

RSPCA THRIFT SHOPS UNDER ATTACK

Help put a stop to repeated burglaries

RSPCA South Australia's Thrift Shops have been targeted in six break-ins and thefts over the last five months, with five break-ins in the last five weeks alone.

RSPCA shops in Warradale, Brighton, Prospect and Blackwood have all been robbed, with the Warradale and Prospect shops both burgled twice.

RSPCA South Australia Chief Executive Officer, Tim Vasudeva, said that the cost to RSPCA South Australia keeps mounting. So far the break-ins and thefts have cost the organisation more than \$10,700 in damage, property and other losses.

"With this money, we could have desexed, microchipped, and vaccinated 150 cats, kittens, dogs and puppies, or kept one of our Rescue Officers on the road for more than four weeks, saving the lives of animals in need," he said.

"And that's not the only cost. These Thrift Shops – which have been an important part of the South Australian community for more than 40 years – are run by volunteers and a small team of staff. Can you imagine the impact this is having on them?"

"These are dedicated people who use their time and skills to help animals in the best way they know how. And they are devastated by this senseless crime spree, which is damaging an organisation and a cause that is so close to their hearts.

"Our team is working frantically to review and upgrade the security systems at our five Thrift Shops. On top of the damage bill from the six break-ins, additional security measures will be costly."

If members of the public wish to help, RSPCA South Australia is gratefully accepting donations to help the Thrift Shops recover from these senseless attacks, at www.rspcasa.org.au/thriftshopattacks

Sturt Police are investigating the break-ins and thefts and based on CCTV images, they suspect the same male person may be responsible for multiple – if not all – offences.

RSPCA South Australia is urging anyone with information on the identity of the suspect pictured in the images below, or information on any of the break-ins, is asked to please contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or report online at <https://sa.crimestoppers.com.au>

****Images next page****

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For more information, or an interview with an RSPCA spokesperson, please contact:

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