

RSPCA ACT Report for the Service Funding Agreement

Report for **1st July 2020 – 31 December 2020**

Prepared by RSPCA ACT

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

1. 46 animals seized under 81A(a) to (c) and/or s85(2) via 85(1)((a) to (c).
2. Animal types:

Birds	4
Felines	14
Canines	12
Pig	5
Rabbit	7
Reptile	3
Sheep	1
TOTAL	46

3. Number of animals destroyed under the Act: **4**.
(relates only to Inspector Seized Animals)
4. Number of entries into premises under section 81 of the Act: Data not collected by our system.

Although our system is not able to capture this data, we are including relevant information on Inspector seized animals appropriated without consent to enter the property. We are including this information, as it may be useful to note under this question.

December 2020

1 case (BARRATT) of seizures (multiple animals, 21 seized),
Listed as Imminent Risk Death/Injury

September 2020

1 case (PRESTON) of seizures (multiple animals, 3 seized),
Entry via search warrant

b. Stray dogs and cats

1. Number of animals received from the public:

Felines	489
Canines	133
TOTAL	622

2. Number of animals received from the Territory:

Felines	27	
Canines	14	Note: includes DAS seized animals
Other species	11	
TOTAL	52	

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 20 days
Canines	average 222 days

3. Number of dogs transferred to DAS: **2**
(Note: includes DAS seized animals returned to DAS)

d. Animals released

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

Felines	73
Canines	126
TOTAL	199

2. The average number of days housed until returned to the owner: **1 day**

e. Euthanisation

Number of pest animals euthanised	17
Number of cats deemed feral/unsocialised and euthanised	60
TOTAL	77

f. Inspectorate service

1	Number of complaints/referrals received in relation to animal welfare	629
2	Number of investigations undertaken in accordance with the Animal Welfare Act 1992	629
3	Number of prosecutions commenced under the <i>Animal Welfare Act 1992</i>	4
4	Summary of court outcomes by type:	
	Number finalised in this reporting period:	1
	- Convicted: FRANCIS - Offence Date: 27 July 2018	Good Behaviour Order – 12 months
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	10

g. General statement

The Inspectorate experienced staff changes during this six-month period. One trainee left just prior to completing her training, and a new trainee commenced. The new Inspectorate member is working towards completing her Cert IV in Investigations (Government).

There are no significant other staff changes to report.

TCCS may find the following fluctuations interesting to note when comparing this reporting period to the previous year's reporting numbers, i.e. comparing July – December 2020 to July – December 2019:

- 2020 saw an increase in number of animals seized;
- There were more animals surrendered by the public;
- There were less animals surrendered to the RSPCA by DAS;
- Slightly less complaints came in and were investigated, but there was an increase in active prosecutions.

h. Additional information

# animals at C/H status on 31 December	Total = 32 - 6 Canines - 3 Felines - 4 Rabbits - 4 Birds - 15 reptiles
Includes animals in foster. Does not include DAS C/H animals	

In addition, we also included the 'Length of Stay' (LOS) for animals who were or are in care during this reporting period. Their status therefore:

- changed to or from Court Held in the July-December period,
- or are/were still in care as at 31 December 2020,
- indicates the total LOS at that status, for those animals who were still in care during this reporting period, but who came in before July 1 2020.

Days at court hold status	# Animals
0-30	
31-60	23
61-100	
100+	20

This information was not requested, but we wanted to provide it as we think it is useful to capture.

Interim report on Pilot: Community Cat Project

As part of the initial stage of the pilot project, we have developed procedures and protocols to ensure that:

- animal welfare was not compromised;
- staff safety was not compromised;
- data collection was accurate; and
- community engagement and communication was appropriate (including the development of a flyer to advise the relevant local community of potential cat management activities in their area).

ACT Government funding has allowed RSPCA ACT to allocated a dedicated resource, which has also been helpful with data integrity and a more streamlined service.

From Mid-October, RSPCA received 48 calls asking for help with trapping.

Based on calls from the Public, the following actions were taken by RSPCA:

- area scouting,
- community liaison,
- none-active trap setting (for familiarisation)

capture attempts: **115**

animals successfully trapped by RSPCA: **32**

Total # animals brought in via trap: 96 (inc by members of the public). Note this does not accurately reflect the total number of 'feral' kittens, most of which are not brought in via trap.

Outcomes of animals brought in via trap/RSPCA:

Rehomed	29
Euthanised	49
Reclaimed	9
Other (inc in foster, transfer out, still at shelter)	9

Other activities:

In-home animal care (owner hospitalised)	2
Emergency boarding animal pick-up/drop-off	approx. 10 (firm data only recently recorded)
Emergency surrender pick-ups	approx. 16 (firm data only recently recorded)