



2019-2020
ANNUAL REPORT



“This year we’ve had to adapt and change how we operate and provide services in ways we couldn’t have imagined.”

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A MESSAGE OF THANKS

A REVIEW OF THE 2019-2020 FINANCIAL YEAR FROM THE PRESIDENT AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE

When we were planning for the 2020 financial year, it was impossible to anticipate just how much we would be challenged in 2020.

It is thanks to the generosity and backing of our wonderful supporters that we were able to financially pull through the intense pressure and challenges presented during the 2020 financial year.

We also acknowledge and thank the Federal Government for the employer support packages which helped tremendously.

We also secured a funding package from the ACT Government to develop a business case for our 'Project Home'.

This funding boost enabled us to move forward with plans for shelter renewal and redevelopment that would ensure sustainable and quality future service provision and care for Canberra's most vulnerable animals.

We worked collaboratively with the ACT Government on various options. We hope to see firm agreements reached and adequate funding support agreed by the ACT Government in the 2021 financial year.

The year that was

As summer arrived, there were devastating bushfires raging all around us. Our Shelter was blanketed in thick smoke for weeks on end. This made for even more difficult-than-usual working conditions for our staff and volunteers.

As the fires drew closer, and the heatwave intensified, we made operational changes on a frequent basis to keep our animals, and our staff and volunteers, as cool and safe as possible.

We are so grateful to our community for stepping in and helping us to move the bulk of our animals into short term foster during the peak danger time. It was a great relief to be able to mobilise and mitigate risk to our animals in such a smooth way.

We were all heartbroken by the devastation around us and we are pleased that we were able to play a small supporting role by providing pet food and consumables into the Bay areas and local emergency respite centres.

To be prudent, we are looking into ways to build more emergency response capacity for us at RSPCA ACT.

The hail storms during the end of summer created more challenges for us at the shelter and our staff not only had to soothe anxious animals, but also deal with leaks and flooding.

When our friends at ACT Wildlife needed supplies for their rescue work with the flying foxes we were happy to be able to help.

Then to top it all off, the Covid-19 pandemic surfaced. Our team has rallied during this pandemic, and we were able to adapt and change how we operate and provide services. As an essential service, our shelter was operational throughout this period, but with limited public capacity.

Unfortunately, Covid has significantly impacted our commercial fee for service revenue, and will sadly continue to do so during the 2021 Financial year.

We want to thank our visitors, adopters and public vet clients for their patience and understanding, as we pivoted to a booking system and conducted 'parking area consults' to keep our shelter Covid-safe and free.

As with everything we do, without our community's tangible and ongoing love and support, we would be unable to report such great outcomes for animal welfare in the ACT.

We seek to achieve ambitious animal welfare outcomes, which includes sheltering, but also creating awareness, education and early intervention, strong advocacy and of course, matchmaking.

We continuously strive to improve. It is with much pride therefore that we share some of high achievements with you as follows:

- (i) We adopted out more animals than the previous year, but had less incoming animals. Delivering on our mission, we will continue to work hard towards our long term goal of animals no longer requiring sheltering.
- (ii) Our public veterinary service provided in-need individuals and families with 210 consultations for their pets. In addition, our team performed 2,187 surgeries this year, 236 more than the previous year.
- (iii) We are proud to retain our strong homing rates and continue to invest time to continuously improve in our assessments and care processes.
- (iv) We provided emergency boarding care for 65 animals whose families were in crisis.
- (v) As you page through this report, we invite you to review our outcomes infographics and our adoption stories.
- (vi) And, with regards to our finances, we have taken another big step towards securing our ongoing sustainability.

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

We express our thanks to our voluntary Board of 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 for ensuring the heartbeat of RSPCA ACT is strong, and for so lovingly caring for our animals.

To our donors, sponsors, partners and financial supporters: we would not be able to do our work if not for you.

We honour with much gratitude those who left us a gift in their Will and we will keep their legacy alive by continuing to care for animals in need.

Donations and gifts are vital to our sustainability and every dollar contributed, goes directly into animal welfare and care.

We appreciate our media, advocates and channel partners who have helped us spread and tell our stories.

In conclusion, despite unparalleled challenges, we have achieved great outcomes this last financial year. There is still much to do, but we are confident that together we will continue to make a difference and improve animal welfare outcomes.



Alexandra Wedutenko
Alexandra Wedutenko
President



Michelle Robertson
Michelle Robertson
Chief Executive

ANIMAL STATISTICS

FINANCIAL YEAR 2019 - 2020

3026 ANIMALS
CAME INTO OUR CARE



689
CANINES



1464
FELINES

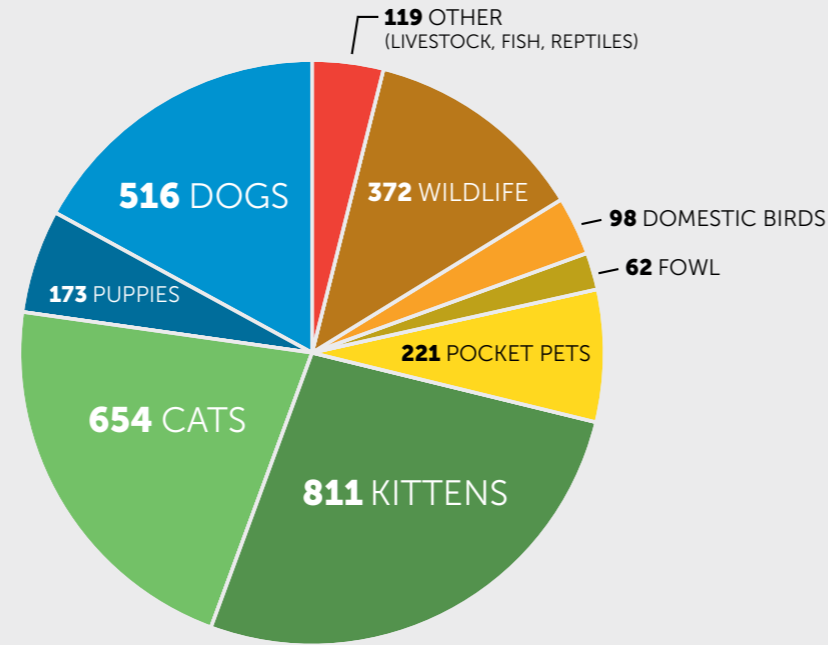


75 ANIMALS
BORN AT
THE SHELTER



948 ANIMALS FOSTERED

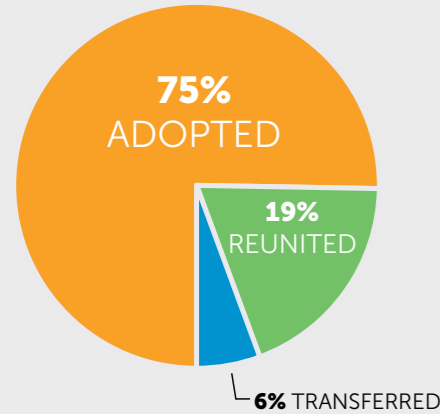
24 CANINE FOSTER CARERS
106 FELINE FOSTER CARERS



AVERAGE LENGTH OF STAY
NOT INCLUDING FOSTER CARE



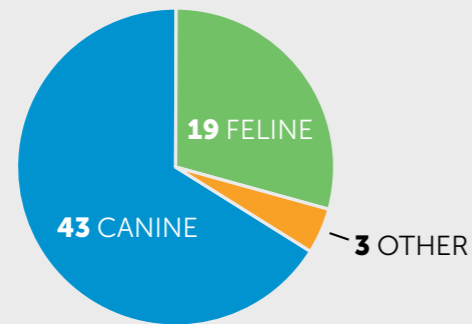
ANIMAL HOMING
BREAKDOWN



AVERAGE LENGTH OF STAY
FOR PROJECT SAFE ANIMALS



65 ANIMALS
IN EMERGENCY BOARDING



IN TIMES OF CRISIS, A COMMUNITY SHOWS ITS TRUE STRENGTH.

In the early days of January as Canberra was covered in a blanket of smoke, our shelter was under threat of the bushfires during the severe fire warning weekend.

During which our incredible network of volunteers and staff came together to provide sanctuary for the animals in care, in case of evacuation. One of these volunteers was Elaine. As a regular dog walker Elaine had built a loving relationship with Mastiff Chloe. So, when the call was made, Elaine put her hand up straight away.

Elaine recalls the day as very smoky, hot and windy when she came to collect Chloe. There were many foster carers at the shelter collecting other dogs at the time. Chloe was so well behaved as she sat in the car on her way home.

After spending the weekend with Chloe, Elaine and her husband introduced their friend Rosie to staff at the shelter. Rosie had recently lost her own dog and was interested in giving Chloe the second chance she deserved.

When Rosie met Chloe, she fell immediately in love. All Chloe wanted was pats, rubs, hugs and love.

Chloe returned from foster care and was desexed. After some time recovering, Chloe made her way to her new forever home.

OVER 36 ANIMALS
IN FOSTER OVER
THE SEVERE FIRE
WARNING
WEEKEND

6 DAYS
SHELTER FORCED
TO CLOSE DUE TO
THE HAZARDOUS
SMOKE LEVELS

GOODS DELIVERED
TO SUPPORT
RESCUE GROUPS
& FIRE AFFECTED
COMMUNITIES



SHELTER STATISTICS

FINANCIAL YEAR 2019 - 2020

AROUND 612 HOURS PER WEEK

399 VOLUNTEERS


295 MEMBERS


41 CALLS
 PER DAY IN OUR
 PET ADOPTION
 CENTRE



1301 INVESTIGATIONS
 UP 20% FROM 18/19



265
 KIDS N' KRITTERS
 ATTENDEES


ALL VISITS AND CLASSES WERE STOPPED DUE TO COVID



7
 SCHOOL VISITS



6
 COMMUNITY VISITS


2931
 CONSULTATIONS



3003
 VACCINATIONS



2187
 SURGERIES



165
 DENTALS


1699
 DESEXINGS


INCLUDING
24
 LAST LITTER PROGRAM
 DESEXINGS



OVER 42,000
 SOCIAL MEDIA
 FOLLOWERS


815,821
 WEBSITE VIEWS


4928
 DONORS


16090
 DONATIONS


994
 MONTHLY DONORS


11
 GIFTS IN WILLS


34
 WORKPLACE GIVING
 BUSINESSES


219
 CUPCAKE DAY
 PARTICIPANTS

HOW 19/20 AFFECTED US

Over the last financial year we have been faced with many unprecedented challenges. While we have continued to adapt to change, there has been many silver linings during this time.

During March as the COVID-19 pandemic began to affect the ACT our annual Million Paws Walk event was changed. Million Paws Walk: Walk This May was launched as a fun excuse for locals to responsibly walk their dogs. Conveniently the average length of a dog lead is 1.8m which helped to adhere to social distancing measures at the time. Changing this event allowed for people to get involved in the Million Paws Walk who could not always attend the physical event.

As borders closed both internationally and locally the use of our cat board facility Tango's Place was no longer needed leading to a decline in use of services.

Per social distancing restrictions we quickly implemented a booking system to allow adoptions to continue throughout the pandemic. Due to locals working from home we briefly saw an increase of adoptions throughout March as people had more time to settle in new pets. This has resulted in a shorter length of stay for animals that were available for adoption.

Throughout this time we have seen a slight reduction in animals coming into the shelter. This is a potential silver lining from this time that suggests pets are indeed happier and healthier when we spend more time with them at home. In this instance animals are less likely to stray or be given up and surrendered to the shelter if their humans are spending more time with them working on their emotional and behavioural needs.

701
 PARTICIPANTS IN
 MILLION PAWS WALK:
 WALK THIS MAY

256
 CATS BOARDED IN
 TANGO'S PLACE

177
 DOG TRAINING
 SCHOOL
 ATTENDEES



HAPPY TALES

THUMBELINA

When Thumbelina arrived at the shelter as a stray, there was something a bit unusual with her. Thumbelina's central toes on her front feet were fused together. She was still a bright and active kitten so our Vets removed the fused digits to ensure she could make good use of both limbs. Thumbelina was soon adopted to her forever home.



X-ray showing Thumbelina's injury

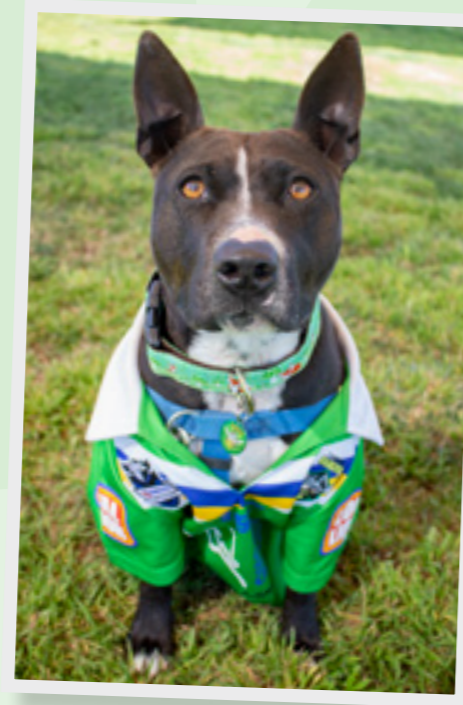


FIDGET

This gorgeous Rainbow Lorikeet was unfortunately surrendered to the shelter after a change of circumstances. Fidget thankfully found a forever home where she could live indoors and receive lots of delicious treats.

DAISY

Daisy was found wandering the streets as a stray and was brought into the shelter. Daisy attended many of our events throughout the year including Floriade and even a fundraiser's Cupcake Day event! After 225 days in care Daisy found her perfect match and was adopted.



Daisy at a Cupcake Day event



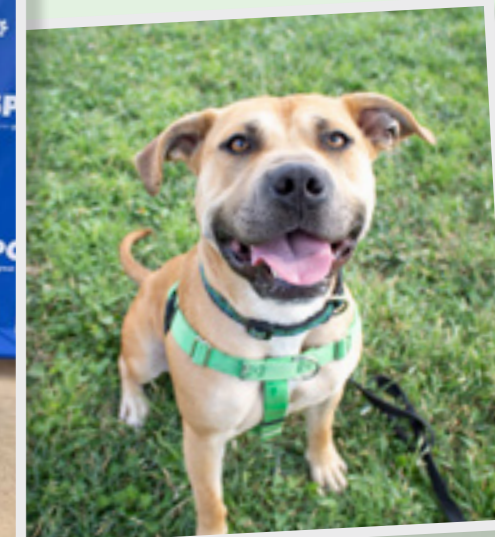
SASSY

Many of you may remember Sassy the Pitbull was in our care for a long 480 days. After spending over a year at the shelter Sassy finally found her forever home on the day of our Give to Get Them Home dollar matching event. Sassy has recently celebrated her one year adopt-aversary.

SHEVA

Spent a collective 3 months in care in the search for the right home. Her lucky day came on Clear the Shelter where she found her perfect match!

A very happy Sheva at Clear the Shelter!



TWIGLET

Twiglet the Piglet arrived at the shelter after being found alone in a Canberra suburb. Twiglet spent a few days with one of our foster carers while we tried to find her home. Unfortunately, we were unable to find Twiglet's owners, so she found a loving new home with other pigs to spend her life with.





OUR SUPPORTERS

We would like to extend a huge thank you to our wonderful corporate supporters. Their generosity continues to help thousands of animals each year.

SHELTER PARTNERS



KING & WOOD
MALLESONS

Canberra Weekly



Region™
local everywhere

advocate®

NATIONAL PARTNERS

Bendigo Bank, KONG, Oh Crap Dog Poop Bags, RSPCA Pet Insurance

SHELTER SUPPORTERS

ACT Government, Catmate, Cloud Kinnekt, Dramatic Productions, Face2Face Recruitment, Message Media, MSD Animal Health, Murrumbateman Winery, National Zoo and Aquarium, Petbarn Foundation, Songland Records, South.Point Tuggeranong, Veracity IT

SHELTER AMBASSADORS

Ali King



OUR BOARD

RSPCA ACT Board of Directors have regard to the AICD and ACNC guidelines and recommendations in performing their governance duties.

PRESIDENT

Mr Jeffrey Butler until 26 November 2019

Ms Alexandra Wedutenko on and from 27 November 2019

VICE PRESIDENT

Ms Sara Goldsworthy until 31 March 2020

Ms Victoria Press on and from 1 May 2020

OTHER MEMBERS

Ms Alexandra Wedutenko until 26 November 2019 (now President)

Dr Bernie Towler until 26 November 2019

Mr Robert McMahon

Mr Chris Collins

Ms Victoria Press until 30 April 2020 (now Vice President)

Ms Michelle Bennetts

Ms Katy Gallagher until 26 November 2019

Ms Deborah Flood from 26 May 2020

Ms Thieu Hue Lam from 26 May 2020

Mr James Willson from 26 May 2020

BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE AND 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 2020.

	25-07-19	03-09-19	29-10-19	AGM	10-12-19	25-02-20	31-03-20	01-05-20	26-05-20	TOTAL
Michelle Bennetts	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	8
Jeffrey Butler	✓	✓	✗	✓						3
Chris Collins	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	8
Deborah Flood									✓	1
Katy Gallagher	✗	✗	✗	✗						0
Sara Goldsworthy	✗	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓				3
Thieu-Hue Lam									✓	1
Robert McMahon	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	9
Victoria Press	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	9
Bernie Towler	✓	✓	✗	✗						2
Alexandra Wedutenko	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	9
James Wilson									✓	1
TOTAL	7	7	5	7	5	5	5	5	8	



RSPCA 
ACT

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