

RSPCA Australia National Statistics 2024-2025

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 2024 to 2025 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:

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Table 1: Animals received¹ nationally by the RSPCA for the 2024-2025 financial year

	Number of animals
Total animals received:	77,464
Dogs	
Reclaimed	3,203
Returned	727
Rehomed	6,839
Currently in Care ²	1,672
Transferred ³	529
Euthanased	2,768
Other	114
Total dogs	15,852
Cats	
Reclaimed	979
Returned	381
Rehomed	16,445
Currently in Care ²	2,128
Transferred ³	298
Euthanased	5,089
Other	319
Total cats	25,639
Other animals⁴	
Reclaimed	2,752
Returned	318
Rehomed	3,450
Currently in Care ²	1,939
Transferred ³	6,533
Euthanased	19,643
Other	1,338
Total other animals	35,973

¹ Received refers to all animals in RSPCA facilities during the 2024-2025

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

	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	% Change from previous year
Dogs						
Reclaimed/returned/rehomed/other	19,809	16,737	15,903	14,626	13,084	-10.54
Euthanased	2,502	2,484	2,875	2,842	2,768	-2.60
Total dogs received	22,311	19,221	18,778	17,468	15,852	-9.25
Cats						
Reclaimed/returned/rehomed/other	33,968	29,065	27,523	21,556	20,550	-4.67
Euthanased	8,604	6,506	6,224	5,148	5,089	-1.15
Total cats received	42,572	35,571	33,747	26,704	25,639	-3.99
Other Animals						
Reclaimed/returned/rehomed/other	17,597	18,983	18,228	16,480	16,330	-0.91
Euthanased	20,577	21,053	16,712	21,017	19,643	-6.54
Total other animals received	38,174	40,036	34,940	37,497	35,973	-4.06
Total animals	103,057	94,828	87,465	81,669	77,464	-5.15

Table 3: Reasons for euthanasia of dogs and cats by each RSPCA Society for the 2024-2025 financial year

	State/Territory RSPCA								Total
	ACT	NT	NSW	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	
Dogs									
Infectious	0	0	6	28	3	0	4	22	63
Medical	25	7	235	410	109	17	97	40	940
Behavioural	11	7	627	672	161	3	100	71	1,652
Legal	0	0	2	19	20	0	6	7	54
Other	0	0	8	4	10	0	3	34	59
Total dogs euthanased	36	14	878	1,133	303	20	210	174	2,768
Cats									
Infectious	2	0	246	348	31	0	39	0	666
Medical	69	6	871	932	237	24	157	83	2,379
Behavioural	80	3	321	473	383	85	179	52	1,576
Legal	0	0	0	2	0	0	47	0	49
Other	0	0	330	17	12	0	49	11	419
Total cats euthanased	151	9	1,768	1,772	663	109	471	146	5,089

¹ 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 received¹ by each RSPCA Society for the 2024-2025 financial year

	State/Territory RSPCA								Total
	ACT	NT	NSW ⁵	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	
Dogs									
Reclaimed	109	0	229	1,647	501	0	646	71	3,203
Returned	75	18	243	204	33	48	83	23	727
Rehomed	310	119	1,350	2,922	867	220	704	347	6,839
Currently in Care ²	60	53	442	397	204	91	199	226	1,672
Transferred ³	5	0	162	63	49	0	159	91	529
Euthanased	36	14	878	1,133	303	20	210	174	2,768
Other ⁶	0	0	16	35	6	0	14	43	114
Total dogs	595	204	3,320	6,401	1,963	379	2,015	975	15,852
Last year's total	676	310	4,554	6,531	1,814	130	2,550	903	17,468
Percent change ⁴	-11.98	-34.19	-27.10	-1.99	8.21	191.54	-20.98	7.97	-9.25
Cats									
Reclaimed	120	1	122	443	117	0	157	19	979
Returned	33	0	116	99	51	22	39	21	381
Rehomed	1,433	186	3,863	4,992	2,191	488	2,688	604	16,445
Currently in Care ²	171	58	607	543	251	73	344	81	2,128
Transferred ³	2	2	40	87	58	0	81	28	298
Euthanased	151	9	1,768	1,772	663	109	471	146	5,089
Other ⁶	25	3	105	83	24	8	50	21	319
Total cats	1,935	259	6,621	8,019	3,355	700	3,830	920	25,639
Last year's total	2,065	357	7,007	7,650	3,033	1,063	4,611	918	26,704
Percent change ⁴	-6.30	-27.45	-5.51	4.82	10.62	-34.15	-16.94	0.22	-3.99
Horses									
Reclaimed	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2
Returned	0	0	1	2	0	0	2	0	5
Rehomed	0	0	31	8	0	2	131	6	178
Currently in Care ²	0	0	44	9	39	3	69	17	181
Transferred ³	0	0	1	1	18	0	34	1	55
Euthanased	0	0	24	5	9	5	67	2	112
Other ⁶	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	0	4
Total horses	0	0	103	27	66	10	305	26	537
Last year's total	0	0	142	51	24	19	231	16	483
Percent change ⁴	0.00	0.00	-27.46	-47.06	175.00	-47.37	32.03	62.50	11.18
Livestock									
Reclaimed	0	0	1	13	13	0	0	3	30
Returned	0	0	41	2	1	0	1	0	45
Rehomed	43	2	104	234	40	28	32	68	551
Currently in Care ²	7	0	15	32	98	26	19	5	202
Transferred ³	0	0	46	16	94	0	21	8	185
Euthanased	11	0	50	196	26	2	20	25	330
Other ⁶	0	0	2	16	7	0	3	4	32
Total livestock	61	2	259	509	279	56	96	113	1,375
Last year's total	88	0	406	404	310	2	176	98	1,484
Percent change ⁴	-30.68	0.00	-36.21	25.99	-10.00	2700.00	-45.45	15.31	-7.35

Table 4: Animals received¹ by each RSPCA Society for the 2024-2025 financial year

	State/Territory RSPCA								Total
	ACT	NT	NSW ⁵	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	
Wildlife									
Released	1	0	1	2,521	59	0	13	0	2,595
Currently in Care ²	4	0	3	172	13	0	8	0	200
Transferred ³	27	0	103	5,591	173	0	18	0	5,912
Euthanased	71	0	301	17,307	103	0	239	0	18,021
Other ⁶	5	0	11	973	13	0	64	0	1,066
Total wildlife	108	0	419	26,564	361	0	342	0	27,794
Last year's total	205	0	468	27,423	328	10	650	0	29,084
Percent change ⁴	-47.32	0.00	-10.47	-3.13	10.06	-100.00	-47.38	0.00	-4.44
Other Animals									
Reclaimed	13	0	13	75	21	0	0	3	125
Returned	8	0	215	23	12	0	7	3	268
Rehomed	191	0	646	652	241	71	651	269	2,721
Currently in Care ²	8	0	117	222	226	8	743	32	1,356
Transferred ³	1	0	167	34	118	0	55	6	381
Euthanased	17	0	476	421	128	1	105	32	1,180
Other ⁶	11	0	54	94	26	0	40	11	236
Total other animals	249	0	1,688	1,521	772	80	1,601	356	6,267
Last year's total	333	17	1,898	1,931	489	121	1,155	502	6,446
Percent change ⁴	-25.23	-100.00	-11.06	-21.23	57.87	-33.88	38.61	-29.08	-2.78
Total animals received	2,948	465	12,410	43,041	6,796	1,225	8,189	2,390	77,464
Last year's total	3,367	684	14,475	43,990	5,998	1,345	9,373	2,437	81,669
Percent change ⁴	-12.44	-32.02	-14.27	-2.16	13.30	-8.92	-12.63	-1.93	-5.15

¹ Received refers to all animals in RSPCA facilities during the 2024-2025 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 2024-25 from previous year.

⁵ RSPCA ACT, NT & TAS do not include pound animals in their figures, all other states do.

⁶ Other: Includes Died in Care.

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 2024-2025 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 ¹							Total
	ACT	NSW	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	
Cruelty complaints								
Investigated	744	16,713	13,874	5,125	1,915	10,206	7,195	55,772
Cruelty prosecutions								
Prosecutions finalised	5	226	3	37	2	47	61	381
Successful prosecutions ²	5	119	0	32	2	47	59	264
Charges laid	0	991	0	192	56	204	165	1608
People charged	5	0	3	44	4	49	59	164
Cases pending	0	104	0	46	20	19	46	235
Routine inspections	9	49	0	8	31	12	0	109

¹ RSPCA NT 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
- 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

	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Complaints ¹	73,997	73,301	69,014	69,623	71,514	67,237
Prosecutions ²	359	426	318	251	248	381

¹ Total of both complaints investigated & complaints revisited (please note that some complaints are also revisited after having been investigated, and both are counted here)

² Finalised prosecutions