

RSPCA ACT Report for the Service Funding Agreement

Report for 1st July 2024 – 30 June 2025

Prepared by RSPCA ACT

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

1. 9 animals seized under 81A(a) to (c) and/or s85(2) via 85(1)((a) to (c).
2. Animal types:

Dogs	8	
Puppies	1	
TOTAL	9	

The inspectorate continues to prioritise cases warranting the removal of animals from their home environment and aims to continue this approach when appropriate.

While there has been an increase in the number of animals removed compared to previous reporting periods, the vast majority were done so with the cooperation of the animal owners.

Having this cooperation allows for the smooth transition of the animal's rehabilitation, homing, and also to maintain a rapport with the animal owners thus supporting better welfare for other owned animals or a reduced need for further intervention by inspectors.

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: 1

b. Stray dogs and cats

1. Number of animals received from the public:

Felines	1152
Canines	184
TOTAL	1336

2. Number of animals received from the Territory:

Felines	142	
Canines	75	Note: includes DAS seized animals
Other species	17	
TOTAL	234	

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	Within 7 days*
Canines	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 16 days
Canines	average 0 days

* For animals seized within this reporting period.

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

d. Animals released

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

Felines	120
Canines	109
TOTAL	229

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

e. Euthanasiation

Number of pest animals euthanised	19
Number of cats deemed feral/unsocialised and euthanised	54
TOTAL	73

f. Inspectorate service

1. Number of enquires/ investigations received by the inspectorate:

The Inspectorate received 744 reports that would have constituted an offence under the Animal Welfare Act 1992, throughout the financial period.

This was a reduction from previous years.

There has been an increase concerning animals being kept in multi-story apartment complexes.

1154 enquires were made by inspectors pertaining to the reports to gauge the severity and validity of the report.

3427 phone calls were received by the Inspectorate during the reporting period with those calls being actioned in accordance with organisation priorities.

2. Summary of written / verbal directions:

Inspectors continued to approach reports in a consistent manner with education being at the forefront. During the reporting period 6 verbal directions were provided with no noncompliance being detected. This resulted in no requirement for formal written directions to be issued.

3. ACT Civil Administrative Tribunal Matters:

One application of appeal against a notice pursuant to s86C to rehome an animal was received. This appeal was later vacated by the applicant.

4. Number of prosecutions commenced:

5

5. Summary of Court Outcomes:

The matters before the court are yet to be finalised.

The 5 matters (prosecutions) are at various stages before the court. It is anticipated that they will be completed in November 2025 at this stage, as one is set for a contested hearing, and others are yet to have pleas entered or sentencing carried out.

g. General Statement - Inspectorate

While the Inspectorate continued to receive a considerable volume of calls for assistance, the number of confirmed reports of animal cruelty has somewhat declined.

One of the reasons could be focussed internal capturing of calls and differentiating from stray animals or nuisance calls.

There are still many reports concerning stray cats and other nuisance animal (barking, attacking etc) matters that fall outside the Inspectorates remit coming through to RSPCA ACT. These calls are not currently recorded but referred to DAS. There may be opportunity for more efficiency in dealing these calls.

The recent and unexpected cessation of the Department of Public Prosecutions (DPP) from representing the Inspectorate in court, has created some uncertainty in commencing legal proceedings against animal cruelty offenders.

The recent discontinuation of Domestic Animal Services (DAS) to transport animals connected to vulnerable pet owners who require assistance with emergency boarding housing for their animals, will have an impact on RSPCA ACT Inspectorate filling this gap and the sustainability thereof will be reviewed.

The Inspectorate remains committed to fulfilling its obligations under the Service Funding Agreement and will continue to provide assistance where feasible with its available resources.

h. Additional information

# animals at C/H status on 30 June	Total = 0
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, including those animals held at Court Hold status on behalf of Domestic Animal Services. Their status therefore:

- changed to or from Court Held in the July-December period,
- or are/were still in care as at 30 June 2025,
- 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 2024.

Days at court hold status	# Animals
0-30	9
31-60	
61-100	
100+	

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