



**FY 2021 - 2022**

# ANNUAL OUTCOME REPORT



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# Letter from the President and CEO



*Alexandra Wedutenko*

Alexandra Wedutenko  
RSPCA ACT PRESIDENT

The 2022 financial year brought us challenge and change. Despite these challenges, RSPCA ACT continued to provide a helping hand to animals and their humans across the ACT.

Nearly every single staff member and a very large percentage of our volunteer team were impacted at some point by Covid related isolation or stay at home orders, hampering our ability to deliver our services. Regardless, we rose up and met these challenges with agility and resolve.

As we slowly started to emerge from the Covid related lockdowns during the last half of this financial year, our optimism grew, and it was a relief to reopen fully to the public. It was also wonderful to return to a physical Million Paws Walk event.

We invite you to page through this

Annual Outcomes Report, which includes quick read stories and graphs that capture our animal welfare outcomes over the year.

These great outcomes and achievements are the results of the collaboration between our volunteers, staff, donors and support community.

We are pleased to report that over these last 12 months, we rehabilitated and rehomed 1,898 animals. Included is 894 homeless cats and kittens who are no longer living rough on the streets but living their best lives in homes.

We helped 155 animals whose owners were in crisis, and we further expanded our services to include free desexing and wrap around veterinary care whilst these emergency boarding animals were in our care.

RSPCA ACT aids many people in our community. We answered and made 33,431 phone calls and conducted 32,616 face-to-face interactions in our Pet Adoption Centre to provide advice, comfort, or support to members of the public from 1 July to 30 June 2022.

Our veterinary services are integral to our animal welfare outcomes, and this last financial year we performed 1,858 surgeries and provided 3,028 consultations.

Our inspectorate team placed an emphasis on education and owner responsibility throughout the financial year. This approach saw owners engaging in higher methods of animal care than previously experienced with a reduction in the need to seize animals on welfare grounds. The inspectorate received approximately 4,085 direct enquires during the financial year.

Due to generous gifts in wills income and extremely prudent expense management, we report another year of surplus.

We honour with much gratitude those who left us a gift in their Will, and every

single person who supported us financially. Donations and gifts are vital to our sustainability and every dollar contributed, goes directly into animal welfare and care.

We thank our national partners Royal Canin, Petbarn and Elanco for their immense contributions.

We express our thanks to our volunteer Directors for discharging their governance duties in such a diligent and committed way and for continuing to support our efforts towards longer term and continuous sustainability.

We thank our dedicated staff and volunteers who so lovingly care for our animals, often in very difficult circumstances.

There is still much to be done, but with the support of our community, we remain committed, determined, and always optimistic!



*Michelle Robertson*

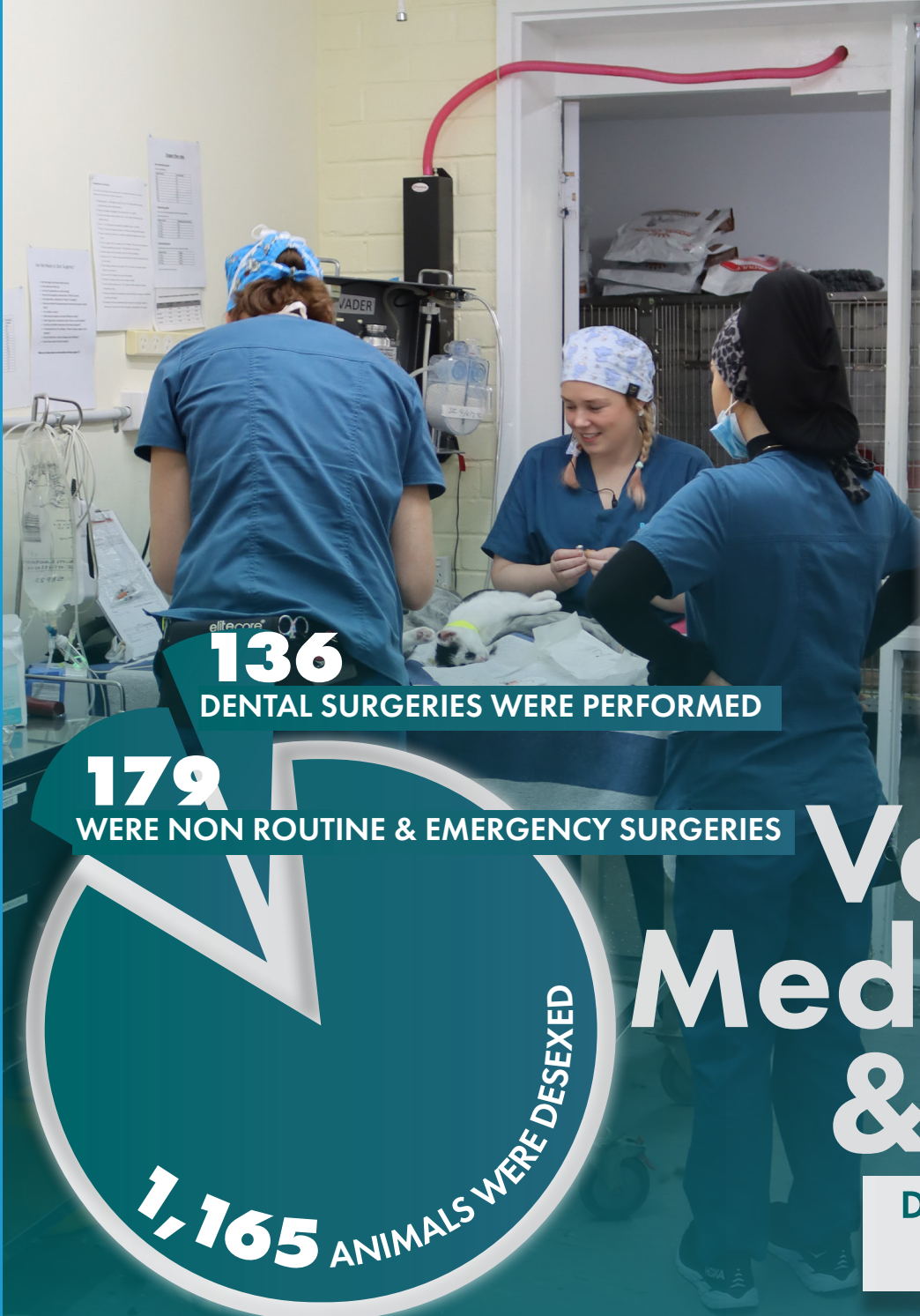
**Michelle Robertson  
RSPCA ACT CEO**

# Shelter Outcomes

	ADOPTION	RECLAIM	TRANSFER	TOTAL
DOGS	140	198	8	346
PUPPIES	89	17	0	106
CATS	397	97	6	500
KITTENS	655	9	18	684
OTHERS	242	19	3	264
TOTAL				1898

	2022 FY	2021 FY
INCOMING ANIMALS	2,255	2,642
OUTGOING ANIMALS	2,269	2,465
TOTAL EUTHANISED	212	328
ANIMALS TO FOSTER	1,050	1,146
TOTAL EB	108	115

\* Animal welfare is challenging work, and euthanasia is a difficult and confronting reality that we face. Euthanasia is not a decision taken lightly and only considered when no other quality of life options is available.



**136**

DENTAL SURGERIES WERE PERFORMED

**179**

WERE NON ROUTINE & EMERGENCY SURGERIES

**1,165**

ANIMALS WERE DESEXED

	SHELTER ANIMALS	PUBLIC ANIMALS
CANINE SPEY	78	71
CANINE CASTRATION	78	58
FELINE SPEY	545	69
FELINE CASTRATION	385	44
OTHER SPEY (RABBIT/FERRET)	79	34
DENTAL	136	74
OTHER SURGERIE (NON-ROUTINE, INC XRAYS)	179	28
TOTAL	1480	378

# Veterinary Care, Medical Prevention & Rehabilitation

During the 2021 /2022 financial year our veterinary team performed 2,937 consultations on shelter animals.



**4,085** Direct Enquiries received by our Inspectorate

**33,431** Calls received in our pet adoption centre

**57** Dog Training School Classes

**32,616** visitors to our pet adoption centre

**16** Kids N' Kritters Sessions

Over **46,800** social media followers

**911,547** website views

**910** media stories

# Prevention and Education



# Volunteers & Foster Carers

RSPCA ACT volunteers play a critical role in helping us provide mental and physical care to animals until they find their forever home. Our volunteers help walk and exercise our dogs, feed the animals, clean out their enclosures and provide them with much needed enrichment, love and attention.

In the 2022 financial year, we were once again faced with the challenges of Covid-19 and lockdowns. Our team of volunteers showed remarkable resilience, flexibility, compassion and dedication to helping the animals who rely on us all.

We signed on 61 volunteers

and 46 foster carers to our network. In the last financial year our Volunteers and Foster carers contributed a massive 94,347 hours of their time.

Our Foster Carer network forms an essential part of our care infrastructure and capacity.



**61**  
of Volunteers



**94,347**  
Volunteer Hours



**46**  
of Foster carers

## EMERGENCY BOARDING REASON

05 10 15 20 25 30 35 40

Owner hospitalised

Owner homeless

Mental health

Domestic violence

Owner apprehended

Other



The work of RSPCA ACT span across diverse range of animal welfare areas.

We provide love, care, rehabilitation and rehoming 365 days a year.

We provide life saving and life changing surgeries in our veterinary hospital every week.

The RSPCA ACT Inspectorate is active in the community investigating animal cruelty, and at the forefront of our prevention and rescue activities.

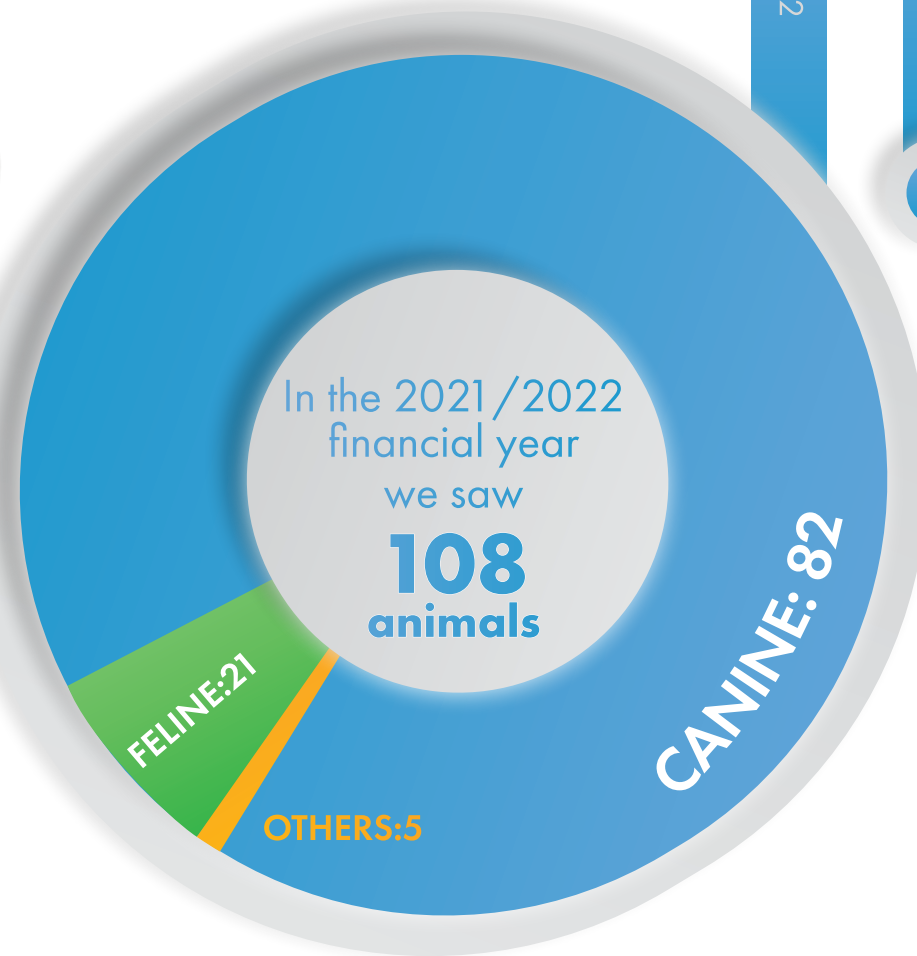
We educate the community on how to best care for animals.

We share our knowledge with the community, and through our dog training school, provide valuable skills to dog owners.

We also help the community in times of crisis, helping families stay together and keeping beloved pets safe and warm. RSPCA ACT will always give a helping hand wherever we can.



# Project SAFE & Emergency Boarding



FY 21/22

FY 20/21

FY 19/20

155

65

Project: SAFE is an emergency boarding program designed to support keeping human and animal families together. We offer this program for vulnerable families in crisis, who for example are fleeing domestic violence, who may have fallen into homelessness, are recovering in hospital or who are struggling with mental health. The program is designed to help protect their pets in times of crisis, and reunite families when they're back on their feet.

Sadly, we have seen many people asking for this service. In the 2021/2022 financial year we helped 108 people requiring our Project: SAFE service.

Through generous donations, and partnerships we have expanded our services to provide veterinary care to those experiencing financial hardship.



## Mooncake & Opal

were surrendered into our care because their owner had too many pets and not enough capacity to look after them. They each had one eye permanently closed and covered in crust. Conditions like these are common when cats are suffering from cat flu which has been left untreated.

The veterinary team removed the crust from around their affected eye and sadly, both Mooncake and Opal's affected eye globes had been ruptured. The cats were treated for cat flu, but we had to remove their ruptured eyeballs to allow them to live comfortably.

Once they both recovered from their surgery and the cat flu and received the all clear, we adopted our "pirate cats" into loving homes.



## Slinky,

a 16 year old cat, was brought into our care as a stray. His microchip contact information was not up to date and we were not able to get a hold of his owners.

Our veterinary team ascertained that he suffered from arthritis, had a fractured canine tooth and had a heart murmur. Slinky was sent into foster care while he awaited surgery.

When Slinky was ready for adoption, we knew that he would need to be with someone who could attend to his needs and ensure that he lived comfortably and pain free. We are happy to say he was adopted into a loving home.



## Badger

and his siblings were surrendered to us because their owner did not want them anymore. Our veterinarians determined that he had a leg deformity that was causing him significant pain. We engaged in discussions with specialists on treatment options and the decision was made to amputate his leg.

Badger recovered well after surgery, and he never looked back.

We took great care to home him with someone who understood his medical needs and who could help him maintain a healthy weight to live comfortably with his three limbs. Badger is now loved by his new family, is coping well with 3 legs and is leading a normal life.

## Mack

was surrendered into our care because his owner was too unwell to look after him and unfortunately family members were unable to take care of him. It's so important to have a plan in place for our pets when we can no longer take care of them.

Mack's owners' family was able to give us valuable information about his personality, behaviours and needs.

Not long after coming into our care, Mack found a new home with a wonderfully loving owner.





## Eggcelot

is a lovely Chinese Silky Bantam Rooster that came into our care as a stray. He was nervous being at the shelter at first, but soon after arriving into our care he started jumping into the laps of the team members.

Eggcelot was the first animal that his new family adopted from RSPCA ACT. Since then, they have been back to adopt more farm animals and often send us updates.

## Ray

is a sweet bird who quickly charmed everyone at the shelter. Ray came to us as a stray and unfortunately we could not locate his owners. Ray is a hand tame bird who is extremely comfortable around people.

Every time a team member would walk past Ray, he would call out "hello" and give a cheeky whistle. When entering his aviary, he would walk over, lift a leg to come and sit on your shoulder where he would rub his head against you and give you pecks.

We were thrilled when Ray was adopted into a house with a large indoor and outdoor aviary where he could stretch his wings and spend quality time with his humans.



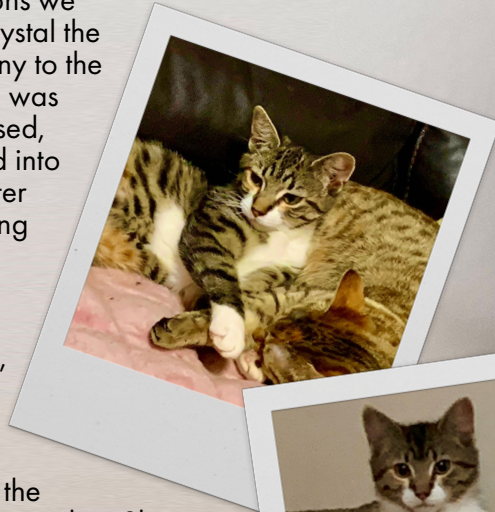
One of the most amazing transformations we saw this last financial year was with Crystal the cat. Crystal made her way from a colony to the shelter as a kitten in June 2021. Crystal was nervous, timid and incredibly unsocialised, more so than usual. Crystal was placed into the care of one of our experienced foster carers who could spend the time working with Crystal to socialise her.

Crystal and her litter mate Fallon, had to adjust to their new lives with humans, living indoors and living harmoniously with other cats and animals.

Crystal was so shy, she wouldn't allow the Foster Carer to come near her, let alone pat her. She wouldn't come near the carer even for food. It took a few months before Crystal was comfortable letting the Carers pat her, and in time she also grew fond of the carer's resident cat.

Crystal spent one year in foster care before she was ready to be adopted into a loving home. Our team could see the loving companion Crystal could be, and they never gave up on her.

Sweet and shy Crystal found her forever home and she is now loved and cared for.



# Crystal

# Inspectorate updates



Picture by Sithixay Dithavong for the Canberra Times

Our inspectorate team are on the front lines investigating complaints of animal cruelty and providing education to pet owners every day.

Our Inspectors received approximately 4,085 direct enquires from the public. We believe that educating the public and promoting best animal care practice can make a positive difference to the lives of pets and their owners.

Not all investigated cases are of intentional neglect or cruelty. Dorothy, Rose, Blanche and Bonnie were living with their owner, whose health had deteriorated to the point where the owner could not properly care for the cats. RSPCA ACT worked with the owner and the decision was made to surrender their cats to us.

Their owner needed help and the Inspectors stepped in to

help. We were able to adopt Dorothy, Rose, Blanche and Bonnie into loving homes.

Sadly, we cannot always save animals who need our help. Our inspectors commenced investigations surrounding the stabbing death of a cocker spaniel named Louis. He was found with a 34cm wooden-handle kitchen knife protruding from his stomach.

Although our desired sentencing of a ten-year animal ban was not imposed, sentencing passed down included a 10 month good behaviour order, disqualification from owning any animal for 5 years effective from 1st January 2021, and a \$350 penalty.

This offense was described as "deliberate, brutal, excessive and extreme."



# “Buddy”



RSPCA ACT inspectors were notified of concerns relating to a dog in a multi-story complex by a nearby resident. It was established that Buddy had not been to the vet for quite some time, he was malnourished, ungroomed and had decaying teeth. An undertaking was provided by the owner to have Buddy attend a vet appointment.



RSPCA ACT Inspectors made follow up enquiries, which revealed the owner had failed in their undertaking to attend the vet appointment. Buddy was then immediately seized.

Buddy was brought into the RSPCA ACT Vet clinic, where he was examined and treated by our caring team. We worked with Buddy, ensuring he was happy and healthy. Buddy was adopted into a loving home.

No charges were laid on the previous owner in relation to the matter as they were suffering from mental health issues and engaged with support services referred to by RSPCA ACT Inspectors.

\*Buddy’s name was changed for privacy reasons\*

# Our supporters

NATIONAL NUTRITIONAL PARTNER



NATIONAL PARTNER

*Elanco*

**PETBARN**



## SHELTER PARTNERS



## SHELTER SPONSORS



CapitalLend



MONDIAUX  
SOLAR

## Trusts and Foundations

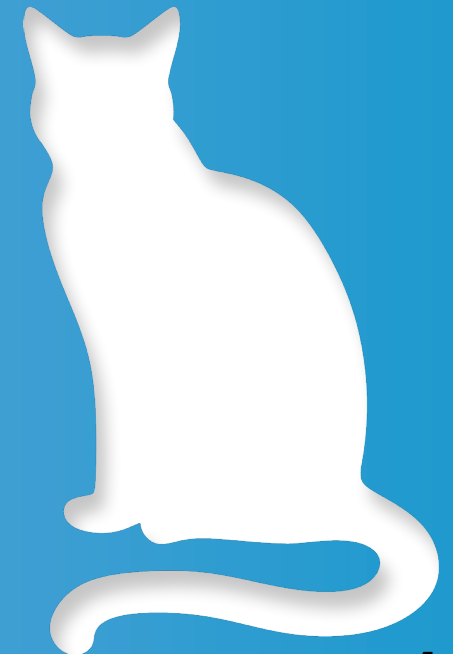
Elsie Cameron Foundation  
Footprints Forever Foundation  
Ginger Meares Memorial Foundation  
Kenyon Foundation  
Prance Family Memorial Fund  
Procter, Patricia and Kevin Charitable Trust  
Sarah Woolridge and Kathleen Burrow Memorial Fund  
The Arthur Edward Smith Memorial Fund  
The Audrey Preston Charitable Endowment  
The Jean & Redvers Dunbar Charitable Endowment  
The Linke Animal Welfare Trust  
The Eldon Foote Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation  
The Palmer Family Memorial Fund  
The Sparrow Foundation  
The Trustees of the Bagnall Foundation  
Victoria Shakespeare Trust  
Vizma Trepins Memorial Fund

## SHELTER & EVENT SUPPORTERS

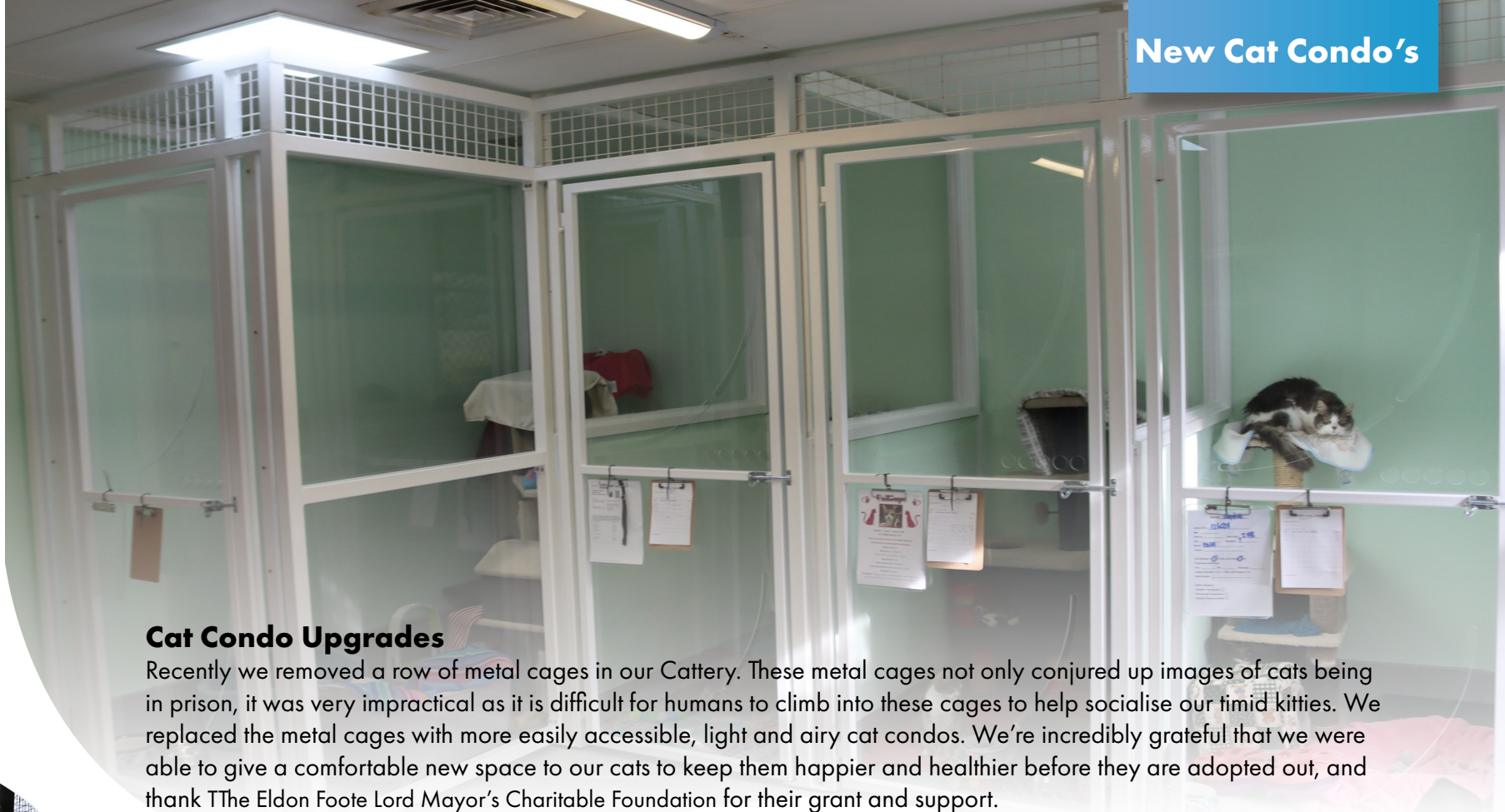
Bark Royal  
Catmate  
Phillip Mazda  
ACT Government  
Coolman Court  
Songland  
National Zoo and Aquarium  
Show Pony Events  
Elite Event Technology  
Canberra FM  
Casino Canberra  
Workin Gear  
JW Land

## ENCLOSURE PARTNERS

Audi Centre Canberra  
Slaven Mazda  
Casino Canberra



With the help of our supporters, we were able to make important and urgent upgrades at the shelter. We look forward to the day we move into our new home in Pialligo where we will have a purpose built and spacious shelter and vet clinic and hospital, but until such time, we continue to do what we can within our limited resources.



### Cat Condo Upgrades

Recently we removed a row of metal cages in our Cattery. These metal cages not only conjured up images of cats being in prison, it was very impractical as it is difficult for humans to climb into these cages to help socialise our timid kitties. We replaced the metal cages with more easily accessible, light and airy cat condos. We're incredibly grateful that we were able to give a comfortable new space to our cats to keep them happier and healthier before they are adopted out, and thank TThe Eldon Foote Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation for their grant and support.

### Kennels renovation

After an urgent call out earlier in the year we were able to renovate multiple kennels. In this renovation project we expanded 3 of our kennels to make larger spaces for our bigger dogs. Sadly, many of our bigger sized dogs remain in our care for longer as finding the right home for them is challenging. During this extended stay, doggos can become stressed and can hurt their tails if the spaces they are housed in is too narrow. With the extra space our larger dogs have more room to play and stretch out in between their daily walks and outside play time, reducing their stress levels significantly.

# Shelter upgrades



Larger kennels

## New canine emergency boarding area

Late last year we updated you on a new canine emergency boarding area which falls under our Project: SAFE program, which was made possible by a generous donation. We needed additional funds to complete this project, and we were able to secure these funds.

Partnerships with other Animal Groups are important to us. With advice and in consultation with Wombat Rescue and ACT Wildlife about how we could support them, we upgraded one of our enclosures to assist with short term accommodation for injured or sick Wombats. Working closely with Wombat Rescue, we were able to provide a safe-haven for Billy the Wombat, suffering from mange. Billy was able to recover and heal while a permanent location was sought to release him. Billy is now living his best wombat life on pristine land where he was subsequently released.



## Wombat Yard



Our veterinary team provide care and advice for over 2,000 animals each year. Recently, we purchased three Mistral Patient Air Warmers, which is a welcome addition to the Clinic. Maintaining an animal's body temperature is critical in a veterinary clinic setting and our patient warmers are used all day, every day, whether it be in surgery, keeping a litter of neonate kittens warm or stabilising hypothermic patients. Patient warmers are a key piece of equipment, and we are grateful that we were able to obtain them.

## Mistral Patient Air Warmers (Vet Equipment)



# Board Meeting Schedule & Attendance Register

Please see below the meeting and attendance register for the Board of Directors for The Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ACT) Incorporated "the Association" for the financial year ended 30 June 2022.

	13-Jul-21	3-Aug-21	2-Sep-21	13-Sep-21	19-Oct-21	1-Dec-21	14-Dec-21	4-Feb-22	16-Mar-22	12-May-22	12-May-22	TOTAL	
Michelle Bennetts	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	<b>8</b>	
Jeff Butler	N/A						1	1	1	1	1		<b>5</b>
Chris Collins	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	<b>9</b>	
Deborah Flood	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	<b>10</b>	
Thieu-Hue Lam	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	N/A	<b>5</b>	
Ayman Malik	N/A							1	1	1	1	<b>4</b>	
Robert McMahon	1	1	1	1	1	1	N/A					<b>5</b>	
Alexandra Wedutenko	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	<b>10</b>	
James Willson	1	1	0	1	0	1	N/A	0	0	0	0	<b>3</b>	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>		

# President:

Alexandra Wedutenko

# Vice President:

Mr Chris Collins

# Other Members:

Ms Michelle Bennetts

Jeff Butler (From 23 Nov 2021)

Ms Deborah Flood

Ms Thieu Hue Lam (Until May 2022)

Ayman Malik(From 23 Nov 2021)

Robert McMahon (Until 23 Nov 2021)

Mr James Willson



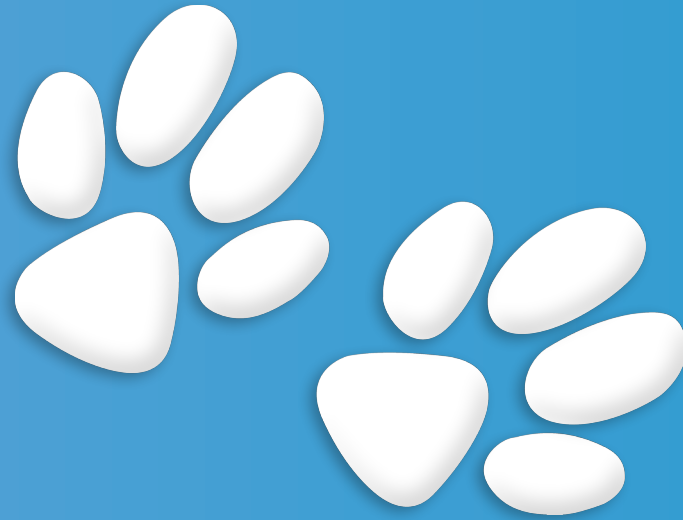
**Transforming Lives**

## Hill's Pet Nutrition

The RSPCA's partnership with Hill's Pet Nutrition ended in December 2021. We express our warm thanks for the support of Hill's throughout our 24-year association. During this time, Hill's Pet Nutrition provided premium food for the cats and dogs under our shelter and foster care, as well as sponsoring RSPCA events and activities such as the Million paws walk. We are grateful to Hill's for their consistent and valuable assistance over the years.

*thank  
you*





**RSPCA**   
ACT

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