

RSPCA Australia National Statistics 2015-2016

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 2015 to 2016 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 2015-2016 financial year

	Number of animals	Percentage of total
Total animals received: 137,391		
Dogs		
Reclaimed	17,766	39.26% of total dogs
Rehomed	16,643	36.78% of total dogs
Currently in Care ²	2,839	6.27% of total dogs
Transferred ³	1,931	4.27% of total dogs
Euthanased	5,872	12.98% of total dogs
Other	205	0.44% of total dogs
Total dogs	45,256	32.94% of total animals
Cats		
Reclaimed	2,594	4.67% of total cats
Rehomed	31,178	56.11% of total cats
Currently in Care ²	3,795	6.83% of total cats
Transferred ³	925	1.66% of total cats
Euthanased	16,205	29.16% of total cats
Other	873	1.57% of total cats
Total cats	55,570	40.45% of total animals
Other animals⁴		
Reclaimed	3,754	10.27% of other animals
Rehomed	5,757	15.75% of other animals
Currently in Care ²	1,831	5% of other animals
Transferred ³	7,495	20.50% of other animals
Euthanased	15,681	42.89% of other animals
Other	2,047	5.59% of other animals
Total other animals	36,565	26.61% of total animals

¹ Received refers to all animals in RSPCA facilities during the 2015-2016 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

	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	Change from previous year
Dogs						
Reclaimed/rehomed/other	41,352	38,834	38,641	39,830	39,384	Down 1.12%
Euthanased	14,211	10,355	7,313	6,765	5,872	Down 13.2%
Total dogs	55,563	49,189	45,954	46,595	45,256	Down 2.87%
Cats						
Reclaimed/rehomed/other	27,686	29,772	33,675	35,406	39,365	Up 11.18%
Euthanased	24,651	19,464	15,491	17,398	16,205	Down 6.86%
Total cats	52,337	49,236	49,166	52,804	55,570	Up 5.24%
Other Animals						
Reclaimed/rehomed/other	12,799	14,811	17,021	17,963	20,884	Up 16.26%
Euthanased	10,826	13,437	15,163	16,133	15,681	Down 2.80%
Total other animals	23,625	28,248	32,184	34,096	36,565	Up 7.24%
Total animals						
Total animals	131,525	126,673	127,304	133,495	137,391	Up 2.92%

Table 3: Reasons for euthanasia of dogs and cats by each RSPCA Society for the 2015-2016 financial year

	State/Territory RSPCA								Total
	ACT	NSW ¹	Darwin ²	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	
Dogs									
Infectious	0	86	8	58	8	1	8	4	173
Medical	13	506	17	484	120	20	251	39	1,450
Behavioural	24	1,980	26	719	467	91	590	44	3,941
Legal	0	125	0	78	10	0	67	0	280
Other	0	16	0	12	0	0	0	0	28
Total dogs euthanased	37	2,713	51	1,351	605	112	916	87	5,872
Cats									
Infectious	78	2,178	16	340	381	50	850	43	3,936
Medical	74	1,247	19	764	481	94	481	75	3,235
Behavioural	127	1,190	5	260	89	119	656	74	2,520
Legal ³	241	0	0	146	612	296	0	0	146
Other	0	3,841	1	23	0	0	1,354	0	6,368
Total cats euthanased	520	8,456	41	1,533	1,563	559	3,341	192	16,205

¹ RSPCA NSW includes Council animals this year.

² Data not available for NT - data from Darwin Regional Branch only.

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

Table 4: Animals received¹ by each RSPCA Society for the 2015-2016 financial year

	State/Territory RSPCA								Total
	ACT	NSW ⁵	Darwin	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	
Dogs									
Reclaimed	293	4782	70	4,703	1,505	539	5,595	279	17,766
Rehomed	389	4,178	473	6,819	890	715	2,951	228	16,643
Currently in Care ²	53	884	81	797	220	134	567	103	2,839
Transferred ³	69	974	0	410	54	1	423	0	1,931
Euthanased	37	2,713	51	1,351	605	112	916	87	5,872
Other	3	48	1	104	15	5	17	12	205
Total dogs	844	13,579	676	14,184	3,289	1,506	10,469	709	45,256
Last year's total	1,376	14,252	498	13,495	3,084	1,695	11,570	625	46,595
Percent change ⁴	-38.66%	-4.72%	35.74%	5.11%	6.65%	-11.15%	-9.52%	13.44%	-2.87%
Cats									
Reclaimed	144	685	9	664	192	72	822	6	2,594
Rehomed	1,628	8,502	281	9,768	2,874	1,308	6,396	421	31,178
Currently in Care ²	144	953	54	1,304	414	221	647	58	3,795
Transferred ³	0	337	5	355	75	1	151	1	925
Euthanased	520	8,456	41	1,533	1,563	559	3,341	192	16,205
Other	47	196	6	407	71	25	100	21	873
Total cats	2,483	19,129	396	14,031	5,189	2,186	11,457	699	55,570
Last year's total	2,314	18,792	311	11,885	4,874	2,355	11,673	600	52,804
Percent change ⁴	7.30%	1.79%	27.33%	18.06%	6.46%	-7.18%	-1.85%	16.50%	5.24%
Horses									
Reclaimed	0	11	0	8	4	0	0	0	23
Rehomed	1	21	0	11	1	21	11	10	76
Currently in Care ²	1	119	0	5	1	40	46	26	238
Transferred ³	0	1	0	0	10	2	119	0	132
Euthanased	0	10	0	6	3	6	6	4	35
Other	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	4	7
Total horses	2	162	0	30	19	70	184	44	511
Last year's total	0	152	0	32	12	46	51	2	295
Percent change ⁴	100%	6.58%	n/a	-6.25%	58.33%	52.17%	260.78%	2100%	73.22%

Table 4: Animals received¹ by each RSPCA Society for the 2015-2016 financial year (cont)

	State/Territory RSPCA								Total
	ACT	NSW ⁵	Darwin	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	
Livestock									
Reclaimed	4	15	0	41	19	7	15	3	104
Rehomed	197	565	7	405	45	164	159	49	1,591
Currently in Care ²	33	60	0	50	37	187	26	28	421
Transferred ³	0	41	0	40	17	1	130	0	229
Euthanased	25	318	0	239	35	60	47	5	729
Other	16	52	0	52	4	2	10	2	138
Total livestock	275	1,051	7	827	157	421	387	87	3,212
Last year's total	328	1,084	2	708	182	308	394	38	3,044
Percent change ⁴	-16.16%	-3.04%	250%	16.81%	-13.74%	36.69%	-1.78%	128.95%	5.52%
Wildlife									
Released	81	17	0	2,532	95	7	610	5	3,347
Currently in Care ²	9	1	0	288	16	0	26	0	340
Transferred ³	249	224	0	6,247	94	9	1	0	6,824
Euthanased	717	339	0	11,665	98	7	679	1	13,506
Other	96	32	0	1,239	40	9	134	1	1,551
Total wildlife	1,152	613	0	21,971	343	32	1,450	7	25,568
Last year's total	1,536	675	1	18,459	310	88	1,500	0	22,569
Percent change ⁴	-25%	-9.19%	-100%	19.03%	10.65%	-63.64%	-3.33%		13.29%
Other animals									
Reclaimed	30	76	0	87	47	12	28	0	280
Rehomed	581	1,361	34	720	449	191	716	38	4,090
Currently in Care ²	78	278	5	89	202	52	120	8	832
Transferred ³	0	175	1	108	24	0	2	0	310
Euthanased	40	911	3	145	167	20	119	6	1,411
Other	24	105	5	103	53	14	40	7	351
Total other animals	753	2,906	48	1,252	942	289	1,025	59	7,274
Last year's total	1,011	3,027	41	1,851	752	270	1,178	58	8,188
Percent change ⁴	-25.5%	-4.0%	17.1%	-32.4%	25.3%	7.0%	-13.0%	1.7%	-11.2%

Table 4: Animals received¹ by each RSPCA Society for the 2015-2016 financial year (cont)

	State/Territory RSPCA								Total
	ACT	NSW ⁵	Darwin	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	
Total animals received	5,509	37,440	1,127	52,295	9,939	4,504	24,972	1,605	137,391
Total 2014-15	6,565	37,982	853	46,430	9,214	4,762	26,366	1,323	133,495
Percent change ⁴	-16.09%	-1.43%	32.12%	12.63%	7.87%	-5.42%	-5.29%	21.32%	2.92%

¹ Received refers to all animals in RSPCA facilities during the 2015-2016 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 2015-16 from previous year.

⁵ RSPCA NSW includes Council animals this year.

Examples of livestock, wildlife and other animals received

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 2015-2016 financial year

	State/Territory RSPCA ¹							Total
	ACT	NSW	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	
Cruelty complaints								
Investigated	2,725	14,953	18,386	5,215	2,941	12,022	6,321	62,714
Cruelty prosecutions								
Prosecutions finalised	15	64	44	58	10	54	19	259
Successful prosecutions ²	15	63	44	56	10	49	16	250
Charges laid	83	490	100	90	34	1,146	24	1,963
People charged	16	111	72	66	11	54	21	345
Cases pending	18	34	57	66	31	36	10	247
Routine inspections		122		16	1	6	53	198

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

	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
Complaints	54,398	45,717	49,861	58,591	60, 809	62,714
Prosecutions¹	275	206	358	236	274	259

¹ Finalised prosecutions

END OF REPORT