




Your
**Year in
Review**
2019-2020

**Your support protects
animals from neglect and
cruelty and gives them a
second chance at life.**

Thank you.

A man in a blue RSPCA uniform is holding a peacock. The uniform has a shoulder patch that says "RSPCA INSPECTOR" and a circular logo with a crown and a cross. The peacock has vibrant blue and green feathers. The background shows a garden with various plants and a greenhouse.

*This year
we've had to adapt
and evolve in ways
we couldn't have
imagined.*

A message to our valued supporters

As we reflect on this challenging year, there were moments where we were deeply concerned about how RSPCA NSW would continue to serve the animals who depend on our care and protection.

But thanks to the loyalty and the generosity of our wonderful supporters, we've pulled through drought, the devastating summer bushfires and now a global pandemic. We've been overwhelmed by the response from our community. The role that you played – whether through your kind donation, responding to our bushfire relief efforts, adopting a pet or simply liking one of our social posts – was instrumental. Thank you so much.

This year we've had to adapt and evolve in ways we couldn't have imagined, all the while ensuring we continue to deliver on our strategic promises and help vulnerable animals find safety and comfort.

Thanks to our skilled Board of Directors, expert staff, dedicated volunteers and generous supporters like you, we're proud to say that RSPCA NSW has come out of this financial year a stronger organisation.

Finally, we're thrilled to see construction well and truly underway at our Sydney Shelter, with brand-new facilities for our animals expected to be completed by March 2021.

As we look forward to another successful year, we want to thank you again for your continued support. Whether we're facing highs, lows or just animal fur, we know we can overcome anything with you by our side.



Dr Peter Wright
RSPCA NSW President



Steve Coleman
RSPCA NSW CEO

The year at a glance

This year,

26,809

animals were in need of help and you donated

\$48,654,606*

for their care.

74¢

in every dollar goes directly to animals in need*

11¢

in every dollar invests in our future for the animals

15¢

in every dollar empowers our people

**Including money donated to help bushfire relief*



14,559
cats



8,798
dogs



504
wildlife



2,948
livestock and other animals



Providing care in the drought

The current drought impacting New South Wales has been continuing since mid-2017. The harsh, ongoing conditions have meant that more animals are finding it harder to access food and water and more farmers are struggling to continue their livelihoods.



Fire-affected farmland, northwest of Kempsey

**Based on a recent figure provided by the Department of Primary Industries.*

This means our Inspectorate has been stretched even further trying to support farmers and their livestock through this catastrophic drought. In order to address this need and have a stronger presence in more areas of the state, the Department of Primary Industries provided funding for five additional inspectors to help our team until 30 June 2020.

RSPCA NSW was also involved in 23 Stock Welfare Panels alongside stakeholders such as the Department of Primary Industries, Local Land Services and the Rural Crime Investigators division of NSW Police. The panel finds best possible outcomes for livestock owners drastically impacted by the ongoing conditions, providing expert advice and assistance to owners who struggle with managing their livestock. Since 2018, Stock Welfare Panels have helped almost 28,000 animals.*

Moving forward, drought or not, RSPCA NSW and the Inspectorate are committed to assisting owners and their animals to ensure their continued wellbeing.

5 new inspectors to assist in drought-impacted regions of NSW



23 Stock Welfare Panels to support farmers and encourage better outcomes for livestock



Inspector Virag feeding drought-affected horses near Griffith NSW

Saving animals during the bushfires

The devastating summer bushfires stretched us further than ever before. Thankfully, generous donations from our supporters enabled us to immediately set up evacuation centres around the state to care for affected animals.



Inspector Hohlein and Deputy Chief Inspector Purcell rescuing a cow near Runnyford

RSPCA NSW inspectors were tasked with emergency response and welfare checks, while our veterinarians and animal care staff set off to treat injured livestock and pets. The Community and Outreach Team helped out around the state, getting people, and their animals, back on their feet.

Spurred on by the devastating loss of life and habitat, kind supporters from around the world donated to help fire-affected pets, wildlife and livestock. Our friends at RSPCA UK graciously joined in too, raising critical funds for Australian animals.

Thanks to the friendship of our community, RSPCA NSW could continue helping animals and their owners for months after the fires subsided, providing food, supplies and treatment at pop-up relief points.

This support allowed RSPCA NSW to invest heavily in a number of wildlife regeneration programs, including the Platypus Rescue and Rehabilitation Centre at Taronga Zoo, along with a significant upgrade of our emergency response infrastructure to better protect animals in the event of future disasters.

32 pop-up relief points to support impacted communities



97 immediate response assignments undertaken by our inspectors and vets



1,076 households given supplies and vet treatment through the bushfire assistance form



15,930 hours on the ground helping people and animals in need



2,800 calls for help answered through our dedicated emergency bushfire assistance line



Image taken from the backyard of staff member Kate Conaghan during the fires

The COVID-19 response

you made happen

In the midst of our bushfire relief efforts, the threat of COVID-19 meant we had a new challenge to reckon with.



To protect the safety of our staff and volunteers, RSPCA NSW shelters and op shops were closed to the public from the end of March until mid-June. This meant we couldn't have people come to adopt our animals, our education programs would be postponed and our biggest annual fundraising event, Million Paws Walk, was cancelled.

However, what began as a series of insurmountable problems proved to be a lesson in adaptability. Our Adopt From Home program was launched, which saw animals find new parents through virtual means before being transported to their forever homes. The School Holiday Program was moved online to a gaggle of enthusiastic students, and supporters participated in 'Million Paws Walk: Walk This May' from home in order to raise money to fight animal cruelty.



Our community of supporters didn't hesitate to face this challenge with us and to be there for the animals when they needed them the most. Thank you for being up to the task.

2,660 animals found homes through our Adopt From Home program and Petbarn from 2 April to 14 June



700 students approx. took part in the virtual School Holiday Program



2,610 people participated in 'Million Paws Walk: Walk This May'



Your support *in action*

With the help of loyal supporters like you, our doors stayed open to animals in need. As an essential service, we continued our promise to serve, protect and care for abandoned, abused and unwanted animals around NSW.

Inspector Kelly with two pups rescued from a bushfire-ravaged property



Gilbert the brave

Gilbert the Husky puppy had some of the most horrific injuries we'd ever seen. For at least five days, the four month old had rubber bands tied around his muzzle so tight that it created a sore, gaping wound around the circumference of his mouth.



In order to restore his muzzle, Gilbert underwent three specialist procedures to take the skin from behind his ears and stitch it to his nose. His journey to recovery was spent in the loving care of his foster carer and RSPCA NSW Animal Ambulance Officer, Brianna.

Despite the devastating circumstances, Gilbert's positive attitude never waned. While in foster care, he showed boundless love for Brianna.



Today, as a full-grown Husky, he has found his forever home and continues to show that same affection to his new family.

Thanks to the support of our donors, and the expertise of SASH veterinary hospital, Gilbert's ending was a happy one.

Sending an important message about animal cruelty

In April RSPCA NSW was given custody of 23 Bichon Frise dogs from an intensive breeding establishment, as well as 11 of their puppies born in our care. The owner was convicted of aggravated animal cruelty and sentenced to a 10-month prohibition order.

“This conviction sends a message about the importance of maintaining high standards of animal welfare, especially to those who profit from their ownership.”

Chief Inspector Scott Meyers

A new home for Chip



Chip was found paralysed and locked in a garage without an aid to help him walk, meaning his legs were ulcerated and sore. After months of rehabilitation, love from his foster carer Katie, and a new set of wheels, the cheeky Dachshund found a perfect new home!



35 inspectors



301 animals rescued



842 ambulance call outs



99 prosecutions commenced



35,041 veterinary consultations



7,010 desexing procedures



14,425 cruelty cases investigated



1,499 major surgeries



11,416 vaccinations



1,650 dentals



82 rescue groups worked with



\$7,002,472
in veterinary treatment provided
to shelter animals



\$1,315,689.56
spent on caring for and rehabilitating
animals who were victims of cruelty
and neglect

Your support *in the community*

In order to help animals, we often need to provide support and assistance to the people who care for them too. Our donors help to invest in expertly designed programs that positively impact animal outcomes by helping communities and people facing hardship.



297 community visits



99 school visits



1,047 pets given emergency help



133 RSPCA NSW animal education training graduates



4,363 animals vaccinated and desexed via free and low-cost community initiatives



285,467 social media followers



3,217 school holiday program participants

Finding refuge at RSPCA NSW

When Rebecca* escaped a violent relationship, it was her dog, Tess, and bird, Jimmy, who were her closest companions, giving her strength and comfort during such a difficult time. But Rebecca was unable to afford pet-friendly accommodation so, unwilling to give up her beloved animals, the family were forced to live in a tent for months.

When Tess contracted a dangerous tick Rebecca rushed her to the local RSPCA NSW veterinary hospital, gripped by the fear that she might lose her sweet dog. The prognosis wasn't good – Tess was immediately admitted to the ICU and then to a nearby 24-hour emergency veterinary clinic for continued monitoring.

As soon as Rebecca came to the RSPCA for help, our Community Team offered to board her animals so she could have time to find suitable accommodation. While Rebecca worked to find a home, Tess's condition continued to improve. Tess and Jimmy spent a couple of months in RSPCA

Tess enjoying life on the coast



care, enjoying frequent visits from Rebecca and pampering by RSPCA staff.

Soon the happy day came when Rebecca found a lovely property down south, and the family was permanently reunited.

**Name has been changed for privacy reasons.*

If you or someone you know is experiencing domestic violence, call the national assistance and counselling line 1800 RESPECT.

Celebrating 10 years of training dogs at John Morony

Since 2010, RSPCA NSW has been involved in a partnership with John Morony Correctional Complex to give dogs with behaviour issues an extra chance of rehabilitating. As part of the program, RSPCA NSW staff work with five inmates at the complex to train and socialise around 15 dogs at a time before they're ready to be put up for adoption. As of June 2020, 1,359 dogs have come through the program at a 75% rehome success rate.

“Even though we are there to help rehabilitate the dogs, the dogs in turn help rehabilitate and improve the welfare of the inmates, which is a win-win.”

RSPCA NSW CEO Steve Coleman



Craig, who was a program participant in 2014, with an RSPCA NSW dog

Your *hands-on* support

Maureen, who volunteers in the cattery at our Illawarra Shelter, has been with RSPCA NSW for nine years. She says the best thing about volunteering is seeing cats get adopted. "It's great! You feel like going up [to the adopter] and hugging them and saying, 'Thank you so much for taking them home!'"



1,188 volunteers



9 shelters



22 volunteer branches

All creatures great and small

This year, 26,809 unwanted, abandoned and mistreated animals turned to RSPCA NSW for help.



Investing in second chances

Our long and continued investment in rehabilitation, relationships with rescue groups, strengthened foster network and ongoing community education is paying off. We saw 564 at-risk animals go through our intensive training and rehabilitation program this year. Additionally, 964 animals were transferred to specialist rescue groups to receive ongoing care and increase their chances of being adopted. We desexed and vaccinated 2,422 more animals through community programs.

Animal Outcomes

	Cats	Dogs	Other*	Livestock	Wildlife	Horses	Total
Rehomed	8,015	3,351	1,195	328	0	24	12,913
Reclaimed	578	2,663	85	11	0	0	3,337
Still in care	802	589	136	41	7	78	1,653
Transferred[~]	331	399	16	28	187	3	964
Strays transferred to council facilities	13	266	0	5	0	0	284
Died in care	174	34	145	13	20	1	387
Other[~]	19	8	4	0	6	0	38
Euthanised[°]	4,627	1,488	655	167	284	13	7,234

Reasons for Euthanasia

	Behavioural	Fractious	Infectious	Legal [†]	Medical	Organisational [‡]	Total
Cats	838	1,437	604	1	919	828	4,627
Dogs	1,146	0	37	48	255	2	1,488

* Refers to pocket pets (rodents, guinea pigs, ferrets, rabbits), birds and non-native animals

^ Includes animals transferred to rescue groups and other RSPCA states

~ Includes stolen, escaped and released-to-habitat animals

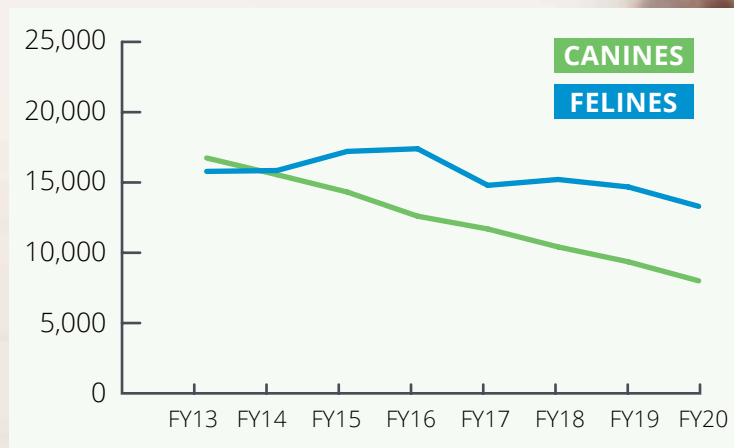
° Includes animals from RSPCA-operated council facilities

† Refers to animals deemed dangerous or menacing by local council or otherwise ordered by the council

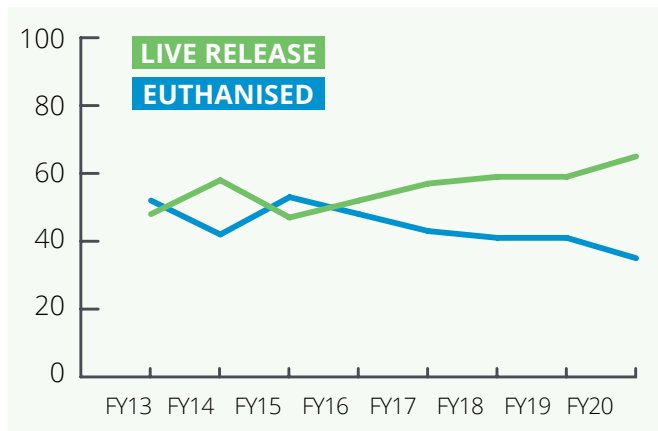
‡ Refers to unweaned or animals too young to survive without their mother. Or where resources (foster carers or physical capacity) is restricted

Incoming animals

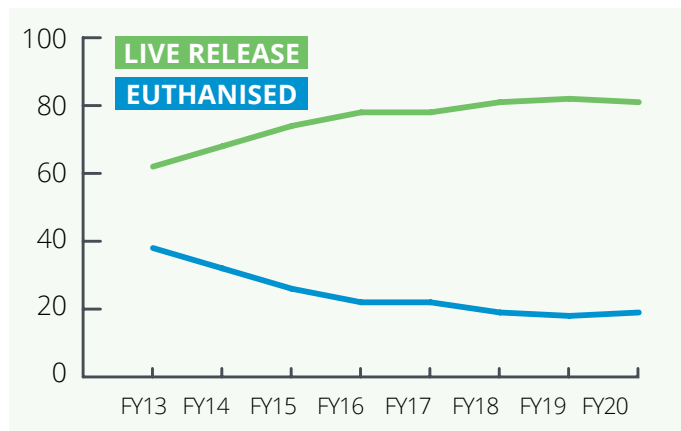
In these graphs, you can see that while fewer animals are in need of RSPCA NSW adoption services, we're rehoming a higher percentage than ever. This suggests that the community is hearing our message and is choosing to adopt, not shop.



Feline Outcomes (%)



Canine Outcomes (%)





Your support saves lives

This year posed a series of unforeseeable hardships. Our state's precious wildlife suffered an enormous loss of life and habitat during the catastrophic bushfires. Closer to home, our organisation faced the challenge of cancelled events and closures, forcing us to adapt to unusual circumstances.

Only through the unyielding camaraderie of supporters have we managed to come out the other side of this tumultuous year. Your help has been nothing short of critical in keeping animals in New South Wales comfortable, happy and protected.

With you by our side, we're confident that we can tackle whatever comes our way, always keeping the welfare of animals as our highest priority.

Looking to the future, we're impassioned to keep one paw in front of the other – moving towards the goals outlined in our Strategic Plan, now three years in. We'll continue to deliver the highest standards of care, support and services so more and more animals find loving forever homes. We'll continue to invest in training and outreach, ensuring more regional communities in our state have access to the resources they need. We'll continue to grow our foster care networks and invest in rehabilitation to improve animal outcomes.



To our corporate supporters

A huge thanks to our enormously generous corporate partners and Workplace Giving companies. Your support, in all its forms, has helped keep our shelter lights on, our animals fed and our doors open. Thank you, sincerely, for continuing to care for the animals.

Our corporate partners:



*Official dog and
cat food provider
to the RSPCA*



Our top Workplace Giving dollar matching companies:



Thank you

to each and every one of
our wonderful supporters.

All the achievements and positive outcomes in this report are due entirely to you – the heart of our organisation. Without your continuous support and unwavering loyalty, animals and their owners would not have been able to receive the care, treatment and support they needed.

Whether you contributed a one-off donation, supported us monthly, pledged to leave a gift in your Will or volunteered your time, you should feel so proud of how much your generosity has accomplished.

