



# Your Year in Review

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## 2020-2021

**Photo Credit:** Rachele Quigley,  
Animal Attendant, Sydney Shelter

**RSPCA**   
New South Wales

# From the CEO: My thanks to you

Looking back on my 30 years with the organisation, it's incredible to see just how far animal welfare has come.

And with you by our side, progress continues. Your giving delivers programs that protect animals from cruelty *before* it occurs – aiding pet owners undergoing hardship and crisis; desexing initiatives that reduce overpopulation and prevent neglect and abandonment; inspectors who ensure only qualified, responsible breeders operate. With you by our side, no animal will suffer.

That's why I'm sending you this 'Year in Review'. I want to celebrate, with you, all that you have achieved for the animals of our state over the last year. You are the one who keeps our doors open to welcome in pets who need a home. You are the one who puts inspectors on the ground to protect animals from cruelty. You are the one who makes sure we have vets ready to provide life-saving medical care.

Please know how deeply thankful I am for your generosity and compassion for animals in need.



Steve Coleman  
Chief Executive Officer



## Year at a glance

This year, you helped

**24,271**

animals to receive the care they need

because

**45,358**

generous supporters like you donated an incredible

**\$34,358,000**

**13,399**  
Cats



**6,900**  
Dogs



**591**  
Wildlife



**3,381**  
Livestock and  
other animals



# Message from the President

There is no doubt it has been a challenging year. As I write this, many of us across the state are back in lockdown.

Just as we did when the pandemic first hit, or the bushfires or floods, RSPCA NSW has been swift to pivot to the changing needs of animals and communities—whether it's emergency rescues, pop-up relief points providing animal health checks and supplies, or delivering contactless adoptions to people's homes.

We are still on the road to recovery from so many challenges, but our commitment to the strategic goal of ensuring we are always working within our means has not wavered. Thanks to generosity like yours, we have maintained the organisation's financial health, and our ability to care for animals has not been jeopardised.

And we are venturing down new and exciting roads as we continue to collaborate with the animal welfare community, allocating \$2.4 million of donations received from our bushfire appeal to a series of long-term partnerships with wildlife organisations. Working with Taronga Conservation Society Australia, our investment into the platypus population is coming to fruition—to conserve their natural habitat and protect them from fire and drought using cutting edge technology.

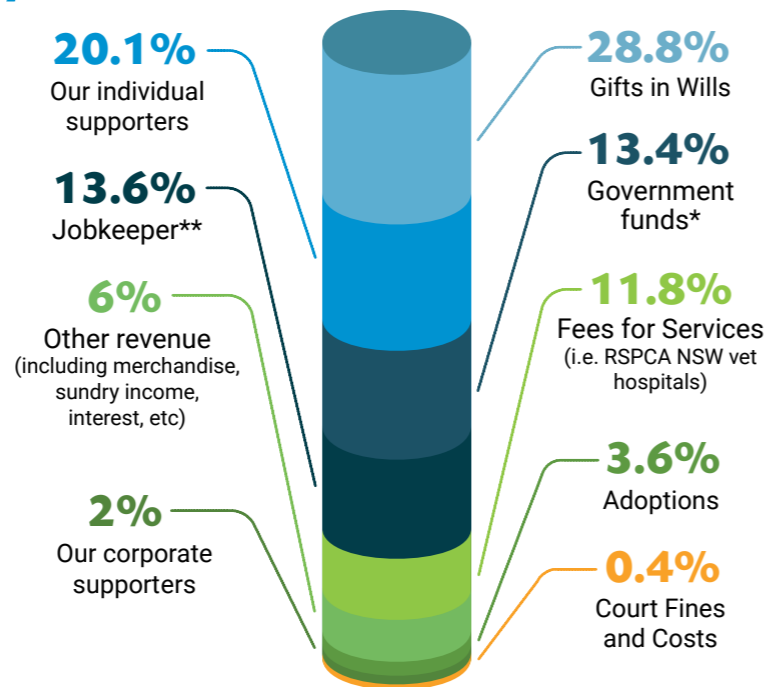
I am incredibly proud of our dedicated staff members and volunteers for adapting to meet every new challenge. I also wish to personally thank you, our generous supporters, for making this work possible.



Dr Peter Wright  
President, RSPCA NSW Board of Directors



## Where RSPCA NSW funding came from in 2020/2021:



\*This year, the state government generously provided building grants towards the reconstruction of the Sydney shelter, as well as improvements to RSPCA facilities across NSW.

\*\*RSPCA NSW was classified as an essential service during the COVID-19 pandemic, and like most Australians could not have continued operating without the assistance of the Jobkeeper program.

## How your generous donations are used:

### Providing immediate care for animals in need

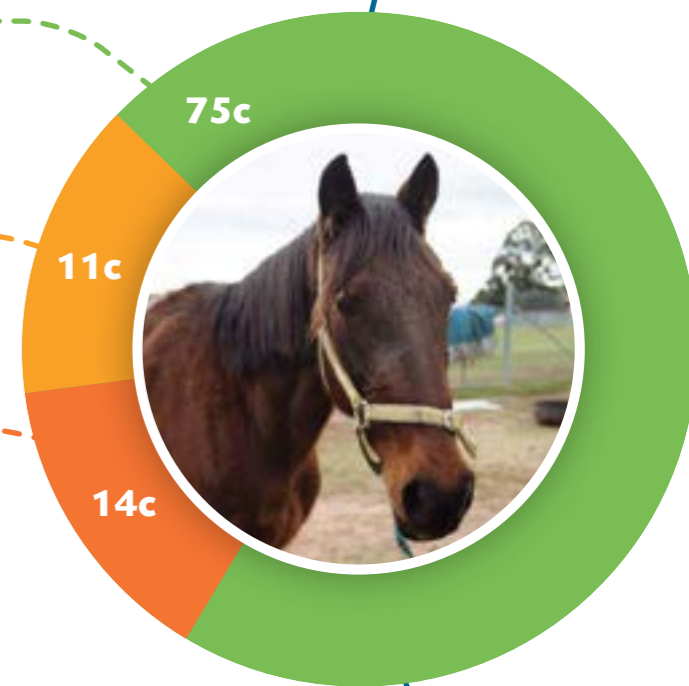
75 cents in every dollar directly supports animals in need *right now*, including the Inspectorate, shelters, veterinary hospitals, and community outreach and education programs.

### Investing in the future welfare of animals

11 cents in every dollar is reinvested into raising vital funds, so we can be ready to help *even more* animals in the future.

### Making sure we do things the best way

14 cents in every dollar is essential to providing the *most effective and sustainable impact* for animals, including prosecuting cruelty offenders, staffing our contact centre, employee mental health support, and more.



Graphs represent pre-audited figures that are subject to change. Complete statements for the 2020-2021 financial year will be available at [rspcansw.org.au](http://rspcansw.org.au) from October.

# You've launched the taskforce

At a puppy factory, profits come first. That means the welfare of the dogs in these intensive breeding facilities is not a priority—with animals going without even their most basic needs.

With your support, we are determined to put an end to the dark and often hidden world of illegal breeding. We have launched an 'Intensive Breeding Taskforce' specifically dedicated to finding, inspecting and, if necessary, removing animals from poor conditions and charging non-compliant breeders.

We've identified nearly 900 breeding facilities across the state and aim to inspect each to ensure compliance with all laws and codes of practice.

*"So many of the dogs we find are living in extremely bad conditions. Malnutrition, painful ear and eye infections, dental issues—you name it. That's why the Taskforce is absolutely vital to ensuring animals are bred in safe environments where their welfare matters."*

Scott Meyers,  
Chief Inspector



38

RSPCA NSW  
inspectors have  
conducted



13,838

cruelty investigations

# You've helped families escape violence

Even after Cassie\* had escaped an abusive relationship, her ex-partner had broken into her home. Cassie and her daughter were terrified, not only for their safety, but for their much-loved dogs, Daisy and Gidget, who had already experienced his violence. He had picked up little Daisy and thrown her out of a window. Daisy had survived but was hurt and traumatised.

Calls to RSPCA NSW for help doubled over the last year, during COVID-19 lockdowns and isolation, as people found themselves trapped at home with their abusers.

Cassie and her family needed to flee to safety, and they weren't going to leave without Daisy and Gidget—but no refuge could take the dogs. Because of your support, we could welcome Daisy and Gidget into our care whilst Cassie figured out their living situation. Thanks to you, they have now been reunited as a whole family in a safe new home.

If you or anyone you know needs the assistance of RSPCA NSW in this manner, please contact us at (02) 9782 4408.

\*To protect the identities of the people and animals in this story, we have changed names.



866 animals  
580 people

have received help through  
RSPCA programs  
like this one.

## PROGRESS

*A new law was recently passed in NSW to legally protect the pets of domestic violence victims when an Apprehensive Domestic Violence Order (ADVO) is granted.*

# The crucial volunteer programs you support

When animals are too young to be adopted, recovering from illness or surgery, or just not coping in the shelter environment—a temporary home is what they need. That's where RSPCA NSW's Foster Care program comes in. Our extraordinary network of carers volunteer their time welcoming animals into their home and providing that special care.

Natalie Conway has been fostering since 2014. She started out caring for litters of young puppies, then as her confidence and experience grew, she began taking on dogs who came to us through inspector cases. These can be some of the most traumatised, fearful dogs when they arrive—and their transformation after receiving loving foster care will melt your heart.

"Volunteering for these pets is such a rewarding experience."

**Natalie Conway,**  
volunteer foster carer

This year,  
**2,917**  
RSPCA NSW  
Dedicated  
volunteers

spent an  
incredible  
**238,137**  
hours making a  
lifesaving difference  
to animals in need



Our Animal Ambulance  
responded to  
**1,071**  
calls for help



**196**  
Emergency rescues  
were made

## Quack quack, ouch!

Your generous support ensures we can be on the ground and ready to respond to animals in need at a moment's notice.

We recently rescued a sweet-natured duck from a distressing situation. The poor thing had a fishing hook lodged painfully in his cheek and desperately needed help. Inspectors rushed to (carefully) catch this little duck and bring him in to our hospital for emergency care. He did so well to let us check him over and gently remove the hook from his cheek.

We're happy to say that he made a full recovery and was released, all thanks to supporters like you!



## Happy Tails you've made possible

Thousands of animals turn up on our doorstep each year through no fault of their own – abandoned, injured, neglected, and desperate for love. Thanks to you, these animals can receive the help they need and happy forever homes.

## Todd fetched a happy new life

When five-month-old puppy, Todd, came to us through our inspectors, he had a fractured leg and needed proper care and the chance to heal.

Thanks to supporters like you, Todd got the help he desperately needed. He went to a loving foster home while he recovered, and when he was healed and ready for adoption, someone immediately fell in love with him!

Todd has been so happy with his new family! He now spends his days going to the dog beach and park, running around with his doggy friends, and playing fetch to his heart's delight.

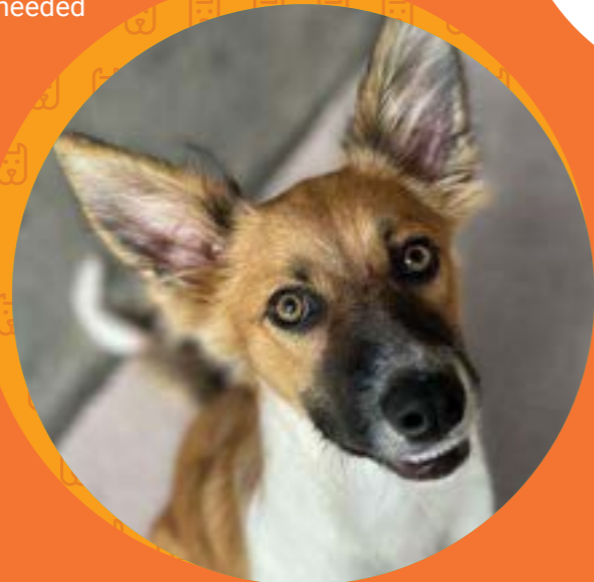


Photo Credit: Madeline Dyer, Animal Attendant, Sydney Shelter

  
**10,892**  
animals found  
forever homes

**30**  
Horses

**929**  
Other  
animal  
types

**277**  
Livestock

**7,451**  
Felines

**2,205**  
Canines

## Ain't nothin' gonna break his stride

Rodney came into the world as a stray, and sadly, was born with a bad leg. A compassionate member of the community found him and brought Rodney to the vet. To help give Rodney a life free from discomfort, his leg had to be amputated.

But having just three legs didn't slow this sweet and playful kitten down! Rodney was placed in foster care, and there he met another kitten not yet ready for adoption - Angel. Rodney and his new best friend's beautiful bond was so strong that they would cry if the other one left the room!

We knew they had to find a home together. Great news - a delightful adopter fell in love with the pair, and now Rodney and Angel are living a happy life together in their new forever home!

Photo Credit: Madeline Dyer,  
Animal Attendant, Sydney Shelter



## A Major General with a soft spot

Major General Ron Grey is a retired senior army officer and former Commissioner of the Australian Federal Police. He's a tough and respected military man who also happens to have an incredible soft spot - his tremendous affection for dogs!

But over many years of service, he has witnessed acts of deliberate cruelty to animals that broke his heart. Ron was moved to take action. At 90 years old he still generously donates every year and has included a gift to RSPCA NSW in his Will.

**"RSPCA NSW is a leader in bringing to justice those guilty of cruelty to animals. It is worthy of as much support as possible."**

**Photo caption:** Ron is in good company with Rascal, a little stray dog he and his wife Avril recently adopted from RSPCA NSW.



## They said "I DO" to helping animals in need

"When we were planning our wedding, our best decision was asking friends and family to donate to RSPCA NSW rather than bringing a gift. We already had all the cheeseboards, plates, and cutlery we needed!"



"The wedding was one of the best days of our lives, and it was even better knowing we were able to support the excellent work of a charity which has special meaning for both of us."

**John and Bonnie,**  
*newlywed supporters.*

John and Bonnie's wedding day was a beautiful celebration of their love for each other, and animals! They raised more than \$3,000 for RSPCA NSW!

## Thank you to our corporate supporters!



**National Pet Nutrition Partner** and official dog and cat food provider  
Contributing \$860,789 in product in 2021/21.



**Official Animal Health Partner** providing all dogs and cats in care with \$384,952 worth of parasite protection in 2020/21.

### Featured Corporate Partners

**PETBARN**

Not just our **Official Adoption Partner** (2702 animals rehomed this year!), Petbarn always lends a paw! Whether providing sheltering space for a large seizure, delivering essential food and supplies to affected communities after flooding, or raising an incredible \$175,000 for RSPCA NSW Programs through their in-store 'Tree of Hope' campaign, Petbarn has gone above and beyond for the animals!



This year, Greencross Vets generously desexed 355 cats and dogs before adoption, as well as supporting RSPCA NSW Outreach events by offering microchipping, vaccinations, and health checks to pet owners in need. They also collaborated with RSPCA to launch the first Veterinarian Graduate program at Sydney Shelter Hospital.



# All creatures great and small

This year more than 24,000 animals of all shapes, sizes and species found themselves with one thing in common – they needed our help.

All animals come to us with different backgrounds and in varying states of health, and we work hard to provide each one with the assistance they need.

Our open-door policy means that many animals come to us because there is nowhere else for them to turn, or they have experienced serious neglect and trauma, which has lifelong implications for their wellbeing.

Animal welfare is challenging work, and euthanasia is a difficult and confronting reality that we face. However, no matter how difficult, we are committed to making decisions for our animals that prioritise, more than anything else, their chance of having a life worth living.



## Animal Outcome

	Dogs	Cats	Horse	Livestock	Wildlife	Other*	Total
<b>Reclaimed</b>	2304	583	13	10	0	138	<b>3048</b>
<b>Rehomed</b>	2205	7451	30	277	0	929	<b>10892</b>
<b>Wildlife Released</b>	0	0	0	0	3	0	<b>3</b>
<b>Still In Care</b>	742	936	76	36	16	131	<b>1937</b>
<b>Transferred<sup>^</sup></b>	467	250	9	32	170	38	<b>966</b>
<b>Euthanased<sup>o</sup></b>	1156	3913	36	900	378	630	<b>7013</b>
<b>Died In Care</b>	22	251	1	14	23	74	<b>385</b>
<b>Other<sup>~</sup></b>	4	15	0	0	1	7	<b>27</b>

## Reason for Euthanasia

Euthanasia Reason	Canines	Felines	Horse	Livestock	Wildlife	Other	Total
<b>Behavioural</b>	872	723	6	162	0	111	<b>1874</b>
<b>Fractious Feline</b>	0	1234	0	0	0	0	<b>1234</b>
<b>Infectious</b>	5	494	0	8	14	9	<b>530</b>
<b>Medical</b>	213	1025	30	75	364	191	<b>1898</b>
<b>Legal<sup>†</sup></b>	64	0	0	0	0	305	<b>369</b>
<b>Organisational<sup>‡</sup></b>	2	437	0	655	0	14	<b>1108</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1156</b>	<b>3913</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>900</b>	<b>378</b>	<b>630</b>	<b>7013</b>

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

<sup>^</sup> Includes animals transferred to rescue groups and other RSPCA states

<sup>~</sup> Includes stolen, escaped and released-to-habitat animals

<sup>o</sup> Includes animals from RSPCA-operated council facilities

<sup>†</sup> Refers to animals deemed dangerous or menacing by local council or otherwise ordered by the council

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

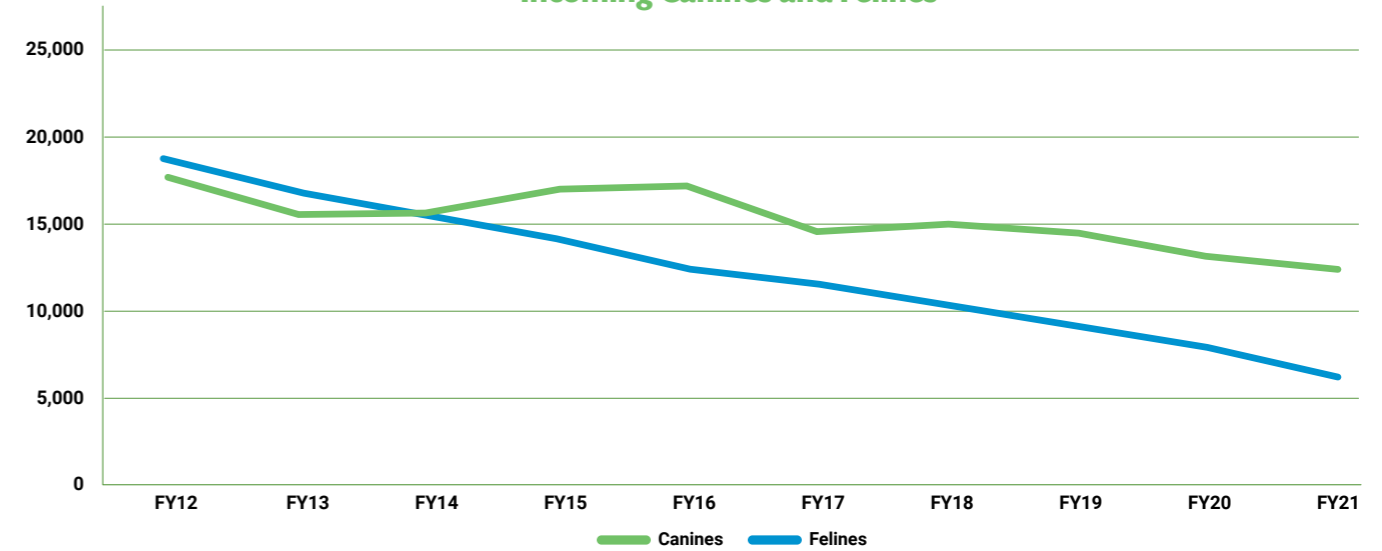
# Incoming animals

These graphs represent the total number of animals that turn to RSPCA NSW for help each and every year, as well as those that we were able to find forever homes for.

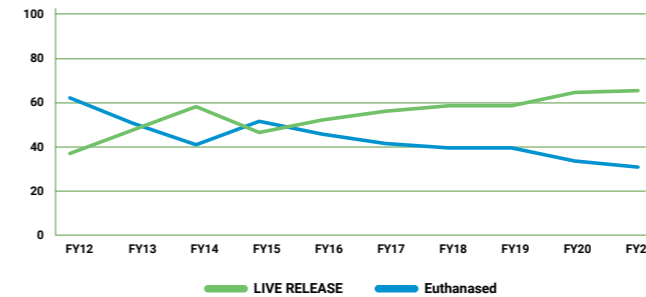
Through our work in veterinary care, rehabilitation and working with rescue partners, we continued to see positive animal welfare outcomes across the board.



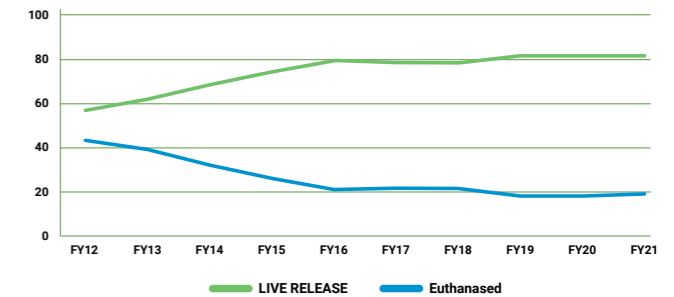
### Incoming Canines and Felines



### Feline outcomes (%)



### Canine outcomes (%)



# We simply can't thank you enough

We hope you've been as inspired as we have by reading through Your Year in Review.

You are the reason for every success story.

Every time an abandoned dog gets adopted into a doting forever home, or an injured kitten receives life-saving medical care, or a frightened wild animal is rescued from a dangerous situation—that's your support in action.

Because of you, vulnerable animals can be protected, cared for, and placed in loving homes every day.

Your generosity achieves tangible, life-changing impact for hearts, homes, and tails all over New South Wales.

## Thank you!



**Thank you**  
for walking with us  
every step of the  
way this year!

**Photo Credit:** Kate Conaghan,  
RSPCA NSW staff

