



For all creatures great and small.

## RSPCA Australia National Statistics 2001-2002

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 2001 to 2002 financial year and give details on the receipt and placement of animals by each State and Territory RSPCA during that period.

- The RSPCA received 132,054 animals in 2001-2002, down on the previous year's figure by over 2,500 animals (2%). Although the total number of animals received by the RSPCA dropped, four of the eight State or Territory RSPCAs actually received more animals. Most notably, RSPCA SA received 14% more animals than the previous financial year.
- The number of dogs received by the RSPCA continued to fall this year, following the trend over the last 5 years. In contrast, the number of cats and other animals received has been relatively stable for the past 3 years.
- The RSPCA investigated 51,216 cruelty complaints, and initiated 339 prosecutions in 2001-2002. This compares with 48,503 complaints and 364 prosecutions in the previous year. The large increase in complaints mostly reflects an increase of 4,500 complaints in NSW, a figure explained by several calls to evacuate abandoned animals during the bushfires experienced in that state during December 2001. Nearly 50% of cruelty complaints received related to dogs.

More detailed information is provided in the following figures and tables:

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

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**Figure 3** Cruelty complaints by type of animal in 2001-2002

**Table 1 Statistics of animals received nationally by the RSPCA for the 2001-2002 financial year**

	Number of animals	Percentage of total
<b>Total animals received</b>	132,702	
<b>Dogs received</b>	61,692	(46.5% of total)
Reclaimed	15,019	(24% of dogs)
Rehomed	20,696	(34% of dogs)
Other	2,369	(4% of dogs)
Euthanased	23,608	(38% of dogs)
<b>Cats received</b>	49,754	(37.7% of total)
Reclaimed	1,423	(3% of cats)
Rehomed	15,413	(31% of cats)
Other	1,749	(4% of cats)
Euthanased	31,009	(62% of cats)
<b>Other animals received</b>	20,608	(16% of total)

**Table 2 Comparison of animals received over the past 5 years**

	1997-8	1998-9	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	Change from previous year
<b>Total animals received</b>	160,128	153,495	138,607	134,670	132,054	down 1.9%
<b>Dogs received</b>	80,776	72,360	67,204	64,471	61,692	down 4.3%
reclaimed/rehomed/other	37,503	38,464	40,865	38,560	38,084	down 1.2%
euthanased	36,037	33,896	26,339	25,911	23,608	down 8.9%
<b>Cats received</b>	59,028	59,006	50,485	51,598	49,754	down 3.6%
reclaimed/rehomed/other	14,874	16,486	19,283	18,697	18,745	up 0.3%
euthanased	43,375	42,520	31,202	32,901	31,009	down 5.8%
<b>Other animals received</b>	20,324	22,129	20,918	18,601	20,608	up 10.8%

Figure 1 The fate of cats and dogs received by the RSPCA in 2001-2002

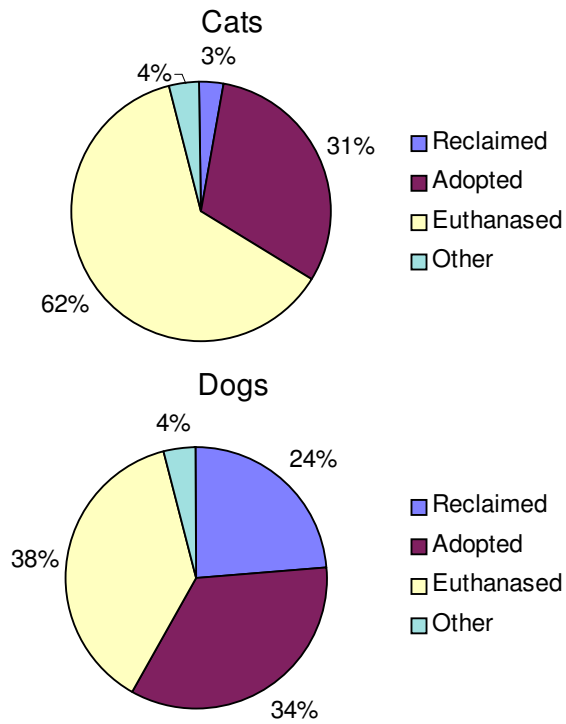
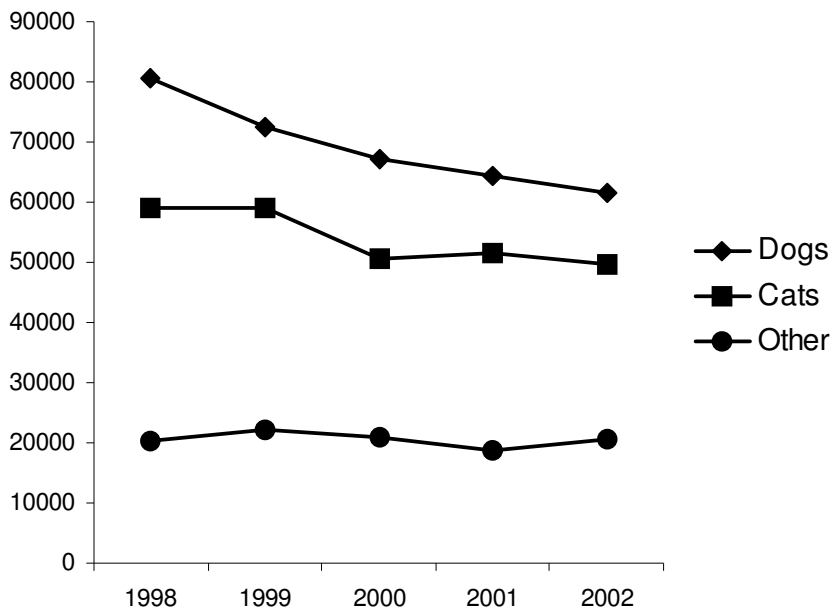


Figure 2 The numbers of animals received over the past five years



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

	State/Territory RSPCA								Total
	ACT	NSW	NT <sup>1</sup>	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA <sup>2</sup>	
<b>Dogs</b>	1,721	17,420	1,682	14,199	5,688	1,588	17,537	1,857	61,692
reclaimed	602	3,195	238	1,270	2,133	495	6,273	813	15,019
rehomed	985	6,269	699	5,104	916	516	5,265	942	20,696
other	8	874	51	64	794	148	430	0	2,369
euthanased	126	7,082	694	7,761	1,845	429	5,569	102	23,608
<b>Cats</b>	2,296	10,500	1,402	14,660	4,677	2,040	13,597	582	49,754
reclaimed	116	180	40	215	187	75	574	36	1,423
rehomed	1,376	3,800	385	3,566	940	594	4,326	426	15,413
other	19	539	50	54	286	220	729	12	1,909
euthanased	785	5,981	927	10,825	3,264	1,151	7,968	108	31,009
<b>Horses</b>	4	14	0	14	12	1	16	2	63
reclaimed	0	4	0	0	4	1	2	0	11
rehomed	2	8	0	13	2	0	14	0	39
other	0	1	0	0	5	0	0	2	8
euthanased	2	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	5
<b>Livestock<sup>3</sup></b>	131	347	0	502	1,974	97	352	26	3,429
reclaimed	2	11	0	5	653	5	10	2	688
rehomed	128	80	0	240	304	68	100	18	938
other	0	146	0	0	30	11	134	2	323
euthanased	1	110	0	257	987	13	108	4	1,480
<b>Wildlife<sup>4</sup></b>	1,816	1,105	0	1,760	1,911	141	6,466	0	13,199
released	537	517	0	843	268	52	1,539	0	3,756
other	576	74	0	0	649	37	1,819	0	3,155
euthanased	703	514	0	917	994	52	3,108	0	6,288
<b>Other animals</b>	439	1,739	0	553	311	108	693	74	3,917
reclaimed	28	645	0	5	18	8	78	1	783
rehomed	361	396	0	132	105	74	98	68	1,234
other	0	168	0	0	25	5	35	4	237
euthanased	50	530	0	416	163	21	482	1	1,663
<b>Total received</b>	<b>6,407</b>	<b>31,125</b>	<b>3,084</b>	<b>31,688</b>	<b>14,573</b>	<b>3,975</b>	<b>38,661</b>	<b>2,541</b>	<b>132,054</b>
2000-2001	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	1,243	138,607
% change from previous year	up 0.4%	down 6.6%	down 21.3%	down 4.8%	up 13.9%	down 11.1%	up 0.7%	up 20.5%	down 1.9%

<sup>1</sup> Refers to RSPCA Darwin and Katherine shelters only

<sup>2</sup> The relatively low total received for WA in 1999-2000 reflects the fact that their shelter opened only in May 2000

<sup>3</sup> Livestock includes poultry and other farmed birds

<sup>4</sup> 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

- Cattle
- Chickens
- Ducks
- Geese
- Goats
- Lambs
- Muscovy ducks
- Peacocks/ peahens
- Pigs
- Roosters
- Sheep
- Turkeys

#### Wildlife

- A wide variety of birds
- Bats
- Blue-tongue lizards
- Brushtailed possums
- Crows
- Eagles
- Echidnas
- Frogs
- Kangaroos
- Koalas
- Kookaburras
- Little penguins
- Lizards
- Owls
- Parrots
- Ringtailed possums
- Snakes
- Starlings
- Sugar gliders
- Turtles
- Wallabies
- Wombats

#### Other animals

- Budgerigars
- Canaries
- Cockatiels
- Ferrets
- Fish
- Guinea pigs
- Mice
- Pigeons
- Rabbits
- Rats

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

	State/Territory RSPCA								Total
	ACT	NSW	NT <sup>1</sup>	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	
<b>Cruelty complaints</b>									
Received	601	23,369	236	10,675	2,910	2,360	8,476	2,589	51,216
Investigated	601	23,369	225	10,675	2,910	2,360	8,476	2,589	51,205
Revisited	*	*	6	*	1,164	956	2,047	1,402	
<b>Cruelty prosecutions</b>									
Prosecutions	10	106	0	62	37	15	73	36	339
Convictions	3	104	0	56	23	12	70	22	290
Charges laid	10	346	0	103	69	*	340	57	
People charged	10	106	0	72	37	*	73	32	
Cases examined	*	*	0	*	76	12	*	*	
Cases pending	7	*	0	10	25	17	64	9	
<b>Routine Inspections</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>*</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>340</b>	<b>184</b>	<b>303</b>	<b>*</b>	<b>97</b>	

<sup>1</sup> Refers to RSPCA Darwin and Katherine shelters only

\* Figure not available

### 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 Comparison of complaints and prosecutions over the past 5 years**

	State/Territory RSPCA								Total
	ACT	NSW <sup>1</sup>	NT <sup>2</sup>	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	
<b>Cruelty complaints</b>									
2001-2002	601	23,369	236	10,675	2,910	2,360	8,476	2,589	51,216
2000-2001	749	18,831	206	10,704	3,087	2,034	9,579	3,313	48,503
1999-2000	752	18,833	228	9,411	3,162	2,453	10,164	3,075	48,078
<b>Cruelty prosecutions</b>									
2001-2002	10	106	0	62	37	15	73	36	339
2000-2001	13	103	1	87	21	34	57	48	364
1999-2000	9	77	7	70	42	10	105	27	347
<b>Cruelty convictions</b>									
2001-2002	3	104	0	56	23	12	70	22	290
2000-2001	5	101	1	61	19	15	57	39	298
1999-2000	5	74	3	65	38	10	103	18	316

**Table 4c Cruelty complaints<sup>1</sup> by type of animal and State/Territory RSPCA**

	State/Territory RSPCA								Total (% of total)	
	ACT	NSW	NT <sup>2</sup>	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA		
Dogs	443	10,247	193	5,964	1,237	1,286	3,902	1,458	24,730	50%
Cats	70	1,663	5	1,148	869	240	624	375	4,994	10%
Horses/ Donkeys	18	1,793	27	1,396	323	231	1,191	288	5,267	11%
Livestock	26	4,316	6	1,114	304	358	766	328	7,218	15%
Birds	19	692	0	298	62	52	344	66	1,533	3%
Wildlife	2	0	0	102	112	16	0	74	306	1%
Other	9	4,658	6	161	170	177	98	0	5,279	11%

<sup>1</sup> Refers to the number of complaints received, not the number of animals involved in each complaint. For example, a single complaint about livestock may have involved 100 head of cattle

<sup>2</sup> Refers to RSPCA Darwin and Katherine shelters only

**Figure 3 Cruelty complaints by type of animal in 2001-2002**

