

## RSPCA Australia National Statistics 2016-2017

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 2016 to 2017 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 2016-2017 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 2016-2017 financial year
- Table 4 Animals received by each RSPCA Society for the 2016-2017 financial year
- Table 5 Cruelty complaints and prosecutions by state/territory RSPCA for the 2016-2017 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 2016-2017 financial year

	Number of animals	Percentage of total animals
<b>Total animals received:</b>	<b>135,872</b>	
<b>Dogs</b>		
Reclaimed	18,190	40.63%
Rehomed	16,294	36.39%
Currently in Care <sup>2</sup>	2,615	5.84%
Transferred <sup>3</sup>	1,670	3.73%
Euthanased	5,763	12.87%
Other	238	0.53%
<b>Total dogs</b>	<b>44,770</b>	<b>32.95%</b>
<b>Cats</b>		
Reclaimed	2,658	4.93%
Rehomed	30,595	56.75%
Currently in Care <sup>2</sup>	4,466	8.28%
Transferred <sup>3</sup>	774	1.44%
Euthanased	14,563	27.01%
Other	856	1.59%
<b>Total cats</b>	<b>53,912</b>	<b>39.68%</b>
<b>Other animals<sup>4</sup></b>		
Reclaimed	3,987	10.72%
Rehomed	5,985	16.09%
Currently in Care <sup>2</sup>	1,557	4.19%
Transferred <sup>3</sup>	6,904	18.56%
Euthanased	16,571	44.56%
Other	2186	5.88%
<b>Total other animals</b>	<b>37,190</b>	<b>27.37%</b>

<sup>1</sup> Received refers to all animals in RSPCA facilities during the 2016-2017 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> Including: horses, small animals, livestock, and wildlife

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

	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	Change from previous year
<b>Dogs</b>						
Reclaimed/rehomed/other	38,834	38,641	39,830	39,384	39,007	-0.96%
Euthanased	10,355	7,313	6,765	5,872	5,763	-1.86%
<b>Total dogs</b>	<b>49,189</b>	<b>45,954</b>	<b>46,595</b>	<b>45,256</b>	<b>44,770</b>	<b>-1.07%</b>
<b>Cats</b>						
Reclaimed/rehomed/other	29,772	33,675	35,406	39,365	39,349	-0.04%
Euthanased	19,464	15,491	17,398	16,205	14,563	-10.13%
<b>Total cats</b>	<b>49,236</b>	<b>49,166</b>	<b>52,804</b>	<b>55,570</b>	<b>53,912</b>	<b>-2.98%</b>
<b>Other Animals</b>						
Reclaimed/rehomed/other	14,811	17,021	17,963	20,884	20,619	-1.27%
Euthanased	13,437	15,163	16,133	15,681	16,571	5.68%
<b>Total other animals</b>	<b>28,248</b>	<b>32,184</b>	<b>34,096</b>	<b>36,565</b>	<b>37,190</b>	<b>1.71%</b>
<b>Total animals</b>	<b>126,673</b>	<b>127,304</b>	<b>133,495</b>	<b>137,391</b>	<b>135,872</b>	<b>-1.11%</b>

Table 3: Reasons for euthanasia of dogs and cats by each RSPCA Society for the 2016-2017 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	4	64	23	23	0	8	0	122
Medical	9	22	517	284	152	31	202	62	1,279
Behavioural	26	22	1,806	1043	479	58	470	60	3,964
Legal	0	0	132	160	5	0	64	0	361
Other	0	0	25	5	0	7	0	0	37
<b>Total dogs euthanased</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>2,544</b>	<b>1,515</b>	<b>659</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>744</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>5,763</b>
<b>Cats</b>									
Infectious	39	12	1,799	545	371	99	675	2	3,542
Medical	72	11	1,216	805	471	196	526	78	3,375
Behavioural	88	3	899	305	120	179	610	69	2,273
Legal	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	4
Other <sup>3</sup>	266	0	2,657	145	552	342	1,407	0	5,369
<b>Total cats euthanased</b>	<b>465</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>6,571</b>	<b>1,800</b>	<b>1,514</b>	<b>816</b>	<b>3,222</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>14,563</b>

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

<sup>2</sup> RSPCA NSW includes Council animals this year.

<sup>3</sup> ACT, SA, QLD and TAS - Feral cats euthanased are recorded in Other.

Table 4: Animals received<sup>1</sup> by each RSPCA Society for the 2016-2017 financial year

	State/Territory RSPCA								Total
	ACT	Darwin	NSW <sup>5</sup>	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	
<b>Dogs</b>									
Reclaimed	380	59	4,320	5,803	1,408	568	5,454	198	18,190
Rehomed	421	505	4,177	6,933	868	743	2,318	329	16,294
Currently in Care <sup>2</sup>	38	42	876	777	143	91	555	93	2,615
Transferred <sup>3</sup>	79	0	744	412	41	1	375	18	1,670
Euthanased	35	48	2544	1515	659	96	744	122	5,763
Other	2	7	42	129	11	1	24	22	238
<b>Total dogs</b>	<b>955</b>	<b>661</b>	<b>12,703</b>	<b>15,569</b>	<b>3,130</b>	<b>1,500</b>	<b>9,470</b>	<b>782</b>	<b>44,770</b>
Last year's total	844	676	13,579	14,184	3,289	1,506	10,469	709	45,256
Percent change <sup>4</sup>	13.15%	-2.22%	-6.45%	9.76%	-4.83%	-0.40%	-9.54%	10.30%	-1.07%
<b>Cats</b>									
Reclaimed	154	12	608	770	222	75	802	15	2,658
Rehomed	1,597	376	7,941	10,069	2,849	1,425	5,824	514	30,595
Currently in Care <sup>2</sup>	55	118	1,011	1,159	665	240	1134	84	4,466
Transferred <sup>3</sup>	0	2	242	304	13	4	179	41	785
Euthanased	465	26	6,571	1,800	1,514	816	3,222	149	14,563
Other	44	5	188	335	99	33	131	21	856
<b>Total cats</b>	<b>2,315</b>	<b>539</b>	<b>16,561</b>	<b>14,437</b>	<b>5,362</b>	<b>2,593</b>	<b>11,292</b>	<b>824</b>	<b>53,923</b>
Last year's total	2,483	396	19,129	14,031	5,189	2,186	11,457	699	55,570
Percent change <sup>4</sup>	-6.77%	36.11%	-13.42%	2.89%	3.33%	18.62%	-1.44%	17.88%	-2.98%
<b>Horses</b>									
Reclaimed	0	0	15	14	1	1	7	0	38
Rehomed	0	0	43	12	4	48	21	18	146
Currently in Care <sup>2</sup>	1	0	105	8	9	7	50	22	202
Transferred <sup>3</sup>	0	0	6	1	16	0	6	9	38
Euthanased	0	0	12	4	11	7	12	5	51
Other	0	0	0	0	3	6	0	0	9
<b>Total horses</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>181</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>484</b>
Last year's total	2	0	162	30	19	70	184	44	511
Percent change <sup>4</sup>	-50.00%	n/a	11.73%	30.00%	131.58%	-1.43%	-47.83%	22.73%	-5.28%
<b>Livestock</b>									
Reclaimed	5	0	17	83	14	6	17	0	142
Rehomed	351	18	526	326	109	317	169	90	1906
Currently in Care <sup>2</sup>	10	1	80	75	79	55	18	11	329
Transferred <sup>3</sup>	20	0	11	134	43	1	47	0	256
Euthanased	25	1	248	197	102	21	65	10	669
Other	9	0	10	39	16	17	8	5	104
<b>Total livestock</b>	<b>420</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>892</b>	<b>854</b>	<b>363</b>	<b>417</b>	<b>324</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>3,406</b>
Last year's total	275	7	1,051	827	157	421	387	87	3,212
Percent change <sup>4</sup>	52.73%	185.71%	-15.13%	3.26%	131.21%	-0.95%	-16.28%	33.33%	6.04%
<b>Wildlife</b>									
Released	57	0	8	2,772	6	14	610	0	3,467
Currently in Care <sup>2</sup>	0	0	1	384	1	5	16	0	407
Transferred <sup>3</sup>	151	0	231	5,788	15	11	11	0	6,207
Euthanased	348	0	247	12,864	34	19	605	0	14,117
Other	52	0	36	1,361	4	20	106	0	1,579
<b>Total wildlife</b>	<b>608</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>523</b>	<b>23,169</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>1,348</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>25,777</b>
Last year's total	1,152	0	613	21,971	343	32	1,450	7	25,568
Percent change <sup>4</sup>	-47.22%	n/a	-14.68%	5.45%	-82.51%	115.63%	-7.03%	-100.00%	0.82%

<b>Other animals</b>									
Reclaimed	36	2	123	106	35	5	33	0	340
Rehomed	455	34	1,350	1029	223	154	624	64	3,933
Currently in Care <sup>2</sup>	23	2	143	277	16	12	138	8	619
Transferred <sup>3</sup>	1	0	143	169	67	0	23	0	403
Euthanased	51	2	816	577	149	21	110	8	1,734
Other	110	0	100	114	98	21	44	7	494
<b>Total other animals</b>	<b>676</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>2,675</b>	<b>2,272</b>	<b>588</b>	<b>213</b>	<b>972</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>7,523</b>
Last year's total	753	48	2,906	1,252	942	289	1,025	59	7,274
Percent change <sup>4</sup>	-10.23%	-16.67%	-7.95%	81.47%	-37.58%	-26.30%	-5.17%	47.46%	3.42%
Total animals received	4,975	1,260	33,535	56,340	9,547	4,861	23,502	1,863	135,883
Last year's total	5,509	1127	37,440	52,295	9,939	4,504	24,972	1,605	137,391
Percent change <sup>4</sup>	-9.69%	11.80%	-10.43%	7.73%	-3.94%	7.93%	-5.89%	16.07%	-1.11%

<sup>1</sup> Received refers to all animals in RSPCA facilities during the 2016-2017 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 2016-16 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 2016-2017 financial year

	State/Territory RSPCA <sup>1</sup>							Total
	ACT	NSW	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	
<b>Cruelty complaints</b>								
Investigated	1,067	14,278	17,986	3,833	2,182	10,180	5,879	55,405
<b>Cruelty prosecutions</b>								
Prosecutions finalised	20	97	33	85	6	90	9	340
Successful prosecutions <sup>2</sup>	19	94	31	80	5	83	9	321
Charges laid	70	302	n/a	91	15	382	40	900
People charged	18	77	85	n/a	6	90	9	285
Cases pending	22	36	63	29	26	56	7	239
Routine inspections	0	105	0	16	5	2	33	161

<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
- 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

	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Complaints	54,398	45,717	49,861	58,591	62,563	55,405
Prosecutions <sup>1</sup>	275	206	358	236	264	340

<sup>1</sup> Finalised prosecutions