



For all creatures great and small.

RSPCA Australia National Statistics 1999-2000

The RSPCA receives thousands of animals every year in every State and Territory in Australia. Annual statistics on the numbers of animals received, reclaimed or rehomed are compiled on a national basis by RSPCA Australia. The following statistics cover the 1999 to 2000 financial year and give details on the receipt and placement of animals by each State and Territory RSPCA during that period.

- The RSPCA received 138,607 animals from across Australia, including 67,204 dogs and 50,485 cats.
- As well as receiving large numbers of dogs and cats, the RSPCA took in 220,918 other animals. These included horses, livestock, and wildlife, including some more unusual animals such as bandicoots, echidnas, blue-tongue lizards, sea lions, ferrets, and a wide variety of native birds.
- This year saw a slight increase in the rehoming rate for cats. 3.2% of cats coming into RSPCA care were reclaimed by their owners compared with 2.3% for last year. The reclaiming rate for dogs rose for the second year running from 20.4% in 1998-9 to 22.8% in 1999-2000.
- The RSPCA found new homes for 21,415 dogs and 15,162 cats. The percentage of cats rehomed by the RSPCA rose markedly this year to 30.0% of cats received compared with 25.6% last year.
- RSPCA Inspectors carried out 47,989 cruelty investigations, and 2,153 routine inspections in 1999-2000.
- Over 50% of all the cruelty complaints investigated by the RSPCA across Australia related to cruelty to dogs (26,907 complaints). These investigations resulted in over 150 prosecutions for cruelty to dogs.
- RSPCA inspectors visited a wide range of sites to examine animal welfare standards including saleyards, livestock vessels, feedlots, abattoirs, zoos, pet shops, riding schools and racetracks.

More detailed information is provided in the following tables:

Table 1 Statistics of animals received nationally by the RSPCA for the 1999-2000 financial year

Table 2 Comparison of animals received over the past 5 years

Table 3a Animals received by each State and Territory RSPCA (breakdown by animal groups)

Table 4a Cruelty complaints and prosecutions by State/Territory RSPCA

Table 4b Cruelty complaints by type of animal and State/Territory RSPCA

Table 4c Cruelty prosecutions by type of animal and State/Territory RSPCA

Table 1 Statistics of animals received nationally by the RSPCA for the 1999-2000 financial year

	Number of animals	Percentage of total
Total animals received	138,607	
Dogs received	67,204	(48.5% of total)
Reclaimed	15,323	(22.8% of dogs)
Rehomed	21,415	(31.9% of dogs)
Other	4,127	(6.1% of dogs)
Euthanased	26,339	(39.2% of dogs)
Cats received	50,485	(36.4% of total)
Reclaimed	1,612	(3.2% of cats)
Rehomed	15,162	(30.0% of cats)
Other	2,509	(5.0% of cats)
Euthanased	31,202	(61.8% of cats)
Other animals received	20,918	(15.1% of total)

Table 2 Comparison of animals received over the past 5 years

	1995-6	1996-7	1997-8	1998-9	1999-2000	Change from previous year
Total animals received	142,72	158,109	160,128	153,495	138,607	down 9.7%
Dogs received	60,627	69,956	80,776	72,360	67,204	down 7.1%
reclaimed/rehomed/other	30,559	36,162	37,503	38,464	40,865	up 6.2%
euthanased	30,070	33,794	36,037	33,896	26,339	down 22.3%
Cats received	58,632	62,163	59,028	59,006	50,485	down 14.4%
reclaimed/rehomed/other	15,198	15,500	14,874	16,486	19,283	up 17.0%
euthanased	43,434	46,663	43,375	42,520	31,202	down 26.6%
Other animals received	23,466	25,990	20,324	22,129	20,918	down 5.5%

Table 3 Animals received by each State and Territory RSPCA (breakdown by animal groups)

	State/Territory RSPCA								
	ACT	NSW	NT ¹	QLD	SA	TAS ²	VIC	WA ³	Total
Dogs	2,227	20,631	1,695	16,955	5,515	1,763	18,256	162	67,204
reclaimed	610	3,140	205	1,392	2,329	516	7,130	1	15,323
rehomed	1,245	7,525	526	5,489	1,105	480	4,908	137	21,415
other	12	745	955	860	380	168	1,001	6	4127
euthanased	360	9,221	9	9,214	1,701	599	5,217	18	26,339
Cats	2,560	12,766	1,138	15,047	4,673	1,963	12,266	72	50,485
reclaimed	111	201	22	206	157	31	884	0	1,612
rehomed	1,442	3,913	269	3,901	1,055	752	3,768	62	15,162
other	0	447	0	386	46	124	1,501	5	2,509
euthanased	1,007	8,205	847	10,554	3,415	1,056	6,113	5	31,202
Horses	1	20	4	15	13	3	110	0	166
reclaimed	0	0	1	0	2	1	87	0	91
rehomed	1	12	3	3	10	0	19	0	48
other	0	0	0	11	1	2	0	0	14
euthanased	0	8	0	1	0	0	4	0	13
Livestock⁴	140	798	120	423	130	34	930	3	2,578
reclaimed	2	15	0	9	13	1	418	0	458
rehomed	90	719	120	88	61	25	315	3	1,421
other	39	15	0	217	2	6	18	0	297
euthanased	9	49	0	109	54	2	179	0	402
Wildlife⁵	1,309	804	88	2,766	1,482	268	8,292	0	15,009
released	390	26	6	1,461	175	66	4,582	0	6706
other	173	597	32	0	446	127	2,081	0	3456
euthanased	746	181	50	1,305	861	75	1,629	0	4847
Other animals	393	1,313	75	620	191	110	450	13	3,165
reclaimed	31	50	5	0	16	5	2	0	109
rehomed	239	250	60	43	67	63	133	0	855
other	37	26	0	259	5	24	18	12	381
euthanased	86	987	10	318	103	18	297	1	1,820
Total received	6,630	36,332	3,120	35,826	12,004	4,141	40,304	250	138,607
1998-1999	5,767	43,707	2,992	40,945	11,849	2,681	44,408	1,146	153,495
1997-1998	5,471	49,237	2,898	42,978	13,090	2,643	40,807	3,004	160,128
% change from previous year	up 15%	down 17%	up 4%	Down 13%	up 1%	see note 2	down 9%	see note 3	down 9.7%

¹ Refers to RSPCA Darwin Regional Branch only

² Tasmanian figures for previous years did not include all shelters

³ WA breakdown figures refer only to their animal shelter which opened in May 2000. The total number of animals received by the shelter and inspectorate was 1,243.

⁴ Livestock includes poultry and other farmed birds

⁵ Wildlife includes wild birds

Examples of livestock, wildlife and other animals received by the RSPCA

Livestock	Wildlife	Other animals
• Cattle	• Bandicoots	• Sealions
• Chickens	• Bats	• Seals
• Ducks	• Echidnas	• Sugar gliders
• Emus	• Frogs	• Various species of birds
• Geese	• Kangaroos	• Wallabies
• Goats	• Koalas	• Wild ducks
• Pigs	• Lizards	• Wombats
• Sheep	• Pelicans	
	• Possums	

Table 4a Cruelty complaints and prosecutions by State/Territory RSPCA

	State/Territory RSPCA								Total
	ACT	NSW	NT ¹	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	
Cruelty complaints									
Received	752	18833	228	9411	3162	2453	10164	3075	48078
Investigated	752	18833	228	9411	3162	2364	10164	3075	47989
Revisited	209	0	76	0	1043	802	1118	1608	4856
Cruelty prosecutions									
Prosecutions	9	77	7	70	42	10	105	27	347
Convictions	5	74	3	65	38	10	103	18	316
Charges laid	12	153	3	109	122	20	601	100	1120
People charged	9	5	3	73	56	16	105	28	295
Cases examined	11	77	0	0	2	16	115	2	223
Cases pending	3	0	2	5	6	6	55	7	84
Routine Inspections	2	1000	16	311	94	270	209	251	2153

¹ Refers to RSPCA Darwin Regional Branch only

Routine Inspection Details

Following are examples of the types of establishments routinely inspected by the RSPCA:

- | | | | |
|---------------|---------------------|------------------|-------------|
| • Abattoirs | • Feedlots | • Piggeries | • Shelters |
| • Agistment | • Kennels | • Poultry farms | • Shows |
| • Aquariums | • Knackeries | • Pounds | • Transport |
| • Aviaries | • Livestock vessels | • Racetracks | • Zoos |
| • Calf scales | • Markets | • Riding schools | |
| • Catteries | • Pet parks | • Rodeos | |
| • Circuses | • Pet shops | • Saleyards | |

Table 4b Cruelty complaints by type of animal and State/Territory RSPCA

	State/Territory RSPCA								Total (% of total)	
	ACT	NSW	NT ¹	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA		
Dogs	514	11,884	168	5,478	1,356	1,218	4,656	1,633	26,907	50.6%
Cats	110	7,051	10	1,028	326	221	2,746	378	11,870	22.3%
Horses	27	1,651	18	1,096	217	349	1,444	352	5,154	9.7%
Livestock	27	1,648	18	259	605	477	1,051	525	4,610	8.7%
Birds	22	837	0	515	70	2	376	82	1,904	3.6%
Wildlife	0	32	4	0	16	17	52	105	226	0.5%
Other	32	730	0	0	72	97	1,529	0	2,460	4.6%

¹ Refers to RSPCA Darwin Regional Branch only

Table 4c Cruelty prosecutions by type of animal and State/Territory RSPCA

	State/Territory RSPCA							
	ACT	NSW ¹	NT ²	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA
Dogs	8		4	52	24	16	37	9
Cats	1		1	9	10		6	2
Horses			1	4	4		18	4
Livestock			1	2	2	3	39	12
Birds				3	1	1		0
Wildlife								
Other					1		3	

¹ Figures not available from RSPCA NSW

² Refers to RSPCA Darwin Regional Branch only