



Annual Report

2022-2023

PRESIDENT AND CEO REPORT



MISSION

To prevent cruelty to animals by actively promoting their care and protection.

VISION

A compassionate society free of animal cruelty and suffering.



The last financial year has seen enormous strides made towards our organisation's relocation to purpose-built facilities at O'Halloran Hill. Building on the legacy of 'Amplifying Our Impact' (our last strategic plan) we are now starting to implement our next five-year vision with 'On the Move'. Our new strategic plan will leverage the new animal care campus to further improve the welfare of animals, including native animals and birds that will soon (and for the first time in South Australia) have a dedicated wildlife hospital.

We are on track to move to our new home and headquarters in April 2024.

In addition to establishing a strong and effective wildlife care model, key priority within the new strategic plan is strengthened engagement with our community, to prevent cruelty and suffering and to raise support for our advocacy goals. We recognise, for example, the indiscriminate breeding of stray cats as a long-running and major welfare issue needing a coordinated, effective response. In the pipeline are community outreach programs that support responsible pet ownership. As with similar RSPCA programs interstate, these programs will be run in collaboration with local councils, vet partners and government agencies.

Our Community Outreach Program is scheduled to begin in the next financial year.

In FY23, community donations enabled our rescue team to assist over 1700 animals. A recruitment drive for rescue volunteers is underway, to increase the number of animals that the team can help and to ensure we have capacity for wildlife transportation. The team's already strong connections with SA's volunteer wildlife rescue groups are helping pave the way towards RSPCA SA's debut into wildlife veterinary care.

Our inspectorate's role in enforcing the Animal Welfare Act continued in FY23 with 1307 animals either seized or surrendered through cruelty reports investigated by our seven inspectors. Often these animals may be in our care for months, even years, while their cases proceed through the courts, a situation that leaves the animals in limbo and imposes significant drain on our resources. With the Animal Welfare Act review still underway, we are lobbying for amendments that will resolve this serious issue.

In early 2023 we had exceeded sustainable numbers. The decision in March to cease, for the first time, accepting surrendered animals was not taken lightly. At that time we had over 1400 animals in care across the state, most of them cats and kittens. We had truly reached the limit of our capacity-to-care model. We are proud that during this time intakes from our rescue team and inspectorate continued unabated. A key area of focus for the coming year is to maintain animal numbers within our capacity-to-care model.

We will work to reduce the length of time animals are in our care, by moving them to being adoption ready, whilst maintaining the best standard of treatment and care. We will also continue to work hard to promote the adoption option through our community.

Concurrent with all animal care, rescue and rehoming activities has been a continued focus on developing diverse income streams to support our mission. Additional op-shops opened in FY23, bringing the total to 15. Despite uncertain economic times, the South Australian community continued to show their generosity and support with donations remaining steady.

As an organisation that is almost 70% community funded, we are grateful for the continued commitment from our supporters.

FY23 saw significant developments in the advocacy space, both at a state and national level. An inquiry into greyhound racing in SA is now underway in the aftermath of shocking recent footage of unacceptable and cruel training methods. Duck and quail hunting is also under review in SA, with a Victorian Government Select Committee report (released in August 2023) recommending the recreational activity be banned in that state.

Meanwhile, an RSPCA Australia petition calling on the Federal Government to legislate an end date for live sheep exports secured almost 44,000 signatures and was tabled in Parliament by Josh Wilson MP, Member for Fremantle, on 4 September in a powerful and moving speech. The long-overdue review of the Animal Welfare Act continues and we have submitted our key priorities for change.

As the integration of all RSPCA SA operations on to the one site fast approaches, we acknowledge the financial and in-kind support received from government, individuals, corporations and companies to assist with the build. We now look to the community to help us bridge a funding gap of around \$1.3m to move us to completion.

It is truly an honour to be at the helm of such a remarkable organisation at this pivotal point in its almost 150-year history. With our upcoming move and so much progress to advance protections for animals both in SA and nationally, we look forward to this next chapter with great expectation, energy and enthusiasm.

Marcus Gehrig
Chief Executive Officer

Rob DiMonte
President

OUR IMPACT



INSPECTORATE

4489

Cruelty reports received by our inspectors



ANIMAL RESCUE

2180

Call outs responded to by our rescue officers



ANIMAL CARE

8915

Animals came through our doors for care



ADOPTIONS

6240

Animals found their forever homes



PROSECUTION

28

Prosecution cases finalised by our legal team



EDUCATION

437

South Australian schools signed up to our AWARE program



ADVOCACY

We continued to advocate for improved animal welfare laws and policies, with significant progress across **8** different issues



VOLUNTEERS

1150

Volunteers supported our operations



69.99%
Adopted

9.46%
Reclaimed

11.22%
Euthanised

2.04%
Unassisted death

7.29%
Transferred to a partner organisation

8915
TOTAL ANIMALS

48.18%
Animal Operations

(All costs once animals come into our care including veterinary, behavioural, rehabilitation, shelter and foster care)

2.58%
Rescue Team Operations

(Responding to community calls for rescue assistance, ambulance transport)

26.87%
Inspectorate Team & Legal including prosecutions

(Responding to and investigating cruelty complaints, pursuing prosecutions under the Animal Welfare Act)

(Influencing change to promote best-practice care)

1.88%
Advocacy and Education

20.49%
Operations, Facilities and Administration

(This includes our costs to keep the organisation running as well as promoting adoptions, recruiting volunteers, foster carer support)

HOW WE ALLOCATE FUNDS

7.63%
Government Funding

2.0%
Other Income

15.0%
Investment income including sale of assets

6.33%
Council Income

WHERE OUR FUNDING COMES FROM

69.0%
Community Income



SPOTLIGHT ON ADVOCACY

A big year for
animal welfare



Our Animal Welfare & Advocacy team remained as committed as ever this year in standing up, and speaking up, advocating across a diverse range of animal welfare issues. Each year we implement proactive strategies and collaborate with our national counterparts, as well as other like-minded organisations, to strengthen our influence at State and Federal level for improved animal welfare laws, policies, and outcomes... and the last twelve months have seen much needed results.

Our Animal Welfare Policy Advisory Group continued to play an important role in helping to develop, review, and refine RSPCA policy and position papers in relation to animal welfare.

Key advocacy achievements for FY23:



Successfully lobbied for amendments to the *Residential Tenancies Act* to prevent renters having to surrender their pets.

12 NEWS

Push for pets in rentals

Bill back in Parliament

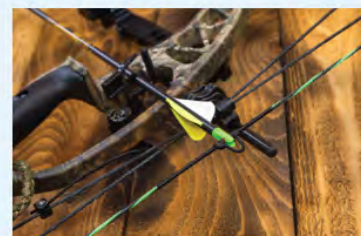
ELIZABETH HENSON

THE RSPCA, Animal Welfare League and a tenant advocacy organisation have thrown their support behind a renewed push to allow pets in rental properties. Greens MLC Mark Parnell today plans to reintroduce a bill to Parliament which aims to give more rental tenants the right to have pets. Under current legislation, the default position of most residential tenancy agreements is that pets are not allowed. However, under Mr Parnell's bill, tenants would be allowed to have pets, except in certain situations. If a landlord did not consent to the South Australian and Administrative Law which...

well OK, no pets at all, or they may say, look, pets OK, but outdoors only." In 2019/20, 259 animals were surrendered to the RSPCA, and 55 arrived at the AWL, because their owners were unable to secure pet-friendly accommodation. "I can't count the number of owners I've comforted as they part with pets they adore, simply because they can't find anywhere to rent that allows animals," Cher Long, from the RSPCA, said. "These are good people, good pet owners, yet they're being knocked back just because their family has include a dog or cat."



Raised awareness and advocated for the State Government to ban native bird hunting and bow hunting in South Australia.



Advocated for greater transparency regarding animal welfare from the South Australian greyhound racing industry and highlighted how the state's self-regulating model fails to ensure that greyhound welfare is prioritised.



Advocated for control strategies that are used to manage animals considered 'pests' to prioritise non-lethal means and use only the most humane methods.



Lobbied for better standards of welfare for farm and livestock animals, as well as improved regulation and management of companion animals, with a focus on cats.

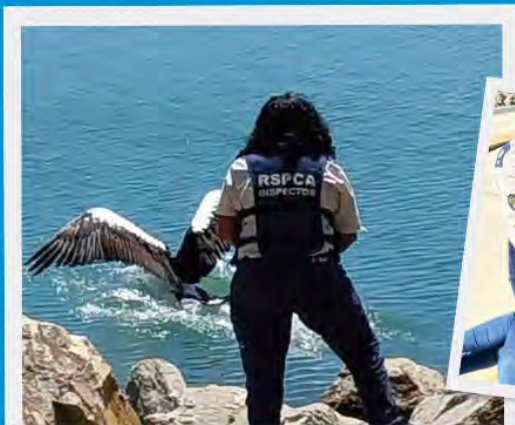


Dog & Cat Management Act Review: we called for a cohesive, statewide cat management strategy and stronger regulation for breeders.



Supported the national campaign urging the Federal Government to legislate a date to end live sheep export.





OUR RESCUERS AND THE RESCUED

In FY23 our dedicated rescue team remained at the forefront of animal emergency responses in South Australia.

With a team of just three RSPCA staff (one full-time and two part-time) and 23 volunteers, it was a huge year resulting in:

1700

Animals assisted and rescued

3623

Hours dedicated to this cause

With 2180 rescue requests for sick, injured, distressed and abandoned animals, we give special thanks to our partner organisations, wildlife groups, emergency services and wildlife vets who we call on, each year, to support our rescue and rehabilitation efforts.

A wild ride, with our wild rescues

From saving ducklings stuck down storm water drains to catching cats falling out of trees, every day is different and our rescue team has seen it all!

However, this FY23 the team experienced two particularly rare rescues...

One unlucky Tawny Frogmouth, a native nocturnal bird that is usually found perching on branches, was lost and disorientated on the Southern Expressway.

Thankfully, one of our rescue volunteers was able to capture the small bird and safely return it back to its natural habitat.



Helped by our friends at the Wildlife Welfare Organisation, our rescue team saved two injured pelicans that had become tangled in fishing line and hooks at West Lakes. With lots of patience and determination, our team safely caught the poor pelicans. The first pelican had the line and hook successfully removed and while the second pelican required vet care, it has since recovered and been released back to its home habitat.

These vital services are entirely funded by community donations, so it is thanks to the generous support of our donors that our dedicated team can be there to rescue animals when they are in dire need of help.

FOR THE LOVE OF ANIMALS

In celebration and memory of Bindi

That sweet face! Bindi was eternally grateful to her loving owner, Justin.

When RSPCA SA Inspector Emma Shepley attended a property to investigate a cruelty complaint, what she discovered was truly shocking and heartbreaking.

A five-year-old Staffy with a football-sized tumour on her front leg, that was stopping her from being able to walk normally. Following the immediate seizure of this timid yet friendly dog named Bindi, Emma took her to our Lonsdale shelter where she received urgent medical attention from our veterinary team, led by Chief Vet Dr Gayle Kothari.

Dr Kothari described the mass as "one of the worst tumours [she] had ever seen" and further diagnostics uncovered that it was malignant. Dr Kothari said her team weighed up three options...

"We could amputate the leg, debulk the tumour, or the third and most complicated option was to completely, and very carefully, remove the tumour."

After extensive discussion the team agreed to option three, which would require removing most of the skin on Bindi's forelimb, leaving her with a very large open wound.

"I knew this would be a difficult surgery, but Bindi was so sweet, and I really wanted to see her live life as she was meant to," said Dr Kothari.

Following a complicated six-hour surgery to remove the tumour, Bindi required intensive and skilled monitoring. To ensure she received the highest standard of care and the nursing attention she required, Dr Kothari took Bindi home and nursed her personally.

This involved administering IV fluid as Bindi was unable to eat or drink for the first 48 hours, managing her pain relief, changing her bandage, turning her over every few hours as she was unable to move, and changing her soiled bedding.

"It was touch and go for the first few days, but thankfully this strong girl made it through," said Dr Kothari.

With one surgery down Bindi still had a challenging road ahead, requiring over ten additional procedures including skin grafting surgeries and six months of rehabilitation. Fortunately, Bindi made an incredible recovery and found a joyful foster home with Justin, another RSPCA SA staff member who was involved with her treatment and rehabilitation.

Behind the scenes RSPCA SA's legal team fought for Bindi's justice. Her previous owner was convicted of animal ill-treatment for failing to seek medical assistance for Bindi during the two-plus years the tumour was present.

As may happen in such extreme cases, we were able to extend Bindi's life by just another couple of years, but we are proud that we were able to take Bindi from rescue to a second chance and loving new home, free from pain and suffering in her last years.

Bindi's story is an important reminder of the lifesaving work we do here at RSPCA SA, and it is through community donations that we are able to give beautiful animals like Bindi a second chance at life.

OUR BOARD



Marcus Gehrig, Chief Executive Officer



Marcus's broad-ranging business career includes expertise in commercial and business development, strategic planning, marketing, and brand development. He has spent more than a decade in executive roles across the corporate and not-for-profit sectors.

Mr Gehrig's long held passion to give a voice to those who need it, paired with his experience as an RSPCA South Australia board director, has given him strong insight into how the organisation works and makes him very well-equipped to lead the organisation at this pivotal point.

Rob DiMonte, President



Rob is a chartered accountant and professional company director. He has held many board and advisory roles over the past 35 years and is passionate about improving the social and economic wellbeing of South Australians.

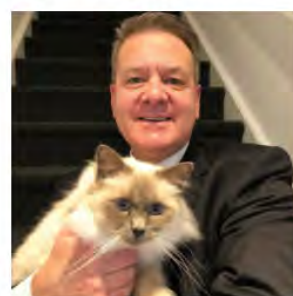
Leanna Read, Science



Leanna brings broad-ranging company executive, board, and investment experience, particularly in biotechnology. She is chair or board member of several companies and innovation committees, and the immediate past Chief Scientist for South Australia.

She is also the proud owner of RSPCA SA graduate, Ahmani. Leanna is passionate about animal welfare in the agricultural sector and broader community.

Paul Hutchinson, Finance



Paul's career has spanned more than 30 years in the financial services sector in Australia, New Zealand and the broader international marketplace. He currently works with the University of Adelaide responsible for major

organisational projects. Paul is also a professional company director including governance roles in publicly listed, statutory and not-for-profit sectors.

Stephen Voss, Legal



Stephen is a lawyer and partner at national law firm Thomson Geer and acts for a number of national and international institutional corporations.

Susan Hazel, Veterinary



Susan is a veterinarian by training and an academic at the University of Adelaide, School of Animal & Veterinary Sciences, where she teaches animal behaviour, animal welfare and ethics. She is a member of multiple animal boards,

committees and associations and her research interests centre on human-animal interactions with a goal to improve both animal and human welfare.

Sheenagh Edwards, Accounting



Sheenagh is a chartered accountant and audit partner with more than 20 years' experience and has been involved in the audit of large not-for-profit organisations throughout her career both in the UK and in Australia.

Kate Gray, Commercial



Kate has a Bachelor of Economics and a Bachelor of Commerce from the University of Adelaide and has worked in a range of marketing and analyst roles in FMCG, retail and property and is now a business owner.

Professor Chris Daniels, Wildlife



As CEO of the International Koala Centre of Excellence and Chief Strategic Advisor to Cleland Wildlife Park, Chris brings a wealth of experience to the board. Chris has a passion for wildlife conservation and connecting with nature.

2024-2029 STRATEGIC PLAN

Strategic Pillar 1: Protect, Prevent & Influence



How we will achieve:

- 1.1 We will develop programs focused on community engagement to prevent cruelty and neglect
- 1.2 We will establish community outreach programs to improve responsible animal ownership
- 1.3 We will be the leading voice of influence on Animal Welfare throughout South Australia

What our impact will be:

- 1.1 Animal Welfare is improved throughout SA
- 1.2 The number of domestic animals requiring RSPCA care is reduced
- 1.3 Improved legal and regulatory protection for animals

Strategic Pillar 2: Empower & Engage our Workforce



How we will achieve:

- 2.1 We will build the best workforce that is committed to our purpose and values
- 2.2 Our culture will support a safe and healthy environment so that our people can do great work
- 2.3 We will recognise our staff and volunteers commitment to our purpose

What our impact will be:

- 2.1 We are seen as an employer of choice
- 2.2 Our workforce is healthy and safe
- 2.3 Our workforce is valued and appreciated

Strategic Pillar 3: Strengthen our Customer Engagement



How we will achieve:

- 3.1 We will focus and respond to our customers' expectations
- 3.2 We will make it easy for customers to engage with us
- 3.3 We will continue to build our market presence as leaders in Animal Welfare

What our impact will be:

- 3.1 Our customers become our greatest promoters
- 3.2 Our customers are loyal
- 3.3 We are trusted by the South Australian public

Our new 2024-29 Strategic Plan aims to unify our focus, providing clear direction while remaining adaptable to our ever-changing environment. It is a blueprint for our future and a statement of our collective intent.

Strategic Pillar 4: Grow, Sustain, Mature



How we will achieve:

- 4.1 We will drive opportunities to build financial sustainability
- 4.2 We will focus our activities on full cost recovery
- 4.3 We will collaborate nationally to align our organisation and build synergy

What our impact will be:

- 4.1 Our reserves grow to the benefit of our community
- 4.2 Our programs are funded to meet our needs
- 4.3 Our capacity and capabilities grow

Strategic Pillar 5: Best Practice Animal Care



How we will achieve:

- 5.1 Our animal care models are considered best practice
- 5.2 We will leverage technology to advance our business
- 5.3 We will continuously improve our business processes
- 5.4 We leverage our transition to Glenithorne and becoming a Wildlife organisation

What our impact will be:

- 5.1 Animals stay for shorter periods and shelter welfare is improved
- 5.2 Our technology enables our work, and our innovations improve animal outcomes
- 5.3 We challenge our status quo
- 5.4 We celebrate our new home



Our Success Factors

1. A consistent focus on improving animal welfare in SA
2. Capability to influence government and other animal welfare stakeholders
3. Achieving a high level of staff and volunteer performance, satisfaction, and retention
4. Increases in revenue generated from customer and donor satisfaction and retention
5. Continued positive promotion of RSPCA
6. More animals saved

Financial summary

Statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income

For the year ended 30 June 2023

		2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Costs			
<i>Mission</i>	Inspectorate & Legal	3,216	2,804
	Rescue	309	296
	Animal Operations	5,767	4,339
	Advocacy and Education	225	194
	Sub-Total Mission Costs	9,517	7,633
<i>Overheads</i>	Admin & Depreciation	2,452	1,912
	Total Mission Costs to be Funded	11,969	9,545
Net Income			
<i>Bequests</i>		3,759	3,346
<i>Animal Operations</i>	Adoptions, Boarding, Council	3,179	2,887
<i>Government</i>	Inspectorate Funding	1,529	1,217
<i>Investments</i>	Incl Gains & Losses	3,125	366
<i>Commercial</i>	Op Shops, Petville, Dog training	304	368
<i>Fundraising</i>		1,682	1,602
	Total Net Income	13,578	9,785
Surplus / (Shortfall)			
<i>Capital Campaign</i>		1,609	241
<i>Revaluation Adjustments</i>		1,307	979
		328	2,568
	Total Comprehensive Income	3,244	3,788

Statement of Financial Position

For the year ended 30 June 2023

		2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Assets			
	Current Assets	14,233	13,829
	Non-current assets	25,003	19,904
	Total assets	39,236	33,732
Liabilities			
	Current Liabilities	4,161	2,397
	Non-current liabilities	4,311	3,816
	Total Liabilities	8,472	6,213
	Net Assets	30,764	27,520

OUR PEOPLE



Major National
Partner &
Official National
Nutrition Partner



National Partners



For all creatures, great and small
Since 1875

Stay up-to-date with the latest animal
welfare news by signing up to our
e-newsletter at rspcasa.org.au

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