

The cost of caring

Increased animal cruelty reports and increased numbers of animals at our shelters means our veterinary expenses are growing significantly year on year.

Your support can help RSPCA South Australia continue to save more animals lives.





“This year I have cared for more sick, neglected, injured abandoned and abused animals than ever before. This is a huge financial strain on RSPCA South Australia’s resources, but if we were not there to care for these poor animals who would?

We need more people in the community to help us heal distraught and suffering animals in crises. They are totally helpless and depend on people like us to make them better and find them new forever homes.

I depend on people like you to help me and my Vet Team perform this vital work.”

**DR BRAD WARD,
SENIOR VETERINARIAN.**

At a glance



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RSPCA South Australia faces a huge struggle as the number of animal cruelty and rescue reports continues to surge.

Last year alone we have seen an increase of 1,992 animals that required rigorous specialised veterinary care and lots of love and devotion.

This increased number of desperate animals in need is putting a significant strain on our team, not just emotionally, but financially.

The dramatic rise in neglected, abandoned, sick and injured animals means we have had to employ additional highly skilled Veterinarians and Specialist Veterinary Nurses to help us cope with the demand.

RSPCA South Australia will never turn away an animal.

Unlike other shelter and rescue groups we will nurse and care for any animal that comes to us. However as the demand for our care grows, so do our expenses. We are operating with an unsustainable deficit that continues to grow as the needs of these distressed animals grow.

We are reaching out to you and the community to help us continue to save more animals in need.

We need your help more now than we ever have in the past. We urgently need your support so we can rescue, nurse, and rehabilitate these poor defenceless animals back to health.



**A few days later
this brave little man was
wagging his tail ... ready
for his new adoptive home.**



Brave little puppies like Zero come to RSPCA South Australia needing urgent expert veterinary care every day.

This poor little puppy was found wandering the streets and had a horrible, encrusted and ulcerated eye.

He was in terrible pain.

We brought him to see our skilled Vet team who assessed him and decided the best option was to remove his eye.

A few days later Zero was wagging his tail with one sparkly eye ready for his new adoptive home.

Our Vision and Mission



Our Vision

Our Vision is a world where the community embraces and enables the Five Freedoms for Animals.



Our Mission

With the support of the community our mission is to support all creatures great and small through protection, intervention, advocacy, education and care.



PREVENTION

RSPCA South Australia advocates for improved government animal welfare policies and legislation. We educate the community by leading public debate on all animal welfare issues. We develop and deliver education programs to schools, universities and community groups to improve the understanding of the Five Freedoms for Animals.

We influence attitudes and behaviour towards animals in a positive way. We campaign to highlight animal welfare issues to influence and enable community action and to change the regulatory and legislative environment which is intended to protect animals.



PROTECTION OF ALL ANIMALS

RSPCA South Australia is entrusted by the South Australian Parliament to enforce the Animal Welfare Act 1985. We are the only dedicated Animal Welfare Agency with powers to enter a property and seize an animal that is being neglected or cruelly treated by its owner.

RSPCA South Australia has legislative powers that enable us to gather evidence and prosecute cruel and neglectful owners in the courts.



CARING FOR ALL ANIMALS

RSPCA South Australia has an open door policy at our shelters. No matter how unwell or injured an animal is we will never turn them away. We are committed to saving more lives and will always continue to seek innovative ways to care for animals that need our dedicated one-on-one attention. We have one of the best rehoming rates in Australia, and one of the lowest euthanasia rate of any animal shelter in Australia.

The problem



RSPCA South Australia has seen a marked increase in the numbers of animal cruelty and ambulance reports in the last three years. **Last financial year alone we cared for 10,418 animals through our shelter network.**

This increase is placing incredible strain on our staff and resources. But RSPCA South Australia continues to help each and every animal that is brought to our shelters.

With 8,426 animals cared for at our shelters in the 2012/2013 financial year and 10,418 this year, this is a significant increase of 1,992 more animals that needed our care.

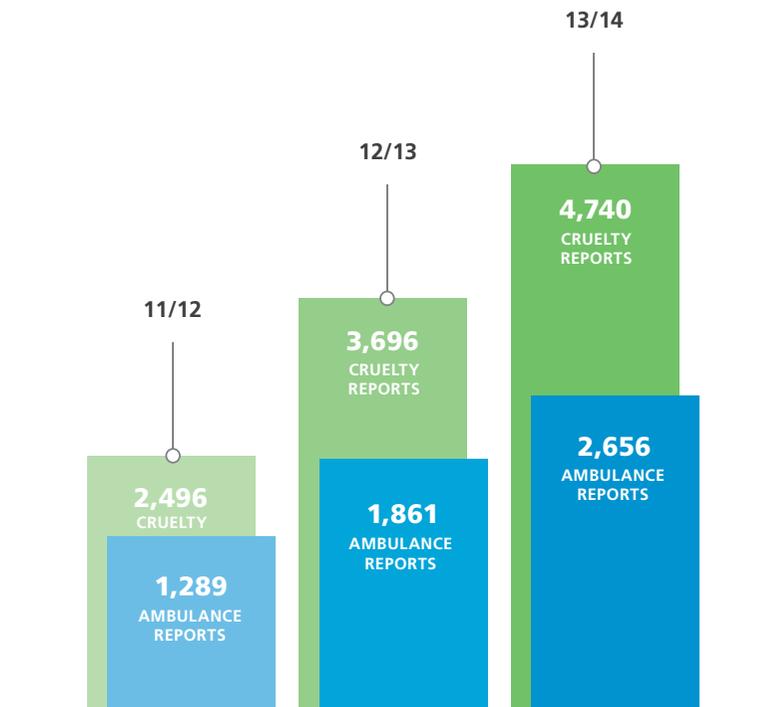
That is 1,992 more animals that needed lifesaving treatments, surgery, rehabilitation and enrichment therapies to nurse them back to health.

This is one of the overarching areas we need to continually improve upon year on year to prevent cruelty, care for and protect all animals. We operate our Lonsdale shelter at full capacity because we don't want to turn any animal away. We need to provide a safe, compassionate home for all animals in need and give them the best veterinary and rehabilitative care they deserve to get them on their paws again.

1: OPERATING AT CAPACITY

At any one time RSPCA South Australia has more than 1,000 animals in our care that need our love and devotion. That is 1,000 animals that need expert care and treatments, shelter, food, warmth, toys, treats and more importantly love.

Most of these defenceless animals are based at our Lonsdale Shelter. Our team will do everything in their power to ensure they make a full recovery and find their new loving home.



We know they have no one else to turn to and we will not place limits on our dedication to their welfare.

We will make sure each animal gets all the vet care, medication and rehabilitation they need. On top of this our animals receive all the love, attention and TLC they need to help them on their journey to recovery.

2: SKILLED VETERINARY ATTENTION

RSPCA South Australia has a dedicated team of highly trained veterinarians and veterinary nurses who are committed to providing the highest level of vet care for all our animals. This is a massive cost to our organisation, but without our highly skilled team many of the animals that come to us would most likely die.

All animals undergo a rigorous health check on admission. Many have serious illnesses that need to be treated right away. Others come to us after being struck by a car and may need emergency surgery. **Some come to us after been cruelly treated or neglected and need time to trust people again.**

But all of them need the dedication of experts in all fields of Veterinary Medicine to help them heal, repair and rebuild their confidence in people.

3: BEHAVIOURAL MODIFICATION

Many animals that come to us have temperament or behavioural issues. This is often a result of cruelty or neglect. It can also be because these animals have not being handled or loved by anyone in the past. Many of the cats and kittens that come to us are scared and frightened of people. So we need to spend time with them, handling them, feeding them, patting them, so they can build their trust in people again.

Our Lonsdale Shelter Team generally has over 200 dogs at one any time needing our love and care. The behavioural support and modification programs run by our qualified behaviourists can help them deal with general anxiety, separation distress, dog to dog reactivity, lack of confidence and fear based aggression.

Our devoted team slowly builds trust with each animal, using proven scientific and positive reinforcement based principles to allow the animals to be comfortable in themselves.

This often requires one-on-one time around handling, feeding and socialisation.

We aim to reduce each animal's stress, providing opportunities for them to learn new skills and build strong human-animal bonds with our care givers.

Each day our Behaviour Team coordinates with our Community Foster Carers, so particularly scared dogs or dogs with special needs (senior dogs or pregnant Mums) can spend time outside of the shelter environment. This provides much needed respite for the animals in a home environment where they are less likely to be anxious.

Our team also provide consultations on behaviour problems to the public in an attempt to prevent surrender of animals based on behaviour issues. This unique team plays a vital role as the essential behaviour component to the animal care program and is an integral part of our work ...

...and key to RSPCA South Australia's dedication to giving all animals the best second chance at life they can have.



Lulu was treated at our veterinary clinic before being placed in a foster home environment.



When we met Lulu late last year, she was suffering from severe untreated mange.

She was depressed, swollen and had very little hair.

Now, she is healthy, happy and completely transformed as you can see from her glossy black and white coat.

Lulu was treated at our veterinary clinic before being placed in a foster home environment. There, she won the heart of her foster carer, Cheryl, who couldn't resist adopting her.

"She is a very special girl," Cheryl said. "She just fit in, right from day one. I guess she adopted us – isn't that always the case?"

She taught me so much, because even when she was at her lowest, she would always wag her tail when she heard my voice. She showed such trust and strength and love to a person she didn't know, after she'd already been through so much. She is a true fighter."

Lulu's former owners were prosecuted by RSPCA South Australia and convicted of failure to provide appropriate veterinary care.



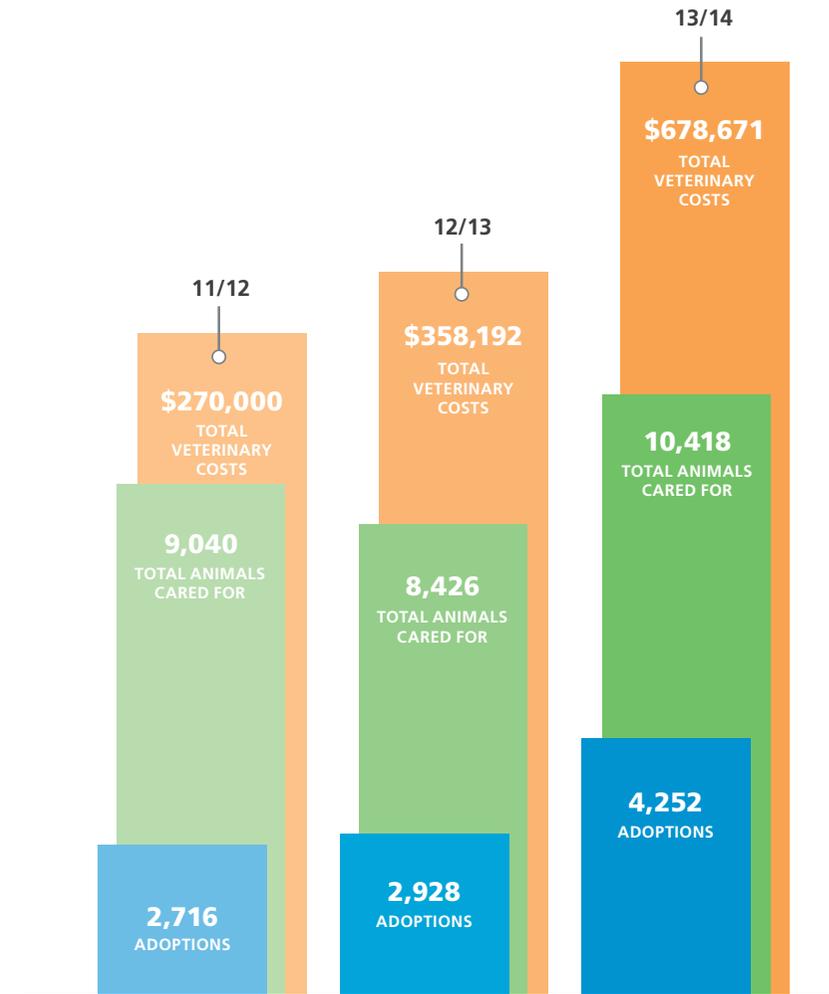
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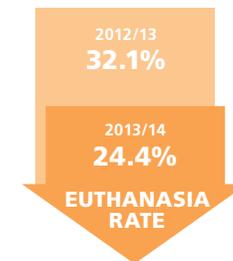
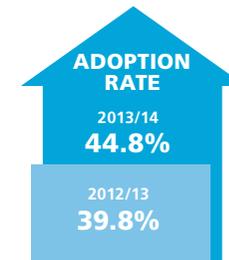
Whilst the number of animals we care for can change from year to year – what is consistent is the level of specialised care each individual animal needs to be nursed back to health. Our adoption rate has grown significantly in the last two years as RSPCA South Australia protects, cares for and rehomes more animals into loving forever homes.

This is why we need you to help us cover our veterinary costs so we can keep our commitment to never turning away a poor defenceless animal in need.

Over the past year we have taken in almost 2,000 more animals into our care compared with the year before. We adopted over 1,300 more animals and placed 500 more animals with rescue groups. We put over 1,300 more animals through our foster care program, desexed almost 1,000 more animals, and responded to over 1,500 more cruelty complaints, ambulance and rescue call-outs.



OUR CONSOLIDATED ANIMAL OUTCOMES





The need

RSPCA South Australia's services in the community are capital and people intensive. Animals are defenceless and need each and every one of us to provide for them. We feed them, water them, walk them, clean up after them, play with them and love them.

Last year alone this cost RSPCA South Australia \$678,671 – that is \$678,671 we needed to find to care for and protect the 10,418 animals that came into our shelters.

Our total veterinary costs **grew by almost 90% last year** – we cannot bear the brunt of a significant increase again which is why we are reaching out to you.

VETERINARY COST EFFICIENCIES

RSPCA South Australia has been focused on reviewing our practices to find operating models that will ensure we manage our costs as efficiently as possible, whilst still ensuring our animals receive the best care they deserve.

We are committed to finding new ways to manage our costs. This is our promise to our donors to use your generous funds effectively and efficiently.

Some of these cost efficiencies are as follows:

- Recruitment of an additional Vet and Vet Nurse to reduce the costs of using external vet services
- Purchase of additional vet equipment enabling us to perform certain surgeries and diagnostics in-house
- Increasing our Community Foster Care network which helps reduce the risk of infection and re-infection of animals at the shelter.



**A RECORD
3,137 ANIMALS
WERE DESEXED**

**MAKING 2013/14 A RECORD BREAKING YEAR
FOR OUR CLINICAL SERVICES TEAM.**

The hardworking team have also performed 85 x-rays, 2,179 consults, 61 major surgeries, 112 minor procedures, 74 tumour removals and 463 dentals all in the past year.

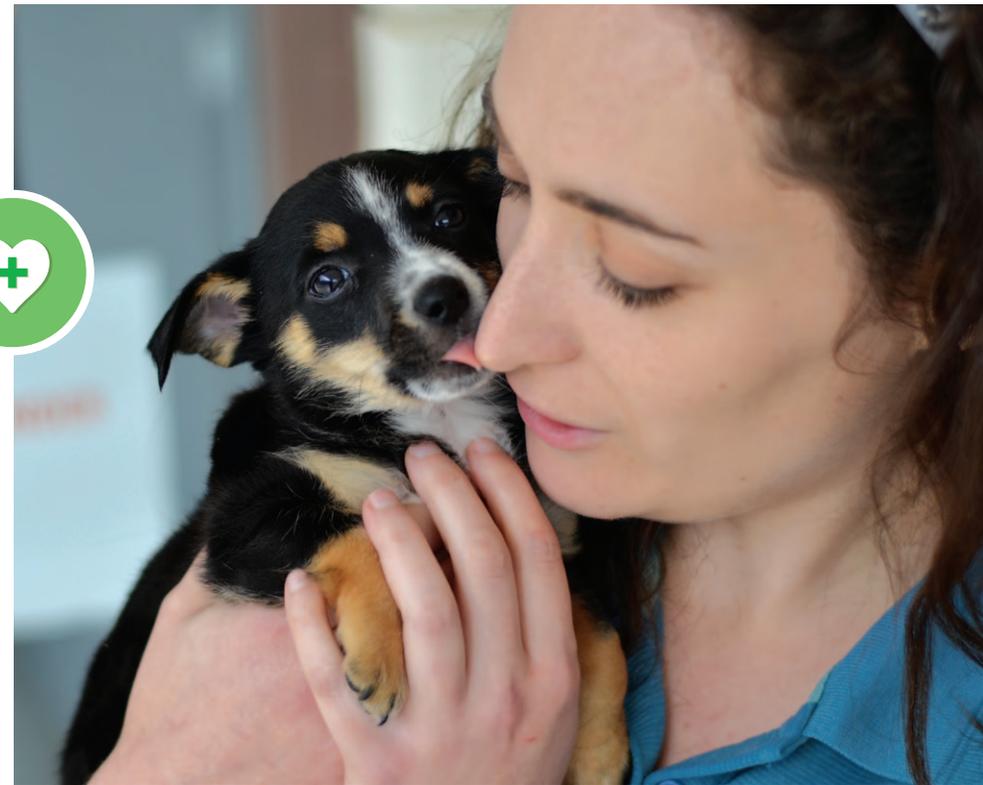
How you can help



Our projected Veterinary costs budget for next year is \$482,559. Whilst this is less than last year we still need to reach out to the community to help us find this income, and reduce our operating deficit.

Gift Table

GIFT LEVEL	NUMBER OF DONORS REQUIRED	TOTAL VALUE OF GIFT	TOTAL REQUIRED
\$100,000	2	\$200,000	\$200,000
\$50,000	2	\$100,000	\$100,000
\$25,000	2	\$50,000	\$50,000
\$10,000	10	\$100,000	\$100,000
\$5,000	5	\$25,000	\$25,000
\$1,000	5	\$5,000	\$5,000
\$500	5	\$2,500	\$2,500
	31		\$482,500



Like many of the animals RSPCA South Australia cares for, Brian had a tough start to life. He was one of three tiny puppies found beside train tracks. We are unsure of how or why they came to be there.

By the time Brian was rescued, both his siblings had tragically been hit and killed by a train. He came into our care as a terrified 12-week-old, in poor health and needing life-saving medical treatment. His treatment included vaccinations, desexing and specialist medication for an infection which affected his breathing.

Our staff decided it was in Brian's best interests to place him into our foster care program, where he spent the next month recuperating as well as being socialised.

We were thrilled when Brian was adopted. He is doing brilliantly with his new forever mum Brie and has found a new playmate in Whisky, the Maltese cross.

Help us save
more animals
in need.

Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
(South Australia) Inc.

RSPCA South Australia

ABN: 60 740 135 753

Charitable Institution with Deductible Gift Recipient status

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