

RSPCA Australia National Statistics 2019-2020

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 2019 to 2020 financial year and give details on the receipt and placement of animals by each state and territory RSPCA during that period. The statistics also include the number of cruelty complaints received by the RSPCA Inspectorate and prosecutions undertaken.

Detailed information is provided in the following tables:

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- Table 2 Comparison of animals received nationally by the RSPCA over the past 5 years
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- Table 6 Cruelty complaints and prosecutions nationally over the past 6 years

Table 1: Animals received¹ nationally by the RSPCA for the 2019-2020 financial year

	Number of animals	Percentage of total animals
Total animals received:	112,530	
Dogs		
Reclaimed	10,207	36.36%
Rehomed	11,442	40.76%
Currently in Care ²	1,426	5.08%
Transferred ³	1,392	4.96%
Euthanased	3,466	12.35%
Other	139	0.50%
Total dogs	28,072	100.00%
Cats		
Reclaimed	2,481	5.47%
Rehomed	29,121	64.19%
Currently in Care ²	2,341	5.16%
Transferred ³	1,055	2.33%
Euthanased	9,714	21.41%
Other	652	1.44%
Total cats	45,364	100.00%
Other animals⁴		
Reclaimed	4,098	9.626%
Rehomed	4,863	13.152%
Currently in Care ²	1,520	3.224%
Transferred ³	6,486	18.643%
Euthanased	20,084	49.960%
Other	2,043	5.395%
Total other animals	39,094	100.00%

¹ Received refers to all animals in RSPCA facilities during the 2019-2020 financial year

² Currently in Care: animals remaining in shelter at end of financial year including foster care

³ Transferred: animals transferred to another RSPCA facility or non-RSPCA facility such as pound, welfare or rescue group

⁴ Including: horses, small animals, livestock, and wildlife

Table 2: Comparison of animals received nationally by the RSPCA over the past 5 years

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	Change from previous year
Dogs						
Reclaimed/rehomed/other	39,384	39,007	34,709	29,555	24,606	-16.75
Euthanased	5,872	5,763	5,577	4,308	3,466	-19.55
Total dogs received	45,256	44,770	40,286	33,863	28,072	-17.10
Cats						
Reclaimed/rehomed/other	39,365	39,349	40,401	39,430	35,650	-9.59
Euthanased	16,205	14,563	12,610	11,740	9,714	-17.26
Total cats received	55,570	53,912	53,011	51,170	45,364	-11.35
Other Animals						
Reclaimed/rehomed/other	20,884	20,619	20,709	19,572	19,010	-2.87
Euthanased	15,681	16,571	18,651	19,541	20,084	2.78
Total other animals received	36,565	37,190	39,360	39,113	39,094	-0.05
Total animals	137,391	135,883	132,657	124,146	112,530	-9.36

Table 3: Reasons for euthanasia of dogs and cats by each RSPCA Society for the 2019-2020 financial year

	State/Territory RSPCA								Total
	ACT	Darwin ¹	NSW ²	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	
Dogs									
Infectious	0	0	37	25	0	1	1	0	64
Medical	20	10	255	280	65	4	133	48	815
Behavioural	20	3	1,146	723	168	2	277	53	2,392
Legal	0	0	48	101	19	0	22	0	190
Other	0	0	2	0	0	0	3	0	5
Total dogs euthanased	40	13	1,488	1,129	252	7	436	101	3,466
Cats									
Infectious	12	0	604	329	0	3	325	4	1,277
Medical	83	7	919	740	392	17	437	24	2,619
Behavioural	36	2	838	92	243	4	385	8	1,608
Legal	0	0	1	3	0	0	1	0	5
Other	139	0	2,265	181	413	148	1,024	35	4,205
Total cats euthanased	270	9	4,627	1,345	1,048	172	2,172	71	9,714

¹ Data not available for NT - data from Darwin Regional Branch only.

² RSPCA NSW includes Council animals this year.

Table 4: Animals received¹ by each RSPCA Society for the 2019-2020 financial year

	State/Territory RSPCA								Total
	ACT	Darwin	NSW ⁵	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	
Dogs									
Reclaimed	315	5	2,663	3,606	896	16	2,566	140	10,207
Rehomed	283	379	3,351	4,317	888	87	1,835	302	11,442
Currently in Care ²	49	4	589	383	95	9	216	81	1,426
Transferred ³	38	0	665	223	61	3	341	61	1,392
Euthanased	40	13	1,488	1,129	252	7	436	101	3,466
Other	1	0	42	71	21	1	1	2	139
Total dogs	726	401	8,798	9,729	2,213	123	5,395	687	28,072
Last year's total	803	372	10,075	11,517	2,442	452	7,381	821	33,863
Percent change ⁴	-9.59	7.80	-15.52	-15.52	-9.38	-72.79	-26.91	-16.32	-17.10
Cats									
Reclaimed	137	2	578	824	240	37	627	36	2,481
Rehomed	1,041	336	8,015	8,008	3,782	681	6,772	486	29,121
Currently in Care ²	70	24	802	419	330	23	625	48	2,341
Transferred ³	14	2	344	205	29	23	377	61	1,055
Euthanased	270	9	4,627	1,345	1,048	172	2,172	71	9,714
Other	17	5	193	232	107	3	84	11	652
Total cats	1,549	378	14,559	11,033	5,536	939	10,657	713	45,364
Last year's total	1,775	452	15,688	13,648	5,070	1,325	12,272	940	51,170
Percent change ⁴	-12.73	-16.37	-7.20	-19.16	9.19	-29.13	-13.16	-24.15	-11.35
Horses									
Reclaimed	0	0	0	18	3	0	6	0	27
Rehomed	1	0	24	59	7	4	30	2	127
Currently in Care ²	0	0	78	35	9	2	20	9	153
Transferred ³	1	0	3	0	1	0	4	0	9
Euthanased	0	0	13	16	1	1	19	0	50
Other	0	0	1	3	0	0	1	0	5
Total horses	2	0	119	131	21	7	80	11	371
Last year's total	0	0	173	125	27	7	107	40	479
Percent change ⁴	100.00	0.00	-31.21	4.80	-22.22	0.00	-25.23	-72.50	-22.55
Livestock									
Reclaimed	3	6	11	118	9	1	7	1	156
Rehomed	42	6	328	192	37	5	174	56	840
Currently in Care ²	1	0	41	58	7	2	25	1	135
Transferred ³	1	0	33	308	3	0	104	121	570
Euthanased	16	0	167	216	42	1	75	13	530
Other	2	0	13	18	3	0	4	0	40
Total livestock	65	12	593	910	101	9	389	192	2,271
Last year's total	81	9	847	1,597	194	86	326	169	3,309
Percent change ⁴	-19.75	33.33	-29.99	-43.02	-47.94	-89.53	19.33	13.61	-31.37

Wildlife									
Released	20	0	5	3,146	72	2	384	3	3,632
Currently in Care ²	0	0	7	295	4	0	43	0	349
Transferred ³	93	0	187	5,141	86	0	28	3	5,538
Euthanased	250	0	284	16,580	113	0	539	1	17,767
Other	9	0	21	1,142	49	0	334	2	1,557
Total wildlife	372	0	504	26,304	324	2	1,328	9	28,843
Last year's total	340	0	1,038	25,385	267	19	1,112	22	28,183
Percent change ⁴	9.41	0.00	-51.45	3.62	21.35	-89.47	19.42	100.00	2.34
Other Animals									
Reclaimed	26	10	85	125	8	4	10	15	283
Rehomed	304	10	1,195	1,190	299	91	647	160	3,896
Currently in Care ²	40	0	136	513	36	12	137	9	883
Transferred ³	33	0	16	309	0	0	8	3	369
Euthanased	46	0	655	885	33	1	102	15	1,737
Other	44	0	149	172	22	8	39	7	441
Total other animals	493	20	2,236	3,194	398	116	943	209	7,609
Last year's total	494	10	2,380	2,236	590	145	1,096	191	7,142
Percent change ⁴	-0.20	100.00	-6.05	42.84	-32.54	-20.00	-13.96	9.42	6.54
Total animals received	3,207	811	26,809	51,301	8,593	1,196	18,792	1,821	112,530
Last year's total	3,493	843	30,201	54,508	8,590	2,034	22,294	2,183	124,146
Percent change ⁴	-8.19	-3.80	-11.23	-5.88	0.03	-41.20	-15.71	-16.58	-9.36

¹ Received refers to all animals in RSPCA facilities during the 2019-2020 financial year.

² Currently in Care: animals remaining in shelter at end of financial year including foster care.

³ Transferred: animals transferred to another RSPCA facility or non-RSPCA facility such as pound, welfare or rescue group.

⁴ Percentage change in 2019-20 from previous year.

⁵ RSPCA NSW includes Council animals this year.

Livestock

- Cattle
- Chickens
- Ducks
- Geese
- Goats
- Bantam Hens
- Pigs
- Roosters
- Sheep
- Donkeys
- Turkeys

Wildlife

- A wide variety of native birds
- Magpies
- Galahs
- Lizards
- Possums
- Kookaburras
- Water birds
- Turtles
- Koalas
- Kangaroos and Wallabies

Other animals

- Budgerigars
- Doves
- Ferrets
- Guinea pigs
- Mice
- Pigeons
- Rabbits
- Rats
- Tame ducks and chickens

Table 5: Cruelty complaints and prosecutions by state/territory RSPCA for the 2019-2020 financial year

	State/Territory RSPCA ¹							Total
	ACT	NSW	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	
Cruelty complaints								
Investigated	1,304	14,425	18,260	4,139	2,171	10,745	6,866	57,910
Cruelty prosecutions								
Prosecutions finalised	4	87	168	28	10	51	11	359
Successful prosecutions ²	3	80	129	25	10	49	8	304
Charges laid	9	423	1058	0	37	120	0	1647
People charged	4	98	129	22	16	44	15	328
Cases pending	3	60	432	39	6	62	7	609
Routine inspections	0	139	0	6	0	19	5	169

¹ RSPCA Darwin does not have the right to enforce animal welfare legislation in NT - enforcement is the sole responsibility of the NT Government

² Facts proved in relation to principal charges

Examples of the types of establishments routinely inspected by the RSPCA:

- Abattoirs
- Aquariums
- Breeding establishments
- Circuses
- Feedlots
- Guard dog firms
- Hobby farms
- Intensive farms
- Kennels
- Livestock vessels
- Markets
- Pet shops
- Poultry farms
- Pounds
- Riding schools
- Rodeos
- Saleyards
- Scientific establishments
- Shelters
- Shows
- Tourist parks
- Zoos

Table 6: Cruelty complaints and prosecutions nationally over the past 6 years

	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
Complaints	60,809	62,563	55,405	57,092	57,982	73,997
Prosecutions ¹	274	264	340	370	376	359

¹ Finalised prosecutions