

# RSPCA ACT Report for the Service Funding Agreement

Report for 1<sup>st</sup> July 2020 – 30 June 2021

Prepared by RSPCA ACT

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

1. 37 animals seized under 81A(a) to (c) and/or s85(2) via 85(1)((a) to (c).

2. Animal types:

|              |           |  |
|--------------|-----------|--|
| Birds        | 7         |  |
| Felines      | 16        |  |
| Canines      | 7         |  |
| Rabbit       | 4         |  |
| Reptile      | 3         |  |
| <b>TOTAL</b> | <b>37</b> |  |

3. Number of animals destroyed under the Act: **3**.  
(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 have been working towards including relevant information on Inspector seized animals appropriated without consent to enter the property for December to January. 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

Note: Between January and June 2021 no properties were listed as entered under S85(1), no properties were entered under "Imminent Risk Death/Injury".

### *b. Stray dogs and cats*

1. Number of animals received from the public:

|              |              |
|--------------|--------------|
| Felines      | 1030         |
| Canines      | 235          |
| <b>TOTAL</b> | <b>1265*</b> |

\* Note the above figures do not include surrenders, transfers, shelter offspring or emergency boarding animals. The total number of incoming animals for the financial year 20/21 is **2642**.

2. Number of animals received from the Territory:

|               |            |                                   |
|---------------|------------|-----------------------------------|
| Felines       | 109        |                                   |
| Canines       | 27         | Note: includes DAS seized animals |
| Other species | 19         |                                   |
| <b>TOTAL</b>  | <b>155</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 365 days |
| Canines | average 365 days |

3. Number of dogs transferred to DAS: 8  
(Note: includes DAS seized animals returned to DAS)

#### d. Animals released

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

|              |            |
|--------------|------------|
| Felines      | 140        |
| Canines      | 209        |
| <b>TOTAL</b> | <b>349</b> |

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

#### e. Euthanisation

|                                                         |            |
|---------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| Number of pest animals euthanised                       | 39         |
| Number of cats deemed feral/unsocialised and euthanised | 130        |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                                            | <b>169</b> |

#### f. Inspectorate service

|   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |        |
|---|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|
| 1 | Number of complaints/referrals received in relation to animal welfare<br><b>*Correct as of 28 June 2021.</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                  | 1,031* |
| 2 | Number of investigations undertaken in accordance with the Animal Welfare Act 1992                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | 1,133  |
| 3 | Animals Surrender / Seized by Inspectorate                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | 66     |
| 4 | Number of prosecutions commenced under the <i>Animal Welfare Act 1992</i> *<br>a) RSPCA v Angela BARRATT. Matter still before ACT Magistrates court.<br><br>b) RSPCA v Michael STEWART. Matter still before ACT Magistrates court.<br><br>c) RSPCA v Nora PRESTON. Matter still before ACT Magistrates court. | 3      |
| 5 | ACAT Appearances<br>• Angela BARRATT v Animal Welfare Authority (AWA / RSPCA). AWA / RSPCA successful in exercising their powers as per s86C of the Animal Welfare Act 1992.                                                                                                                                  | 1      |
| 6 | Written / Verbal Directions                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | 17     |

### **g. General statement**

The Chief Inspector departed. RPSCA ACT commenced a targeted recruitment drive to recruit a Chief, Senior and base inline Inspector. It is anticipated through various management adjustments that the Inspectorate will recruit and retain a full strength Inspectorate.

Irrespective of the Inspectorate staff turnover and small team, it received and responded to one thousand and one (1031) reportable complaints, in addition to One hundred and two (102) being excess from the previous reporting period. In addition, sixty (66) animals were seized or surrendered to Inspectors as a result of either the owner of the animals not being able to maintain the animal's welfare or as a direct result of owner / person in charge contravening the Animal Welfare Act 1992.

An emphasis on education and assistance to customers was adopted in the second period of the financial year with a total combination of 40 (forty) written and verbal instructions being issued to animal owners to take particular action to care for their animals. This approach was deemed successful with 100% compliance being achieved. It is endeavoured the approach of education and minimal formal action will be maintained where possible to ensure the enforcement of the Animal Welfare Act 1992 is continued.

### **h. Additional information**

|                                                              |                                        |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| # animals at C/H status <b>on</b> 30 June                    | Total = 5<br>- 1 Canine<br>- 4 Felines |
| 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-June period,
- or are/were still in care as at 30 June 2021,
- 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 2021.

| <b>Days at court hold status</b> | <b># Animals</b> |
|----------------------------------|------------------|
| 0-30                             | 49               |
| 31-60                            | 16               |
| 61-100                           | 15               |
| 100+                             | 29               |

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