBULANCE

One of the first R.S.P.C.A. motorised ambulances in Australia.

During the month of April two Life Members joined the Society, in addition to 35 Annual Members and four Junior Members.

Tuesday 2 August 2022 marked 130 years since RSPCA WA was formally constituted under the original name *The West Australian Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals*.

Established in 1892, RSPCA WA is one of the oldest and most enduring organisations in Western Australia, as well as one of the most trusted.

It was formed by a reading circle of five female friends, including Mrs Edith Cowan. Membership was one shilling.

Since 1892, RSPCA WA has rescued, rehabilitated and rehomed tens of thousands of creatures great and small while continuously advocating for improved animal welfare.

Successes include increased maximum penalties for cruelty, an improved *Animal Welfare Act 2002*, and laws to stop puppy farming. We continue to push for an end to live sheep export, an end to the use of barren battery cages, plus key improvements to practices for animals used in agriculture, and for sport and entertainment.

The WA Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals hired its first inspector in 1894, and another followed in 1906 to work in the Eastern Goldfields.

In 1920, the society became the first SPCA outside the UK to enjoy Royal Patronage, as offered by King George V. To this day, the State's governors give their patronage to the society.

In May 1998, the charity's flagship event, Million Paws Walk, was held for the first time. Funds raised went towards opening RSPCA WA's dedicated animal shelter in Malaga the following year.

Today, RSPCA WA provides important community services across the State, including education programs, community outreach initiatives, discounted pet sterilisation and temporary foster care for animals caught up in family and domestic violence. It remains the only charity authorised to investigate and prosecute cases of cruelty under the *Animal Welfare Act 2002*.

VISION

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

MISSION

To 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
2385 injured, neglected, abandoned or stray animals cared for.

INSPECTORATE
7126 cases of animal cruelty investigated by inspectors.

COMPLIANCE
29 cases successfully prosecuted and 8 civil forfeitures conducted.

ADVOCACY
Continued to fight for better welfare for all animals in WA.

EDUCATION
1402 students and young people reached through programs in schools and RSPCA WA's School Holiday Program.

Cover: Animal attendant Monique with a puppy appearing in our 130th anniversary video.

CHAIR'S REPORT

I am delighted to welcome you to the Annual Report for 2022-23, a significant year as RSPCA WA celebrated 130 years of commitment to animal welfare in our State.

Established in 1892, RSPCA WA is one of the oldest and most enduring organisations in Western Australia, as well as one of the most trusted.

Having been with the organisation for over 20 years, one thing I've learned is that significant, lasting change in this field can take not only years, but sometimes decades to achieve. That is why we must continue to advocate strongly and consistently to bring about change, such as the examples outlined below.

In March, the Federal Government announced the members of the independent panel that will determine how and when to phase out live sheep export. This was a significant milestone in the long-running battle to end this cruel and unfixable trade as the conversation shifted from 'if' it should end to 'when'. At the time of writing there was still considerable opposition to the phase out from some in the agricultural sector however, I'm confident a target end date will be established soon.

Equally significant was the headway made in the campaign to ban battery cages for hens. In August, after being under review for nearly seven years, national Poultry Standards and Guidelines were released. These included a commitment to phase out battery cages in Australia by 2036 however, each state and territory in Australia can implement the phase out at any time before then. RSPCA WA will continue to work with and encourage the State Government to take the lead and implement a phase out of battery cages in WA well before that date.

At a more local level, I applaud the Royal Agricultural Society of WA for engaging in conversation and making the right welfare decision to ban calf roping at its City Muster event in May. A paper published in January confirmed that calf roping was a frightening and cruel event that was arguably the worst animal welfare issue with rodeos today. We will continue to reach out to other rodeos across the State, hopeful of a similar outcome.

May saw the long-awaited return of RSPCA WA's Million Paws Walk after a three-year hiatus due to COVID-19. We made the event bigger and better than ever in celebration with food trucks, live music, market stalls and guest appearances from everyone's favourite celebrities, Bluey and Bingo and PAW Patrol. More than 3000 people and 2000 dogs enjoyed a walk in the sunshine along the beautiful South Perth riverfront, raising funds for our cause.

As we celebrate the success of 2022-23 along with 130 years of advocacy and action, our accomplishments stand as a testament to the tireless efforts of so many people. I want to thank the staff and volunteers at RSPCA WA, CEO Ben Cave, my fellow directors, our corporate partners and supporters, and most definitely our donors and fundraisers. While challenges in the animal welfare space can seem slow to change, I have seen time and again how progress can be made when dedicated animal lovers work together. Thank you for joining us on this journey.

Lynne Bradshaw AM
Chair, RSPCA WA

CEO REPORT

Cost-of-living pressure, both on owners and RSPCA WA, was the biggest factor influencing operations this year. Requests from pet owners wanting to surrender their animals have remained a constant feature of calls to our shelter. No longer being able to afford their pet's care was one of the most common reasons given.

As a not-for-profit organisation, increasing costs placed further pressure on our operations as we strived to help as many animals as possible. It's a sad reality that during tough times, we face the double whammy of more animals needing our help while our generous donors and supporters are less able to support us financially.

Monetary pressures saw continued demand at our Community Action Days throughout the year, with 1225 people accessing free health checks, food, parasite treatments and microchipping for their pets compared to 1165 the year before.

In May, RSPCA WA welcomed the State Government's announced changes to rental laws, including a change making it easier for people with pets to rent. As the housing and rental market tightened throughout the year, we were receiving up to 30 pet surrender requests a week linked to housing issues alone. Under the amended *Residential Tenancies Act 1987*, landlords will still be able to refuse consent for the tenant to keep a pet, but only with permission from the Commissioner for Consumer Protection and only when it is reasonable to do so.

I applaud the State Government for funding RSPCA WA's Pet Sterilisation Program which we piloted this year. Under the scheme, concession card holders received a 75 per cent discount on dog and cat sterilisation at participating vet clinics across the state. Six hundred dogs and 274 cats were sterilised under the scheme which proved overwhelmingly popular. At a cost of just $250,000, 874 animals are no longer able to parent a litter, stopping thousands of unwanted puppies and kittens being born. I urge the government to consider making the funding of this high-impact program permanent.

2022-23 saw our highest number of animals adopted for over a decade –1368. A contributing factor to this was two high-profile puppy farming cases that were finalised in the year, one involving sought-after breeds such as Maltese crosses and cavaliers, and the other involving labradoodles. From these two cases alone over 100 dogs were adopted, predominantly by their foster carers who had done a wonderful job caring for them for up to three years as the cases progressed through the courts.

Looking ahead, securing adequate funding, staff retention in a tough and competitive labour market and increasing cost pressures continue to be the biggest hurdles to overcome. However, I am confident we have the right team in place to meet those challenges and continue to improve animal welfare across WA.

I thank our Chair Lynne Bradshaw, the Board of Directors, Executive team, staff, volunteers, donors, bequestors, and supporters for their varied and invaluable support in helping us achieve the best outcomes for the animals of Western Australia.

Ben Cave
CEO, RSPCA WA

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

Alice Manners
- Marketing and Communications
- Partnerships
- Business Innovation

Gregory Paust
- Agriculture
- Corporate Services
- Government Relations

Ian Cowie PSM
- Governance
- Strategy
- Policy

Jamie Hamilton
- Corporate Finance
- Project Management

Joy Krige (Since Feb 2023)
- Strategy
- Leadership
- Governance

Michelle de Ronchi
- Business Acumen
- Leadership

Paige Gibbs (Since May 2023)
- Marketing and Communications
- Fundraising
- Philanthropy

Wanjie Song (Since Mar 2023)
- Legal
- Governance
- Policy Reform

We would like to thank Michelle Mackenzie, who retired from the Board during 2022-23, for her many years of dedicated service.

RSPCA WA EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT

In addition to Ben, our CEO, there are three Executive Managers dedicated to ensuring RSPCA WA delivers on its mission and strategic goals.

Ben Cave
Chief Executive Officer

Hannah Dreaver
Animal and Enforcement Operations

Louise Rowe
Media, Marketing and PR

Sara Broadhurst
Finance and Shared Services

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 2022-23, our 11 inspectors covered 322,408 kilometres investigating 7126 reports of cruelty.

Inspectors operate in the Perth metro area and out of Albany, Bunbury, Geraldton and Broome. Not every animal we work with ends up in our care. RSPCA WA inspectors work with owners 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.

Three lucky kittens saved by inspectors and firefighters

In April, our inspectorate team received a call about a trapped kitten in a roof space. Inspector Peta rushed to rescue the kitten, and enlisted the help of local firefighters who kindly agreed to assist.

An hour later, the three-week-old kitten was saved. Named Megssi, the kitten was dehydrated but thankfully otherwise unharmed.

The next day, however, the tenants called RSPCA WA again. This time, Inspector Jayde rushed to the scene and could hear the faint sound of meows behind a brick wall. She called on the help of the firefighters once more and the team quickly got to work.

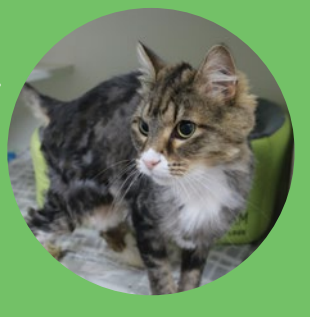
With plenty of patience and many power tools, the team broke through and found two very dusty kittens. Dubbed Spark and Ember, the two were taken back to the Malaga Animal Care Centre.

At the centre, the two new kittens received a vet check, a much-needed bath, and some milk for their hungry tummies. Megssi, Spark, and Ember were taken in by mother cat Bombara, joining her existing litter of five. Bombara raised the kittens as if they were her own.

Spark sadly developed health complications and, despite the best vet care and medicine available his health continued to decline. Due to welfare concerns, he was humanely euthanased. Megssi and Ember, however, found their forever homes with loving *paw*-rents.

Rain weathers her ordeal

Rain would not be alive today if it wasn't for her big voice and a kind passer-by. The tabby girl found herself trapped inside a sprinkler system at a property near Mandurah. Someone heard her cries and called the RSPCA. Inspector Ali rushed to free her. Back at the RSPCA, vets spent an hour trimming Rain's heavily matted coat, removing **180g of tangled fur** and a staggering **22 grass seeds** from her skin. Rain was dirty, underweight, and frightened, but it didn't take long for her to recover and find her forever home.



16,460
number of calls to the Cruelty Hotline

322,408 km
distance travelled

7126
cases investigated

11
inspectors on the road*

**Supported by an office-based inspector and an Inspector Manager.*

Prosecutions

RSPCA WA inspectors work with owners every day to educate them on ways to better care for their pets. Their aim is always to keep pets and owners together where possible. Sometimes they may issue directions notices to instruct an owner on what to do, and many cases involve multiple follow up visits to check on the welfare and safety of vulnerable animals.

However, there are times when prosecution is warranted. In 2022-23, 35 people were prosecuted for cruelty relating to 77 animals. Penalties handed down by the courts ranged from community-based orders and fines to bans on owning animals, and a suspended prison term.

29 cases

35 offenders

77 animals involved

$2000–$112,000
Range of fines

1 year–lifetime
Pet ownership bans

Puppies suffer for greed

In 2022-23, RSPCA WA finalised three long-running puppy farm cases. The physical and mental state of dogs rescued from these properties was heartbreaking to see for staff and volunteers.

These cases all involved dogs living in squalor, being bred time and again to make a profit, with no regard for their health, or the health of their puppies.

They involved 'desirable' breeds; Maltese shih-tzus, poodles, cavalier King Charles spaniels, labradoodles, and French bulldogs, all of which sell for thousands of dollars.

IN FEBRUARY, RSPCA WA secured forfeiture of five French Bulldogs and the reimbursement of their care costs. The dogs were among eight Frenchies seized from a Wattle Grove home after they were found living in putrid conditions, confined to cages with no bedding or water.

They were riddled with health issues. Some had pressure sores on their back ends and muscle wastage, two had disfigured spines and hind legs, while another's eyeball appeared painfully ruptured. Due to terrible breathing difficulties associated with the breed, all dogs required airway surgery. In total, RSPCA WA spent $41,000 on medical treatment for these dogs.

Heartbreakingly, two suffered complications during treatment and were unable to be saved. Another sadly had severe medical conditions and was euthanased on humane grounds. The remaining five have since been adopted into loving homes.

Seeking further penalty against the owner wasn't possible, as she abruptly left Australia after the animals were seized.

IN MARCH, a 60-year-old man was given a lifetime ban from breeding animals after RSPCA WA inspectors seized 39 labradoodles, some of them pregnant, from his Bridgetown home.

The offender was banned from owning any animal for 40 years, but the Magistrate ruled he could have up to three sterilised dogs.

The offender, who pleaded guilty to 28 charges of animal cruelty, was also fined $112,000.

The court heard the man was running a breeding operation to cash in on the popularity of labradoodles, with no concern for the dogs' welfare, health, and safety.

RSPCA WA found the dogs and puppies living in filthy, squalid conditions reeking of urine and faeces. There were large piles of rubbish everywhere, wet and dirty dog beds in the corners of the room and no fresh food or water available.

A lot of the dogs and puppies were suffering from significant psychological harm - some of them just stood in their kennels for weeks after they first arrived at the RSPCA, staring at the wall and refusing to interact.

Fifty two dogs and puppies survived the ordeal and have since found loving forever homes.

IN MAY, a serial puppy farmer, who was breeding sick dogs in filthy conditions and selling them for thousands of dollars, was banned from owning or breeding dogs for the rest of her life.

The 51-year-old Bullsbrook woman's sentencing on 17 charges of animal cruelty also attracted a 10-month prison sentence, suspended for 18 months, $25,000 in fines and an 18-month Intensive Supervision Order.

The charges related to 32 dogs, all highly desirable breeds including Maltese, shih-tzus, poodles and cavalier King Charles spaniels, who were seized from her Bullsbrook home with various health and psychological conditions.

It was the offender's fourth conviction for animal cruelty. During the trial, the court heard the offender had been trying to hide evidence of her crimes, moving dogs between three different Bullsbrook houses to avoid detection. She is believed to have been making at least $180,000 a year from selling puppies.

The dogs were found living in unhygienic, cramped, and untidy conditions, with the majority inside small steel cages and plastic carrier crates.

RSPCA WA inspectors located four puppies squashed together in a small cardboard box with no food or water. The floor of the house, and of numerous cages and containers, were all soiled with urine and faeces. Some dogs were in cages designed for rabbits and guinea pigs.

Five of the dogs were pregnant and gave birth to a total of 22 puppies over the next several weeks.

Two of the dogs and puppies did not survive — the rest have since found their forever homes.

Stop Puppy Farming Legislation

At the time of writing, the State Government was progressing with its implementation of the *Dog Amendment (Stop Puppy Farming) Act 2021,* which was passed by Parliament in December 2021.

A centralised registration system is being introduced to assist authorities in sharing information on dogs, dog owners and dog breeders within their district.

Public consultation to help inform the new regulations will be open from 17 August 2023 to 17 November 2023.

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**

Jackson with his letter to Santa

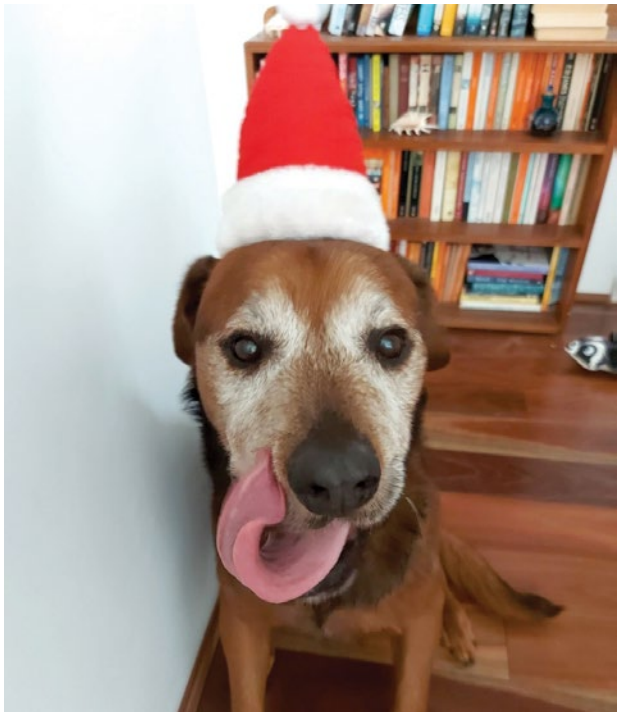
ADOPTION PROGRAM

1368 animals, from dogs and cats to rabbits and guinea pigs, as well as sheep, horses, chooks, and ducks, all found permanent loving homes in 2022-23. 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.

Jackson's Christmas miracle

When Inspector Peta visited a home following a cruelty report involving two visibly skinny dogs, she was left heartbroken by what she saw.



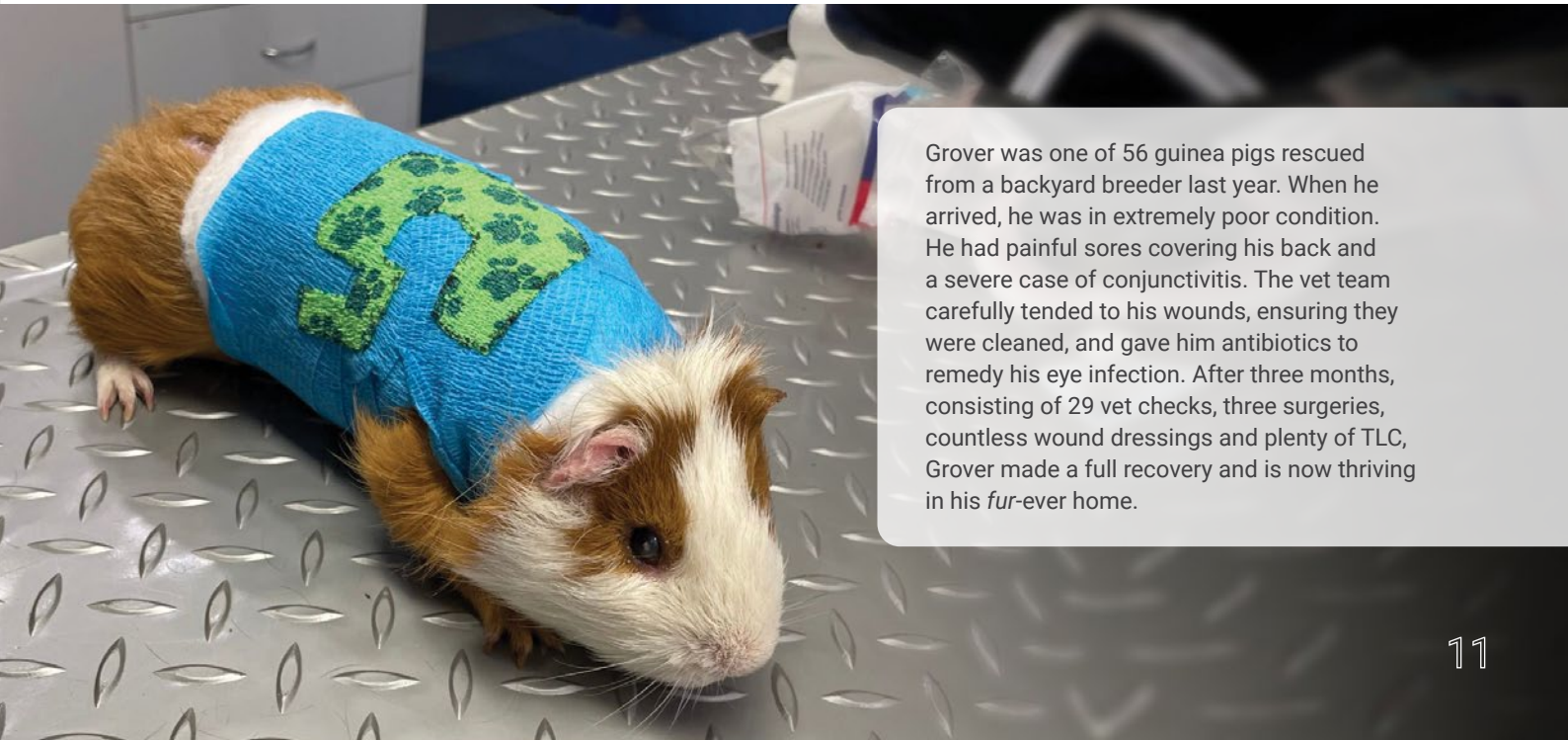
Jackson and a second dog Jynxx were locked outside without any fresh water or toys to play with. Inspector Peta immediately took them to RSPCA WA. Jackson was visibly underweight with a painful flea-infested coat, fly-bitten ears and rotting teeth. He also had a heart condition, and both his eyes were infected.

With passing time, lots of love and vet care, Jackson began to recover. Jackson became notorious for his love of snuggles and put himself right up onto your lap for a pat.

After a few weeks, the two were finally ready to find their forever homes. Jynxx was quickly rehomed. But, since Jackson was an older mixed breed dog, we knew finding him a home was going to be a challenge. Many people passed him by, preferring the 'cuter' and younger dogs.

Jackson waited and waited, but as the months passed no one chose him. Despite the 220 long days he spent at the shelter, he never lost hope. Jackson even had the opportunity to write a letter to Santa, wishing for his forever home…

Much to Jackson's delight, he was granted his wish. Mere days before Christmas, his forever person came and took him home. Ever since, Jackson has been thriving with his new family and receiving endless unconditional love and attention.



Grover was one of 56 guinea pigs rescued from a backyard breeder last year. When he arrived, he was in extremely poor condition. He had painful sores covering his back and a severe case of conjunctivitis. The vet team carefully tended to his wounds, ensuring they were cleaned, and gave him antibiotics to remedy his eye infection. After three months, consisting of 29 vet checks, three surgeries, countless wound dressings and plenty of TLC, Grover made a full recovery and is now thriving in his *fur*-ever home.

CARING FOR ANIMALS

RSPCA WA cared for 2385 animals in 2022-23. A large-scale labradoodle puppy farm case in the South West contributed to that number, as did the cost-of-living pressures and WA's continuing tight housing market. This impacted on many peoples' ability to properly care for their animals.

Painting a more complete picture of the level of care provided by RSPCA WA staff and volunteers is reporting on the number of 'care days' in the year. This is because a single animal can be in our care anywhere from just a few days to the entire year so animal numbers alone don't tell the full story. Goofy, loveable Jacko is a case in point. He was in our care for all 365 days of 2022-23 having arrived in January the year before after being seized by our inspectors. He was still waiting to be adopted at the time of writing.

Similarly, animals whose owners are subject to prosecution can also spend a long time with us as they are unable to be adopted until the case is finalised and the court forfeits their ownership. In 2022-23 RSPCA WA provided 147,857 days of care for animals.

There are many reasons animals find themselves at RSPCA WA. They can be rescued by our inspectors, surrendered to us by owners who can no longer care for them, or they may have been lost or abandoned.

A feature in this year's annual report is a table of what happened to each of the 2385 animals that were in our care during the year.

This has been designed to more clearly show the results and complexities of our work, not only that some animals are with us for a very long time, but that outcomes vary greatly. It's fantastic when a pet is reunited with their lost family, or when an animal finds a loving new home. Sadly, that's not always the case.

RSPCA WA employees and volunteers love animals and are passionate about animal welfare. They do everything possible to rehabilitate and rehome every animal that comes through the door and there is never a 'time limit' on adoption. Unfortunately, despite our best efforts, euthanasia is a reality of the work we do. **RSPCA WA is forced to make euthanasia decisions the same way thousands of loving pet owners do every day in our community.** Sometimes it's the kindest option and an act of true animal welfare, such as when an inspector rescues an animal that's been left to suffer a terminal illness untreated for months and who is in terrible pain. That doesn't mean euthanasia decisions are easy – just like they're not easy for pet owners. This is especially true after long periods of time caring for an animal.

OUTCOMES FOR THE 2385 ANIMALS WHO CAME INTO RSPCA WA CARE IN 2022-23

Still in care on 1 July 2023	**204**
Adopted	**1368**
Transferred to another shelter	**244**
Reclaimed by owners	**107**
Returned to owners (or released in the case of wildlife)	**69**
Died in care	**59**
Humane euthanasia*	**334**

**Including seven animals euthanased on destruction orders from local government authorities.*

ANIMALS IN CARE

From hunter to hugger

Jacko came to the attention of RSPCA WA after he was badly injured while kangaroo hunting with his Bunbury owner. Rather than take him to a vet, his owner decided to staple the wound himself.

As a result, Jacko was in pain and the wound became infected.

Jacko was seized from the small outdoor cage he was kept in and received medical treatment. Sadly, vets determined his leg couldn't be saved. That's when Jacko's road to recovery began.

His physical wounds healed quickly and he learned to cope on three legs surprisingly well. It was our behaviour team that had the longest job, working with him and encouraging him slowly until he was able to relax on a couch, snuggle, roach on his bed for tummy scratches and display his best manners when meeting other dogs.

Vets saw a bright future for Oracle

Still a baby herself, one-year-old Oracle had already been through so much. The very sweet and completely blind cat was rescued by our inspectors from a property north of Perth with four tiny kittens in tow.

The home had become overrun with more than 30 cats and the owner just couldn't keep up with their feeding and care.

Two of Oracle's four kittens looked to be suffering with eye issues like their mum. The kittens were only a few weeks old and needed treatment straight away, so the owner agreed to surrender them to the inspector.

A vet examination found mum and the two kittens had been born completely blind.

Oracle's issues were caused by herpesvirus, which she'd likely contracted through inbreeding and disease at the property. The two kittens were born with microphthalmos – a rare developmental disorder where one or both eyes are abnormally small.

Over the next few weeks, Oracle and her kittens Carnelian and Peridot had surgery to treat their eyes and prevent infection, ensuring they can live long, happy, pain-free lives.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Community Action Days

In 2022-23, RSPCA WA held 12 Community Action Days, giving attendees who are struggling financially the resources they need to look after their pets. At the events, we give free health checks, pet food, parasite control, microchipping, educational information and more. They are traditionally held in areas that generate a high number of welfare reports. This year we expanded our reach and held CADs as far north as Broome, and as far south as Mandurah.

We couldn't do this without the amazing volunteers and staff who work at the events, as well as the outstanding organisations and companies that give support, such as Vetwest, Elanco, South Metropolitan Tafe, Rogz, Petbarn Foundation and the shires and cities that allowed these events to run.

643
Animals health checked

1080
Parasite control collars handed out

162
Animals microchipped

1790kg
of food distributed

874
Animals sterilised

Pets In Crisis

In 2022-23, we assisted 41 pets and their families through the Pets in Crisis program that offers a temporary home for pets from households experiencing family and domestic violence, while their owners seek refuge or temporary accommodation of their own.

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 2022-23, we expanded this program to the Great Southern and South West regional areas, giving more owners peace of mind knowing that their pet will be safe and well cared for while they focus on their own safety.

Pet Sterilisation Program

RSPCA WA's Pet Sterilisation Program was piloted in 2022-23. Under the scheme, concession card holders received a 75 per cent discount on dog and cat sterilisation at participating vet clinics across the state. The response was overwhelming, creating an extensive waitlist of responsible pet owners.

The $250,000 program resulted in sterilisation of 874 cats, kittens, puppies and dogs. Sterilisation prevents unwanted litters, which can lead to a myriad of animal welfare issues. In addition, sterilised pets are happier, calmer, healthier, less likely to roam, and save pet owners money in the long term.

At the time of writing, RSPCA WA was seeking an extension of funding to continue this practical and successful program.

Vaccination Drive

RSPCA WA hosted its first ever Vaccination Drive in June 2023, with 77 low-cost vaccinations given to pets in need.

Across two events, dog and cat owners were able to access low-cost injections, plus a booster shot, to protect their furry friends against serious and sometimes life-threatening diseases, such as parvovirus and cat flu.

The drive was held to help pensioners and concession cardholders who were struggling to make ends meet.

The free vaccinations had an immediate positive impact on owners and their pets, plus we prevented potential animal welfare issues in the future.

77
Animals vaccinated at drives

Education Program

The RSPCA WA School Holiday Program, for children aged 7 to 10, was a success over the 2022-23 summer holidays. Kids joined in 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.

In 2022-23, our education programs reached 1402 students, with 71 schools signing up to AWARE.

The RSPCA WA AWARE program is a free education program designed to deliver educational content to schools about better animal welfare. The program provides resources for educators, students, and parents, helping young people develop knowledge, skills and understandings around improving the welfare of all animals, be they companion, farmed or wild.

1402
Students and young people reached

VOLUNTEERS

Put simply, we couldn't do what we do without our treasured volunteers. In 2022-23, 393 people contributed almost 24,000 volunteering hours for RSPCA WA. Countless additional hours were kindly given by our network of foster carers too.

According to the Volunteering WA Volunteer Benefits Calculator, RSPCA WA volunteers delivered $1,147,823 in value to the WA community last year. That's a tremendous achievement!

RSPCA WA 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 wash and dry mountains of laundry, they foster animals in their own homes, they give talks in schools, they carry out admin functions, and they help with fundraising. We could not operate without our hundreds of dedicated volunteers and we are in the fortunate situation to witness WA's love for animals every day.

393 volunteers
23,908 hours total
1992 hours (avg. per month)

$1,147,823 value added
746 animals fostered

RSPCA WA ANIMAL WELFARE AWARDS

10 Gold **13** Silver **17** Bronze

A donkey, a lamb and six dogs walk into a bar…

A therapy donkey, a life changing Labrador and a heroic teen who saved a dog from a burning home were among those recognised at RSPCA WA's Animal Welfare Awards in October.

The annual awards, held on World Animal Day, celebrate individuals and groups improving the lives of animals across WA. Plus, there is a category just for animal friends, with a horse, a donkey, a three-legged lamb, and several dogs all recognised in 2022.

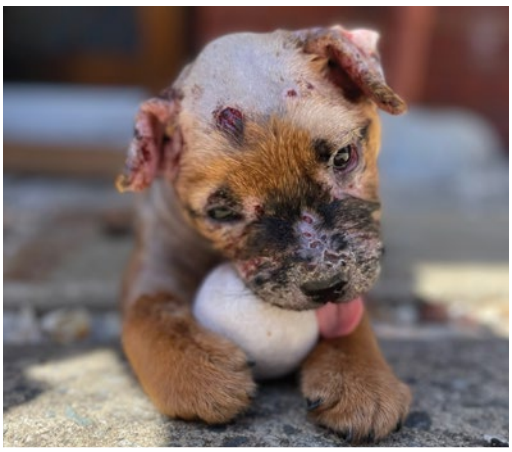
Animal-loving venue The Camfield offered their premises for last year's ceremony, which saw 40 gold, silver and bronze awards handed out in front of friends, family and special guests including Governor of Western Australia, the Hon Chris Dawson APM, (then) Minister for Agriculture Alannah MacTiernan, and West Coast Eagle champion and RSPCA WA ambassador, Elliot Yeo.

Heart of gold

Humane Award Gold winner, Jack Monaghan (pictured left), showed incredible bravery when he single-handedly saved the life of a girl and her pet dog from a housefire in Perth's north-east in 2021. The then 16-year-old was walking in Brabham when he heard 12-year-old Dakota screaming from inside the house, which was ablaze and billowing smoke. He ran straight inside and helped Dakota and her dog out to safety. Jack then attempted to re-enter the house to save a second dog, but the smoke was too thick. He fought the blaze with a garden hose for 15 minutes until firefighters arrived.

Foster Carers

In 2022-23, our foster carers gave a safe home to animals recovering from cruelty, neglect, or medical treatment, and those fleeing with their humans from family violence. Every animal does so much better in a home environment instead of the shelter and we try and find a foster home for as many as we can. Of the 2385 animals that came into our care during the year, 746 spent time with one of our 806 foster carers.



One of our favourite foster fails this year was Crumpet. Crumpet was just six weeks old when she was found by a member of the public in a cardboard box on the South Perth foreshore. She was scared, all alone and in severe pain. Her rescuer took her to an emergency vet clinic, but they couldn't find a microchip.

Crumpet's situation was so severe the vets called RSPCA WA for help. Crumpet's face was severely swollen and covered in open wounds. She was in excruciating pain, and it was initially thought that she'd been attacked by another dog. However, tests showed that she was, in fact, suffering from an autoimmune disease – the worst case our vets had ever seen.

Crumpet faced weeks of intensive care, required various treatments and medications and needed a foster carer to help her through all that. Along came Sylvie who gladly took the little one on, spending months helping to nurse her back to health. Crumpet thrived and after a few more health scares, became a happy, healthy, and cheeky pup!

Sylvie had previously fostered a dog named Bobbi and ended up adopting her. History repeated itself with Sylvie falling in love with Crumpet too. Sylvie couldn't see a future without Crumpet in it, leading to foster fail number two!

'Fostering an animal is so incredibly rewarding — to see a sick animal heal and become the happiest and healthiest version of themselves and knowing you played a part in that process is so fulfilling. I would encourage anyone to foster, especially those who love animals but aren't ready, willing or able to make a long-term commitment. You won't regret seeing the light return to their precious faces as you help them on their journey.'

No amount of washing is too much for Linda Shone

Every Wednesday morning for the past seven years, Linda has volunteered her time to tackle a seemingly endless stream of dirty washing at the shelter in Malaga.

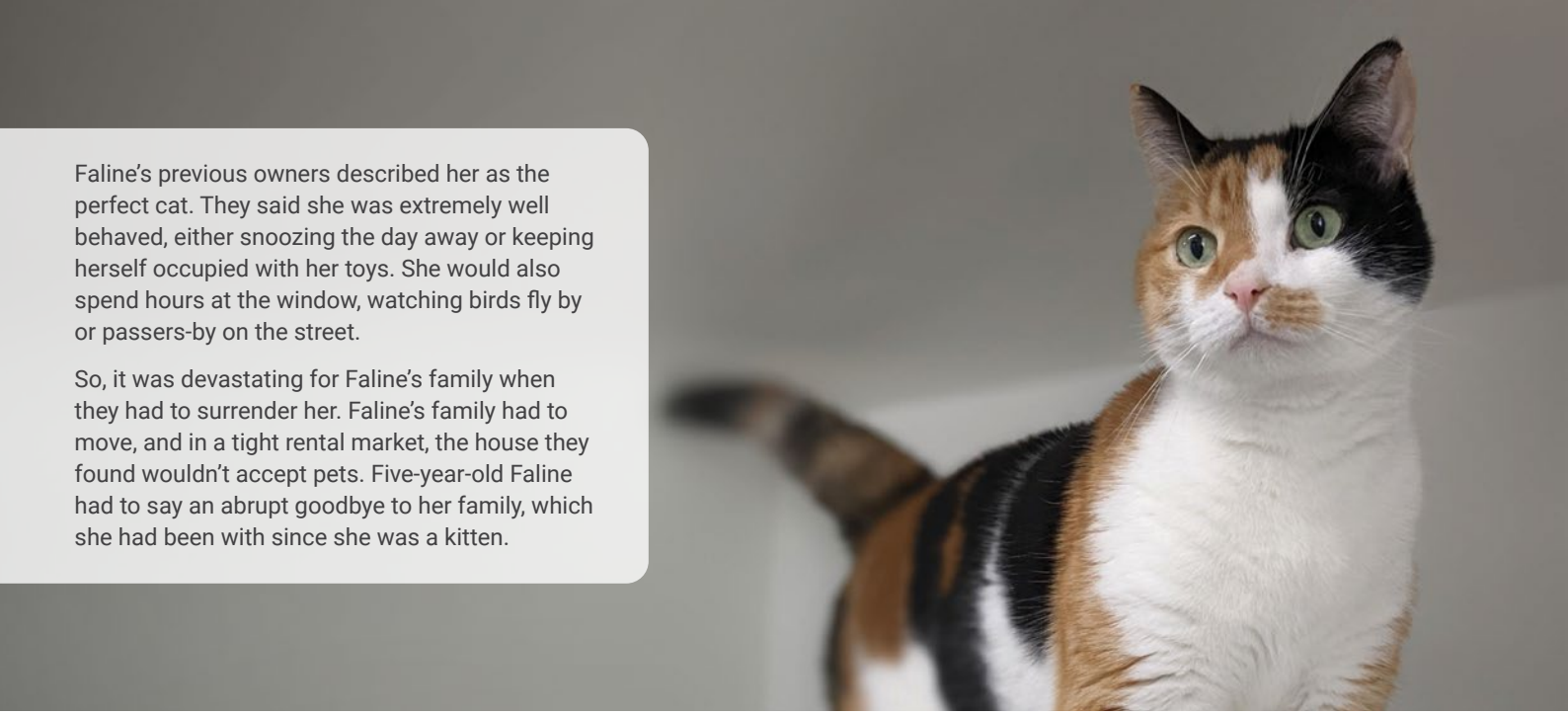
In a four-hour shift, the 66-year-old Morley resident will wash, dry and fold around 200 towels and blankets, plus dozens of stuffed toys and dog beds. And, perhaps most surprisingly, she wouldn't have it any other way.

'There are plenty of volunteers who want to walk the dogs or pat the cats, but nobody was putting their hand up to tackle hoards of dirty laundry every week.

'I went where I was needed and have grown to find it really satisfying and rewarding.'

With puppies, kittens and sick animals often in care, the role is far from glamorous. But this work is absolutely critical to keeping the shelter running smoothly, and Linda gets fulfilment knowing she is helping keep the animals cosy and clean, while preventing the spread of infection and disease.

'I always have the animals in the back of my mind. So, I'm strategic about what I'll wash first depending on the size and types of animals we have in care. I want to know they're warm and comfortable at night, especially through winter.'



Faline's previous owners described her as the perfect cat. They said she was extremely well behaved, either snoozing the day away or keeping herself occupied with her toys. She would also spend hours at the window, watching birds fly by or passers-by on the street.

So, it was devastating for Faline's family when they had to surrender her. Faline's family had to move, and in a tight rental market, the house they found wouldn't accept pets. Five-year-old Faline had to say an abrupt goodbye to her family, which she had been with since she was a kitten.

ADVOCACY

RSPCA WA works with the State Government and other stakeholders on issues relating to animal welfare, ensuring a voice for animals is heard when policy and legislation is being developed or reviewed.

These were some of the animal welfare issues we fought for in 2022-23.

Caged eggs

In August, RSPCA WA welcomed the announcement that Australia will finally phase out barren battery cages – a historic move that will improve the lives of millions of layer hens.

The news came as national Poultry Standards and Guidelines – which were under review for nearly seven years – were finally completed. They include a phase out of battery cages for layer hens no later than 2036.

While it was a win for animal advocates who have been fighting to ban these cages for 40 years, 2036 is a long time away. RSPCA WA will continue to encourage the State Government to implement the phase out much sooner in Western Australia.

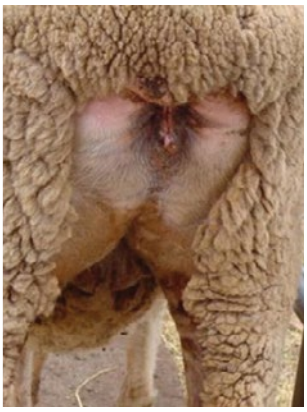
Live export

2022-2023 saw significant steps towards the end of live sheep export in Australia.

In March, the Federal Government announced the members of the independent panel that will determine how and when to phase out the trade. The panel will provide its report to the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry in October 2023.

Australia's live sheep trade has resulted in multiple animal welfare catastrophes and publicly documented cruelty over the past 40 years.

Despite significant regulatory changes over the past five years, ongoing animal welfare issues continue. Scientific evidence shows that no amount of regulation can fix the trade because it exposes sheep to conditions that exceed their physiological limits.



Mulesing

Mulesing is a practice that reduces the risk of flystrike in sheep, which is caused when blowflies lay their eggs in the moist, wrinkly folds of a sheep's skin near their tail.

Mulesing involves using shears to cut strips of wrinkly skin from the buttocks of lambs. When the wound heals it leaves an area of smooth scar tissue with no wool, making it less susceptible to flystrike.

Mulesing is typically performed on lambs up to 12 weeks of age, without anaesthesia. Pain relief is not always used. The pain is long lasting, and the wound can take weeks to heal.

RSPCA WA wants to see the introduction of mandatory anaesthetic and pain relief for mulesing at a minimum. Ideally, we would like to see mulesing phased out and support provided to farmers to breed flystrike-resistant sheep, which many growers have already successfully done, eliminating the need to mules their flock.

Pets in rentals

After many years advocating for pets to be allowed in rental properties, RSPCA WA welcomed in May the State Government's rent reforms announcement that included a change that will make it easier for tenants to keep pets. Changes to the *Residential Tenancies Act 1987* will mean tenants will not have to choose between a rental property or their pets. Landlords will still be able to refuse consent for the tenant to keep a pet, but only with permission from the Commissioner for Consumer Protection and only when it is reasonable to do so. At the time of writing, the State Government was receiving submissions from interested parties on all changes to the Act.

Calf roping

A win for calves during the year with the Royal Agricultural Society of WA (RASWA) agreeing to not allow calf roping at its City Muster event in May.

A paper published in January confirmed that calf roping was a frightening and cruel event that was arguably the worst animal welfare issue with rodeos today. RSPCA WA reached out to the RASWA who were open to listening and made the change for the sake of better animal welfare. RSPCA WA will continue to reach out to other rodeos across the State, hopeful of a similar outcome. At the same time, RSPCA WA continues to urge spectators to think twice about attending rodeos and to consider just how fun these events are for the animals involved.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND FUNDRAISING

Give to Get Them Home

In October 2022, we held our third annual Give to Get Them Home national dollar matched giving day. Thanks to a group of generous companies and individuals who provided the matched donation pool, for one day only we were able to match every donation from the community. The campaign raised over $94,000 to help animals find their new forever homes.

Ambassadors

In 2022-23, much-loved WA sports stars Elliot Yeo and Rudi Ellis again stood united against animal cruelty. West Coast Eagle Yeo, alongside his canine companions Winston and Pippa, continued to raise awareness and funds for better animal welfare. Similarly, Ellis, premiership player with West Coast Fever, used her reach, influence and genuine love for animals to promote our cause.

Pints for Pups

May 2023 saw the start of the inaugural Pints for Pups fundraiser. Dog-friendly bars and pubs across WA supported animals in need by donating part of their proceeds to RSPCA WA. Over $3100 was raised and plans to grow the event in 2024 have already commenced.

ANZAC Day reflection — honouring bonds of courage

Our ANZAC Day service once again recognised the connection between service personnel and animals – in times of conflict and in peace. Special guests for the day were The Donkey Society of WA whose gentle members and their caring handlers offer therapy to returned veterans.

RSPCA Cupcake Day 2022 — a $50,000 success for animal welfare

In August last year, RSPCA WA brought animal lovers together from across the nation for its annual Cupcake Day event. Thanks to dedicated bakers and baked-goods enthusiasts, over $50,000 was raised in Western Australia alone. This sweet success directly contributes to our mission of supporting animals in need, showing the power of community and compassion.

Million Paws Walk — celebrating 25 years in 2023

In May 2023, RSPCA WA celebrated 25 years of Million Paws Walk WA with the biggest and best event ever to help in the fight against animal cruelty. Over 3000 animal lovers gathered to walk with their 2100 pooches to celebrate the most important event on the furry, feathered and finned calendar.

Gift in Will — why Peter's love for animals will live on

Dogs made Peter's life better. They were much-loved friends who were always by his side. Now, after sadly passing away recently at 75 years old, Peter's legacy will make the world a better place for even more animals.

Peter's pets were always extremely loved and treated like members of the family. While Peter worked as a bricklayer, his dogs were always nearby snoozing in the shade then riding up front in his ute on the way home. There was plenty of time for adventures too. And Peter's dogs always holidayed in style.

Peter was a generous donor to RSPCA WA for many years and had long planned to leave his estate to the animals. Through his parting gift, Peter is making life better for dogs just like those who provided unwavering friendship throughout his life.

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

- Estate of the late Marianne Cross
- Estate of the late Geoffrey Gilby
- Estate of the late Muriel Ann Heartfield
- Estate of the late Wilhelmina Paulina Pennenburg
- Estate of the late Leslie Herman Wright
- Estate of the late Joan Alison Moore
- Estate of the late Sandra Campbell
- Estate of the late Patricia Joan (Jodie) Rogers
- Estate of the late Janice Mary Ross
- Estate of the late John Rijavec
- Estate of the late Brian Gillett
- Estate of the late Betty Ellen Ellard
- Estate of the late Graham Varney
- Estate of the late Mary Joyce Elizabeth Barrett
- Estate of the late Majorie Frances Bowen
- Estate of the late Kenneth Mervyn Gray
- Estate of the late Katherine Mary Whitehair
- Estate of the late Audrey Cargill
- Estate of the late James Dean Todd
- Estate of the late Dorothy Isabel Millar
- Estate of the late Lorraine Joy Fay
- Estate of the late Majorie Frances Bowen
- Estate of the late Stephen Bruce Newman
- Estate of the late Rita Florence Waghorne
- Estate of the late Catherine J Jackson
- Estate of the late Gladys Eileen Beecroft
- Estate of the late Lorraine Caroline Ann Sambridge
- Estate of the late Penrith B Carne
- Estate of the late Wayne Charles Bradley
- Estate of the late Ronald Perrie
- Estate of the late Phillip Wellsteed
- Estate of the late Josephine Bertha Anderson
- Estate of the late Stanley Thomas Petchell
- Estate of the late Nancy Peo
- Estate of the late Michael Baxter
- Estate of the late Bozena Pieda
- Estate of the late Gisela Elfriede Ittershagen
- Estate of the late Mary Ann Nix
- Estate of the late Yvonne Florence Gibbs
- Estate of the late Theresia De-Jong
- Estate of the late Betty Ellen Ellard
- Estate of the late Clayton Butterworth
- Estate of the late Glenys Fay Spencer
- Estate of the late Peter Gloor
- Estate of the late Margaret Anne Griffiths
- Estate of the late Jean Marion Isobel Balston
- Estate of the late Agnes Margaret Jones
- Estate of the late Craig Mitchell
- Estate of the late Claudia Armstrong
- Estate of the late Peter Gloor
- Estate of the late Adele Barbara Urquhart
- Estate of the late Patricia Valerie Krenz
- Estate of the late Brian Hubert Pollard
- Estate of the late Patricia Leah Carroll

Trusts and Foundations

- The Girls Trust
- The Margaret Harper Charitable Trust
- The Elizabeth Stamos Charitable Trust
- Doris Janet Frith Charitable Trust
- The Margaret Chalmers Charitable Fund
- Petbarn Foundation
- Loeky Wiersma Charitable Fund
- Jean Bladen Foundation

RSPCA WA enjoys the support of a number of law practices who offer to provide legal services on a pro bono basis.

Among those who assisted RSPCA WA in the year ending 30 June 2023 were practitioners from HSF and K&L Gates, Zoe Gilders of ZG Criminal Law, Zarah Burgess of Burgess Criminal Lawyers, and Doug Johnson from Francis Burt Chambers.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For The Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, Western Australia (RSPCA WA) for the year ended June 30, 2023.

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 28 September 2023.

The Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, Western Australia
Statement of the Comprehensive Income for the financial year ended 30 June 2023

	Note*	2023 $	2022 $
Revenue and other income			
Revenue	3	11,229,988	10,600,151
Other income	3	391,195	362,207
		11,621,183	**10,962,358**
Less: expenses			
Depreciation and amortisation expense		(437,328)	(552,459)
Employee benefits expense		(6,933,656)	(6,279,644)
Occupancy expense		(30,818)	(20,938)
Lease expense		(1,402)	(5,848)
Finance costs		(35,258)	(34,060)
Gain on disposal of property, plant and equipment		12,549	18,988
Other operating costs	4	(4,494,139)	(3,274,087)
		(11,920,052)	(10,148,048)
(Deficit)/surplus for the year		**(298,869)**	**814,310**
Other comprehensive income			
Items that will not be reclassified subsequently to profit and loss			
Net change in fair value of financial assets designated at fair value through other comprehensive income		477,342	(1,052,735)
Other comprehensive income / (loss) for the year		**477,342**	**(1,052,735)**
Total comprehensive income / (loss) for the year		**178,473**	**(238,425)**

*refers to notes in the full copy of the financial statements 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 www.rspcawa.org.au.

The Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, Western Australia
Statement of Financial Position as at 30 June 2023

	Note	2023 $	2022 $
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	5	2,758,505	2,560,030
Receivables	6	234,471	262,851
Inventories	7	107,637	90,994
Other financial assets	8	103,111	42,343
Other assets		178,693	209,483
Total current assets		**3,382,417**	**3,165,701**
Non current assets			
Other financial assets	8	9,013,587	9,243,662
Intangible assets	10	5,075	11,095
Lease assets	11	61,858	22,620
Property, plant and equipment	9	3,568,834	3,455,944
Total non current assets		**12,649,354**	**12,733,321**
Total assets		**16,031,771**	**15,899,022**
Current liabilities			
Payables	12	429,735	311,176
Lease liabilities	11	21,227	22,797
Provisions	13	524,915	410,589
Contract liabilities	14	141,711	404,418
Total current liabilities		**1,117,588**	**1,148,980**
Non current liabilities			
Lease liabilities	11	41,137	–
Provisions	13	50,717	106,188
Total non current liabilities		**91,854**	**106,188**
Total liabilities		**1,209,442**	**1,255,168**
Net assets		**14,822,329**	**14,643,854**
Equity			
Financial assets revaluation reserve	15	222,314	(255,028)
Retained earnings		14,600,015	14,898,882
Total equity		**14,822,329**	**14,643,854**

We would like to extend our thanks to our generous sponsors for their unwavering support. Thanks to their generosity, we can continue our work towards a world where all animals are treated with the care and compassion they deserve. Thanks for standing with us in our shared mission to create a brighter future for animals in Western Australia.

WA Partners

Vet services

Animal transport

Kitty litter

Security services

Cattery sponsor

Awards sponsor

Awards and cattery sponsor

Tools sponsor

Kennel sponsor

National Partners

National Nutritional Partner

National Pet Health Partner

RSCPA WA relies on **donations** and **community support** to generate **around 80 per cent of the funds** required to sustain its animal protection work. **To donate, please visit www.rspcawa.org.au/donate**

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