

WellBeing International

WBI Studies Repository

2020

RSPCA Australia, National Statistics 2019-2020.

RSPCA Australia

Follow this and additional works at: https://www.wellbeingintlstudiesrepository.org/aw_welfare_gen

Recommended Citation

RSPCA Australia (2020). National Statistics, 2019-2020. RSPCA Australia. Accessed at <https://www.rspca.org.au/what-we-do/our-role-caring-animals/annual-statistics>.

This material is brought to you for free and open access by WellBeing International. It has been accepted for inclusion by an authorized administrator of the WBI Studies Repository. For more information, please contact wbisr-info@wellbeingintl.org.



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:

- Table 1 Animals received nationally by the RSPCA for the 2019-2020 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 2019-2020 financial year
- Table 4 Animals received by each RSPCA Society for the 2019-2020 financial year
- Table 5 Cruelty complaints and prosecutions by state/territory RSPCA for the 2019-2020 financial year
- 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 | | | | | | |
| 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