

RSPCA Inspectorate Facts

In 2012-13 the RSPCA employed 98 Inspectors across Australia in all 6 states and the ACT. All RSPCA are authorised by their relevant State/Territory Government to enforce animal welfare legislation.

Each year, RSPCA Inspectors investigate an average of 50,225 cruelty complaints reported by members of the public, in relation to the welfare of dogs, cats, horses, farm animals, wildlife and other animals.

Complaints are resolved in a number of different ways depending on the nature and seriousness of the issue. The primary objective of responding to a cruelty complaint is to protect the welfare of the animals involved.

RSPCA Inspectors will respond to a complaint in one of the following ways:

- give advice
- issue instructions to rectify a matter
- issue an on-the-spot-fine; or
- commence a prosecution.

Over 99% of complaints are resolved through advice, a directions notice or an on-the-spot fine. Less than 1% of complaints result in charges being laid.

In 2012-13 the RSPCA laid 1,040 charges and finalised 358 prosecutions of which 343 were successful. On average, the RSPCA is successful in 86% of the cases it prosecutes.

2012-13 Cruelty complaints and prosecutions by State/Territory RSPCA

	State/Territory RSPCA*							Total
	ACT	NSW	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	
Cruelty complaints								
Investigated	668	14,610	15,737	3,696	2,996	9,372	2,782	49,861
Cruelty prosecutions								
Prosecutions finalised	2	94	11	30	36	177	8	358
Successful prosecutions ^^	2	91	11	28	30	174	7	343
Charges laid	4	339	26	107	99	457	8	1,040
People charged	3	94	14	40	38	177	8	374
Cases pending	5	34	10	32	16	26	24	147
Routine inspections	0	103	2	19	54	17	49	244

* No inspectorate in NT

^^ Facts proved in relation to principal charges