

ANNUAL REPORT 2023-2024





**"When I look into the eyes
of an animal, I do not see an
animal. I see a living being.
I see a friend. I feel a soul."**

- Anthony Douglas Williams

Inspector Deb responded to a cruelty report about a kitten in April. A member of the community had concerns about Dumbo's eye which was discoloured and smaller than it should have been. After talking to Dumbo's owner about her financial situation, Inspector Deb suggested the best course of action would be to surrender the then 10-week-old kitten to RSPCA WA so he could receive the care he needed. Our vet team assessed Dumbo and decided his right eye needed to be removed as it was damaged either from cat flu or a genetic disorder. After enduring eye removal surgery and administration of eye medication, pain relief, antibiotics, and ringworm treatment, this brave little soul was due some TLC and lots of snuggles! Our dedicated team gave him all the love he could wish for until he found his perfect forever home.

VISION

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

MISSION

Lead the improvement of animal welfare in WA through prevention and intervention programs, advocacy, and education.

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.

CONTENTS

Chair's Report	2
CEO Report	3
RSPCA WA Directors	4
Prosecutions	5
Inspectorate Report	6
Caring for Animals	8
Community Outreach	10
Adoption Program	11
Volunteers	12
Advocacy	14
Community Engagement and Fundraising	16
Acknowledgments	17
Financial Statements	18
Sponsorship	20



ANIMAL CARE

2,441 injured, neglected, abandoned or stray animals cared for.



INSPECTORATE

7,138 cases of animal cruelty investigated by inspectors.



COMPLIANCE

36 cases successfully prosecuted and 11 civil forfeitures conducted.



ADVOCACY

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



EDUCATION

1,256 students and young people reached through programs in schools.

Cover: RSPCA WA staff saying farewell to Jacko, renamed Chacko, who was finally adopted in October after 615 days in care. (Credit: Peter Rowe)



CHAIR'S REPORT

My report to you for the 2023-24 RSPCA WA Annual Report is one that, at times, I doubted I would ever get to write.

On 11 May 2024, (then) Agriculture Minister Murray Watt announced the export of live sheep by sea would end on 1 May 2028, with the cessation date to be legislated in this term of government.

The Export Control Amendment (Ending Live Sheep Exports by Sea) Act 2024 came into effect on 10 July 2024.

Having been involved in animal welfare for more than 30 years, this has been a long and hard-fought victory for the wellbeing of millions of sheep and there were times I thought the day would never come.

The RSPCA's support of an end to the trade is based solely on animal welfare science - no amount of regulation can prevent thousands of sheep from the impacts of transport stress, searing heat and stifling humidity, overcrowding, hunger and starvation, ammonia exposure, and more.

There have been some hard-fought welfare improvements, but it is impossible to regulate our way out of a business that is inherently cruel.

A prime example of the negative welfare impacts on sheep played out in Fremantle at the beginning of 2024 on the livestock carrier, MV Bahijah.

On 5 January, the ship, carrying around 15,000 sheep set sail for the Middle East, directly into a dangerous conflict zone.

A week and a half later it was ordered to return to Fremantle where the animals were left onboard for another two weeks in the middle of a heatwave, offloaded, transported to feedlots, then reloaded before setting sail for Jordan once again - this time via a longer route around the Cape of Good Hope.

All up, some 15,000 animals spent 96 days - three months - being transported, enduring all the adverse welfare stresses associated with live export.

If this debacle - the latest in a long line of live sheep export disasters - didn't tell us the time to end the trade had come, I don't know what could have.

It is disappointing that in the lead up to this legislation passing I and RSPCA WA employees were subject to abuse from those opposed to the ban. The RSPCA is not anti-farmer - we are an animal

advocacy organisation that simply understands that any farmed animal deserves to live their best life possible before humane slaughter.

RSPCA WA recognises that many progressive West Australian farmers have already moved away from live sheep export. A lead time of four years, and a financial assistance package, will assist those remaining to plan a transition.

Thank you to everyone who has supported us in this important leap forward for the welfare of Australian sheep.

As you will read in this report, 2023-24 was a very busy year for the staff and volunteers at RSPCA WA. I offer them my heartfelt thanks, and to CEO Ben Cave, my fellow directors, our corporate partners, supporters and our donors and fundraisers. Each of you has made a difference in animal welfare in Western Australia and for that I am truly grateful.

Lynne Bradshaw AM
Chair, RSPCA WA



CEO REPORT

Increased numbers of animal adoptions and surrenders paint just part of the picture of a busy year for RSPCA WA in 2023-24.

Our operations are certainly a reflection of the broader issues in society with cost-of-living and housing pressures influencing a 23 per cent increase in animal surrenders. It is hoped the introduction of rent reforms, passed in April 2024, will have a positive influence on keeping pets and their owners together. The reforms mean landlords will no longer be able to apply blanket pet bans on properties.

Answered calls to our Cruelty Hotline jumped by more than 1,300 to 17,848 and our inspectors travelled 27,500km more this year than last while investigating cruelty reports. Sadly, a further 10,000+ calls for help went unanswered as we struggled to keep up with demand with our limited resources.

We handed out nearly two and a half tonnes of free pet food to struggling owners – over 600kg more than last year – and saw a near 34 per cent increase in attendance at our Community Action Days, held in lower-socioeconomic areas to help pet owners access food, health

checks, parasite treatments, and other pet essentials.

Jumps in these statistics place increased pressure on RSPCA WA. We are facing more demand while also dealing with increased costs, and relying on donors and supporters who may be facing their own increased financial pressures too. RSPCA WA has been in discussions with the State Government regarding sustainable and equitable funding for the work RSPCA WA carries out enforcing the *Animal Welfare Act 2002* on the State Government's behalf, and to ensure we can continue to provide those services across WA.

Despite increased workload and financial pressure, 2023-24 contained many positives for us to celebrate. Adoption numbers increased by five per cent to 1,432 animals rehomed in the year. Our wonderful volunteers, without whom we would not be able to operate the way we do, once again stepped up to the plate, providing more than 22,300 volunteer hours for the year.

In addition to WA rent reforms, animal welfare wins for the year included a commitment from the Federal Government to end the live export of sheep by sea by May 2028 and an

announcement by the Australian Meat Industry Council that CCTV will become a mandatory requirement in slaughterhouses from 2026 under the processing industry's Australian Animal Welfare Certification System.

Next year, the focus will be on providing a safer working environment for our staff, an improved adoption experience for visitors to our Malaga shelter, and a renewed focus on our community engagement. I am confident 2024-25 will be a milestone year for RSPCA WA and I am excited to see what it brings.

As always, I acknowledge that our successes in the face of increased pressures do not happen in a vacuum. I thank our long-standing Chair Lynne Bradshaw, the Board of Directors, my executive team, staff, volunteers, donors, bequestors, and supporters. You all play an important part in improving the welfare of animals across Western Australia – thank you.

Ben Cave
CEO, RSPCA WA

RSPCA WA DIRECTORS

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



Lynne Bradshaw (Chair)

- Leadership
- Business Development
- Government Relations



Greg Paust

- Agriculture
- Corporate Services
- Government Relations



Ian Cowie PSM (Deputy Chair)

- Governance
- Strategy
- Policy



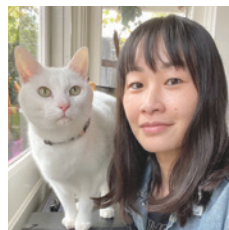
Joy Krige

- Strategy
- Leadership
- Governance



Michelle de Ronchi

- Business Acumen
- Leadership



Wanjie Song

- Legal
- Governance
- Policy Reform



Alice Manners

- Marketing and Communications
- Partnerships
- Business Innovation



Darren Smith

(1.11.2018 to 30.11.2023)

- Strategic Growth
- Management
- Business Innovation



Jamie Hamilton

- Corporate Finance
- Project Management



Paige Gibbs

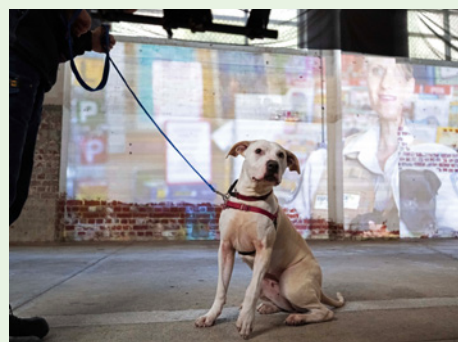
(8.6.23 to 20.9.2023)

- Marketing and Communications
- Fundraising
- Philanthropy



In September, shelter dog Shelby starred in a television advertisement commemorating 90 years of Lotterywest.

The photogenic pooch got her casting call to a warehouse in Fremantle where the advertisement was made. It featured many beneficiaries of Lotterywest grants over the years, including RSPCA WA.



While she didn't have a speaking role, Shelby did a fantastic job using her big brown eyes to portray how grateful the animals of WA were for Lotterywest funding.

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 2023-24, RSPCA WA instigated 11 successful civil forfeiture cases and 42 prosecutions for cruelty relating to 88 animals. Penalties handed down by the courts ranged from community-based orders and fines to bans on owning animals, and an immediate prison term.



36 cases
42 offenders
88 animals involved

\$2,000–\$14,500

Range of fines

6 months–lifetime

Pet ownership bans



Woman jailed for throwing dog off multistorey carpark

On 19 December 2023, a 26-year-old Clarkson woman who threw her dog off the top of a two-storey carpark, was jailed for 12 months. The shocking incident was captured on CCTV at Westfield Whitford City shopping centre on 7 April 2022.

Ten-year-old Maltese shih-tzu Princess fell around nine metres after being thrown and was found by a member of the public, who assumed she'd been hit by a car.

Princess was rushed to a nearby vet and was found to be in a state of shock with severe injuries, including possible internal haemorrhaging, brain injury, and spinal and pelvic trauma. The offender, who was listed as Princess' owner on her microchip, attended the vet to discuss the extent of the dog's injuries. She and her partner decided to euthanise her.

In sentencing, Magistrate Mark Millington said the offender had left Princess for dead in what he described as a 'planned, deliberate and intentional act'.

The sentence consisted of 10 months prison for the animal cruelty charge and two months for other

police matters. The offender was also banned from owning an animal for 10 years.

Man fined for at-home sterilisation of goat with cable tie

On 21 June 2024, a 45-year-old Cloverdale man was fined \$4,000 and banned from owning goats for two years after trying to castrate his 3.5-month-old goat named Franklin with a cable tie and dehorning him with a saw.

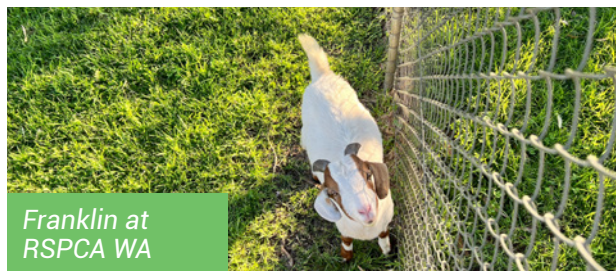
After an inspector attended the offender's property and saw the condition of Franklin, who had a black cable tie around his scrotum and short-cut horns, the goat was seized and transported to our Malaga Animal Care Centre. He was suffering severe pain from the castration attempt and subsequent necrosis. He was also suffering from his horns being cut too short, which exposed soft tissue and caused bleeding.

Emergency surgery was performed to remove his testicles to avoid potential septicaemia and it was later confirmed his scrotum and the right side of his face were infected.

The offender was ordered to pay more than \$3,000 in legal and care costs to RSPCA WA, was banned from owning a goat for two years and was ordered to forfeit ownership of Franklin.



Princess at the vet clinic following the incident. Source - Facebook



Franklin at RSPCA WA

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 2023-24, our 11 inspectors covered 349,907 kms investigating 7,138 reports of cruelty.

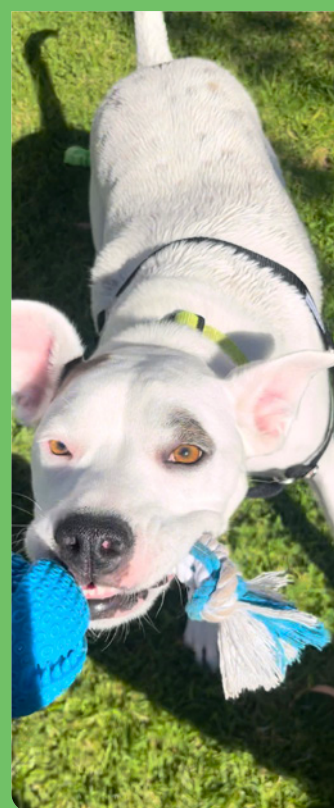
During the year, inspectors operated in the Perth metro area and out of Bunbury, Albany, Geraldton, and Broome. Other regional areas were serviced on a drive in – drive out basis.

Our inspectors work using the VADE model – Voluntary, Assisted, Directed, Enforced. In the first instance they try and get owners to voluntarily better care for their animals. If needed, they can assist with knowledge or practical help like pet food. If there are still concerns for the animals, our inspectors can direct owners to take required action and, in the most serious of cases, they can enforce the Act by seizing the animal and potentially prosecuting the owner. Based on this model, much of our inspectors' time is spent working with owners and carrying out re-checks, keeping as many animals as possible with their families, and helping pet owners become better animal carers. These are skills that will stay with them for a lifetime and provide positive modelling for those around them.

Missie's life-changing transformation

In November last year, Inspector Hayley received a call about a severely emaciated dog in Geraldton. When she first laid eyes on Missie, she was surprised the poor dog could stand or even walk. Inspector Hayley knew someone had tried to feed her, but Missie was unable to keep the food down, indicating an underlying health issue.

Inspector Hayley took Missie to a local vet for treatment. The vet also prescribed a strict re-feeding regime to help her gain weight. Missie was then driven to Perth where RSPCA WA vets and behavioural team found that, despite being severely emaciated, Missie was a patient, sweet and calm dog. After much rehabilitation, and through a special diet provided by our National Nutritional Partner, Royal Canin, Missie's transformation was incredible - becoming a healthier and happier dog in her forever home.



28,209
number of calls
to the Cruelty Hotline
17,848 answered*



349,907 km
distance travelled



7,138
cases investigated



11
inspectors
on the road**

**Due to financial constraints, RSPCA WA has been unable to keep pace with increased demand.*

*** (7 full time and 4 part time, equivalent to 9.7 FTE) Supported by an office-based Inspector Coordinator and an Inspector Manager.*

Zombie scratches his way back to life

During kitten season in early 2024, Inspector Alison attended a call about a stray kitten who appeared to be in significant pain.

The 12-week-old black and white kitten was found trapped between a fence and a garage in Langford.

He was discovered by the property owners who called RSPCA WA thinking he had died, but then called back 10 minutes later saying he was alive.

Shelter staff named him Zombie as a result.

Upon assessment, it was obvious Zombie was in pain with a broken back leg. He was taken into surgery as soon as possible and after closer inspection it was decided amputation was the best option for him.

He spent some time recovering at the RSPCA WA Animal Care Centre before he went to a foster home to continue his recovery.

Once he was back on all three paws confidently, he was made available for adoption and found a loving forever family who renamed him Ronald!

His owner Aleasha said he settled into his new home and became relaxed and comfortable very quickly.

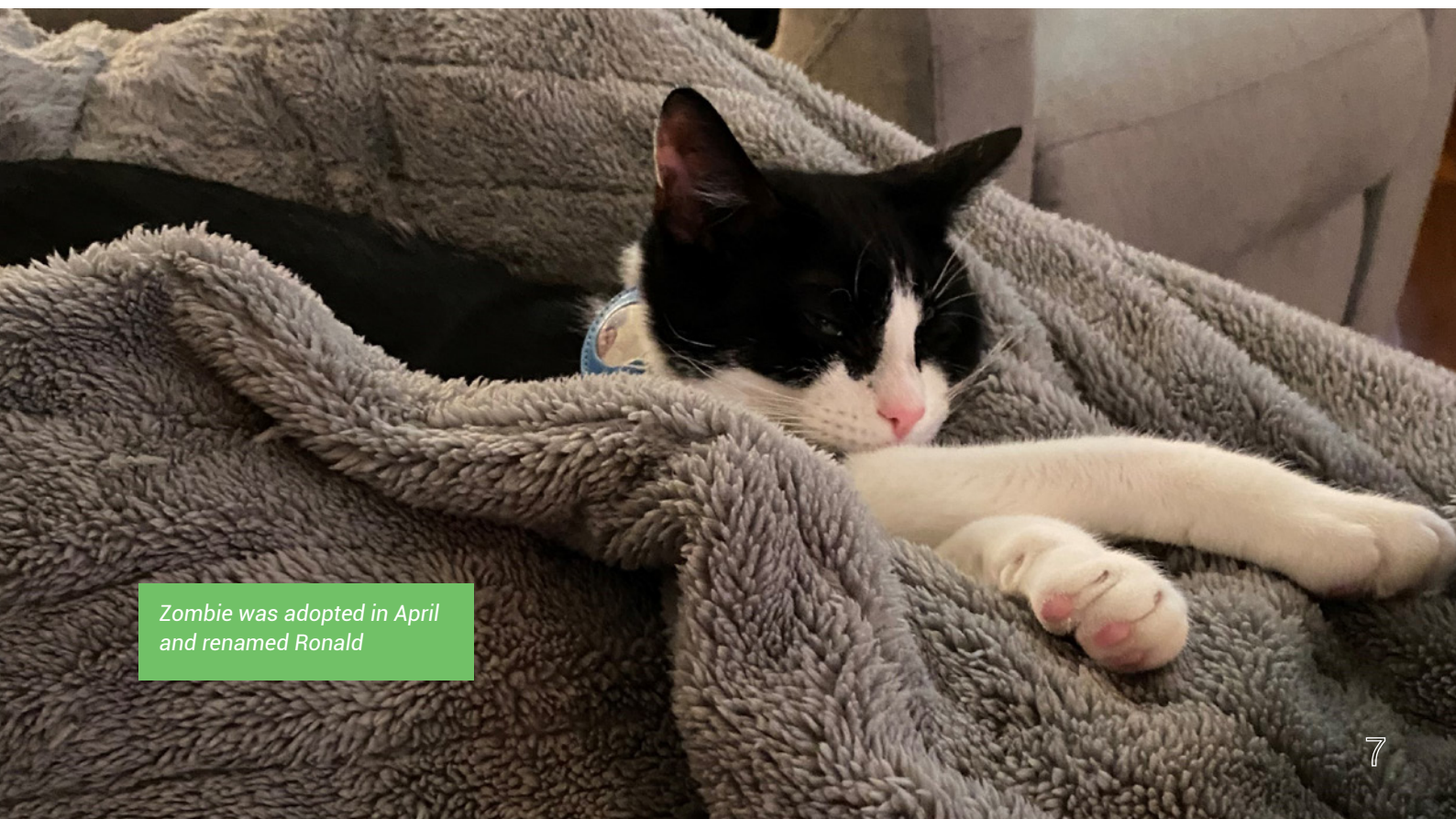
"We all absolutely adore him, he is a cheeky, fun and loveable boy who definitely doesn't let his missing leg stop him," she said.

"He has a super curious nature and he is constantly making us laugh with all the antics he gets up to. He is getting quite big too, bigger than we thought



he would get, but that doesn't worry us, it's just more of him to love. We are so happy and grateful that we were able to bring him into our family."

Ronald's story is a cautionary tale of the bad situations stray kittens can find themselves in and the importance of desexing your cat.



Zombie was adopted in April and renamed Ronald

CARING FOR ANIMALS

RSPCA WA cared for 2,441 animals in 2023-24. Large-scale seizures including goats, horses and cats contributed to that number, as did a large number of surrenders and cases of neglect, abuse and abandonment.

The cost-of-living and housing crises had a significant impact on a 23 per cent increase in surrenders for the year to 1,406. One third of surrender requests related to people being unable to afford to properly care for their animals, or unable to find pet-friendly accommodation.

No matter the circumstances, RSPCA WA strives to provide an extensive level of care for all animals whether they are with us for just a few days or the entire year. Animals whose owners are subject to prosecution can also spend a long time with us as they cannot be re-homed until forfeited by the court to the State's ownership. This generally occurs at the time the case is finalised which in some cases can take years.

Therefore, it's not just animal numbers but also the number of 'care days' that help paint an accurate picture of the volume of work carried out. In 2023-24, RSPCA WA provided 116,564 care days for animals – that's an average of 48 days in care for each of the 2,441 animals who spent time with us during the year.

There are many reasons that animals may be in RSPCA WA's care. They can be rescued by our inspectors from situations of abuse or neglect, surrendered by their original owners, or they may have been abandoned or lost.

The table below illustrates the outcome of the animals that were in our care during the year. This graphic displays the results and complexities of our work, showing that animals can be in our care for a long time but that the outcomes can vary significantly. We are so grateful to be able to reunite an animal with their lost family or find a new loving home for an animal in need, but sadly that's not always the case.

There is no set 'time limit' on adoption. RSPCA WA employees and volunteers have a strong love and passion for animal welfare, and they do everything possible to rehabilitate and rehome every animal that comes into their care.

Unfortunately, despite our best efforts, euthanasia is a reality of the work we do. Sometimes euthanasia is the kindest option and an act of true animal welfare. RSPCA WA is forced to make euthanasia decisions the same way thousands of loving pet owners do every day in our community. These decisions aren't easy, especially after caring for an animal for long periods of time.

OUTCOMES FOR THE 2,441 ANIMALS WHO CAME INTO RSPCA WA CARE IN 2023-24

Still in care on 1 July 2024 **203**

Adopted **1432**

Transferred to another shelter **134**

Reclaimed by owners **119**

Returned to owners **67**
(or released in the case of wildlife)

Died in care **63**

Humane euthanasia **298**



ANIMALS IN CARE



Cost-of-living and housing crises

Throughout the 23-24 financial year, the cost-of-living and housing crises continued to be major contributors to surrender requests resulting in a 30 per cent increase.

This financial year, 1,128 pet owners made surrender requests to RSPCA WA, compared to 795 the previous year. Of these requests, 361 pet owners cited either an inability to afford care costs for their pets or changes to their living circumstances as the reason for surrendering, compared to 285 the previous year.

The crises came to represent just more than a third of all requests this financial year, up from just under a third in 2022-23.

While cost-of-living and lack of pet-friendly rentals represented a third of all surrender requests, there was a shift in the data in the first three months of 2024. More pet owners were surrendering because they could not find anywhere to live with their pet, rather than being unable to afford their pet's care.

Most requests related to dogs, with about half as many for cats, followed by rabbits, guinea pigs, mice and birds.

Of the more than 1,300 respondents to RSPCA WA's 2024 pet census, 78 per cent said they had noticed an increase in the cost of pet food over the past 12 months and 58 per cent saw an increase in the cost of veterinary services.

Twenty percent of those respondents said they were buying less expensive pet food and 34 per cent said they were spending less on themselves in order to afford to care for their pet.



Flossy

Flossy*, an elderly Jack Russell terrier, was surrendered by her owner Gordon* after he became homeless and was not able to access emergency refuge accommodation with a dog.

As an older man, he had the choice between sleeping rough with 12-year-old Flossy and feeling unsafe for both of them, or having the chance at a bed for the night.

After Gordon surrendered Flossy, one of our wonderful foster carers took her in for a few weeks before a woman saw her story on the news and decided to adopt her.

While it is a very sad situation for Flossy and Gordon, we are so pleased he called us for help and we could give him some comfort in knowing she would be well looked after.

**Names changed to protect privacy*

Radar

Shy but sweet, little Radar came into RSPCA WA's care in January this year with a multitude of health concerns.

Radar was a stray with a lot of injuries including irritation on his paws and nose and a painful skin condition that was causing itchiness and discomfort. He was obviously in a lot of pain, but the vet staff worked hard to ensure he would receive the help he needed.

After our vets examined him closely, they found he had a kinked end to his tail that was likely due to a previous fracture. He also had a condition that caused his tail glands to be overactive, causing greasy, irritated skin, a build-up of puss in his tail and inflammation.

His coat had patchy alopecia, causing patches of hair to fall out, and the skin on his paws and nose was irritated. While he was showing gradual improvements in his physical condition through the care of the vet team, he was still showing signs of anxiety and mental stress.

Despite these hardships, with some more care, Radar made improvements in confidence and was ready for his new home. His recovery meant he had become a much more affectionate cat, and he eventually found his new home where he is now enjoying a pain-free life with plenty of attention.





COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Community Action Days

In 2023-24, RSPCA WA held 14 Community Action Days (CADs), giving over 1,500 attendees who were struggling financially the resources they needed to better care for their pets.

At the events, we give free health checks, pet food, parasite control, microchipping, educational information and more. CADs are traditionally held in areas that generate a high number of welfare reports. The locations are strategically chosen to maximise our impact, focusing on areas where pet owners face significant challenges and where reports of animal cruelty are higher. Our outreach spans both metropolitan and regional areas, including Broome, Albany, and Kalgoorlie-Boulder. Despite the logistical challenges and costs of reaching these remote locations, we are committed to providing essential services wherever they are most needed.

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 Petbarn Foundation, Elanco, Vetwest, South Metropolitan Tafe, Rogz, and the local government authorities that allowed these events to run and in some instances provided financial support.



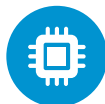
801

Animals health checked



1379

Parasite control units handed out



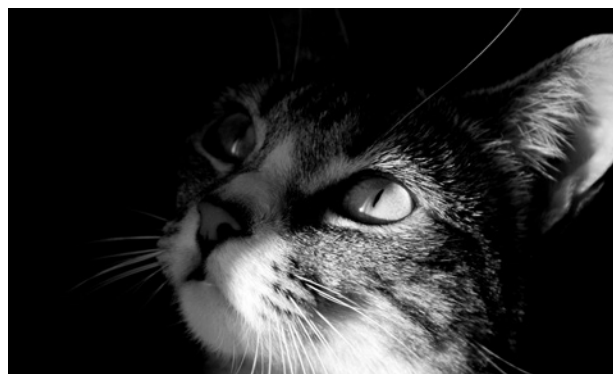
246

Animals microchipped



2417kg

of food distributed



Pets In Crisis

In 2023-24, we assisted 67 pets and their families through the Pets in Crisis program. Pets in Crisis 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.

While in the program, pets are fostered to a loving home and receive any medical attention needed such as vaccinations and sterilisation.

RSPCA WA would like to thank the Department of Communities for their funding towards the Pets in Crisis program and VetWest for providing discounted veterinary services.

ADOPTION PROGRAM

In 2023-24, 1,432 RSPCA WA animals found permanent loving homes. That's 432 dogs and puppies, 633 cats and kittens, 3 horses, 44 livestock, 69 birds, 140 rabbits, 92 guinea pigs, and 19 rodents.

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.



Bruce's palliative adoption miracle

On 4 March 2024, 11-year-old Bruce, who'd been in our care for a while, was given the worst news. After a routine check, our vet staff found some lumps and bumps which, after removal and testing, were confirmed to be malignant tumours. Although vets removed all the lumps they could find, Bruce unfortunately had a type of cancer that almost always returns.

On top of that, Bruce also had a few other medical conditions, like chronic arthritis and dermatitis.

He knew nothing of the direction his life had taken, offering a happy smile and tail wags whenever he was greeted by our staff and volunteers. It would take one dedicated and compassionate person to take on an end-of-life pet, and his prospects of finding a home before he passed looked slim.



However, our social media callouts exploded with interest, with many people falling in love with the old dog, wanting to take him home. For the first time in five months, Bruce had interest and it looked like he was destined to find a home.

Iqra saw our social media post and fell head over heels in love with Bruce. Without booking an appointment or putting him on hold, she threw caution to the wind and drove all the way from Geraldton the very next morning to meet him. She thought, "if he's gone, he's gone". However, fate was on her side, and Bruce was still here when Iqra arrived at our Malaga shelter.

Bruce is now enjoying his twilight days with a beautiful loving family in the Midwest, receiving endless unconditional love and attention.

Finding Squid a home

Squid was rapidly shutting down in the cattery shortly after returning to us from foster care.

Some animals just don't cope as well in the shelter environment and Squid was sadly one of them. Impacted by the loud noises, the unfamiliarity and the strangers passing his condo every day made him stressed, shut down, and depressed. He was featured on our social media posts and the response was phenomenal, with hundreds of people interested in saving Squid. He was very shortly rehomed and is now thriving in his forever home.



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

VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers are the lifeblood of our organisation and we would not be able to continue this important work without their vital help. In 2023-24, 313 people contributed over 22,000 volunteering hours to RSPCA WA. Our network of foster carers also provided countless hours of help, fostering animals in need.

According to the Volunteering WA Volunteer Benefits Calculator, RSPCA WA volunteers delivered \$1,074,703 in value to the WA community last year!



313 volunteers
22,385 hours total
1,865 hours (avg. per month)
\$1,074,703 value added

1183 active foster carers
682 animals fostered
836 foster instances

RSPCA WA ANIMAL WELFARE AWARDS

9 Gold 18 Silver 12 Bronze



A WA Police Constable who saved a dog from a submerged vehicle, a calm and trustworthy ex-police horse, and RSPCA WA's longest-serving volunteer 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. Also, there is a category just for animal friends which recognises our four-legged friends doing great things in the community.

Animal-loving venue, The Camfield, again offered their premises for last year's ceremony, which saw 39 gold, silver, and bronze awards handed out in front of friends, family, and special guests Governor of Western Australia, the Hon Chris Dawson APM, Minister for Local Government, the Hon David Michael MLA, and DPIRD Deputy Director General Sustainability and Biosecurity Ms Mia Carbon.

The 2023 RSPCA WA Animal Welfare Awards were supported by Tunnel Vision, 100 St George's and The Camfield.

Gold under pressure

In August 2022, Constable Pomroy from Northam Police responded to a call from a member of the public advising that a vehicle had succumbed to flood waters. The 80-year-old driver of the submerged car managed to exit his vehicle and get to safety, however, his beloved bull mastiff Max remained trapped inside. Constable Pomroy was worried the flood waters would carry the car away and Max with it. With the water rising and no time to dwell on the decision, Constable Pomroy and a fellow officer braved the water to rescue Max who was reluctant to exit the vehicle on his own and had to be lifted out of the car and carried to safety.



Foster Carers

In 2023-24, our foster carers ensured that animals recovering from cruelty, neglect or medical treatment could recuperate in a home environment, rather than our shelter. Foster carers are so important to ensure that animals can thrive from all the benefits that a warm home and a family offers. Knowing the importance of foster homes, we try to find as many as we can for animals in need. We have an incredible bank of 1183 foster carers and this year 682 animals were fostered across 836 instances.

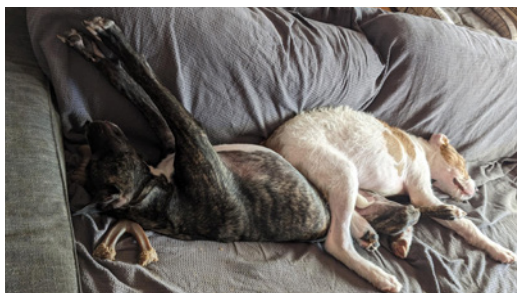


One of our favourite “foster-fails” in 2023-24 was little Nick Fury. Nick is a dog with a big heart who overcame some serious hardships. Last year, he was attacked by another dog causing his eye to become severely damaged.

He was rushed to Pet Vet Emergency where vets determined his eye couldn't be saved and needed to be surgically removed. Unfortunately, his owners could not afford the treatment, so they made the difficult decision to surrender him to RSPCA WA.

After receiving intense medical care and all the treatment he needed for his recovery, he was placed into foster care with one of our dedicated shelter staff, Sophie. She ensured he had a quiet, comfortable and warm space to heal. After only having him in her home for a short time, Sophie knew she wanted him to stay forever.

After falling in love with his puppy face and sweet, curious personality, she made the life-changing decision to adopt. Nick Fury was welcomed into her family, and he now has two older brothers, a 13-year-old Labrador cross named Chip and a 1-year-old Staghound cross named Raiden.



“I met Nick Fury the day that he came into our care, with his eye looking very uncomfortable,” she said.

“I kept him in the office with me that day and I knew straight away that he was special. A couple of days later his eye was removed, and I quickly volunteered to foster him during his recovery. It only took about 30 seconds of having him in our home to know we wanted him to stay forever. He has brought so much joy into our lives, and I feel so lucky that we have him in our lives.”

Highlighting the importance of our volunteers through National Volunteer Week

For National Volunteer Week this year, RSPCA WA recognised the hard-work, diverse passion and talents our volunteers bring to the act of volunteering with a celebration event at Whiteman Park.

Since March 2020, Dianne Dawkins has come in as an admin volunteer, helping the HR team enter incident reports into the database and assisting with various tasks as required. She also volunteers in the Cat Management Facility as part of the cat corps team, providing plenty of encouragement and enrichment to the kittens and cats housed in the facility.

“By volunteering at the RSPCA I feel that I can contribute to that welfare in some small part,” she said.

“In regard to fostering, the joy of seeing a cat come from timid to confident, unwell to full health or scared to trusting humans again after being treated poorly is a great motivation to continue.”



Caged eggs

In 2023-24, RSPCA WA continued to encourage the State Government to implement a phase out of barren battery cages sooner than the 2036 date announced two years ago.

Advocates, including the RSPCA, have been fighting to ban battery cages for layer hens for more than 40 years.

While a ban date is welcome, we will continue to push for WA to improve the lives of millions of layer hens by introducing a swifter phase out.



ADVOCACY

RSPCA WA works with RSPCA Australia, 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 focussed on in 2023-24.



Live export

The 2023-2024 financial year saw one of the most significant decisions in Australian animal welfare in decades.

On 11 May 2024, the Federal Government announced the export of live sheep by sea would end on 1 May 2028, with the cessation date to be legislated in this term of government.

The decision followed the appointment of an independent panel whose role was to determine how and when to phase out the trade.

The hearings conducted by the panel and a Parliamentary inquiry into *The Export Control Amendment (Ending Live Sheep Exports by Sea) Act 2024* were extensive, often emotional undertakings with some in the industry claiming

it would be the end of their farming business and indeed entire rural communities.

RSPCA WA's Chair and some staff were subjected to abuse for our support of the legislation.

However, our position remained the same throughout.

RSPCA WA has long maintained the science is undeniable when it comes to the inherent and unfixable problems in the live export trade. As well as Australia's live sheep trade

producing multiple animal welfare catastrophes and publicly documented cruelty over the past forty years, independent observer reports from recent voyages continue to show sheep starving on board and animals suffering with signs of heat stress.

Our position is based on animal welfare science which clearly shows that no amount of regulation can make the live export of sheep by sea acceptable because it exposes sheep to conditions that exceed their physiological limits - transport stress, searing heat and stifling humidity, overcrowding, hunger and starvation, ammonia exposure, and more.

RSPCA WA welcomed the financial package provided to support producers and increase supply chain capacity during the four-year phase out period.



Mulesing

In 2023-24, RSPCA WA commissioned research into community attitudes towards 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 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 and is carried out without anaesthesia. Pain relief is not always used. The pain is long lasting, and the wounds 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 progressive growers have already successfully done, eliminating the need to mules their flock.

The research, conducted by Painted Dog Research, found that four in five West Australians support legislative change to make pain relief when mulesing mandatory, and that this should become a requirement in the next two years.



Pets in rentals

In April, legislation was passed introducing significant changes to rental laws in Western Australia. These changes to the *Residential Tenancies Act* include making it easier for tenants to keep pets.

The new law means, in most cases, pets will be allowed in rental properties; however, tenants must seek permission. Landlords or agents can refuse if a law specifically prevents pets (including strata rules forbidding pets or certain types of pets) or if they can prove a 'good reason' to the Commissioner for Consumer Protection, for example the property is not fully fenced.

In addition, a landlord can place 'reasonable conditions' on having a pet, for example the carpets must be professionally cleaned at the end of the tenancy.

RSPCA WA hopes this new legislation will see a drop in the number of animals surrendered due to housing pressures.

CCTV in slaughterhouses

In March, the Australian Meat Industry Council announced video surveillance systems will become a mandatory requirement from 2026 under the processing industry's Australian Animal Welfare Certification System (AAWCS).

AAWCS is an independently audited certification program used by livestock processors to demonstrate compliance with industry best practice animal welfare standards from receipt of livestock, to the point of processing.

The announcement followed several instances of "secret" footage taken inside knackeries and slaughterhouses and given to the media.

With one of RSPCA WA's key advocacy goals being improved oversight of knackeries and abattoirs, we welcome the announcement with mandatory CCTV surveillance providing oversight and accountability in an industry often accused of failing to apply best-practice animal welfare.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND FUNDRAISING



Cupcake Day 2023

In August last year, RSPCA WA brought animal lovers together from across the state for its annual Cupcake Day event. Thanks to dedicated bakers and baked-goods enthusiasts, over \$61,000 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.



Mount Lawley Quiz Night

The Rotary Club of Mount Lawley held a quiz night in April to raise funds for RSPCA WA. The charity donated a signed West Coast Eagles framed photo and a robo-vacuum as prizes for the evening. The Rotarians raised \$4,716 through ticket sales for the fun event which was held at the RISE in Maylands. This was a wonderful display of community action.



ANZAC Day reflection – paying tribute to lifesaving animals

Our ANZAC Day service continued to recognise the important connection between service personnel and animals who made the ultimate sacrifice – acknowledging the role animals have played both during and after war. Special guests included Army veteran Owen talking about his assistance dog, Fen, as well as therapy donkeys from the Donkey Society of WA, The Honourable Brad Pettitt MLC, and RSL WA's Barrie Yesberg and Rosalind Howard. There were also representatives from other animal rescue groups including Cat Haven and Free the Hounds.



Walk This May

Fabulous fundraisers committed to walk their dogs every day in May, raising \$18,937 for animals in need as a result. Walk this May is a virtual fundraiser, held in place of Million Paws Walk this year. In March, RSPCA WA made the difficult decision to cancel the 2024 walk amid increasing cost-of-living pressures and mounting demands for our services.

As a charity that relies on its supporters and donors for 80 per cent of its funding, we could not in good conscience commit to running an event that would have ended up costing us more than it raised.



Dogs Out for the Dogs Community Fundraiser

On 16 June, 2024, Connor Webster ran the Rottneest Island Marathon entirely barefoot to raise money for the dogs in care at RSPCA WA.

The event, aptly named Dogs Out for the Dogs, followed Connor on a 42.2km run through the hilly terrain of Rottneest. Not even the wet weather could get in his way, and he managed to raise an extraordinary \$2,149 for RSPCA WA, which went a long way in helping us help animals in need.

Ambassadors

West Coast Eagles champion Elliot Yeo has continually gone above and beyond to show his support for RSPCA WA. Elliot assisted us with our Give to Get Them Home dollar matching day last year, promoting the campaign on his social media platforms, as well as assisting in our Guardian Angel Christmas appeal, helping us garner much-needed funds for animals in need.

Channel 10's Beau Pearson played a huge role in finding forever homes for several animals throughout the year, visiting RSPCA WA to feature furry friends in Ten News First's weather segment, Around the Pounds.

Nova breakfast presenter Natalie Locke continued her support for RSPCA WA, volunteering her time to MC the RSPCA WA Animal Welfare Awards in October. Nat is a true animal lover, bringing warmth and humour to this special occasion.





GIFT IN WILL – Dr Frost's love of animals to continue on

Dr Frederick Frost was always an animal lover. From his early years spent in South Africa, through to the life he made in Western Australia, animals always played a significant part in his life. Dr Frost came across the work of RSPCA WA in 1982. He was impressed by the RSPCA's efforts in advocating for the end of live sheep export, becoming strongly associated with the organisation, and by 1992, he was a life member.

After retiring, he became a docent at Perth Zoo to spend more time around the Savannah animals.

For almost four decades, he was a huge advocate for RSPCA WA with a strong passion for the welfare of animals. Dr Frost turned his passion for animals into a legacy – leaving a generous gift in his will.

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 Michael Price
- Estate of the late Helen Hare
- Estate of the late Tamara Hall
- Estate of the late Margaret Agatha Naomi Woods
- Estate of the late Than Than Htay
- Estate of the late Keith Douglas Bolitho
- Estate of the late Kenneth Yates
- Estate of the late Margaret Joan Hams
- Estate of the late Thelma Irene Criddle
- Estate of the late Robert Bloomfield
- Estate of the late Keith Wilmott
- Estate of the late Majorie Ada Keller-Tun
- Estate of the late Muriel Cooper
- Estate of the late Michaela Veronica Collingwood
- Estate of the late Robert James Howard
- Estate of the late Ferdinand Rominger
- Estate of the late Giusto Maximilian Cresciani
- Estate of the late Kerry Ann Irving
- Estate of the late Dorothy Crocker
- Estate of the late Betty Brazier
- Estate of the late Geoffrey George Fortune
- Estate of the late Eric Edward Southwell
- Estate of the late Margaret Mary Woolcock
- Estate of the late Betty Matchell Allan
- Estate of the late Winnifred Norma Halse
- Estate of the late William James McGrath
- Estate of the late Karen Shaw
- Estate of the late Ronald James Wilson
- Estate of the late Valerie Anne Cairns
- Estate of the late Joyce M & James Avraamides
- Estate of the late Joyce Brockway
- Estate of the late Dr Fredrick Frost
- Estate of the late Erica Joan Lesley Zupan
- Estate of the late Alison Bazzana
- Estate of the late Luica Terzo
- Estate of the late A Robson
- Estate of the late Dale Denic
- Estate of the late Thelma Allen
- Estate of the late Frank Henry Parkinson
- Estate of the late Nola Eleanor Gregory
- Estate of the late Audrey Roberts White
- Estate of the late Carol Rose Miller
- Estate of the late Barbara Elizabeth Crowsley
- Estate of the late Frances Hester Baden
- Estate of the late W J Ritchie
- Estate of the late Heidi Andrea Little
- Estate of the late Raymond Douglas Mcateer
- Estate of the late Mary Patricia Crossley
- Estate of the late O Marshall
- Estate of the late Ronald Perry
- Estate of the late Albert Bain
- Estate of the late Terri Pamela McCauley
- Estate of the late June M Macfarlane
- Estate of the late Peter Gloor
- Estate of the late Stephen Bruce Newman
- Estate of the late Mary Thompkins
- Estate of the late Jessie Charlotte Cane
- Estate of the Late Jean Marion Isobel Balston

- Trusts and Foundations

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

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 2024 were practitioners from Herbert Smith Freehills (HSF), K&L Gates, Zoe Gilders of ZG Criminal Law, Zarah Burgess of Burgess Criminal Lawyers, and multiple barristers at Francis Burt Chambers, including Doug Johnson, Kelly Zhang and Sharminie Perera. Ms Perera did not provide any legal services but has offered to assist us with our matters on more than one occasion.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For The Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, Western Australia (RSPCA WA) for the year ended 30 June, 2024.

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 18 September, 2024.

The Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, Western Australia Statement of the Comprehensive Income for the financial year ended 30 June, 2024

	Note*	2024 \$	2023 \$
Revenue and other income			
Revenue	3	11,326,908	11,229,988
Other income	3	185,313	391,195
		11,512,221	11,621,183
Less: expenses			
Depreciation and amortisation expense		(458,116)	(437,328)
Employee benefits expense		(7,155,998)	(6,933,656)
Occupancy expense		(25,754)	(30,818)
Lease expense		(3,773)	(1,402)
Finance costs		(33,923)	(35,258)
Gain on disposal of property, plant and equipment		(1,539)	12,549
Other operating costs	4	(4,200,859)	(4,494,139)
		(11,879,962)	(11,920,052)
Deficit for the year		(367,741)	(298,869)
Other comprehensive income			
<i>Items that will not be reclassified subsequently to profit and loss</i>			
Net change in fair value of financial assets designated at fair value through other comprehensive income		671,681	477,342
Other comprehensive income for the year		671,681	477,342
Total comprehensive income for the year		303,940	178,473

*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, 2024

	Note	2024 \$	2023 \$
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	5	2,538,942	2,758,505
Receivables	6	1,886,694	234,471
Inventories	7	119,794	107,637
Other financial assets	8	103,111	103,111
Other assets		206,777	178,693
Total current assets		4,855,318	3,382,417
Non current assets			
Other financial assets	8	9,614,012	9,013,587
Intangible assets	10	2,433	5,075
Lease assets	11	39,380	61,858
Property, plant and equipment	9	3,652,819	3,568,834
Total non current assets		13,308,644	12,649,354
Total assets		18,163,962	16,031,771
Current liabilities			
Payables	12	669,461	429,735
Lease liabilities	11	22,864	21,227
Provisions	13	565,840	524,915
Contract liabilities	14	1,740,933	141,711
Total current liabilities		2,999,098	1,117,588
Non current liabilities			
Lease liabilities	11	18,272	41,137
Provisions	13	20,322	50,717
Total non current liabilities		38,594	91,854
Total liabilities		3,037,692	1,209,442
Net assets		15,126,270	14,822,329
Equity			
Financial assets revaluation reserve	15	893,995	222,314
Retained earnings		14,232,275	14,600,015
Total equity		15,126,270	14,822,329

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 bright future for animals in Western Australia.

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National Adoption Partner



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Animal Relocation Provider



Cat Litter Partner



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Awards Sponsor



Special Thanks





STELLA

**"Some people talk to
animals. Not many
listen though. That's
the problem."**

- A.A. Milne

Stella is a brave heeler who arrived at RSPCA WA's Malaga Animal Care Centre after her owner couldn't afford the medical treatment she needed. She came in with a painful aural haematoma – a localised mass of blood in the ear flap, usually caused by a dog scratching at their ears or shaking due to an infection or irritation that causes the blood vessels to break.

She was in a lot of pain, and anyone could clearly see she needed help. In Stella's case, this irritation was caused by a severe ear infection and a build-up of pus on the outside of her ear. RSPCA WA vets determined surgery needed to be performed to open Stella's ear flap, flush it out, and remove the blood clots and necrotic tissue. Despite her surgery and a long list of medical follow-ups, Stella showed so much resilience. With continual monitoring and care from the behaviour team, animal attendants, and vets, she was improving so much.

Despite these hardships, Stella showed small improvements every day. After a lot of physical and behavioral rehabilitation, she was ready to find her forever family and for someone to give her a warm, loving home.

RSPCA 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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