

OUR IMPACT

FY 2024-25



CHARLOTTE

RSPCA

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

Our Purpose	03	Animal Welfare Awards	18
Our Vision	03	Finding New Love.....	20
Our Mission	03	Our Impact on the Frontline.....	22
Our National Values	03	Justice for Animals.....	24
Chair’s Report.....	04	Our Volunteers and Foster Carers.....	27
CEO’s Report.....	05	Advocacy in Action	30
Caring for Animals	06	Gifts in Wills.....	32
Helping Communities	11	Acknowledgements	33
Community Fundraising and Engagement.....	14	Partnership and Sponsorship	35

Our Purpose

We exist for animals to live better lives.

Our Vision

A world where animals and people live together with dignity, respect, and compassion.

Our Mission

We improve the lives of animals through care and evidence-based welfare advancements that change attitudes, behaviours, practices, and laws.

Our National Values

Show Compassion:

We recognise the sentience of all animals and are committed to treating them with respect and compassion.

Lead The Way:

We lead the way in animal welfare advancements, grounded in evidence, that aim to better the lives of animals.

Act With Courage:

We have the courage to be resolute, push through adversity, and remain unwavering in our commitment to all animals.

Seek Positive Outcomes:

We celebrate the connection between animals and humans, acknowledging the positive outcomes it brings and its role in creating a more caring society.

Chair's Report

This year has seen some of the most significant progress in animal welfare reform in decades. The passing of legislation to phase out live sheep exports by 2028 represents a landmark moment in Australian history, one that will spare future generations of sheep the suffering inherent in long voyages by sea. The introduction of new regulations to end the use of battery cages in Western Australia is another milestone, bringing real improvements for millions of layer hens.

In 2024-25, RSPCA WA began a new advocacy initiative focused on responsible cat ownership and safe-at-home practices, which deliver important welfare benefits for cats and helps protect native wildlife. We also continued to support the next phase of implementation of the *Dog Amendment (Stop Puppy Farming) Act 2021*, including the introduction of a centralised registration system to strengthen oversight of dog breeding in Western Australia and improve animal welfare outcomes.

These achievements remind us of what persistence and evidence-based advocacy can achieve, but they also highlight how much work remains. RSPCA WA will continue to push for change wherever animals need a stronger voice.

I would like to thank our staff, volunteers, foster carers, supporters, and community partners. It is your compassion and commitment that make these victories possible, and together we will continue to build a kinder future for animals across Western Australia.



Lynne Bradshaw AM
Chair, RSPCA WA



CEO's Report

The 2024-25 year was one of significant operational change, set against rising demand for our services. More than 26,000 calls were made to our Cruelty Hotline, over 7,000 cases were investigated by our inspectors, and nearly 2,100 animals came into our care. Each of these numbers represents an animal in need — and the tireless work of our staff, volunteers, and foster carers who protect and rehabilitate them.

One of the most important developments has been the transition to a model where our inspectors work in pairs, bringing us into line with other first responder agencies and ensuring the safety of our frontline staff. This new operating model has strengthened our ability to respond but has also brought greater costs in increased staffing and training. To support RSPCA WA in this change, the State Government committed to increase their annual funding support from \$1.3m to \$7m for the next three years. This covers the increase in the number of inspectors and 50 per cent of the vet and care costs of animals who enter RSPCA WA's care through our inspectorate services. This funding increase was achieved after working with the State Government to highlight the ongoing and growing demand for these services — which are delivered by RSPCA WA on the Government's behalf.

Despite the time of great change, it was pleasing to see almost one third of our permanent staff celebrating anniversaries of between five and 12 years working with RSPCA WA. There are many positives to celebrate this year — the ongoing dedication of our staff, adoption numbers remaining strong, the success of our Community Action Days that support pet owners facing financial hardship, and our volunteers and foster carers once again providing extraordinary support and countless hours of care.

Looking forward, our priority will be to strengthen our organisation so we can continue to meet growing demand without compromising our mission. With the support of our community, government and partners, I am confident RSPCA WA will remain a strong, trusted voice for animals in need.

Ben Cave
CEO, RSPCA WA



Caring for Animals

RSPCA WA cared for 2,357 animals in 2024-25. Large-scale seizures of dogs and cats contributed greatly to that number, as did a large number of animals being surrendered, and cases of neglect, abuse and abandonment.

Whether they are with us for just a few days or the entire year, RSPCA WA strives to provide an extensive level of care for all animals. Any who are part of an active prosecution can spend a long time at RSPCA WA while awaiting the outcome of their case. This ranges from months to years depending on the individual circumstances. It's not just the number of animals, but the number of care days that affect the volume of work at RSPCA WA.

There are many reasons why 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 across illustrates the outcome of the animals who 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.



RSPCA WA employees and volunteers have a **strong love and passion for animal welfare.**



Animals cared for 2,357 	Care days provided 144,261 
	Animals spent an average days in care 61 
Animals surrendered 1,193 	Types of animals in care Dogs/puppies 948  Cats/kittens 911  Birds 56  Rabbits 160  Horses 26  Livestock 113  Guinea pigs 115  Rodents 28 
Total seized animals 298 	
Animals were still in care from previous year 284 	
Animals total incoming 2,073 	
Animals left the shelter 1,997 	Returned to owners (or released in the case of wildlife) 47 
	Unassisted deaths 31 
Animals adopted 1,294 	Euthanised at off-site vet (generally surrendered to inspector and welfare concern) 62 
Transferred to another shelter 134 	Animals euthanised (excluding euthanised at off-site vet) 333 
Reclaimed 96 	Animals were still in care on 30 June 2025 360 298 of the incoming animals were seized 

Vital Vet Care for Bubbles

Bubbles was found in August 2024 as a stray in Hillarys. When she arrived at RSPCA WA it was immediately clear that she was unwell. She was suffering from lethargy, low body temperature, and mental dullness. RSPCA WA vets diagnosed her with hypothyroidism, identifying that she desperately needed medication to manage her symptoms and get her back on all paws. Her condition was caused by an underactive thyroid, meaning her body was not producing enough hormones needed for her to stay healthy.

Vets and animal attendants got to work quickly, starting her on the necessary medication and she slowly but surely regained her health and stamina. She now has a much better quality of life and will continue to thrive despite her condition, as long as she continues taking her medication. She is a quiet and affectionate cat who adored the care and attention of our dedicated animal attendants and cattery volunteers. She spent a few weeks recovering with one of our amazing foster carers and after a lengthy wait at the shelter, she was finally adopted by Marsha who said the sweet kitty fitted in to her home like she had always been there.



Simon's Cherry Eyes Fixed

Simon came into care at RSPCA WA with his three siblings, Saskia, Shaun, and Sam in November. The four Staffy pups had rock-hard bellies full of worms and unfortunately their owner could not afford to properly care for them. Once they were surrendered, our vet staff got straight to work administering worming treatment to the four pups. They were all underweight due to the worm burden but that was quickly fixed with a specialised diet thanks to our nutritional partner Royal Canin.

Simon was a bit of special case as he came into care with a condition called cherry eye affecting both eyes. The condition is common in some breeds and happens when a dog's so-called third eyelid becomes swollen and red, resembling a cherry. Without surgery, Simon would have had decreased tear production and would not have been able to fully close his eyes. His surgery was a success and now Simon has clear eyes and can grow up healthy and happy. This life-improving surgery was only made possible because of donations made by our generous supporters. Simon and his siblings were all adopted very quickly, and spent Christmas in new loving homes.



Simon and his
siblings were
all adopted
very quickly...



Helping Communities

RSPCA WA actively supports communities through outreach programs designed to address small welfare problems before they become big ones. By providing education, resources, and critical help when it is needed, pet owners are supported during vulnerable times and the animals involved are helped before they suffer. Below is a snapshot of our impact on communities throughout the state.

Community Action Days

In 2024-25, RSPCA WA held 13 Community Action Days, providing over 1,450 attendees who were struggling financially with the resources they needed to better care for their pets. At the events, attendees can access free health checks for their pet, pet food, parasite control, microchipping, educational information and more.

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. This outreach spans both metropolitan and regional areas.

Despite the logistical challenges and costs of reaching these locations, RSPCA WA is committed to providing essential services wherever they are needed. The events could not be run without the help of amazing volunteers and staff, as well as outstanding organisations 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.



Pets in Crisis Program

In 2024-25 our Pets in Crisis program assisted 58 pets and their families. 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 where possible 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.

Animals assisted

58



Families assisted

37



Pet Sterilisation Program

In September, the State Government allocated \$500,000 to RSPCA WA to subsidise the sterilisation of dogs and cats in Western Australia. The Pet Sterilisation Program helps to reduce unwanted litters and health-related problems in unsterilised cats and dogs. The 75 per cent discount on sterilisation costs was available at participating vet clinics for WA Seniors Card, Pensioner Concession Card and Health Care Card holders. Through the program, **978 dogs (568 females and 410 males) and 451 cats (280 females and 171 males) were sterilised**. The areas with the highest use of the programs were Geraldton, Warnbro, Bunbury, Armadale and Kwinana.

Applications received

1,671



Cases approved

1,175



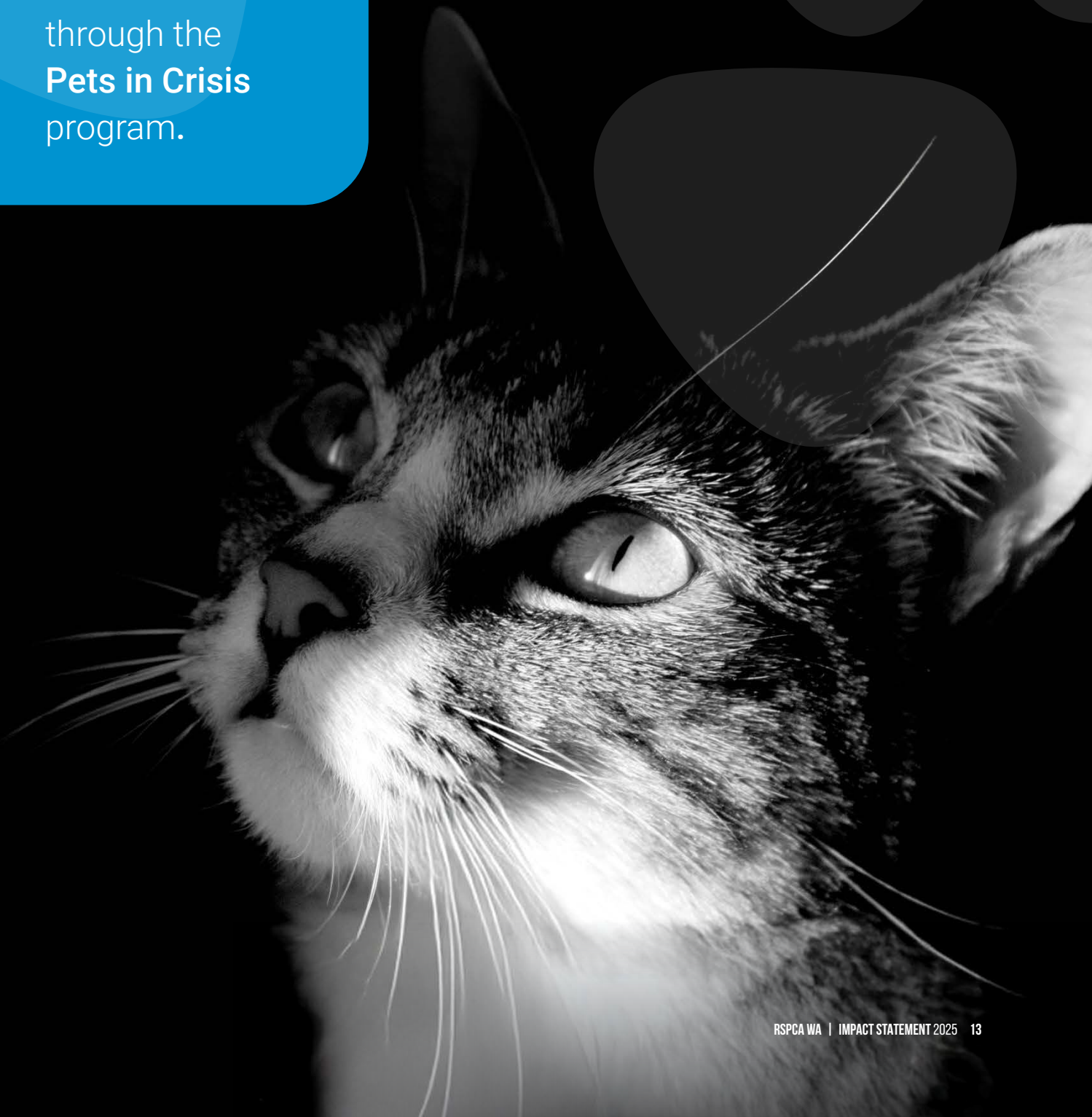
Dogs and cats sterilised

1,429





Fifty-eight pets
and their families
were assisted
through the
Pets in Crisis
program.



Community Fundraising and Engagement

Community support remains the cornerstone of RSPCA WA's ability to deliver critical animal welfare services across Western Australia. For more than 130 years, the organisation has relied on the compassion and generosity of individuals, schools, community groups, and businesses to fund its work in rescuing, rehabilitating, and rehoming animals in need.

As a community-powered charity, RSPCA WA depends on voluntary contributions in many forms including donations, gifts in Wills, corporate partnerships, fundraising events, workplace giving, and participation in our commercial dog training programs. These income streams are essential to ensuring we can respond whenever animals need us most.

In 2024-25, our supporters once again demonstrated outstanding commitment through a variety of fundraising and engagement initiatives. RSPCA WA relaunched the community fundraising and events program with the aim to engage the community in the animal welfare mission, drive impact fundraising in schools, and with individuals and corporate supporters. The creativity, enthusiasm, and compassion from supporters ensured that RSPCA WA could continue its vital mission to protect animals, educate and promote animal welfare across Western Australia.

RSPCA WA's ability to make a lasting difference for animals is only possible because of the community that stands behind it. Every act of generosity, great or small, contributes directly to better outcomes for animals across Western Australia.

We extend our sincere thanks to all supporters who gave their time, funds, and energy throughout the year to help animals in need.



“Every donation makes a tangible difference — transforming fear into trust, pain into healing, and loneliness into love. Through the generosity of our supporters, RSPCA WA continues to **restore hope** and create **lasting change for animals in need.**”

CAROL MORFITT, CHIEF DEVELOPMENT OFFICER, RSPCA WA



Community Fundraising Highlights

HBF Run for a Reason

RSPCA WA participated in HBF Run for a Reason for the first time in 2025, raising \$11,551.27. One team ran in memory of their late friend Mel, who had named RSPCA WA as her favourite charity — turning their tribute into meaningful impact for animals in her honour.

Government House Open Weekend

As one of the Governor of Western Australia's patronage organisations, RSPCA WA was proud to take part in the Government House Open Weekend in April 2025. Over two days, staff and volunteers engaged with hundreds of visitors, shared key animal welfare messages, and raised \$1,051.60 through donations, raffle entries, and merchandise sales.

Top of the Class: Young Fundraisers Making a Difference

Schools across WA continued to demonstrate exceptional support for animal welfare. The International School of WA raised more than \$2,500, with Year 5 students designing and selling products and Year 10 students running bake sales, towel drives, and dress-up days. Their initiative and empathy reflect a growing generation of animal advocates.

Cupcake Day

Cupcake Day in August 2024 inspired hundreds of animal lovers across WA to bake for a cause, raising an impressive \$38,123.33. Long-time supporters Marty and Ange Bertuleit and the Abbett Dog Park community celebrated their 10-year fundraising milestone, contributing a record \$2,400 — a testament to their enduring commitment to animals in need.





Our Ambassadors

- AFLW West Coast Eagles' midfielder **Courtney Rowley**
- 10 News First Perth weatherman **Beau Pearson**
- Nova Breakfast announcer **Nat Locke**
- Nova 93.7FM morning announcer **Ross Wallman**
- Local personality **Nanna Bingo**
- 9 News Perth reporter **Kelly Haywood**
- Social media pet-influencer **Kate Walker**, the human behind @TheSweetestMeow on Instagram and TikTok
- UGC creator and animal welfare advocate **Rachel Payne**
- Women's fitness coach and nutritionist **Maeve Kavanagh**
- Physiotherapist and proud community fundraiser **Connor Webster**

The Brand Ambassador Program

Last financial year marked the formalisation of the Brand Ambassador Program. RSPCA WA recruited eight new ambassadors, with 2 returning, to help spread the word and support fundraising efforts for RSPCA WA. Many ambassadors hit the ground running with their advocacy efforts.

Beau Pearson continued his support of RSPCA WA with his regular Around the Pounds segment on 10 News First Perth. He was also a wonderful co-MC for the 2024 Animal Welfare Awards along with fellow ambassador Nova's Nat Locke. His social media assistance promoting our annual dollar matching day, Give to Get Them Home, in October 2024 was also incredibly helpful.

Rachel Payne, Maeve Kavanagh, and Kate Walker helped throughout the year on their social media platforms, promoting important messages and assisting in fundraising efforts.



Animal Welfare Awards

Taking place in October every year, the RSPCA WA Animal Welfare Awards ceremony is an opportunity to honour people's commitment to animal welfare in Western Australia.

There is also a special category just for animals who help humans or other animals. Winners are celebrated with a bronze, silver or gold award. The tiered awards represent the different actions taken, the level of time and effort involved, and the degree to which animals have been positively impacted.

Total awards			
Gold		Silver	
14		31	
Bronze		Posthumous	
12		1	



A selection of the 2024 Award Winners

Hannah Danesfaleh — Youth Award

Eight-year-old Hannah, big sister to “Georgia the Grey” on Instagram, is a passionate advocate for greyhound welfare. She attends peaceful protests, inspires her schoolmates to care for animals, and even invited a local author to share a book about a rescued greyhound. As the youngest volunteer at Free the Hounds, Hannah regularly joins community events to help end greyhound racing. Hannah won a silver award for her advocacy work.

Leah Price — Humane Award

After a serious car accident left a woman named Jane hospitalised and her dog Clancy missing, Leah Price drove over 500km and spent nearly four days searching tirelessly for the frightened blue heeler. Thanks to her determination, Clancy was safely reunited with Jane. Leah won a gold award for her efforts in saving Clancy and reuniting him with Jane.



Taffy — Animal Award

Taffy, a gentle miniature horse, brings comfort and joy to 13 nursing homes and palliative care patients throughout the South West. Known for his calm nature, he offers distraction, emotional support, and even helps with memory and pain relief, carefully adjusting to each person's needs. Taffy won a gold award for his work with those in need.

Kanyana Wildlife — Community Action Award

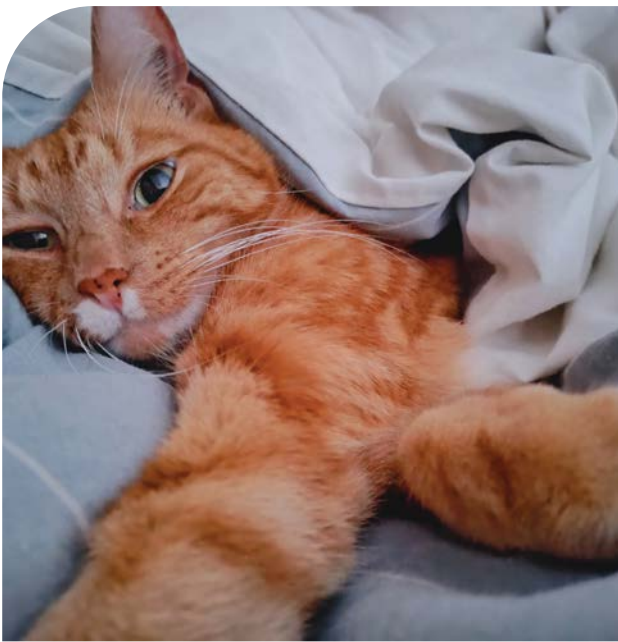
For over 40 years, Kanyana Wildlife has been rescuing, treating, and rehabilitating sick, injured, and orphaned wildlife, giving them a second chance at life. What began as a small home-based operation has grown into a fully-fledged wildlife hospital and rehabilitation centre, run almost entirely by over 400 dedicated volunteers. Kanyana also plays a vital role in breeding and releasing endangered species to help protect local wildlife populations. Kanyana won gold award for their incredible wildlife work.

Meg Geutjes — Volunteer Award

Meg has been fostering animals for SAFE Karratha since 2018, caring for dogs, cats, and rabbits — including many with serious injuries or high medical needs. She and her family have nursed nearly 90 animals back to health and made multiple trips across WA to help rehome them. A dedicated and much-loved volunteer, Meg even featured on Channel 9's Take Me Home for her incredible efforts supporting vulnerable animals. Meg won a gold award for her dedication to animals in need with SAFE Karratha.

Finding New Love

In 2024-25, RSPCA WA assisted 1,294 animals to find permanent, loving homes. These animals came 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.



Pepper's Road to Recovery

Sweet little Pepper was a cherished member of her family, but when they fell on hard times, they made the heartbreaking decision to surrender her to RSPCA WA — knowing she would be safe, loved and well cared for.

As a kitten, Pepper had been hit by a car. Her owners had acted quickly, rushing her to the vet for surgery to repair her injured leg. Unfortunately, the repair was only temporary, and once she was in our care it became clear that amputation was the kindest option to ensure she could live pain-free. Brave Pepper has since made a full recovery and now trots confidently through life on three paws.

Best of all, she's found a loving forever home — where she's spoiled with affection and even enjoys the occasional steak dinner.



Rex — Our 1,000th Adoption of the Year!

In September, we celebrated the 1,000th adoption of the year as Rex's new owners came in to sign the paperwork and officially make him theirs. Rex's journey first started in mid-July when he was found roaming by City of Joondalup rangers. Sadly his owner never picked him up, so he was surrendered into our care. While undergoing routine vet care, we discovered this eight-year-old had arthritis. It's a very manageable condition, but a lifelong one.

After a few weeks of recovery from surgery and ongoing medication, Rex was finally given the all-clear for being put up for adoption. As people passed him by, adopting younger and more able dogs, he was starting to lose hope. That is until his new owners met him. Linda took one look at him and fell in love! Because of his medical conditions, he was initially put on a special term adoption agreement. As that went smoothly, Rex was officially adopted by his new paw-rents.

Animals who found
forever homes

1,294



Dogs/puppies

347



Cats/kittens

604



Horses

6



Livestock

68



Birds

20



Rabbits

135



Guinea pigs

92



Rodents

22



Our Impact on the Frontline

RSPCA WA is the state's only animal welfare charity with inspectors empowered to investigate and prosecute offences under the *Animal Welfare Act 2002* (the Act). In 2024-25, our 16 inspectors covered 298,005kms investigating 7,195 reports of cruelty. During the year, inspectors operated in the Perth metro and South West region and serviced the rest of the state on a drive-in-drive-out and fly-in-fly-out basis.

Our inspectors work using the VADE model – Voluntary, Assisted, Directed, Enforced. In the first instance they work with owners to educate and to voluntarily better care for their animals. If needed, they can assist with knowledge or practical help like donated 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 investigating for animal cruelty offences.

Based on this model, much of our inspectors time is spent helping and educating owners to look after their animals in a way that is compliant with the Act. This approach keeps animals with their families and helps owners become better animal carers in the long term. These are skills that will stay with them for a lifetime and provide positive modelling for those around them.

Calls to cruelty hotline	Calls answered	
	16,153	
26,574	Cases investigated	
	7,195	
Inspectors employed	Full time	12
	Part time	4
	Inspectors travelled	298,005km
16		

Fluffy's rescue

In April RSPCA WA received an urgent call from a local ranger in April about a male puppy named Fluffy, who appeared to have an open, pus-filled laceration to his throat.

An inspector attended the property where the offender refused to allow her to see the 14-week-old dog and actively hindered the inspector from examining Fluffy. The inspector subsequently obtained an urgent warrant to enter the house, seized Fluffy and took him to Perth Vet Emergency for immediate assessment and treatment. The vet found his collar was so small and constricting that it had started to embed into his neck around his throat. This had caused an open wound, which was approximately two centimetres deep and 10 centimetres long. The vet noted his pain score as 3/4. He underwent emergency surgery to remove the collar and it was found he had severe cellulitis, an infection, and a fever. Fluffy made a full recovery in foster care and has since been adopted.

The offender was sentenced under sections 19(1), 19(3)(h) and 77(a) of the *Animal Welfare Act 2002*. RSPCA WA argued the offender was cruel to an animal in that Fluffy suffered harm that could have been alleviated by her taking reasonable steps. The offender was fined \$5,000 for the cruelty offence and \$500 for obstructing an inspector. She was ordered to forfeit the puppy, was banned from owning an animal for five years, and ordered to pay \$4,529 in legal and other costs.



Frosty's Stake Out

RSPCA WA had a call in May about a kitten potentially being stuck in the roof space of a Bayswater office. Inspectors Candice and Fiona attended, finding DFES firefighters already on site and trying to locate the kitten — but to no avail. Candice and Fiona placed a humane trap in the roof space — no easy feat given how small the manhole was — and came back the next day hoping to find a small ball of white fluff in the trap. Unfortunately, the kitten had avoided the trap altogether and continued to evade capture for the next 10 days. In one final attempt, the inspectors set the trap back up and managed to capture the kitten.

Back at the Animal Care Centre in Malaga, he received the care he needed. He was a little unhappy at first given the ordeal he had been through, but with the love and care of our inspectors, animal attendants, vets and volunteers, he learned to love humans after all. The sweet kitten was soon adopted into a loving family and was named Frosty.



Switching to a Two-Person Model

Prior to last financial year, RSPCA WA inspectors operated alone when conducting in-person investigations into animal cruelty. This was not in line with other first responders such as police or ambulance officers, or the State Government's own animal welfare team in DPIRD — all of whom work in pairs.

With the safety of our staff paramount, the Board, CEO Ben Cave and the executive team committed to transitioning to a model that ensures inspectors visit private residences and businesses in pairs to carry out investigations.

As this commitment to safety entailed an increase in staffing and animal care costs, the Board and CEO entered into discussions with the State Government to ensure sustainable funding for this new model. New inspectors were then hired and trained.



Justice for Animals

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 a directions notice to anyone in control of an animal on how to improve their care. In many cases this will involve multiple follow up visits to check on the welfare and safety of vulnerable animals. There are also cases which require RSPCA WA General Inspectors to enforce the law and this results in charges being laid against pet owners who do not abide by the *Animal Welfare Act 2002*.



Enforcement of the law (Offenders)		Animals relating to prosecutions	
		242	
Cases prosecuted	Civil forfeitures conducted	Types of animals in care	
41	17	Dogs 187	Cats/kittens 9
Offenders	Range of fines	Birds 14	Goats 19
Prison sentences (7-15 months)	Community based order (9 months)	Horses/pony 6	Rooster/hens 3
7	1	Guinea pig 1	Rats 2
	Pet ownership bans (1 year to lifetime)	Sheep 1	
	49		

Immediate Imprisonment for Dog Brutality

A 47-year-old Leonora woman was sentenced in July 2024 to 15 months' immediate imprisonment for the brutal beating of her dog, Buster. She was also permanently banned from being in charge of an animal.

Kalgoorlie Magistrates Court heard the New Year's Day 2022 attack, near the Leonora Post Office, was captured on CCTV. The footage showed the offender swinging Buster by his front legs into a brick wall multiple times, punching him with a closed fist, kicking him in the stomach, then swinging him by one leg, throwing him down, and stomping on him. The violent assault lasted around two minutes.

A local police officer identified the woman in the footage, and an RSPCA WA inspector later found Buster struggling to walk at the offender's home. The offender denied involvement, claiming Buster had been hit by a car three years earlier.

A vet found Buster in pain with severe injuries, leading to the amputation of his leg. Despite extensive rehabilitation, he was humanely euthanised in May 2022.

The offender was convicted under sections 19(1) and 19(2)(a) of the *Animal Welfare Act 2002* for cruelty to an animal. Having already served four months, she will spend a further three and a half months in prison before being eligible for parole.



Couple Fined and Banned over Abandonment of Skinny Dogs

In May 2025, a 32-year-old woman and 36-year-old man were convicted of animal cruelty after two emaciated dogs were found abandoned at a Port Kennedy property. Together they were fined more than \$12,000 and banned from being in charge of animals for five years.

Rockingham Magistrates Court heard that in early 2023, an RSPCA WA inspector attended the home following a report of two emaciated Staffordshire terriers, Houdini and Houston. The woman was issued a written direction to provide proper food but slammed the door in the inspector's face.

Soon after, the dogs were found abandoned in the yard, severely underweight with visible ribs, hips and spines, no food, and only a little water in a stock pot. They were seized and taken to RSPCA WA's Malaga Animal Care Centre.

Houdini weighed just 10.3kg (ideal 18kg) with a body score of 2/9 (with 4.5/9 considered ideal), while Houston weighed 13.1kg (ideal 22kg) with a score of 1.5/9 and later collapsed in care due to his condition. Both dogs recovered on special feeding plans and reached a healthy weight within a month before being adopted into new homes.

The offenders were convicted under sections 19(1) and 19(3)(d) of the *Animal Welfare Act 2002* for failing to provide proper food. The woman was also convicted under sections 19(3)(f) and 40(2) for abandoning the dogs and failing to comply with a written direction.





"I am proud that our commitment to best-practice animal welfare standards ensures **every animal in our care is given the best opportunity to thrive...**"

HANNAH DREAYER, CHIEF OPERATIONS OFFICER, RSPCA WA

Our Volunteers and Foster Carers

Our volunteers are the heart and soul of our organisation. It's not all fun, cuddles and enjoyable walks with the dogs – the work they do can be dirty and difficult. We simply couldn't manage without them.

They carry out day-to-day tasks in support of animal care and enrichment, as well as site maintenance and administration tasks.

Some volunteers help to clean kennels and cat condos, clear out and refresh rabbit and guinea pig enclosures, assist in feeding the animals, and spend hours laundering the many towels and blankets used every day. After some time volunteering, some may progress to enrichment roles, where they spend more quality time with the animals, helping to enrich their environment and well-being. Many of these same volunteers sort donations and support community outreach and fundraising events.

A special group of volunteers, known as foster carers, also open their hearts and homes to animals in need. A lot of animals who come into RSPCA WA's care are tied to prosecution cases, which means they could stay with us for years. The shelter can be a stressful environment for many of these animals so the best place for them to await their outcome is in a home where they can live normal and happy lives.

Active volunteers

243



Hours volunteered

24,747



Average hours volunteered/month

2,062



Value in volunteered hours

\$1,188,104



Animals fostered

660



Foster instances

844



Active foster carers

1,594



The Heroics of Carol Capes

Paramedic by day with a superhero-sounding name to boot, Carol Capes is one of our most passionate volunteers, sharing her paramedic altruism to assist the neglected and mistreated cats and kittens in our care. She dedicates her shifts to cleaning the cat condos and assisting staff with the rehabilitation of the more behaviourally challenging cats.

"Why do I volunteer? I volunteer because I have always loved animals, particularly cats," Ms Capes said.

"My aim was to be a vet, but I had soon realised that I am too soft and would have been unable to euthanise an animal, so I became a nurse and then a paramedic. Animals are so appreciative of care and kindness, more so than humans, and that is my motivation for volunteering. Humans can choose their destinations, but animals have no choice."

Some of her fondest memories are with the 'shut down' cats — those slow to trust. "That first gentle paw touch, then a pat, and finally a head butt of trust — that's the best reward," she said.

At home, Carol cares for her own *purr*-fect family — Stirrer and Star (ages 10 and 15, adopted from Cat Haven), and Onyx, her third rescue and the missing black cat from her life. Onyx won her over while in the care of RSPCA WA with his smooching and charm.



**Foster care is
essential for
the health and
wellbeing of
many animals
who find
themselves
at RSPCA WA.**



Chai and Jack Safe at Home with Julie

RSPCA WA could not work toward its goal of a state free of animal cruelty without the enduring kindness of its supporters. One of these angels is Julie Millias – a donor, foster carer, and now proud *paw*-rent of two RSPCA WA rescues.

After 10 years as regular donors, Julie and her partner first became foster carers in 2022 when they heard RSPCA WA needed foster carers for the 39 labradoodles seized from a puppy mill. Four-year-old Chai entered into their care and found what would eventually become her *fur*-ever home. Feeling like Chai needed a friend, and ready to open their home and hearts to another foster dog, Julie and her partner took on Cream Boy, now named Jack.

“Both Chai and Jack have different levels of anxiety, but we can provide them a calm, quiet environment where they can relax and be themselves,” Julie said.

“We know Chai and Jack will never be ‘café dogs’, but that’s okay. We go at their pace and let them live their best lives.”

Julie said she gets the most joy out of watching the three-three-three process play out when welcoming an animal in need into her home. This process involves giving the animal three days to decompress, three weeks to feel comfortable, and three months to settle in.

“Your first instinct is to take them in your arms and hold them, but knowing they need time to gain confidence in their new home and surroundings means you must give them the space and time they need,” Ms Millias said.

“Gaining their trust and seeing them happy is the best feeling.”

Foster care is essential for the health and wellbeing of many animals who find themselves at RSPCA WA. It helps animals get used to being in the home and interacting with people in a safe environment.



Advocacy in Action

At RSPCA WA, our advocacy is driven by science, evidence, and compassion.

We work to ensure that animal welfare is recognised and prioritised in laws, policies, and community conversations across Western Australia. From companion animals to farm animals, we advocate for stronger protections, better standards, and practical solutions that reflect both animal welfare science and the expectations of our community. Our goal is to create lasting change that helps all animals live safe and fulfilling lives.

Welfare Reforms for Hens in Cages

RSPCA WA has worked long and hard to advocate for layer hens in WA and to bring the state regulation in line with the national standards.

In a major win for animal welfare, WA became the first state in Australia to adopt the nationally-agreed poultry welfare standards, paving the way to end battery cages.

The new *Animal Welfare (Poultry) Regulations 2024* came into effect 1 July 2025 and introduces the following reforms:

- Banning the installation of new battery cages immediately,
- Setting a timeline to phase out all existing cages by 2032, and
- Outlining new minimum standards requiring poultry housing to allow natural behaviours such as perching, nesting, and scratching.



Legislation to Stop Puppy Farming

The *Dog Amendment (Stop Puppy Farming) Bill 2020* is progressing through its staged implementation, addressing four key pillars: mandatory sterilisation, registration of breeders, a centralised dog and cat registration system, and reforming pet shops into adoption centres.

The Bill was introduced to WA State Parliament in February 2020, with the first phase coming into effect in May 2025 bringing an end to the sale of puppies from pet shops in WA. Pet shops that wish to continue offering dogs for sale must now source dogs exclusively from rescue organisations, and hold a permit issued by their local government.



Legislation to End Live Sheep Export Upheld

Despite political pressure and industry opposition, particularly during the lead-up to the 2025 federal and state elections, the **legislation to end live sheep exports** remains intact following the re-election of the Australian Labor Party.

RSPCA WA has long advocated for an end to live sheep exports by sea, based on overwhelming animal welfare science and decades of evidence that it causes avoidable and extreme suffering from heat stress from exposure to searing heat, starvation, and being confined in conditions that exceed their physiological limits.



Improvements for Sow Confinement

In WA, pork producers are still legally permitted to confine pregnant sows in individual stalls for up to six weeks – around one-third of their pregnancy.

RSPCA WA opposes confinement systems such as sow stalls and farrowing crates, which prevent pigs from engaging in normal, species-specific behaviour. We support the voluntary move by the pig industry toward group housing systems, with a 2019-20 industry survey showing 91 per cent of production now stall-free during gestation.

In 2024-25, we welcomed the introduction of the “maternity ring” – a new approach designed to improve sow welfare during pregnancy. RSPCA WA is now engaging with industry to assess how the introduction of maternity rings could benefit both animal welfare and industry outcomes and act as a transitional step to group housing systems.



Cat Containment

RSPCA WA encourages cat containment because it provides significant welfare benefits for both cats and their owners including helping to keep cats safe from injury, disease, and becoming lost. Containment also plays a crucial role in reducing unwanted litters and the growing number of stray and abandoned cats and kittens that animal shelters such as RSPCA WA care for each year.

To strengthen this message and drive change, over the last year we have:

- Promoted the launch of RSPCA's Safe and Happy Cats website, an engaging, evidence-based resource to help cat owners understand the benefits of containment and how to keep their cats safe, healthy, and enriched at home.

- Collaborated with government agencies and conservation groups to align cat containment messaging with broader goals around wildlife protection and community wellbeing.
- Run a public media campaign to raise awareness and educate the community about responsible cat ownership and the benefits of containment.



Mulesing

Mulesing is a procedure used to prevent flystrike in sheep by removing folds of skin from the breech area. While it reduces the risk of infection, it causes significant pain and distress.

This procedure is typically performed on lambs under 12 weeks of age, often without anaesthetic or adequate pain relief, and wounds can take weeks to heal.

RSPCA WA commissioned research to better understand community attitudes toward mulesing. The findings were clear:

- Four in five West Australians support legislative change – specifically, making pain relief mandatory when mulesing is performed.

RSPCA WA believes that mandating anaesthetic and pain relief is a critical first step to reducing animal suffering. In the longer term, we are calling for a phase-out of mulesing altogether, with support for producers to transition to flystrike-resistant sheep, a move many leading farmers have already successfully made. This year we have continued to engage with government and industry and raise public awareness to ensure strong community support for higher welfare.

Gifts in Wills

Gifts in Wills are a powerful way to create a lasting impact for animals in need.

In 2024-25, RSPCA WA was humbled to receive many of these generous gifts, each one helping to rescue, rehabilitate, and care for animals across the state. These contributions not only support the organisation's work today but help secure its future, ensuring RSPCA WA can continue its mission of compassion and care for generations to come. The organisation is deeply grateful to everyone who has chosen to leave this enduring legacy.



Bozena Pieda's Legacy Lives on Through Our Work

A lifetime of loving animals and a special connection with her Maltese Shih-tzu named Monty inspired the late Bozena Pieda to generously leave her estate to RSPCA WA.

Leaving a legacy in the name of animal companionship, Ms Pieda's gift is making a world of difference to countless animals across Western Australia. To be able to continue to support the vital work that RSPCA WA does, beyond her lifetime, truly represents her commitment to animal welfare. Throughout her life, she always held a love for animals and had several cats who lived long and pampered lives. In 2006, she adopted Monty and the two became inseparable.

When Monty eventually passed away in 2019, she was devastated and didn't think she could face the loss of another dog again. However, during the COVID-19 pandemic, she knew she needed a furry companion to keep her company so she welcomed Charlie to her life. Charlie kept her busy with his puppy ways until her passing in 2021.

With no family to inherit her estate, Ms Pieda decided to leave it to RSPCA WA to be used to help and support animals and their welfare. To Ms Pieda, animals were the most beautiful companions to humans, and she wanted to help care for them into the future.



Acknowledgements

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

- Estate of the Late James Bell
- Estate of the Late Keith Bolitho
- Estate of the Late Phyllis Carpenter
- Estate of the Late Jennifer Cleveland
- Estate of the Late Kathleen Crosbie
- Estate of the Late Barbara Crowsley
- Estate of the Late Alan Davies
- Estate of the Late Maria Donohoe
- Estate of The Late William Dransfield
- Estate of the Late Margaret Drummond
- Estate of the Late Sandra Farmer
- Estate of the Late Annemaree Ford
- Estate of the Late Margaret Gilsenan
- Estate of the Late Dorothy Gollop
- Estate of the Late Maureen Gordon
- Estate of the Late Robert Hawke
- Estate of the Late Annette Holland
- Estate of the Late Shirley Holloway
- Estate of the Late Ruth Hort
- Estate of the Late Valerie Howard
- Estate of the Late Charles Irving
- Estate of the Late Kerry Irving
- Estate of the Late Joan Johnson
- Estate of the Late Norma Johnson
- Estate of the Late Ellen Lambert
- Estate of the Late Richard Lambert
- Estate of the Late Dawn and Kevin Lawrence
- Estate of the Late Julia Lewis
- Estate of the Late Beverley Melatini
- Estate of the Late Sheila Monk
- Estate of the Late Lynnette Oyston
- Estate of the Late Bozena Piedad
- Estate of the Late Joseph Plecas
- Estate of the Late Yolanda Pullman
- Estate of the Late Lorraine Rann
- Estate of the Late Albert Saunoris
- Estate of the Late Cynthia Seach
- Estate of the Late Angela Sofoulis
- Estate of the Late Ellen Sorley
- Estate of the Late Mary Thompkins
- Estate of the Late Johanna Tjepkema
- Estate of the Late Susan Williams
- Estate of the Late Glen Wistlecroft
- Estate of the Late Robin Wyatt

Trusts and Foundations

RSPCA WA would like to thank the following:

- Jean Balston Trust
- Margaret Chalmers Charitable Fund
- Doris Frith Charitable Trust
- Girls Trust (anonymous donor)
- Margaret Harper Charitable Trust
- Agnes Jones Trust
- Elizabeth Stamos Charitable Trust
- Loeky Wiersma Charitable Fund
- The Jelley Family Foundation
- Petbarn Foundation
- Jean Bladen Foundation
- The Clark Family Trust
- Nola Criddle Foundation
- RJDO Fund
- Perpetual Foundation
- Mary Kibble Trust

Legal

RSPCA WA gratefully acknowledges the support of the following lawyers and law practices who each provide legal services on a pro bono basis.

- Angela Liaskos and her team at HWL Ebsworth
- Chris Osborn from Williams + Hughes
- Doug Johnson, barrister at Francis Burt Chambers
- The law practice of K&L Gates
- Kanaga Dharmananda SC of Quayside Chambers



“As the saying goes, **‘It takes a village’** and all RSPCA WA staff and volunteers contribute to making a measurable difference to animal welfare, no matter what their role is. Their commitment, compassion, and expertise positively impacts the lives of animals every day.”

SARA BROADHURST, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER, RSPCA WA

Partnership and Sponsorship

We would like to extend our thanks to our generous partners and 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.

National Corporate Partners



WA Corporate Supporters



Special Thanks





RSPCA WA RELIES ON DONATIONS AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT...

...to sustain its animal
protection work.

To donate, please visit
www.rspcawa.org.au/donate

If you would like information on
including a gift in your Will, please
visit rspcawa.org.au/leave-a-legacy
or call 08 9209 9365



Contact



(08) 9209 9300



rspca@rspcawa.org.au



108 Malaga Drive, Malaga WA 6090
PO Box 3147, Malaga WA 6944

rspcawa.org.au

Connect with us



facebook.com/rspcawa



instagram.com/rspca_wa



threads.com/@rspca_wa



linkedin.com/company/rspca-wa



tiktok.com/@rspca_wa



Printed on 100% recycled paper