



For all creatures great and small.

RSPCA Australia National Statistics 2000-2001

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 2000 to 2001 financial year and give details on the receipt and placement of animals by each State and Territory RSPCA during that period.

- The RSPCA received 134 670 animals in 2000-2001, down on the previous year's figure by nearly 3%. Although the total number of animals received by the RSPCA dropped, some individual branches actually received more animals. A 26% rise in the number of animals received by the NT reflects the inclusion of data from the Katherine shelter in this year's figures.
- There was major drop was in the number of animals other than dogs and cats that were received in 2000-2001 (down by 11%). The number of dogs received was also down for the third year running. Some of the more unusual animals received in 200-2001 included turkeys, bats, fairy-penguins, snakes, and goldfish.
- Unfortunately, both the number of cats received, and the proportion euthanased increased. Slightly more cats were rehomed, 30.7% compared with 30.0% in 1999-2000, while less cats were reclaimed, 2.5% compared with 3.2%.
- The RSPCA investigated 48,503 cruelty complaints, and initiated 364 prosecutions. Both figures were up on the previous year's 47,989 complaints and 347 prosecutions. Nearly 50% of cruelty complaints related to dogs. There was an increase from last year of over 1,500 dog-related complaints to 28,618.

More detailed information is provided in the following tables:

Table 1 Statistics of animals received nationally by the RSPCA for the 2000-2001 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

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Table 5 Membership and volunteers by State/Territory RSPCA

Table 1 Statistics of animals received nationally by the RSPCA for the 2000-2001 financial year

	Number of animals	Percentage of total
Total animals received	134,670	
Dogs received	64,471	(47.9% of total)
Reclaimed	15,955	(24.7% of dogs)
Rehomed	20,936	(32.5% of dogs)
Other	1,669	(2.6% of dogs)
Euthanased	25,911	(40.2% of dogs)
Cats received	51,598	(38.3% of total)
Reclaimed	1,273	(2.5% of cats)
Rehomed	15,819	(30.7% of cats)
Other	1,605	(3.1% of cats)
Euthanased	32,901	(63.8% of cats)
Other animals received	18,601	(13.8% of total)

Table 2 Comparison of animals received over the past 5 years

	1996-7	1997-8	1998-9	1999-2000	2000-01	Change from previous year
Total animals received	158,10	160,128	153,495	138,607	134,670	down 2.8%
Dogs received	69,956	80,776	72,360	67,204	64,471	down 4.1%
reclaimed/rehomed/other	36,162	37,503	38,464	40,865	38,560	down 5.6%
euthanased	33,794	36,037	33,896	26,339	25,911	down 1.6%
Cats received	62,163	59,028	59,006	50,485	51,598	up 2.2%
reclaimed/rehomed/other	15,500	14,874	16,486	19,283	18,697	down 3.0%
euthanased	46,663	43,375	42,520	31,202	32,901	up 5.4%
Other animals received	25,990	20,324	22,129	20,918	18,601	down 11.1%

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

	State/Territory RSPCA								Total
	ACT	NSW	NT ¹	QLD	SA	TAS ²	VIC	WA ³	
Dogs	1,973	18,625	2,334	15,204	5,771	1,834	17,318	1,412	64,471
reclaimed	1,198	2,969	912	1,440	2,651	570	5,759	456	15,955
rehomed	501	6,720	753	5,124	1,233	460	5,390	755	20,936
other	5	1,050	2	102	0	250	166	94	1,669
euthanased	269	7,886	667	8,538	1,887	554	6,003	107	25,911
Cats	2,465	11,509	1,583	14,633	5,189	2,144	13,559	516	51,598
reclaimed	91	181	26	163	138	45	625	4	1,273
rehomed	1,367	3,522	568	3,858	1,323	629	4,146	406	15,819
other	67	645	2	42	0	176	655	18	1,605
euthanased	940	7,161	987	10,570	3,728	1,294	8,133	88	32,901
Horses	2	9	0	22	5	4	4	18	64
reclaimed	0	1	0	0	1	2	0	0	4
rehomed	1	4	0	21	3	0	4	15	48
other	1	3	0	0	0	2	0	3	9
euthanased	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	3
Livestock⁴	132	469	0	380	153	85	328	41	1,588
reclaimed	6	0	0	2	20	0	25	2	55
rehomed	113	318	0	237	53	71	257	26	1,075
other	2	72	0	0	0	9	10	5	98
euthanased	11	79	0	141	80	5	36	8	360
Wildlife⁵	1,406	1,082	0	2,077	1,143	311	6,144	84	12,188
released	481	287	0	852	0	109	2,682	19	4,430
other	502	95	0	0	506	125	723	37	1,988
euthanased	423	700	0	1,225	637	77	2,739	28	5,829
Other animals	405	1,616	0	975	534	92	1,043	37	4,702
reclaimed	25	34	0	23	0	17	98	2	199
rehomed	276	131	0	750	338	36	176	28	1,735
other	41	35	0	0	0	28	125	1	230
euthanased	63	1,416	0	202	196	11	644	6	2,538
Total received	6,383	33,310	3,917	33,291	12,795	4,470	38,396	2,108	134,670
1999-2000	6,630	36,332	3,120	35,826	12,004	4,141	40,301	250	138,607
1998-1999	5,767	43,707	2,992	40,945	11,849	2,681	44,408	1,146	153,495
% change from previous year	down 4%	down 8%	up 26%	down 7%	up 7%	up 8%	down 5%	up 743%	down 2.8%

¹ Refers to RSPCA Darwin and Katherine shelters only

² Tasmanian figures for 1998-1999 did not include all shelters

³ WA breakdown figures for the previous year refer only to their animal shelter, which opened in May 2000. The total number of animals received by the shelter and inspectorate in that year was 1,243. Compared with this value the WA total is up by 69.6%

⁴ Livestock includes poultry and other farmed birds

⁵ Wildlife includes wild birds

Appendix to Table 3 Animals received by each State and Territory RSPCA

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

Livestock

- Calves
- Cattle
- Chickens
- Ducks
- Geese
- Goats
- Lambs
- Muscovy ducks
- Pigs
- Roosters
- Sheep
- Turkeys

Wildlife

- A wide variety of birds
- Bats
- Bearded dragons
- Blue-tongue lizards
- Echidnas
- Fairy penguins
- Fish
- Frogs
- Kangaroos
- Koalas
- Owls
- Possums
- Snakes
- Sugar gliders
- Turtles
- Wallabies
- Wombats

Other animals

- Budgerigars
- Doves
- Ferrets
- Fish
- Goldfish
- Guinea pigs
- Mice
- Tame parrots
- Pigeons
- Rabbits
- Rats
- Fox cubs

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

	State/Territory RSPCA								Total
	ACT	NSW ¹	NT ²	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	
Cruelty complaints									
Received	749	18831	206	10704	3087	2034	9579	3313	48503
Investigated	749	18831	206	10704	3087	2034	9579	3313	48503
Revisited			101	2604	1000	398	1221	1845	7169
Cruelty prosecutions									
Prosecutions	10	103	1	87	21	34	57	48	364
Convictions	5	101	1	61	19	15	57	39	292.94
Charges laid	12	239	1	129	51		281	83	784
People charged	5	103	1	99	23	15	57		298
Cases examined	14		3	44		17	181		245
Cases pending	4	50	0	25	33	17	55	9	189
Routine Inspections	n/a		12	250	212	227	292	430	1423

¹ NSW is no longer providing figures for routine inspections

² Refers to RSPCA Darwin and Katherine shelters only

Routine Inspection Details

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

- Abattoirs
- Agistment
- Aquariums
- Aviaries
- Calf scales
- Catteries
- Circuses
- Crocodile farms
- Feedlots
- Greyhound tracks
- Guard dogs
- Intensive farms
- Kennels
- Knackeries
- Livestock vessels
- Markets
- Pet parks
- Pet shops
- Piggeries
- Poultry farms
- Pounds
- Riding schools
- Rodeos
- Saleyards
- Scientific establishments
- Shelters
- Shows
- Transport
- Zoos

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

	State/Territory RSPCA								Total (% of total)	
	ACT ¹	NSW	NT ²	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA		
Dogs	498	11,831	136	6,738	1,947	1,075	4,640	1,753	28,618	59.0%
Cats	111	2,016	27	998	541	0	699	456	4,848	9.9%
Horses/ Donkeys	42	1,791	27	1,306	198	256	1,322	394	5,336	11.0%
Livestock	0	1,634	11	483	147	216	810	542	3,843	7.9%
Birds	0	905	0	436	84	0	0	82	1,507	3.1%
Wildlife	0	26	2	77	80	0	0	86	271	0.6%
Other	98	628	3	666	90	487	2108	0	4,080	8.4%

¹ Figures not available from ACT branch

² Refers to RSPCA Darwin and Katherine shelters only

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

	State/Territory RSPCA							
	ACT	NSW ¹	NT ²	QLD	SA	TAS ¹	VIC	WA
Dogs	9		0	64	15		18	12
Cats	3		0	6	3		4	2
Horses	1		0	6	2		11	13
Livestock	0		0	8	0		24	21
Birds	0		0	2	1		0	0
Wildlife	0		1	0	0		0	0
Other	0		0	1	0		0	0

¹ Figures not available from RSPCA NSW, or TAS branches

² Refers to RSPCA Darwin and Katherine shelters only