



## RSPCA Australia National Statistics 2021-2022

The RSPCA is an independent, community-based charity that provides animal care and protection services across the country.

As a federated organisation, the RSPCA's Member Societies in each state and territory run animal rehoming shelters, investigate and prosecute animal cruelty complaints, and educate the community on animal welfare and responsible pet ownership.

The RSPCA's mission is to prevent cruelty to animals by actively promoting their care and protection and advocate for new legislation where required.

RSPCA Member Societies in states and territories work to enforce animal cruelty laws in their jurisdictions. They also operate animal care and adoption facilities and seek to raise community awareness of animal welfare issues.

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 2021 to 2022 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:

- Table 1 Animals received nationally by the RSPCA for the 2021-2022 financial year
- Table 2 Comparison of animals received nationally by the RSPCA over the past 5 years
- Table 3 Reasons for euthanasia of dogs and cats by each RSPCA Society for the 2021-2022 financial year
- Table 4 Animals received by each RSPCA Society for the 2021-2022 financial year
- Table 5 Cruelty complaints and prosecutions by state/territory RSPCA for the 2021-2022 financial year
- Table 6 Cruelty complaints and prosecutions nationally over the past 6 years

Table 1: Animals received<sup>1</sup> nationally by the RSPCA for the 2021-2022 financial year

	Number of animals
<b>Total animals received:</b>	<b>94,828</b>
<b>Dogs</b>	
Reclaimed	5,835
Returned	914
Rehomed	7,008
Currently in Care <sup>2</sup>	1,877
Transferred <sup>3</sup>	978
Euthanased	2,484
Other	125
<b>Total dogs</b>	<b>19,221</b>
<b>Cats</b>	
Reclaimed	1,697
Returned	480
Rehomed	21,570
Currently in Care <sup>2</sup>	3,739
Transferred <sup>3</sup>	950
Euthanased	6,506
Other	629
<b>Total cats</b>	<b>35,571</b>
<b>Other animals<sup>4</sup></b>	
Reclaimed	3,220
Returned	113
Rehomed	5,116
Currently in Care <sup>2</sup>	1,531
Transferred <sup>3</sup>	7,254
Euthanased	21,053
Other	1,749
<b>Total other animals</b>	<b>40,036</b>

<sup>1</sup> Received refers to all animals in RSPCA facilities during the 2021-2022

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

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

<sup>4</sup> Including: horses, small animals, livestock, and wildlife

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

	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	% Change from previous year
<b>Dogs</b>						
Reclaimed/returned/rehomed/other	34,709	29,555	24,606	19,809	16,737	-15.51
Euthanased	5,577	4,308	3,466	2,502	2,484	-0.72
<b>Total dogs received</b>	<b>40,286</b>	<b>33,863</b>	<b>28,072</b>	<b>22,311</b>	<b>19,221</b>	<b>-13.85</b>
<b>Cats</b>						
Reclaimed/returned/rehomed/other	40,401	39,430	35,650	33,968	29,065	-14.43
Euthanased	12,610	11,740	9,714	8,604	6,506	-24.38
<b>Total cats received</b>	<b>53,011</b>	<b>51,170</b>	<b>45,364</b>	<b>42,572</b>	<b>35,571</b>	<b>-16.45</b>
<b>Other Animals</b>						
Reclaimed/returned/rehomed/other	20,709	19,572	19,010	17,597	18,983	7.88
Euthanased	18,651	19,541	20,084	20,577	21,053	2.31
<b>Total other animals received</b>	<b>39,360</b>	<b>39,113</b>	<b>39,094</b>	<b>38,174</b>	<b>40,036</b>	<b>4.88</b>
<b>Total animals</b>	<b>132,657</b>	<b>124,146</b>	<b>112,530</b>	<b>103,057</b>	<b>94,828</b>	<b>-7.98</b>

**Table 3: Reasons for euthanasia of dogs and cats by each RSPCA Society for the 2021-2022 financial year**

	State/Territory RSPCA								Total
	ACT	Darwin <sup>1</sup>	NSW <sup>2</sup>	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	
<b>Dogs</b>									
Infectious	0	0	0	9	2	0	0	1	12
Medical	13	16	226	234	65	3	96	40	693
Behavioural	14	4	911	444	101	9	169	30	1,682
Legal	0	0	32	21	1	0	40	0	94
Other	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	3
<b>Total dogs euthanased</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>1,169</b>	<b>710</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>306</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>2,484</b>
<b>Cats</b>									
Infectious	10	1	0	365	21	9	116	0	522
Medical	45	4	830	760	247	35	380	65	2,366
Behavioural	15	0	561	133	438	79	291	3	1,520
Legal	0	0	0	1	3	172	0	0	176
Other	63	2	722	234	0	99	762	40	1,922
<b>Total cats euthanased</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>2,113</b>	<b>1,493</b>	<b>709</b>	<b>394</b>	<b>1,549</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>6,506</b>

<sup>1</sup> Data not available for NT - data from Darwin Regional Branch only.

<sup>2</sup> Councils are responsible for the management of stray companion animals. RSPCA NSW operates animal management facility contracts for some councils, and council animals are included in the figures.

Table 4: Animals received<sup>1</sup> by each RSPCA Society for the 2021-2022 financial year

	State/Territory RSPCA								Total
	ACT	Darwin	NSW <sup>5</sup>	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	
<b>Dogs</b>									
Reclaimed	215	2	1,010	2,299	553	2	1,675	79	5,835
Returned	83	11	402	162	84	28	110	34	914
Rehomed	229	345	1,627	2,580	1,078	45	843	261	7,008
Currently in Care <sup>2</sup>	33	56	499	533	200	22	318	216	1,877
Transferred <sup>3</sup>	8	8	335	48	141	9	283	146	978
Euthanased	27	20	1,169	710	169	12	306	71	2,484
Other	5	6	42	27	17	0	12	16	125
<b>Total dogs</b>	<b>600</b>	<b>448</b>	<b>5,084</b>	<b>6,359</b>	<b>2,242</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>3,547</b>	<b>823</b>	<b>19,221</b>
Last year's total	617	377	6,900	7,424	2,257	109	3,909	718	22,311
Percent change <sup>4</sup>	-2.76	18.83	-26.32	-14.35	-0.66	8.26	-9.26	14.62	-13.85
<b>Cats</b>									
Reclaimed	106	0	204	589	203	31	552	12	1,697
Returned	19	3	207	78	60	3	75	35	480
Rehomed	1,052	250	5,320	6,293	4,170	813	3,153	519	21,570
Currently in Care <sup>2</sup>	135	78	715	809	784	109	1,028	81	3,739
Transferred <sup>3</sup>	19	0	39	243	158	0	373	118	950
Euthanased	133	7	2,113	1,493	709	394	1,549	108	6,506
Other	37	5	166	128	153	15	100	25	629
<b>Total cats</b>	<b>1,501</b>	<b>343</b>	<b>8,764</b>	<b>9,633</b>	<b>6,237</b>	<b>1,365</b>	<b>6,830</b>	<b>898</b>	<b>35,571</b>
Last year's total	1,766	385	13,399	10,983	5,251	971	9,091	726	42,572
Percent change <sup>4</sup>	-15.01	-10.91	-34.59	-12.29	18.78	40.58	-24.87	23.69	-16.45
<b>Horses</b>									
Reclaimed	0	0	0	6	3	0	0	0	9
Returned	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	3
Rehomed	0	0	48	34	3	1	38	0	124
Currently in Care <sup>2</sup>	0	0	76	14	8	5	44	6	153
Transferred <sup>3</sup>	0	0	45	0	0	0	4	1	50
Euthanased	0	0	5	4	1	0	136	0	146
Other	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	2
<b>Total horses</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>222</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>487</b>
Last year's total	0	0	165	72	24	8	68	11	348
Percent change <sup>4</sup>	0.00	0.00	6.67	-16.67	-37.50	-12.50	226.47	-36.36	39.94
<b>Livestock</b>									
Reclaimed	4	0	4	31	6	2	2	1	50
Returned	0	1	3	17	0	0	1	1	23
Rehomed	47	6	310	224	57	76	274	83	1,077
Currently in Care <sup>2</sup>	0	0	52	21	2	200	29	22	326
Transferred <sup>3</sup>	1	0	50	613	120	11	8	22	825
Euthanased	9	0	244	223	14	9	18	18	535
Other	1	0	8	18	1	0	26	5	59
<b>Total livestock</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>671</b>	<b>1,174</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>298</b>	<b>358</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>2,922</b>
Last year's total	70	0	1,269	926	165	4	460	135	3,029
Percent change <sup>4</sup>	-11.43	100.00	-47.12	26.78	21.21	7350.00	-22.17	12.59	-3.53

<b>Wildlife</b>									
Released	8	0	1	2,760	25	1	275	0	3,070
Currently in Care <sup>2</sup>	0	0	12	153	6	0	6	0	177
Transferred <sup>3</sup>	65	0	119	5,661	117	3	5	0	5,970
Euthanased	123	0	388	17,438	82	0	405	0	18,436
Other	14	0	18	842	29	0	39	0	942
<b>Total wildlife</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>538</b>	<b>26,854</b>	<b>259</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>730</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>28,595</b>
Last year's total	253	0	591	26,246	270	0	1,276	20	28,656
Percent change <sup>4</sup>	-17.00	0.00	-8.97	2.32	-4.07	100.00	-42.79	-100.00	-0.21
<b>Other Animals</b>									
Reclaimed	18	0	22	1	12	4	32	2	91
Returned	1	0	50	6	3	10	9	8	87
Rehomed	195	3	832	959	665	146	899	216	3,915
Currently in Care <sup>2</sup>	15	1	92	388	112	31	173	63	875
Transferred <sup>3</sup>	2	0	48	63	163	0	133	0	409
Euthanased	42	1	926	631	33	11	249	43	1,936
Other	9	1	103	115	66	19	365	41	719
<b>Total other animals</b>	<b>282</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2,073</b>	<b>2,163</b>	<b>1,054</b>	<b>221</b>	<b>1,860</b>	<b>373</b>	<b>8,032</b>
Last year's total	342	4	1,947	1,638	826	193	916	275	6,141
Percent change <sup>4</sup>	-17.54	50.00	6.47	32.05	27.60	14.51	103.06	35.64	30.79
Total animals received	2,655	804	17,306	46,243	10,007	2,013	13,547	2,253	94,828
Last year's total	3,048	766	24,271	47,289	8,793	1,285	15,720	1,885	103,057
Percent change <sup>4</sup>	-12.89	4.96	-28.70	-2.21	13.81	56.65	-13.82	19.52	-7.98

<sup>1</sup> Received refers to all animals in RSPCA facilities during the 2021-2022 financial year.

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

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

<sup>4</sup> Percentage change in 2021-22 from previous year.

<sup>5</sup> 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 2021-2022 financial year**

The different states and territories have separate animal welfare statutes, all of which seek to prohibit animal cruelty and promote animal welfare within their respective jurisdictions. While the fundamental objectives of the different state and territory laws are largely the same, the manner in which each statute seeks to implement these objectives varies considerably.

	State/Territory RSPCA <sup>1</sup>							Total
	ACT	NSW	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	
<b>Cruelty complaints</b>								
Investigated	660	14,088	15,538	4,265	2,108	10,577	6,444	53,680
<b>Cruelty prosecutions</b>								
Prosecutions finalised	0	111	73	24	8	76	26	318
Successful prosecutions <sup>2</sup>	1	103	73	24	8	68	26	303
Charges laid	9	418	1308	90	23	286	88	2222
People charged	1	107	148	36	10	73	38	413
Cases pending	1	58	49	44	5	68	0	280
<b>Routine inspections</b>	6	468	0	14	15	19	7	529

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

<sup>2</sup> 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
- 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**

	<b>2016-17</b>	<b>2017-18</b>	<b>2018-19</b>	<b>2019-20</b>	<b>2020-21</b>	<b>2021-22</b>
<b>Complaints<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>55,405</b>	<b>57,092</b>	<b>58,487</b>	<b>57,910</b>	<b>55,922</b>	<b>53,680</b>
<b>Prosecutions<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>340</b>	<b>370</b>	<b>376</b>	<b>359</b>	<b>426</b>	<b>318</b>

<sup>1</sup> Total of both complaints investigated & complaints revisited (when interpreting this number please note that some complaints would have been visited more than once)

<sup>2</sup> Finalised prosecutions