



For all creatures great and small.

Media Release

## **Books offer hope for a kinder world:** *RSPCA to launch its first series of children's books*

True RSPCA animal cruelty cases with happy endings are beautifully illustrated in '*RSPCA Tales*', a new series of children's books to be launched nationally in Sydney tomorrow night (**Thursday Nov 2**).

With growing understanding of the significant parallels between children's treatment of animals and their subsequent relationships with people, the series of six books aim to foster empathy and compassion in early primary school children.

The books will also be linked to the NSW schools curriculum, with teachers receiving a resource book that assists them to teach the character concepts of kindness, courage, responsibility, respect, fairness and commitment in their classroom.

RSPCA NSW Humane Education Manager Suzanne Thomas said four of the books cover true stories of animals rescued by RSPCA inspectors, with two covering a number of real cases dealt with by the RSPCA in Australia.

"The children will learn about 'Dell' a Queensland cat that some boys swung by the tail then threw down a well before she was rescued by RSPCA inspectors. 'Cookie' was an ex racehorse that was left to starve, yet ultimately became a police rescue horse in Goulburn for many years.

"These and other true animal characters will reach out through the pages of these books to teach children positive lessons that will carry them through their lives. It is at this age (before seven) that the foundations of children's values, including their level of empathy with animals and people, are laid down."

The books are on sale to the public, with all profits helping animals in need.

*The RSPCA NSW Humane Education program has now directly reached more than 20,000 children in the kindergarten to year six age bracket alone, teaching responsible pet ownership and kindness to animals, with 5,342 pre-school children also learning how to stay safe around dogs.*

*RSPCA Tales books are on sale to the public for \$9.95 each or \$49.95 for a set of six. Any school ordering a set of six books (\$49.95) receives a free curriculum-linked teacher resource book.*

*The RSPCA thanks author Lisa Musgrove who generously donated her work to help the RSPCA provide a better life for many other animals in need.*

***\*\*RSPCA Tales Book launch: Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2006 (5.30pm – 7.30pm) - Water view Convention Centre, Bicentennial Park, Sydney***

-Ends-

November 1, 2006