

RSPCA Australia National Statistics 2018-2019

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 2018 to 2019 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 2018-2019 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 2018-2019 financial year
Table 4	Animals received by each RSPCA Society for the 2018-2019 financial year
Table 5	Cruelty complaints and prosecutions by state/territory RSPCA for the 2018-2019 financial year
Table 6	Cruelty complaints and prosecutions nationally over the past 6 years

Table 1: Animals received¹ nationally by the RSPCA for the 2018-2019 financial year

	Number of animals	Percentage of total animals
Total animals received:	124,146	
Dogs		
Reclaimed	13,107	38.71%
Rehomed	12,872	38.01%
Currently in Care ²	1,941	5.73%
Transferred ³	1,391	4.11%
Euthanased	4,308	12.72%
Other	244	0.72%
Total dogs	33,863	100.00%
Cats		
Reclaimed	2,665	5.21%
Rehomed	31,105	60.79%
Currently in Care ²	3,944	7.71%
Transferred ³	1,033	2.02%
Euthanased	11,740	22.94%
Other	683	1.33%
Total cats	51,170	100.00%
Other animals⁴		
Reclaimed	3,765	9.626%
Rehomed	5,144	13.152%
Currently in Care ²	1,261	3.224%
Transferred ³	7,292	18.643%
Euthanased	19,541	49.960%
Other	2,110	5.395%
Total other animals	39,113	100.00%

¹ Received refers to all animals in RSPCA facilities during the 2018-2019 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

	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	Change from previous year
Dogs						
Reclaimed/rehomed/other	39,830	39,384	39,007	34,709	29,555	-14.85
Euthanased	6,765	5,872	5,763	5,577	4,308	-22.75
Total dogs received	46,595	45,256	44,770	40,286	33,863	-15.94
Cats						
Reclaimed/rehomed/other	35,406	39,365	39,349	40,401	39,430	-2.40
Euthanased	17,398	16,205	14,563	12,610	11,740	-6.90
Total cats received	52,804	55,570	53,912	53,011	51,170	-3.47
Other Animals						
Reclaimed/rehomed/other	17,963	20,884	20,619	20,709	19,572	-5.49
Euthanased	16,133	15,681	16,571	18,651	19,541	4.77
Total other animals received	34,096	36,565	37,190	39,360	39,113	-0.63
Total animals	133,495	137,391	135,883	132,657	124,146	-6.42

Table 3: Reasons for euthanasia of dogs and cats by each RSPCA Society for the 2018-2019 financial year

	State/Territory RSPCA								Total
	ACT	Darwin ¹	NSW ²	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	
Dogs									
Infectious	0	0	36	17	4	31	6	0	94
Medical	20	5	360	269	115	12	194	54	1,029
Behavioural	31	7	1,220	778	395	0	422	53	2,906
Legal	0	0	40	157	6	0	59	0	262
Other	0	0	7	7	0	1	2	0	17
Total dogs euthanased	51	12	1,663	1,228	520	44	683	107	4,308
Cats									
Infectious	24	0	1,108	483	191	61	340	3	2,210
Medical	77	17	1,126	858	268	28	549	95	3,018
Behavioural	43	3	1,083	280	371	139	627	31	2,577
Legal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	174	0	2,418	45	291	148	853	6	3,935
Total cats euthanased	318	20	5,735	1,666	1,121	376	2,369	135	11,740

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 2018-2019 financial year

	State/Territory RSPCA								Total
	ACT	Darwin	NSW ⁵	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	
Dogs									
Reclaimed	282	24	3,160	4,452	1,086	198	3,768	137	13,107
Rehomed	360	299	3,805	4,907	702	207	2,214	378	12,872
Currently in Care ²	42	36	774	590	112	3	313	71	1,941
Transferred ³	23	0	616	289	6	0	387	70	1,391
Euthanased	51	12	1,663	1,228	520	44	683	107	4,308
Other	45	1	57	51	16	0	16	58	244
Total dogs	803	372	10,075	11,517	2,442	452	7,381	821	33,863
Last year's total	836	453	11,553	15,053	2,574	1,032	7,951	834	40,286
Percent change ⁴	-3.95	-17.88	-12.79	-23.49	-5.13	-56.20	-7.17	-1.56	-15.94
Cats									
Reclaimed	139	6	563	901	265	39	730	22	2,665
Rehomed	1,186	330	7,652	9,833	3,317	717	7,500	570	31,105
Currently in Care ²	89	90	1,239	810	298	186	1,169	63	3,944
Transferred ³	9	0	288	233	19	0	391	93	1,033
Euthanased	318	20	5,735	1,666	1,121	376	2,369	135	11,740
Other	34	6	211	205	50	7	113	57	683
Total cats	1,775	452	15,688	13,648	5,070	1,325	12,272	940	51,170
Last year's total	1,773	448	16,320	14,895	5,229	1,608	11,906	832	53,011
Percent change ⁴	0.11	0.89	-3.87	-8.37	-3.04	-17.60	3.07	12.98	-3.47
Horses									
Reclaimed	0	0	0	21	0	0	3	4	28
Rehomed	0	0	101	27	4	6	33	14	185
Currently in Care ²	0	0	52	52	19	0	40	9	172
Transferred ³	0	0	3	8	0	0	6	0	17
Euthanased	0	0	16	17	4	0	23	12	72
Other	0	0	1	0	0	1	2	1	5
Total horses	0	0	173	125	27	7	107	40	479
Last year's total	2	0	224	42	17	34	109	31	459
Percent change ⁴	-100.00	0.00	-22.77	197.62	58.82	-79.41	-1.83	29.03	4.36
Livestock									
Reclaimed	3	0	32	112	80	1	9	2	239
Rehomed	62	9	446	307	61	80	130	51	1,146
Currently in Care ²	3	0	42	121	3	0	23	21	213
Transferred ³	1	0	53	622	0	0	49	73	798
Euthanased	11	0	263	413	47	0	107	17	858
Other	1	0	11	22	3	5	8	5	55
Total livestock	81	9	847	1,597	194	86	326	169	3,309
Last year's total	119	32	984	1,507	529	164	288	159	3,782
Percent change ⁴	-31.93	-71.88	-13.92	5.97	-63.33	-47.56	13.19	6.29	-12.51

Wildlife									
Released	25	0	13	3,048	0	9	69	14	3,178
Currently in Care ²	1	0	2	197	6	3	21	0	230
Transferred ³	64	0	179	5,380	111	0	326	3	6,063
Euthanased	244	0	308	15,690	141	7	576	4	16,970
Other	6	0	536	1,070	9	0	120	1	1,742
Total wildlife	340	0	1,038	25,385	267	19	1,112	22	28,183
Last year's total	407	1	589	25,200	354	45	1,373	0	27,969
Percent change ⁴	-16.46	-100.00	76.23	0.73	-24.58	-57.78	-19.01	100.00	0.77
Other animals									
Reclaimed	22	0	89	131	52	3	21	2	320
Rehomed	263	10	1,030	1,195	390	90	744	91	3,813
Currently in Care ²	61	0	141	218	34	9	175	8	646
Transferred ³	3	0	55	294	13	2	32	15	414
Euthanased	124	0	1,005	298	90	36	73	15	1,641
Other	21	0	60	100	11	5	51	60	308
Total other animals	494	10	2,380	2,236	590	145	1,096	191	7,142
Last year's total	292	1	2,451	2,440	525	169	1,095	177	7,150
Percent change ⁴	69.18	900.00	-2.90	-8.36	12.38	-14.20	0.09	7.91	-0.11
Total animals received	3,493	843	30,201	54,508	8,590	2,034	22,294	2,183	124,146
Last year's total	3,429	935	32,121	59,137	9,228	3,052	22,722	2,033	132,657
Percent change ⁴	1.87	-9.84	-5.98	-7.83	-6.91	-33.36	-1.88	7.38	-6.42

¹ Received refers to all animals in RSPCA facilities during the 2018-2019 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 2018-19 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 2018-2019 financial year

	State/Territory RSPCA ¹							Total
	ACT	NSW	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	
Cruelty complaints								
Investigated	1,024	15,673	17,810	4,025	1,900	11,638	6,417	58,487
Cruelty prosecutions								
Prosecutions finalised	1	75	154	32	10	94	10	376
Successful prosecutions ²	1	68	154	32	9	88	10	362
Charges laid	8	353	1031	0	0	204	15	1611
People charged	3	77	340	38	11	87	12	568
Cases pending	5	47	238	20	10	65	6	391
Routine inspections	0	93	0	17	0	52	38	1253

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

	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
Complaints	58,591	60,809	62,563	55,405	57,092	58,487
Prosecutions ¹	236	274	264	340	370	376

¹ Finalised prosecutions