

# RSPCA ACT Report for the Service Funding Agreement

Report for 1 July 2019 – 30 June 2020

Prepared by RSPCA ACT

## *a. The number of animals seized under the Animal Welfare ACT 1992*

1. **83 animals seized** under 81A(a) to (c) and/or s85(2) via 85(1)((a) to (c).
2. Animal types:

|              |           |                 |
|--------------|-----------|-----------------|
| Birds        | 4         | including 3 DOA |
| Felines      | 7         | including 3 DOA |
| Canines      | 47        |                 |
| Rodents      | 0         |                 |
| Rabbits      | 2         |                 |
| Livestock    | 1         |                 |
| Fowl         | 1         | DOA             |
| Crab / Fish  | 21        |                 |
| <b>TOTAL</b> | <b>83</b> |                 |

### *Additional information:*

In addition to the number of animals seized, 162 animals were surrendered via the Inspectorate. We are providing information on these surrenders below:

|              |            |  |
|--------------|------------|--|
| Birds        | 6          |  |
| Felines      | 28         |  |
| Canines      | 31         |  |
| Rodents      |            |  |
| Rabbits      | 9          |  |
| Livestock    | 2          |  |
| Fowl         |            |  |
| Crab / Fish  | 86         |  |
| <b>TOTAL</b> | <b>162</b> |  |

Therefore, a total of **245** animals entered RSPCA ACT via our Inspectorate.

3. Number of animals destroyed under the Act: 0. (*relates only to Inspector Seized Animals*)

4. Number of entries into premises under section 81 of the Act:

As previously reported at half-year, our system is not able to capture this data.

However, although no properties were listed as actually entered under S85(1), the ones listed below were entered under "Imminent Risk Death/Injury".

We are counting these as not having owner consent to enter the property.

***December 2019***

3 cases of seizures (multiple animals, 11 seized),  
1 listed as Imminent Risk Death/Injury

***January 2020***

9 cases of seizures (multiple animals, 14 seized inc 3 DOA),  
4 listed as Imminent Risk Death/Injury

***February 2020***

2 animals seized

***March 2020***

3 cases of seizures (multiple animals, 35 seized)  
34 listed as Imminent Risk Death/Injury (includes 1 x DOA)

***April 2020***

2 animals seized

***May 2020***

2 animals seized

***June 2020***

1 animal seized

### *b. Stray dogs and cats*

1. Number of animals received from the public:

|              |              |
|--------------|--------------|
| Felines      | 1,000        |
| Canines      | 279          |
| <b>TOTAL</b> | <b>1,279</b> |

2. Number of animals received from the Territory:

|               |            |                                   |
|---------------|------------|-----------------------------------|
| Felines       | 22         |                                   |
| Canines       | 88         | Note: includes DAS seized animals |
| Other species | 11         |                                   |
| <b>TOTAL</b>  | <b>121</b> |                                   |

### *c. Cats and dogs housed*

1. For stray cats and dogs received from the public or the Territory, the number of days housed against legislative compliance period for the relevant Acts:

|         |                |
|---------|----------------|
| Felines | 7 days*        |
| Canines | within 7 days* |

\* Denotes the minimum days to be held as 'stray hold' to meet compliance requirements.

Note: animals are released back to owners if claimed before stray hold is up, and once stray hold period has expired, unclaimed animals fall under ownership of RSPCA ACT.

2. Number of days held for prosecution related matters:

|         |                  |
|---------|------------------|
| Felines | average 7 days   |
| Canines | average 245 days |

3. Number of dogs transferred to DAS: **14**  
(Note: includes DAS seized animals returned to DAS)

#### d. Animals released

1. Number of **stray** dogs and cats returned to owner:

|              |            |
|--------------|------------|
| Felines      | 139        |
| Canines      | 282        |
| <b>TOTAL</b> | <b>421</b> |

2. The average number of days housed until returned to the owner:

|         |   |
|---------|---|
| Felines | 3 |
| Canines | 1 |

*\* note: this only pertains to animals that are reclaimed and excludes strays that exceed stray hold period.*

#### e. Euthanasiation

|                                                         |            |
|---------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| Number of pest animals euthanised                       | 49         |
| Number of cats deemed feral/unsocialised and euthanised | 140        |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                                            | <b>189</b> |

#### f. Inspectorate service

|   |                                                                                    |                                             |
|---|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| 1 | Number of complaints/referrals received in relation to animal welfare              | <b>1,301</b>                                |
| 2 | Number of investigations undertaken in accordance with the Animal Welfare Act 1992 | <b>1,301</b>                                |
| 3 | Number of prosecutions commenced under the <i>Animal Welfare Act 1992</i> *        | <b>4</b>                                    |
| 4 | Summary of court outcomes by type:                                                 |                                             |
|   | • Number finalised in this reporting period:                                       | <b>4</b>                                    |
|   | ○ Dismissed: UUVALU Offence date July 2016                                         |                                             |
|   | ○ Convicted: FRIEND (Agg.Cruelty) Offence date 31/8/18                             | <b>\$50 Court levy<br/>GBO for 8 months</b> |
|   | ○ Not proven, dismissed: PERKINS/T2 Enterprises Offence Date 4/4/2018              |                                             |

|    |                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                    |
|----|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
|    | Convicted: FREEMAN (Fail to provide opportunity to display normal behaviour, Fail to provide appropriate shelter or accommodation) Offence date 3/9/18             | <b>2 x \$50 court levy, GBO 12 months, Animal ban for 5 years.</b> |
| 5. | Matters involved the issuance of written directions to owner/carers of animals – all these directions were complied with, therefore did not advance to prosecution | <b>40</b>                                                          |

### ***g. General statement***

The Inspectorate staff changes during the 2019-2020 financial year comprised two inspectors leaving and two staff members joining.

As at August 2020, both new staff members are still in training.

Michelle Middleton successfully completed full training and obtained Inspectorate authorisation during this reporting period, prior to her subsequently leaving.

The RSPCA ACT Inspectorate continues to place emphasis on rigour in the preparation of briefs of evidence, and due to the small team composition, this contributes to an already slow prosecution process.

At present, in addition to having body cameras, all matters attended to are done in pairs, ensuring high safety and procedure standards. The negative to this approach is potentially more time intensive investment into each job.

RSPCA ACT has started issuing infringement notices as this capability was operationalised and made available to us by TCCS. It may be prudent to consider including infringement notice reporting in the new cycle of SFA.

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