

RSPCA Australia National Statistics 2017-2018

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 2017 to 2018 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 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 2017-2018 financial year
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- Table 6 Cruelty complaints and prosecutions nationally over the past 6 years

Table 1: Animals received¹ nationally by the RSPCA for the 2017-2018 financial year

	Number of animals	Percentage of total animals
Total animals received:	132,657	
Dogs		
Reclaimed	15,565	38.64%
Rehomed	14,881	36.94%
Currently in Care ²	2,203	5.47%
Transferred ³	1,882	4.67%
Euthanased	5,577	13.84%
Other	178	0.44%
Total dogs	40,286	30.37%
Cats		
Reclaimed	2,651	5.00%
Rehomed	32,228	60.79%
Currently in Care ²	3,782	7.13%
Transferred ³	1,002	1.89%
Euthanased	12,610	23.79%
Other	738	1.38%
Total cats	53,011	39.96%
Other animals⁴		
Reclaimed	4,247	10.79%
Rehomed	5,795	14.72%
Currently in Care ²	1,402	3.56%
Transferred ³	7,287	18.51%
Euthanased	18,651	47.39%
Other	1,978	5.03%
Total other animals	39,360	29.67%

¹ Received refers to all animals in RSPCA facilities during the 2017-2018 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

	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	Change from previous year
Dogs						
Reclaimed/rehomed/other	38,641	39,830	39,384	39,007	34,709	-11.02
Euthanased	7,313	6,765	5,872	5,763	5,577	-3.23
Total dogs	45,954	46,595	45,256	44,770	40,286	-10.02
Cats						
Reclaimed/rehomed/other	33,675	35,406	39,365	39,349	40,401	2.67
Euthanased	15,491	17,398	16,205	14,563	12,610	-13.41
Total cats	49,166	52,804	55,570	53,912	53,011	-1.67
Other Animals						
Reclaimed/rehomed/other	17,021	17,963	20,884	20,619	20,709	0.44
Euthanased	15,163	16,133	15,681	16,571	18,651	12.55
Total other animals	32,184	34,096	36,565	37,190	39,360	5.83
Total animals	127,304	133,495	137,391	135,883	132,657	-2.37

Table 3: Reasons for euthanasia of dogs and cats by each RSPCA Society for the 2017-2018 financial

	State/Territory RSPCA								Total
	ACT	Darwin ¹	NSW ²	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	
Dogs									
Infectious	0	0	61	24	9	0	12	0	106
Medical	21	13	416	290	118	25	155	46	1,084
Behavioural	28	2	1,402	1043	367	57	299	31	3,229
Legal	0	0	61	153	3	0	40	0	257
Other	3	0	362	482	35	1	10	8	901
Total dogs eutha	52	15	2,302	1,992	532	83	516	85	5,577
Cats									
Infectious	1	0	1,209	138	225	14	318	10	1,915
Medical	63	14	971	1282	391	48	480	79	3,328
Behavioural	25	4	933	358	380	261	596	42	2,599
Legal	3	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	4
Other ³	1	0	1,327	171	8	1	185	3	1,696
Total cats eutha	323	18	6,118	2,042	1,356	328	2,291	134	12,610

¹ Data not available for NT - data from Darwin Regional Branch only.

² RSPCA NSW includes Council animals this year.

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

Table 4: Animals received¹ by each RSPCA Society for the 2017-2018 financial year

	State/Territory RSPCA								Total
	ACT	Darwin	NSW ⁵	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	
Dogs									
Reclaimed	349	50	3,720	5,521	1,166	384	4,215	160	15,565
Rehomed	335	338	4,014	6,344	734	447	2,285	384	14,881
Currently in Care ²	51	44	769	651	105	78	410	95	2,203
Transferred ³	46	4	703	464	32	33	507	93	1,882
Euthanased	52	15	2302	1992	532	83	516	85	5,577
Other	3	2	45	81	5	7	18	17	178
Total dogs	836	453	11,553	15,053	2,574	1,032	7,951	834	40,286
Last year's total	955	661	12,703	15,569	3,130	1,500	9,470	782	44,770
Percent change ⁴	-12.46	-31.47	-9.05	-3.31	-17.76	-31.20	-16.04	6.65	-10.02
Cats									
Reclaimed	133	4	642	880	229	64	693	6	2,651
Rehomed	1,208	349	8,150	10,337	3,174	1,059	7,389	562	32,228
Currently in Care ²	92	65	1,012	1,027	377	96	1063	50	3,782
Transferred ³	0	4	236	296	21	45	335	65	1,002
Euthanased	323	18	6,118	2,042	1,356	328	2,291	134	12,610
Other	17	8	162	313	72	16	135	15	738
Total cats	1,773	448	16,320	14,895	5,229	1,608	11,906	832	53,011
Last year's total	2,315	539	16,561	14,437	5,362	2,593	11,292	824	53,923
Percent change ⁴	-23.41	-16.88	-1.46	3.17	-2.48	-37.99	5.44	0.97	-1.69
Horses									
Reclaimed	0	0	11	7	0	0	2	0	21
Rehomed	1	0	48	15	5	24	33	6	132
Currently in Care ²	0	0	149	16	7	1	44	21	238
Transferred ³	0	0	4	0	3	0	21	1	29
Euthanased	1	0	12	4	1	6	9	3	36
Other	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	3
Total horses	2	0	224	42	17	34	109	31	459
Last year's total	1	0	181	39	44	69	96	54	484
Percent change ⁴	100.00	0.00	23.76	7.69	-61.36	-50.72	13.54	-42.59	-5.17
Livestock									
Reclaimed	3	2	21	157	9	1	5	1	199
Rehomed	90	27	572	319	126	111	139	52	1436
Currently in Care ²	8	1	86	51	44	12	20	24	246
Transferred ³	0	0	41	305	206	0	56	54	662
Euthanased	16	1	251	653	88	26	65	23	1123
Other	2	1	13	22	56	14	3	5	116
Total livestock	119	32	984	1507	529	164	288	159	3782
Last year's total	420	20	892	854	363	417	324	116	3406
Percent change ⁴	-71.67	60.00	10.31	76.46	45.73	-60.67	-11.11	37.07	11.04
Wildlife									
Released	28	0	14	3116	15	37	521	0	3731
Currently in Care ²	1	0	2	251	8	0	97	0	359
Transferred ³	62	0	250	5767	138	0	22	0	6239
Euthanased	296	0	302	14690	174	8	605	0	16075
Other	20	1	21	1376	19	0	128	0	1565
Total wildlife	407	1	589	25,200	354	45	1,373	0	27,969
Last year's total	608	0	523	23,169	60	69	1,348	0	25,777
Percent change ⁴	-33.06	100.00	12.62	8.77	490.00	-34.78	1.85	0.00	8.50
Other animals									
Reclaimed	15	0	89	154	8	7	23	0	296
Rehomed	208	1	1385	1324	415	120	683	91	4227
Currently in Care ²	16	0	113	163	32	0	191	44	559
Transferred ³	1	0	91	208	3	4	38	12	357
Euthanased	45	0	674	502	54	16	109	17	1417
Other	7	0	99	89	13	22	51	13	294
Total other animals	292	1	2451	2440	525	169	1095	177	7150
Last year's total	676	40	2675	2272	588	213	972	87	7523
Percent change ⁴	-56.80	-97.50	-8.37	7.39	-10.71	-20.66	12.65	103.45	-4.96
Total animals received	3,429	935	32,121	59,137	9,228	3,052	22,722	2,033	132,657
Last year's total	4,975	1,260	33,535	56,340	9,547	4,861	23,502	1,863	135,883
Percent change ⁴	-31.08	-25.79	-4.22	4.96	-3.34	-37.21	-3.32	9.13	-2.37

¹ Received refers to all animals in RSPCA facilities during the 2017-2018 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 2017-18 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 2017-2018 financial year

	State/Territory RSPCA ¹							Total
	ACT	NSW	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	
Cruelty complaints								
Investigated	988	15,451	17,929	3,837	2,188	10,642	6,057	57,092
Cruelty prosecutions								
Prosecutions finalised	20	72	75	70	8	113	12	370
Successful prosecutions ²	12	66	74	59	9	111	11	342
Charges laid	23	404	0	0	0	712	23	1162
People charged	12	66	107	79	9	113	16	402
Cases pending	5	43	79	0	11	61	5	204
Routine inspections	0	87	0	32	0	22	37	178

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

	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
Complaints	49,861	58,591	60,809	62,563	55,405	57,092
Prosecutions ¹	358	236	274	264	340	370

¹ Finalised prosecutions