“He is your friend, your partner, your defender. You are his life, his love, his leader. He will be yours, faithful and true, to the last beat of his heart. You owe it to him to be worthy of such devotion.” ~ Unknown
"One reason an animal can be such a comfort when you’re feeling blue is that he doesn’t try to find out why.”
~ Anonymous
“I love Fatty to bits, he’s my best friend.”

Luke was only one when he bonded with his first pet cat, a beautiful ginger boy named Pilchard. Tragically when the Wandong bushfires broke in February, Pilchard went missing and never returned. Luke’s mother contacted the RSPCA and asked them to try and find a new feline friend. At their first meeting, Luke and Fatty were taken with each other and another inseparable bond was formed.

This gorgeous little duo are best friends and are rarely seen apart. Luke still misses Pilchard terribly and hasn’t given up hope of him one day returning home.

“Until one has loved an animal, a part of one’s soul remains unawakened.”

~ Anatole France
The Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Victoria) was established in Melbourne in 1871.

The RSPCA is an independent animal welfare charity, which relies on community support to fund the vital animal welfare services it provides. The RSPCA Victorian state office is located in Burwood East, Melbourne.

RSPCA Victoria is a member of RSPCA Australia (the federation of the eight state and territory RSPCAs in Australia). The RSPCA National Board is made up of the Presidents or their nominees from each member Society, with the CEOs in attendance as advisors.

RSPCA Victoria operates ten animal welfare shelters (one closed during this year), which provide refuge and care for stray, injured and abandoned animals and adoption services for the community.

RSPCA Inspectors investigate cruelty complaints, prosecute offenders and rescue animals from dangerous situations.

The key objectives of the RSPCA are to raise the knowledge and skills of the community in the care and treatment of animals and to advocate improved legislation. Legislative improvements for animal welfare have been achieved at both state and federal levels through lobbying from the RSPCA.

As part of our commitment to gain improvements in animal welfare legislation, the RSPCA (both at a state and national level) participates on numerous committees that review legislation and codes of practice, and lobbies for necessary modifications and additions.

Objectives

The RSPCA’s objectives are to promote and enhance the wellbeing of society and the welfare of its animals by:

- Educating the Victorian community regarding the humane treatment and management of animals and increasing public awareness of and support for animal welfare.
- Enforcing existing laws to prevent cruelty to animals.
- Influencing the amendment or development of legislation and standards considered necessary for the protection and welfare of animals.
- Encouraging and providing a sustainable, needs based network of animal welfare services across the state, for the care, shelter, treatment, rehabilitation and protection of animals within the capacity and strategic directions of the organisation.
- Providing relief programs to assist people within the community who are experiencing adverse circumstances, to enable them to care for or manage their animals.

Values

Accountability
Preparedness to be held accountable for plans, actions and outcomes.

Professionalism
Behaviour and standards that set the benchmark for other organisations.

Integrity
Soundness of judgement and honesty in everything we do.

Openness
Transparency in our actions, decisions and results to all stakeholders.

Creativity
Willingness to review current operations and implement new and innovative approaches that assist in achieving our overall objectives.
That all animals, great and small, are:

- Free from hunger and thirst.
- Free from discomfort.
- Free from pain, injury and disease.
- Free to express normal behaviour.
- Free from fear and distress.

With feed in short supply following the February bushfires, these cows, and their neighbouring horse and poultry friends have been receiving much needed feed from the RSPCA. At the end of June, the RSPCA had provided financial support for the care of 7,449 animals affected by the bushfires.
“My job can be very emotional but it’s extremely satisfying. Reuniting people with lost pets and playing an important role in helping find loving new homes is what I love to do.”

As a Customer Service Officer, Kirsten works in the RSPCA Burwood East Animal Welfare Centre, ensuring clients and their animals receive the best care and advice.

Kirsten was delighted to see Hoppy adopted to his forever home and to meet the new family who absolutely adore him.
Influencing legislative framework, enforcement and funding for animal welfare programs.

**Key objective:** Lobby Melbourne City Council to improve welfare conditions for carriage horses.

**Progress:** This year the RSPCA was successful in achieving significant improvements in the welfare standards for carriage horses with a mandatory Code of Practice introduced.

**What’s ahead:** The RSPCA will continue to monitor these changes and seek continuous improvement in the Codes of Practice.

**Key objective:** Campaign to achieve a ban on jumps racing in Victoria.

**Progress:** This year we completed two submissions to Racing Victoria Limited (RVL) to ban jumps racing and we raised community awareness of the welfare issues in this industry.

**What’s ahead:** This campaign is ongoing and the RSPCA will ramp up its public awareness campaign to achieve a ban on jumps racing.

**Key objective:** Animal hoarding is a community issue that impacts both animal and human welfare. We need to work together to find a collective solution.

**Progress:** In June, an animal hoarding seminar was held to bring together key stakeholders as an important first step in finding a solution.

**What’s ahead:** The RSPCA will champion the need for further research and an active working group. The aim of this group is to discuss action to better manage animal hoarders, including training for staff in direct contact and education programs.

Influencing public opinion

Develop, implement and evaluate influencing and education programs to raise the knowledge, skills and public support for animal welfare.

**Key objective:** Campaign to encourage people to ‘vote with their feet’ to stamp out rodeos.

**Progress:** Rodeo attendance numbers have continued to decline in 2008/09.

**What’s ahead:** We will continue to campaign to encourage the community, corporate organisations and local councils to not support these events.

**Key objective:** Campaign to reduce the number of unowned and unwanted cats in our community.

**Progress:** We continued to promote the ‘Who’s for Cats’ campaign. The RSPCA held an internal cat welfare forum to raise awareness regarding cat welfare issues. We introduced the ‘Cat Kingdom’ concept at RSPCA events to engage the community in cat welfare.

**What’s ahead:** By continuing this campaign we hope to make a long-term impact on the cat overpopulation.

**Key objectives:** Raise awareness of the welfare issues of puppy farms and the pet shop industry that supports these facilities.

**Progress:** We informed and educated RSPCA supporters about the welfare issues of puppy farms and pet shops where these puppies are sold.

**What’s ahead:** A broader campaign is planned to raise community awareness. We are also lobbying for legislative changes.

Community presence

Project an engaging professional image to a broad audience.

**Key objective:** Engage and inspire students to improve the welfare of animals.

**Progress:** Our education programs continued to develop their community reach. Our school holiday program engaged over 700 children and new programs were introduced to engage the youth market.

**What’s ahead:** Continued development of our education programs to extend beyond the classroom into the broader community.

**Key objective:** Educate the broader community about the work of the RSPCA.

**Progress:** The third series of RSPCA Animal Rescue achieved exceptional ratings results and has been an effective forum in which to raise awareness.

**What’s ahead:** A fourth series is in the planning phase.

**Key objective:** To grow corporate participation and support for RSPCA Victoria.

**Progress:** Corporate volunteering has continued to increase this year, over 500 corporate volunteers contributed at least 3,000 hours across the organisation through a variety of different activities.

**What’s ahead:** There will be a continued emphasis and strategy implementation to increase corporate involvement.
The team at the RSPCA have been an invaluable support in helping injured wildlife.

As a wildlife rescuer, Crikey Dave worked tirelessly following the Black Saturday bushfires, rescuing wildlife. Warrior the wombat was found one month after the bushfires, traumatised, thirsty, hungry and desperate for food and water. After a month learning how to socialise with other wombats and rebuilding his confidence, he is preparing to be returned to the bush.

The RSPCA supported the work of Crikey Dave via a wildlife assistance grant which has enabled him to purchase much needed equipment and feed for injured and orphaned wildlife, just like Warrior.
Generation of income to support RSPCA animal welfare services.

Key objective: To further develop the bequest program, to secure long-term financial security for the RSPCA.

Progress: A record figure of over $18 million was achieved in bequest income during 2008/09 - an outstanding result.

What’s ahead: Continued development of the bequest program to ensure we can fund our animal welfare services and invest in capital improvements and development for our regional shelters.

Key objective: Grow and diversify fundraising activities to support animal welfare services.

Progress: This year we continued to diversify our income sources and developed existing programs. Strong growth was achieved in our appeals, workplace giving and our monthly donor program.

What’s ahead: The continuous development and evaluation of fundraising programs to ensure we can fund our animal welfare services.

Key objective: To achieve best practice corporate governance.

Progress: RSPCA Victoria completed its transition from an incorporated association to a company limited by guarantee.

What’s ahead: The Board is committed to the philosophy of continuous improvement and will work to improve its legal and ethical obligations so that underlying organisational objectives can be achieved.

Enhancing the five freedoms for animals

Develop, implement and evaluate integrated programs to enhance the five freedoms for animals.

Key objective: Investing funds to improve existing animal welfare facilities.

Progress: RSPCA Bendigo was completely upgraded with new indoor cat adoption facilities and improved housing for dogs.

What’s ahead: We will soon begin the final phase of the Burwood East master plan with construction expected to be completed in 2011.

Key objective: To effectively manage the cases of animal cruelty reported to the RSPCA Inspectorate.

Progress: This year the RSPCA Inspectorate managed over 14,400 reported cases of animal cruelty and prosecuted a record number of these cases.

What’s ahead: The RSPCA will continue to work with government to improve animal welfare legislation and educate the community regarding key animal welfare issues.

Organisational effectiveness

Build a low cost organisation that achieves outcomes.

Key objective: To reduce our environmental footprint.

Progress: Our environmental impact was a key consideration in the planning of our redevelopment at RSPCA Bendigo. Fuel efficiency was also a key consideration with all new vehicles.

What’s ahead: We will continue to make sustainable practices a priority in the design and development of facilities and business practices.

Key objective: To achieve cost efficiencies and value from our supplier base.

Progress: Reviewing of existing arrangements including energy, cleaning, fleet and finance suppliers to gain cost benefits.

What’s ahead: Ongoing review and evaluation will continue to ensure we achieve optimum financial outcomes.
Overview

The issue which has dominated the work of the RSPCA in the year under review is the response of the Society to the tragic bushfires on Black Saturday, 7 February 2009, which killed or injured so many humans and animals. Despite the work done in the aftermath of the Ash Wednesday fires in 1983, this did nothing to prepare the RSPCA to handle the huge numbers of animals that survived the 2009 fires but urgently needed assistance. It was a very difficult time. The staff of all departments were involved in the delivery of humane services, made all the more stressful as the demands of the normal work of the Society continued. The Board is proud of the manner of the response and work done, which is still ongoing, and congratulates the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and her team on the leadership shown. The help and assistance given to the RSPCA by other Societies is also gratefully acknowledged.

The generosity shown by donors to the RSPCA Bushfire Appeal was simply overwhelming and has enabled the Society to support so many people who are deemed eligible for relief funding to assist their animals.

A formal submission to the Victorian Bushfires Royal Commission was made, outlining RSPCA experiences and recommendations. The RSPCA is developing an emergency relief plan for future use by the Society.

Governance

The transition from an incorporated association to that of a company limited by guarantee has been seamlessly achieved, greatly improving the professional approach of the RSPCA at all levels. I sincerely thank all of my Board and Board Committee colleagues for their continued dedication to, and support of, the RSPCA. The Board provides the Society with essential strategic policy development and direction.

The CEO, Maria Mercurio, assisted by our Executive Managers heads up a large, professional and competent team which includes many volunteers.

I congratulate the CEO on what has been achieved this past year, particularly in the areas of advocacy, law enforcement, governance and site redevelopment.

Government relations

The past year has proven difficult for the RSPCA and there has been incremental progress in animal welfare, due to current priority issues facing state and federal governments. The prolonged drought, bushfire relief, the global economic crisis resulting in huge budget cuts and departmental reorganisation brought on by the need to introduce high standard biosecurity measures, have all affected normal delivery of government animal welfare programs such as maintaining the momentum of the Australian Animal Welfare Strategy (AAWS) and the work of the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee.

Fortunately, there are already signs that these set-backs are being resolved. The AAWS program has been revived with the great assistance of all stakeholders. The Minister for Agriculture, Joe Helper, visited our State office to tour the facilities and discuss the work of the RSPCA Inspectorate and the state opposition requested RSPCA advice in developing its animal welfare policies.

Advocacy

The Australian RSPCA movement was founded in Melbourne 138 years ago to improve the welfare of animals and is committed to making a difference locally, nationally and internationally. Regrettably, as stated, progress has been slow.

• Jumps racing continues and so does the carnage. Four reviews and recommendations over ten years have failed to alter the statistics on falls, injuries and deaths. Clearly a political decision.
• Duck shooting recommenced despite overwhelming scientific evidence that it is cruel and unnecessary. Obviously another political decision.
• Sporting shooters are campaigning for permission to kill feral and native animals in national parks.
• A Code of Practice for Melbourne carriage horses has been adopted. A good first step.
• Codes of Practice for the private keeping of cats and dogs were approved – a good result that will improve the welfare of thousands of animals over time.
• Lack of progress on intensive farming issues. Although, consumer pressure may at last force change in egg production methods.
• Campaigning continues on live animal exports. A RSPCA economic study has shown that ending exports over five years will not result in the collapse of viable sheep farming. The report has greatly upset the exporters and their allies.

Site redevelopment

The redevelopment of RSPCA Bendigo has been finished on-time and on-budget. The shelter is now the biggest in regional Victoria and has the capacity to also meet the needs of horses and production animals.

Thanks to the generous bequests of major donors the complete redevelopment of the Burwood East site has been approved by the Board and will be commenced as a single project early in 2010.

Acknowledgement

I acknowledge with gratitude and pleasure the great and on-going support given to the RSPCA during the year by so many Victorians. It is this support, so willingly given, that has developed our RSPCA into the professional and influential Society it is today. 2008/09 has been a busy and thoroughly rewarding year.

Hugh J Wirth AM KSJ
Honorary President

“We can judge the heart of a man by his treatment of animals.” ~ Immanuel Kant
During 2008/09, RSPCA Victoria was governed by our Board of Directors. The Directors volunteered their time and did not receive fees or payments for their contribution to the RSPCA. In conjunction with the Chief Executive Officer, the Board set RSPCA Victoria’s strategic direction and developed its policies. In addition to attending 11 Board meetings, the Directors made up the majority of committee members who reviewed and recommended changes to the policy and direction of RSPCA Victoria.

Dr Hugh Wirth AM KSJ
BVSc., Hon DVSc. (Melb)
- President, RSPCA Victoria
- Chair of CEO Review and Nomination Committees
- Past President, World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA)
- Past President, RSPCA Australia
- Director, RSPCA (Vic) Foundation Pty Ltd.
- Commenced on State Council: March 1969; Vice-President 1971; President since 1972
- 11 meetings 2008/09: 11 attended, 0 leave of absence

Barbara Horn
- Deputy Chairperson, RSPCA Victoria
- Published author
- Lifelong commitment to animal welfare
- Former ABC Radio presenter
- Director, RSPCA (Vic) Foundation Pty Ltd.
- Commenced on State Council: 19 May 1986
- 11 meetings 2008/09: 8 attended, 3 leave of absence

Dr Onn Ban-David
BVSc.
- Chair of RSPCA Victoria Animal Welfare Policy Committee
- Private Veterinary Practitioner
- Commenced on State Council: 18 September 1979
- 11 meetings 2008/09: 9 attended, 2 leave of absence
“The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated.” ~ Mahatma Gandhi

Lorraine Bates
- Business experience – Tourism and Customer Service
- Inaugural Member of St. Martins Club (now Champion Circle)
- Commenced on State Council: 19 April 2005
- 11 meetings 2008/09: 8 attended, 3 leave of absence

Robert Carroll OAM
B. Ag.Sc, Dip. Ag.Engr. RAUST
- Chair of RSPCA Victoria Strategy and Corporate Policy Committee
- Agricultural Scientist, experienced in farm animal production
- Past Board member, Greening Australia (Victoria)
- Commenced on State Council: 15 March 1987
- 11 meetings 2008/09: 9 attended, 2 leave of absence

Dr Carole Webb
BVSc. (Hon.), MACVSc (Feline Medicine)
- Practitioner, Feline Medicine
- Executive Director, Cat Protection Society
- Commenced on State Council: 15 April 1997
- 11 meetings 2008/09: 10 attended, 1 leave of absence

James Smith
B. Comm, FCA
- Chair of RSPCA Victoria Audit and Budget & Finance Committees
- Practicing Chartered Accountant and business advisor
- Director, RSPCA (Vic) Foundation Pty Ltd.
- Commenced on State Council: 17 April 1984
- 11 meetings 2008/09: 9 attended, 2 leave of absence
Bushfires
It would be impossible to look back on 2008/09 without commenting on the devastating bushfires which ravaged so many parts of Victoria. The cost in human lives, animals and property has been simply overwhelming. This has been an experience that few of us will forget. The images we saw first hand and in the media will remain with us forever. The RSPCA’s role was critical and I am so proud of the efforts of all of our staff and volunteers who worked around the clock to rescue and care for injured and displaced animals of every description.

Inspectorate
While the bushfire relief efforts were enormous, the work of the rest of the organisation continued at an ever increasing level. The Inspectorate case load, especially cruelty complaints, increased by 7% over the previous year and the latest statistics indicate a five year increase of 48%. The ongoing drought conditions have been a major factor in this escalation, contributing to the sharp increase in the number of horses rescued and/or seized. There is no doubt, though, that we need to continue to focus on educating our communities so that we can hopefully change attitudes and behaviours.

Education
The Education department continued to make a significant contribution by delivering strong welfare messages – in the classroom and in a number of other venues to various audiences. The staff interacted with nearly 13,000 students over the past year; recruited a volunteer to work with special needs children and introduced professional development workshops for teachers so that we can spread our message even further. We also developed a new model for our horse seminars so that we can deliver it in the regions where information is most needed and we established new relationships with Marcus Oldham Agriculture College and Victoria University.

Our clinic and behavioural training staff delivered behavioural information sessions which will aid in establishing and maintaining better pet-owner relationships and reduce the number of animals being surrendered. All of these projects contribute to creating a better educated and hopefully more humane society.

Generating income
The community’s generosity again sustained us. Our fundraising was strong and bequests, especially for capital projects continued to be received. The improvement to our facilities will make a significant contribution to the care and re-homing of animals that come into our care and will enhance our ability to deliver better behavioural training services and education. All of our events during the year – Million Paws Walk, All Creatures Day, the World Animal Day Gala Ball – grew, reached larger audiences and connected more people to the RSPCA.

Animal welfare
Over the course of the year we continued to run 10 shelters, managed 20 local government pound contracts and cared for over 40,000 animals. This was a 3% decrease compared to 2007/08, largely attributable to lower admissions of dogs. We maintained a strong reclaim rate for dogs – at just over 46%, improved the rehoming rate slightly to 20% and reduced the euthanasia rate. The statistics for cats that come into our shelters are not as encouraging, with the depressing rate of cats being reclaimed at just over 5%.

Campaigns and advocacy
This has been a year beset by serious animal welfare issues and strong campaigns to rally public support and influence decision makers. Duck shooting and jumps racing are two issues which continue in spite of their obvious animal welfare issues. Given the longstanding drought conditions across Victoria and the reduced bird numbers, it was just inconceivable that a duck hunting season would be declared for 2009.

Jumps racing was another key focus and we again witnessed decisions that seemed to fly in the face of logic. After a suspension of racing in May following the death of five horses for the season to date, the so-called sport resumed as did the falls and the deaths. Yet another review is to occur at the end of the 2009 season and we will certainly keep the pressure on the relevant Minister and the industry.

We worked successfully with Melbourne City Council to have welfare conditions attached to the carriage horse drivers’ operating permits. While the conditions are not at this stage ideal, this is a significant first step and the beginning of an incremental improvement program. Rodeos remained in our sights as did pet shops. We campaigned against rodeos and maintained our opposition to pet shops and puppy farms.

Organisational efficiency
The organisation continued to grow and as a result, strengthened its efforts to improve our systems and processes. We maintained our focus on developing our people and creating a safe workplace. Once again we have been fortunate to award the Amsden Scholarship to develop the future leaders of the RSPCA and the Wotherspoon Scholarship to enhance the skills of our veterinary staff.

I am grateful to all our staff and volunteers who contributed their energies to enhancing animal welfare; to our President and Board for their leadership and contributions; and to all of our supporters who contribute in so many ways to changing our society for the better.

Maria Mercurio
Chief Executive Officer
“The purity of a person’s heart can be quickly measured by how they regard animals.” ~ Anonymous
Organisational effectiveness

On 1 July 2008, RSPCA Victoria completed its transition from an incorporated association to a company limited by guarantee.

Since then and guided by the CEO, the Board has successfully operated for 12 months under the Society’s new constitution. This marks the successful completion of the Society’s first year under regulation by the Australian Securities and Investment Commission (ASIC) and the Corporations Act 2001 (Commonwealth).

The Board met eleven times during the twelve months to 30 June 2009. Each meeting contained the required number of Directors (and or alternates). During the same year, there were no circumstances where a Director had been required to abstain due to a conflict of interest. The Board has embraced the new constitution and improved corporate governance structure with enthusiasm.

The Board is committed to the philosophy of continuous improvement and will work to achieve its legal and ethical obligations so that underlying organisational objectives can be achieved.

Reporting improvements

Improved information means improved performance.

The RSPCA has been progressively updating its internal financial reporting systems during the year. This has seen a range of internal reports covering our cash flow, balance sheet and other key information reported in a more timely manner within the organisation.

Our debtor reporting system has been a major focus over the past year. This has lead to a dramatic improvement in our debt collection effectiveness and a large reduction in the money owed to the RSPCA by debtors.

Key Performance Indicator reporting will be a focus over the coming year.

Committees

The Board has established several advisory committees within its governance structure. The aim of these committees is to provide advice and make recommendations to the Board about a variety of issues associated with animal welfare. The committees are accountable to the Board and are chaired by a delegated Board member and include members from the Executive and Corporate Management teams. When required, a committee may seek independent external advice with respect to specific matters.

Current committees include Strategy and Corporate Policy, Animal Welfare Policy, Budget and Finance, Audit, Site Redevelopment Steering and the Nominations Committees. The committee structure provides an excellent way for the organisation to review and debate various issues including policy development and review. This process ensures that the Board operates with maximum efficiency and with appropriate understanding and advice.

Information systems

Enhancing our sales functionality was a major focus during the year with the launch of our online shop. Our website has been upgraded with further enhancements planned for the next financial year. With more and more supporters seeking updates, assistance and direction from our electronic communications, efforts to augment these tools are ongoing.

The response to the RSPCA Bushfire Appeal in the second half of 2008/09 resulted in major improvements to our online donation systems. The need to respond to a massive number of donations and enquiries resulted in an urgent system redevelopment to cope with this influx.
Operational systems used within the RSPCA were also reviewed during the year and our financial system was upgraded for the first time since its installation several years ago. A major project is underway to improve our clinic management and point of sale systems. These will provide better integration with our financial system and improve our ability to service our customers.

**Cost efficiencies**

A number of new suppliers for energy, cleaning and finance have been engaged during 2008/09. This has resulted in cost reductions of these services to the organisation.

The RSPCA vehicle fleet is vital to the work of the Inspectorate, Shelter and Education. This fleet has been completely upgraded during 2008/09 with fit for purpose, safer and lower cost vehicles. This has seen a significant improvement in our fuel efficiency and reduced the cost of operating the vehicle fleet.

The RSPCA is progressively reviewing all suppliers with a view to ensuring we are receiving value and quality for the funds we expend in our delivery of service.

Where facilities are upgraded, improved value from our operations is a key component in design. An emphasis will be placed on this during our Burwood East site redevelopment project over the next two years.

**Occupational Health & Safety (OH&S)**

In 2008/09, new Health and Safety Representatives at both Burwood East and Peninsula were elected to the two OH&S committees and attended a five day training course. Our Health and Safety Committees reviewed our approach to first aid to ensure that we meet the requirements of the First Aid Compliance Code. Health and Safety Representatives continued to conduct site audits and risk assessments to reduce risk of injury at all of our sites.

There were three WorkSafe inspections at RSPCA workplaces and these were all passed successfully. Other OH&S improvements included the expansion of our Employee Assistance Program to incorporate volunteers as well as staff, with our commitment to this program incorporated into our new Enterprise Agreement. Our Health and Safety Representatives also began preparing to consult on health and safety issues for the upcoming site redevelopment at Burwood East.

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**Archie & Emily**

“How could I not love my job? I help open children’s eyes to the joys of animals and work with Archie, my beloved ginger boy.”

Working together to help create a brighter future for animal welfare, Emily and her ginger sidekick Archie are important members of the RSPCA Education team. Originally a stray, Archie is now an education cat helping students learn about the needs of animals. The multi-talented Archie is also a member of the animal behaviour team and has been clicker trained to enter and exit his carrier box on command. With his masculine charm Archie assists Emily, a primary school teacher to work towards creating a brighter future for animal welfare by educating the next generation.
Developing our people

Executive Management - Maria Mercurio, Merewyn Smith, Duncan Mackellar, Greg O’Brien, Jenny Davis

Animal Welfare - Andrew Foran, Kate Breuer, Alan Synnott, Catherine Smith, Chris Thurgood, Greg Boland, Catherine Scullin

Community Engagement - Sally Meakin, Chantelle Courtney, Penny Aquino, Fiona Atkinson, Katie Sommer, Yvonne Steiner

Support Services - Bronwyn McIntyre, George Nicholson, Chris McIntosh, Shane Van Houten
RSPCA staff continued ongoing development of their skills and knowledge. Opportunities for development are aligned to our strategic objectives and the needs identified in individual development plans.

Some of the development programs that were provided in 2008/09 included:

- Specialist Customer Service training for our frontline staff.
- Communications training for our key spokespeople.
- Company Secretary training in recognition of the new company structure.
- Training entitled Feedback Fundamentals was provided to our supervisors and managers to support the continued management and development of staff performance.
- Equal opportunity training was delivered throughout the RSPCA including training for our Contact Officers.
- We continued to focus on Health and Safety through the delivery of defensive driver training, front-end loader training, first aid training, health and safety representative training and the appointment of a new chairperson to the Health and Safety Committee.

We were also very fortunate that a generous donor supported our 2008/09 Staff Development Program. The program assisted RSPCA staff to attend a number of conferences and seminars, relating directly to the enhancement of animal welfare-related knowledge or skills, which may otherwise not have been possible.

Wotherspoon Scholarship

The Wotherspoon Scholarship aims to promote opportunities to develop the skills of veterinarians in an area of practice that benefits animal welfare and contributes to the recognition of shelter medicine in Australia. The 2008 recipient of this scholarship was James Taylor, Veterinarian at Burwood East. James undertook post-graduate study in Avian Medicine.

Amsden Leadership and Management Scholarship

The Amsden Leadership and Management Scholarship is awarded in recognition of the need for highly developed management and leadership skills at RSPCA Victoria, to ensure that staff are able to continue to deliver enhanced animal welfare outcomes. In 2008 our Inspectorate Services Manager, Greg Boland was the recipient of the scholarship.

Enterprise Bargaining Agreement (EBA)

In August, the 2008 – 2011 EBA was finalised, following a co-operative negotiation period. The agreement includes benefits for both the RSPCA and our employees.

As reflected in the new EBA and in recognition of the challenging work that our staff undertake, the RSPCA is committed to providing support to staff through the provision of an Employee Assistance Program. We are pleased that this program was also extended to our volunteers this year.

Volunteer support continues to grow

RSPCA Victoria has been privileged to witness the continued support for animal welfare, with volunteer participation continuing to grow. This is largely due to our bushfire efforts and the increased need for volunteers at our statewide events. Over 2,000 people have assisted the RSPCA over the past year through our volunteer, work experience and corporate volunteer programs.

Support continued from regular volunteers across the organisation with an outstanding 1,370 individuals assisting our work. To acknowledge significant contributions, a recognition program based on years of service was introduced for both volunteers and paid staff. It was with enormous pride that we recognised over 220 volunteers who had served more than five years, with some supporting for over 30 years.

This year, we continued to invest in future animal welfare workers and leaders through our work experience program. This program adds value to our organisational education objectives, while shaping the future vocational aspirations of students at both a secondary and tertiary level. Working anywhere from one to four weeks, 295 students participated across Victoria.

Our corporate volunteer program provides a platform to educate and inspire professionals regarding the significance of animal welfare in the community and it continues to draw new partners each year with Australian Unity General Insurance, Accenture, Computershare, GE, Price waterhouse Coopers and Sakata participating for the first time. ANZ and the NAB continue to be significant supporters contributing 34% and 33% of overall corporate volunteer hours respectively.

In 2008/09, over 500 corporate volunteers contributed more than 3,000 working hours.

"The love for all living creatures is the most noble attribute of man."

~ Charles Darwin
Pet shops and puppy farms

Our campaigning to raise the profile of the puppy farm industry continued. Alarmingly, these intensive breeding facilities for puppies are legal in Australia and many continue to operate in regional Victoria to supply pet shops. Dogs at puppy farms are not afforded the five freedoms, are kept in small cages or runs, rarely socialised, often lack regular veterinary treatment and females are forced to produce litters every six months. Frequently the puppies of these dogs acquire behavioural and health issues as a result of their breeding facility.

This year much of our campaign work has focused on pet shops and the clear message that RSPCA Victoria opposes the selling of animals in pet shops. Our communications have encouraged the community to adopt from the RSPCA, another animal welfare organisation or a reputable breeder.

Strategic plans for the year ahead will increase community awareness of puppy farms and advocate to the Victorian State Government to create legislation to protect animals from intensive breeding facilities.

Choose Wisely

This year, the RSPCA Choose Wisely campaign was launched to increase the use of non-caged eggs in food production within the hospitality industry. Targeting restaurants and cafés, Choose Wisely works to raise the profile of cruel battery farmed hen practices, aiming to exert influence via consumer demand. This approach has successfully increased the domestic consumption of non-caged eggs in recent years. The objective of this campaign is to encourage consumers to apply their ethical standards of purchasing cage-free eggs for home, to their purchasing habits when eating out. This campaign will continue into the year ahead.

Campaigning to improve animal welfare

In December, raising the profile of animal welfare issues became a priority focus with the introduction of a dedicated Campaigns & Communications team. Awareness campaigns have included animal hoarding, live animal export, cat welfare, rodeos, jumps racing, cage-free egg production, duck shooting and puppy farms.

Timmy

“I was purchased for my good looks from a pet shop and then surrendered - my owner just didn’t understand my needs.”

Timmy was surrendered to the RSPCA after an impulse pet shop purchase. Unfortunately for Timmy at the time of sale, few questions were really asked of his potential owner. With limited screening, this active little puppy was purchased and sent to a home where he was locked in a laundry all day and rarely exercised.

Recognising this puppy was not suited to her circumstances, Timmy’s owner surrendered him to the RSPCA a few weeks after purchasing him. Luckily for Timmy he was quickly adopted by a new family who understood the needs of his breed, including the importance of exercise and training. Timmy has since graduated from puppy school and is adored by his new family.
Cat welfare
Our tireless work to improve outcomes for cats continued in 2008/09. With more than 34,000 cats euthanased each year, a major focus was raising the profile of cat desexing and increasing the value of cats in the community. Aligned with this goal, we launched the ‘RSPCA Cat Kingdom’ concept at All Creatures Day in March. This marquee actively engaged adults and children in cat welfare information, reaching more than 2,278 people. Cat Kingdom was an outstanding success and is a concept that will be rolled out to other strategic locations across Victoria in the coming year. Local council partners have also expressed keen interest to incorporate this concept into their community events.

Our lobbying for compulsory cat desexing and the improved welfare of cats also continued, including involvement in the ‘Who’s for Cats’ and Cat Crisis Coalition campaigns.

Community education programs
Since its commencement in July 2002, the RSPCA Education Department has informed and engaged 115,185 individuals regarding the importance of animal welfare. This ongoing commitment reflects our belief in the value of looking forward and developing responsible and active citizens who have an awareness of animal welfare issues in our community.

In 2008/09 we extended our influence beyond the traditional school community into other areas of need. Staff were trained to work with disengaged youth including those demonstrating troubled behaviours as a result of violence, abuse or neglect. These young people are over-represented in groups exhibiting criminal behaviours including animal cruelty. Reaching this population is a proactive step in preventing future cruelty and violence towards animals.

The Paw Prints School Holiday Program continues to grow in popularity with the range of activities expanding to meet demand. Over 700 members aged from six to 18 participated this year. New programs were launched including a program engaging special needs children as well as new experiential learning initiatives to accommodate the many students who want to work with animals. At Vet Day at the RSPCA, youth were given the opportunity to work alongside professional veterinary staff at Burwood East, offering an insight into this industry and the work of the RSPCA.

RSPCA staff also delivered the Certificate IV in Animal Control and Regulation over six months, to a group of 12 external participants from local councils around the State. A new relationship with Marcus Oldham Agriculture College was also established.

A new model for our horse seminars was developed to better deliver animal welfare information to regions where horse cruelty has increased in recent years.

RSPCA Victoria continues to investigate vocational opportunities and partnerships with educational organisations aligned with values similar to ours. This model ensures effective learning is achieved from a broader context, allowing students to link theory and practice with experience.
Carriage horses

For many years RSPCA Victoria has lobbied to improve the animal welfare standards for Melbourne’s carriage horses. In response to RSPCA and public concern for Melbourne’s carriage horses, Melbourne City Council agreed to meet to work towards better animal welfare outcomes for these horses. These meetings expanded to include all key stakeholders including the carriage horse operators.

During these meetings the RSPCA tabled recommendations on the changes needed to improve the welfare standards for carriage horses. Whilst not all our recommendations were implemented, we are pleased that the Melbourne City Council has adopted some of the recommended changes and these will now form part of the carriage horse operator permit requirements.

This is an important first step for improving working conditions for carriage horses and we will be monitoring these changes and continuing to seek further enhancements for these codes.

Animal hoarding – a community issue

Animal hoarding is an issue that affects the whole community. Tragically, animals are often the silent victims of the problem so in order to help the animals, we need to help the hoarders.

Animal hoarders accumulate large numbers of animals that they simply cannot care for. Some hoarders start with good intentions, but as the number of animals collected increases, the situation gets out of control. The hoarder’s house can become covered with faeces and carcasses and ammonia levels can become dangerously high. Hoarders often suffer serious psychological problems that must be addressed.

Animal hoarding is a health issue for the owner, animals and the community.

In a recent seminar held at the RSPCA it was identified that a multi-disciplinary approach is needed to help animal hoarders and to reduce the rate of repeat offence. It was concluded that research and a collective approach are critical to better understand the causes, treatment, consequences and incidence of animal hoarding.

Duck shooting

The RSPCA was appalled by the Victorian State Government government’s decision, lead by Premier John Brumby, to allow the 2009 duck shooting season to commence. For the past two years the season has been cancelled due to low water bird numbers and drought. Victoria is still obviously in a drought, so why has this changed?

In February, 2009 Minister Gavin Jennings announced that duck shooting was to recommence in Victoria on March 21, in spite of the fact that he had considered advice from his own department recommending the season not go ahead. RSPCA Victoria had hoped that 2009 would see the banning of this barbaric so called ‘sport’ for good.

A Roy Morgan research poll in 2007 illustrated that over 75% of Victorians surveyed supported the banning of duck shooting because of the extreme cruelty involved. So whilst the majority of Victorians want it banned, it is clear that the Government is more concerned about politics and securing the support of gun lobby groups.

Three state Labor governments have already banned the recreational shooting of native water birds: Western Australia in 1990, NSW in 1995 and Queensland in 2005. We will continue to lobby the State Government to follow this lead and ban duck shooting in Victoria.

“Hunting is not a sport. In a sport, both sides should know they’re in the game.”

~Paul Rodriguez
Jumps racing

2008/09 was the year when the racing industry declared that stakeholders are more important than horse welfare. It is inconceivable that an industry that relies on horses could disregard their welfare.

After 12 more deaths in the 2008 season, Racing Victoria Limited (RVL) called for yet another review of jumps racing in Victoria. The Honourable David Jones led this review and took submissions from many stakeholders including RSPCA Victoria. The RSPCA was very disappointed with the overall recommendation as this was the fourth review of the industry in less than seven years and none had reduced the death or injury rate.

In April following the 2009 season commencement, four horses had died, two in Victoria and two in South Australia. Animal welfare groups called on RVL to suspend the season immediately but this was ignored and the Warrnambool jumps racing event went ahead. Sadly three horses died at this event and it was only then that RVL suspended the season for another review.

On 18 May, the Board announced jumps racing would continue with some changes to improve safety. The Chairman of RVL stated in his press conference that it was likely more deaths would occur and that the RVL Board’s obligations were to the industry stakeholders.

Tragically, since the jumps racing season recommenced, more horses have died. The Minister for Racing Rob Hulls says it is the RVL Board members who should make any decision regarding the future of the jumps racing industry. To the RSPCA, it is clear that RVL are conflicted with stakeholder interests their primary consideration, over horse animal welfare.

RSPCA Victoria will step up its campaign to have jumps racing banned in Victoria.

RSPCA Victoria made many submissions on proposed legalisation and Codes of Practice. The following are just some of the submissions:

• Code of Practice for the intensive lamb finishing sector.
• Victorian Horse Welfare Code revision 1 (final 27 August).
• The review of jumps racing in Victoria.
• Implementation of the model Code of Practice for the welfare of animals: the pig.

Victorian animal welfare committees

As part of our commitment to gain animal welfare legislative improvements, in 2008/09 RSPCA Victoria participated in numerous committees that reviewed legislation, Codes of Practice and made recommendations on improvements.
The bushfires on 7 February, 2009 will sadly be forever etched in all of our minds. The loss of human life was devastating and tragically it is estimated that the loss of animal life was well over one million. The bushfires impacted the whole Victorian community but especially those people residing in the affected regions.

RSPCA staff and volunteers felt proud to contribute at such a difficult time knowing that our efforts enabled many animals to be fed, reunited with their owners and given emergency treatment and care. We also felt privileged and inspired to work with so many dedicated vets, vet nurses, wildlife rescuers and animal welfare workers from many different agencies and bushfire communities who pulled together to ensure the best possible animal welfare outcomes.

With a disaster of this magnitude, the total resources of RSPCA Victoria worked together, sharing work and assisting each other to benefit animal welfare. The response involved over 50 staff working in all areas impacted by the bushfires and in neighbouring areas where relief centres were established. In addition to the field work, our stretched resources were needed to manage record numbers of phone calls and the processing of donated money and goods to support our emergency relief work.

The role of staff and volunteers included the provision of supplies such as feed, bedding, identification, distribution of information material and maintenance of an animal lost and found database for members of the public displaced by the fires. Their role also included direct animal care in the bushfire affected areas including the treatment and management of animals injured by the fires. The most common injuries to animals were wounds sustained from attempts to escape the fires, burns and smoke inhalation.

Our Inspectors worked together with key RSPCA animal welfare staff assisting with this very difficult emergency relief work. Inspectors visited property to property to identify animals in need of assistance, a task made difficult as there were no street signs or house numbers.

While dealing with the aftermath of the bushfires, the Inspectors and RSPCA teams, under extremely difficult circumstances, faced constant devastation and animal suffering. Added to this, they found themselves being sought out by those who had lost animals or were seeking animal welfare assistance. Invariably these people had stories of tragedy to share. Our teams sought to provide comfort as well as providing animal care where needed.

One important insight from this tragedy was the importance of surviving animals to those impacted. For many people who had lost so much, their animals were one of the few remaining reminders of their life before the bushfires and they took on even greater importance in their lives.

We were grateful for the assistance of our interstate colleagues. RSPCA Inspectors from Queensland, New South Wales and South Australia provided much needed hands on support with our emergency relief efforts. Animal welfare colleagues from Victoria and interstate also provided much needed resources to support our ongoing animal welfare services. We were also grateful for the assistance provided from the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) Government who generously loaned their ‘ARK’ animal rescue trailer and specifically trained personnel. This equipment was invaluable in our rescue efforts and is certainly a consideration for future RSPCA emergency response plans.
Meg and Harley’s loyalty could never be questioned. Meg didn’t leave my side and Harley braved a burning garden to find me.”

On Black Saturday, Jane and her family decided to leave their home to find refuge at a neighbouring property with their three goats, two horses and three dogs – Meg, Jazz and Harley. Meg her senior Blue Heeler cross (adopted from the RSPCA 7 years ago) simply couldn’t run as fast as the other dogs and needed a little help. Tragically while the other animals were making their escape, Jane and Meg became trapped in their house. In a split second, the entire property was alight, leaving them no choice but to stay there throughout the firestorm.

Jane and Meg then faced the most terrifying experience of their lives. As they stayed low under the smoke, Meg reassured Jane with gentle licks to her face and hands. It was Meg who led the way and crawled under the choking smoke, a move Jane followed and credits with helping her to continue breathing. Thankfully, before the house burst into flames they were rescued by Jane’s husband.

Meanwhile, unbeknownst to Jane, a distressed Harley had returned to the house in search of his family. In braving the fire, he severely burned his paws and damaged his lungs. As they waited for help to arrive, Harley’s health began to deteriorate, he was unable to walk and battling a rising temperature. Through all this however, his tail never stopped wagging.

Harley’s burned paws were bandaged by a fire crew. Before long, he was making his way off the mountain with a policeman who had kindly offered to help transport him to receive urgent veterinary care. Meeting them was Jane’s daughter, who quickly rushed Harley to a vet where he remained in intensive care, before beginning his longer-term recovery at a temporary home.

While Jane and her family coped with the emotions resulting from the loss of their home and the intensive recovery of Harley, RSPCA Inspectors were quickly on the scene to help with feed and water for the goats and horses. The horses suffered minor burns and cuts and were treated by vets. The goats were uninjured and thanks to the efforts of the RSPCA, were able to stay on the property before being moved to a temporary location.

When Jane’s animals returned home, the RSPCA helped provide much needed equipment, shelter and feed.

In the busy months following the fires, Jane contacted the RSPCA Bushfire Recovery team to express her heartfelt gratitude on behalf of her family and the Kinglake community.
Community support

The outpouring from the community in response to the bushfires was remarkable. In difficult economic times, the generosity of the Australian and International communities was truly inspiring with almost 30,000 people contributing to the RSPCA Bushfire Appeal. Over $4.1 million was raised to support our emergency relief efforts.

Donations of pet food, bedding, toys, horse and livestock goods and veterinary supplies were received. The business community was also very generous in their support, Ford and Mitsubishi provided us with additional vehicles to help transport animals and supplies, Barastock and Ridley Agriproducts donated horse and livestock feed and Bunnings Warehouse supplied goods needed by our teams working in the bushfire affected areas.

Over 3,000 people contacted the RSPCA to volunteer their services. This was reflected by our existing volunteers and corporate partners who were keen to lend a hand. Teams worked to sort through the huge quantity of donations, care for the extra animals, deliver supplies to affected areas and perform the many associated administrative tasks.

The RSPCA helping those in need

The RSPCA has extended assistance and support in the fire affected areas beyond what we thought possible due to generous donations. It has enabled us to help over 10,000 wildlife and companion animals to receive feed, shelter and vet care.

It will take quite some time for those affected by the bushfires to come to terms with their loss, or even consider adopting another animal. For those who have been ready, we have provided animals at no cost.

It has been truly wonderful to see the joy that these animals have brought to their new owner’s lives.

We have also provided assistance to wildlife carers who have required extra feed or equipment to assist them with the influx of animals. Sadly due to their injuries, many of these animals will need care for some time. The tireless work of these carers has been invaluable and we thank them sincerely.

Another major impact of the bushfires was that most pasture, sheds and fencing had been destroyed. With autumn and winter looming after the fires, there was no hope of pasture regeneration and with winter imminent, owners had no way of keeping their animals warm. Our bushfire assistance grants have been invaluable in providing the feed and shelter so desperately needed and have supported local suppliers where possible.

Moving forward we have allocated $2.9 million of the donated funds exclusively for assistance grants, with the balance to support vet clinics, ongoing vet expenses, emergency feed, medical supplies and equipment.

The RSPCA is also providing support to the three temporary villages established at Marysville, Flowerdale and Kinglake. Part of this assistance is providing cat shelters, dog runs, behavioural enrichment toys and workshops for animals and vet clinics.

RSPCA staff and volunteers hear such strain in the voices of those they speak with and see it in the faces of people they meet. Our ability to relieve this strain has been an enormous gift that we have had the privilege to share, a gift that would never have been possible without such remarkable community support.

In February 2009, over one million animals were lost in the Victorian bushfires.
Margaret & Koolie

“Rebuilding my life will be difficult but with Koolie by my side, anything is possible.”

After losing her home, her other beloved canine companions and all of her material possessions in the Kinglake fires, the companionship of Koolie has been invaluable to Margaret. Koolie is still traumatised by his fire experience and finding him a new companion is Margaret’s main priority. Once the rebuilding of her home is complete, Margaret will work closely with the RSPCA to find a new companion for her trusty friend.
This year was one of the most challenging in the history of the RSPCA with the devastating impact of the bushfires, the continuing impacts of the drought and escalating number of cruelty cases all having a substantial impact.

Reported animal cruelty complaints have continued to escalate again this year, up 7% from 13,507 to 14,455. This was on top of the 12% increase in the previous year. The statistics are even more alarming when reviewing the trend of the past five years, with cruelty complaints rising by a staggering 48%. There is no doubt that the increased workload of our Inspectors has been impacted by contributing factors such as population growth, the devastation of the drought and public awareness of animal welfare issues.

An outcome of the increasing number of cruelty complaints is a record number of prosecutions. This year 49 persons were prosecuted - an increase of 38% on last year. Many more cases are still pending.

It was pleasing that some courts imposed appropriate penalties on defendants involving animal cruelty offences. On two occasions the maximum banning order of 10 years was given.

The Inspectorate also assisted with 617 animal rescues during this financial year, an increase of over 85% on the previous year. Sadly 27% of these rescues were bushfire related.

**Bushfire disaster response**

Our Inspectors worked together with key RSPCA animal welfare staff assisting with the very difficult bushfire emergency relief work. Inspectors visited more than 1,300 properties to identify animals needing the RSPCA’s assistance. The Inspectors took on many roles that were outside the scope of their usual work but all were proud to provide support to those in need.

During February, March and April, Inspectors were diverted from their normal investigations to the bushfire response. As a result, the workload of Inspectors dramatically increased and once the immediate bushfire response was completed, each Inspector was required to continue the hectic work pace to catch up with those jobs pending.

We will incorporate all that we have learned from this tragic events into a review of our emergency management procedures so that we can continue to improve our ability to respond well.

For more details on our bushfire relief efforts, please refer to pages 22-24.

**Horses rescued and rehomed**

Cruelty complaints relating to horses accounted for 15% of the total complaints for this year and were the second most common complaint received after dogs.

In many cases the Inspectorate team worked with owners to educate them regarding appropriate horse care as lack of knowledge often contributes to these welfare issues. Where advice was not followed or the case was more severe, the Inspectorate seized the animals to ensure they receive the care needed. This year 16 horses were seized or surrendered. The RSPCA provided them with the specialised care and rehabilitation needed and many of these horses have since been rehomed.

Apache was one such case this year. After receiving a complaint of an underweight horse, our Inspector worked with the owner to provide feeding and care advice. The condition of Apache improved but on subsequent visits it was found the horse’s condition had deteriorated and the owner surrendered him to the RSPCA.

After more than five weeks of rehabilitation and special care, Apache was ready for rehoming. He now has a loving home with a family impacted by the bushfires.
“It was so difficult looking to the future after losing my beloved horses in the fires. Apachie has been our shining light and a glimmer of hope.”

The power of pets during a crisis can never be underestimated and the joy that Apachie has brought to Natalie has been immeasurable. Losing her home and tragically her two adored horses in the Clonbinane fires, Natalie was sure that life would never be the same. Desperately missing her equine companions and the joy they gave her, Natalie contacted the RSPCA hoping to receive financial assistance to support the purchase of another horse.

At the same time, Apachie, a gentle Paint horse was surrendered to the RSPCA and was in need of a loving new home. After an RSPCA Inspector introduced Natalie and Apachie, it was clear that this was a perfect match. As though it was meant to be, Apachie was a mirror image of a horse Natalie had lost.

Looking to the future for Natalie has been made a little easier with financial support from the RSPCA. Assistance grants have helped to purchase much needed equipment, shelter and feed for her beloved Apachie.
Animal welfare enforcement

Although continuing to provide education and guidance to animal carers, the Inspectorate has increased the number of prosecutions. The Inspectorate prosecuted 49 persons before the courts and laid a total of 742 charges. A total of nine appeals against sentence or conviction were lodged with five resolved in our favour and four still outstanding. Inspectors issued 294 Notices to Comply for owners to provide adequate welfare to their animals.

A total of 199 advisory letters were issued where we deemed no offence under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act was committed but provided formal advice regarding animal welfare.

There were 34 formal warning letters distributed where it was considered that this was the most appropriate course of action rather than a prosecution. As well, Inspectors obtained 13 warrants for seizure of animals and executed five warrants to search for evidence.

**2008/09 Statistics**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cruelty complaints</th>
<th>2007/08</th>
<th>2008/09</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Abattoirs</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aquariums</td>
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<tr>
<td>Breeders</td>
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<td>49</td>
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<tr>
<td>Camels</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cats</td>
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<td>1,572</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dogs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Domestic pets (Other)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Emus/ostriches</td>
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<td>Fish</td>
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<tr>
<td>Foxes</td>
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<td>Horses</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kangaroos</td>
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<td>32</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Poultry/birds</td>
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<td>Riding schools</td>
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<td>Seals</td>
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<td>9</td>
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<td>Transport</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>23</td>
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<tr>
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<td>43</td>
<td>116</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wombats</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Zoos/wildlife and reptile parks</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>571</td>
<td>773</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>13,507</td>
<td>14,455</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Key statistics**

As compared to last financial year, overall complaints increased by 7%.

The most common complaints were:

- Dogs   > up 13%
- Horses > up 10%
- Other domestic pets > up 10%
- Traps & poisoning > up 170%
- Kennels > up 23%
- Livestock > up 2%

**Complaints by region**

- Grampians and Sunraysia 6%
- Mallee and Goldfields 6%
- Wangaratta and Northern 6%
- Gippsland and Peninsula 12%
- Western Districts 8%
- Metropolitan and Outer 62%
29

10 year banning order for puppy cruelty

The defendant was at his 17th floor Melbourne apartment with his 15 week old Siberian Husky puppy (Bailey). He stated that he awoke from sleeping and noticed that puppy had defecated and chewed items in the sitting room. This angered him so he held Bailey down and slapped him 10-20 times.

At some stage the puppy managed to nip the defendant, who let go. Bailey ran under the bed to hide.

The defendant was angry and he pulled Bailey out from under the bed by his back leg. The puppy was struggling and was crying out. The defendant stated that he knew something was wrong with Bailey and thought that his back leg may have been broken as he noticed blood and the puppy tried to get up, but couldn’t.

Hours later when his housemates returned home they took Bailey to an emergency animal hospital. The defendant tried to refuse treatment for his puppy and as he tried to pick up the puppy it was screaming in pain. The treating vet told the defendant that he must leave the puppy in the care of the veterinary staff.

The treating vet stated that Bailey’s injuries were more likely to have been caused by blunt trauma with a high amount of force, including being kicked, thrown or stepped on. As two fractures were present, there was an increased possibility of numerous episodes of blunt trauma to the right, hind limb. Other veterinarians concurred with the findings, and found the injury to be so extensive that they were unable to repair the damage. As a result, sadly, Bailey’s right hind leg was amputated.

After Inspectors from the RSPCA were advised, they seized Bailey under warrant and interviewed the defendant. Bailey’s original owner was charged and convicted of aggravated cruelty. He claimed a lack of experience in dealing with dogs contributed to the incident and that delay in seeking treatment was due to not having a vehicle. The Magistrate described his conduct as inexcusable and fined the defendant $5000 with costs. He also imposed a 10 year disqualification order from owning any animals.

This is just one of the 49 cases prosecuted in 2008/09, to see more cases studies please visit www.rspcavic.org.

After weeks of continued care at the RSPCA, the pup now called Bailey was successfully re-homed and continues to receive physiotherapy and other ongoing care.

“The dog represents all that is best in man.” ~ Etienne Charlet
The RSPCA operates two veterinary clinics in conjunction with our largest shelters at Burwood East and Pearcedale on the Mornington Peninsula. These veterinary clinics provide care to all animals admitted to these shelters as well as operating as private clinics, with a full range of veterinary services available to the general public.

As with all RSPCA services, the aim of our clinics is to create a unique experience for our customers, an environment in which they feel confident that their animal is receiving the best possible veterinary care, from a team of experienced staff, who are committed to delivering best practice animal welfare.

As well as receiving excellent customer service, RSPCA clinic clients receive good value for money.

The RSPCA also engages a number of contracting veterinary clinics across the state who deliver services to our regional shelters. These relationships are forged in the understanding and knowledge that animals receive a consistent and best practice level of care regardless of their location in the state. The RSPCA is proud to be associated with such a professional and dedicated group of veterinarians.

The veterinary staff at RSPCA Burwood East and Peninsula were involved in many aspects of RSPCA operations such as:

- Providing veterinary clinical support to RSPCA Inspectors in the investigation of reported cases of animal cruelty. This support included thorough clinical examination of animals with additional diagnostic tests and testifying in prosecutions.
- Working with local government partners to help address animal management issues within council municipalities by developing desexing and microchipping programs as well as implementing animal handling training.
- Assisting veterinary students in gaining practical experience in handling animals as well as insight into the operation and needs of animal shelters and veterinary clinic operations.
- Playing an integral role in the RSPCA’s bushfire response by supporting veterinary clinics in the affected areas. Vets and nurses worked within clinics in the Yea and Kinglake areas in the immediate aftermath of the fires treating injured animals. Veterinary staff also managed the influx of generously donated pharmaceutical supplies and the distribution of these to veterinary clinics and wildlife carer networks that were in need.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Shelter Clinic Activities</th>
<th>2007/08</th>
<th>2008/09</th>
<th>2007/08</th>
<th>2008/09</th>
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<tr>
<td>RSPCA desexing operations</td>
<td>3,998</td>
<td>3,892</td>
<td>1,807</td>
<td>1,522</td>
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<tr>
<td>RSPCA surgery</td>
<td>923</td>
<td>972</td>
<td>144</td>
<td>253</td>
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<tr>
<td>RSPCA consultations</td>
<td>736</td>
<td>789</td>
<td>344</td>
<td>399</td>
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<tr>
<td>Private desexing operations</td>
<td>1,625</td>
<td>1,736</td>
<td>776</td>
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<tr>
<td>Private surgery</td>
<td>1,746</td>
<td>2,016</td>
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<td>Private consultations</td>
<td>13,771</td>
<td>14,289</td>
<td>5,155</td>
<td>6,165</td>
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</table>
“Until he extends the circle of his compassion to all living things, man will not himself find peace.” ~ Albert Schweitzer

“One of the greatest things about my work is the variety of animals I help daily.”

As a Veterinarian working at the RSPCA since 2002, Leslie has helped all types of animals including companion animals, wildlife and livestock. Two precious little patients during this year have been kid goats Dakoda and Bruce. These little ones were abandoned by their mother after she had freed herself from being tangled in a wire fence. Thankfully, they were rescued and delivered to an RSPCA staff member who quickly became their foster mother. With lots of loving care and four feeds a day, they are well on the road to recovery.
"We lost everything in the fires at Marysville. The hardest thing was losing our dog Rhani as we evacuated."

The grief of losing a pet is all too real for many bushfire victims and was a tragic reality for Barb and her family. As they evacuated their home in Marysville, their beloved Rhani was hit by a car.

Desperately missing their much loved dog, Barb decided to adopt another pet from the RSPCA. Although Rhani could never be replaced, she hoped that a canine companion would help support her family as they worked through their grief. After Barb was introduced to Murray it was love at first sight. To support Barb and the many other families who had lost their pets in the fires, the RSPCA rehomed Murray free of charge.

As Barb and her family start a new chapter and look to the future, Murray continues to offer endless hours of unconditional love.
This downturn in admission numbers is a result of increased responsible pet owners within the community, who have microchipped and registered their pets. We hope this trend continues more broadly across Victoria over the coming year.

Cat welfare – a challenge for staff and volunteers

In December 2008, the shelter and clinic teams led an initiative to address the increasing organisational impact of large numbers of cats and kittens in our shelters. The purpose of this initiative was to communicate our health and management programs to minimise the stress on animals, staff and volunteers alike, and reduce the frequency of animals demonstrating clinical signs of cat influenza commonly known as cat flu.

This communication approach to cat welfare not only increased staff and volunteer understanding of cat welfare issues, it helped us achieve better animal welfare outcomes including a 2% reduction in the euthanasia of cats and kittens in our shelters. While this is just a small step, it is a step that the entire organisation has taken to improve the welfare of cats and kittens in Victoria.

Adoptions – providing a second chance

Our adoption staff and volunteers take great care to place adoption animals with the right owners. To achieve the perfect match they consider, among other things, a potential owner’s ability to meet grooming and exercise requirements, other pets, children in the household and the size of the property the animal will go to.

This year 10,029 sick, injured, stray and surrendered companion animals were rehabilitated and rehoused in communities across Victoria. Almost 73% of dogs coming into our care were either adopted to new families or reclaimed by their owners. Sadly the statistics are not so positive for cats where only 35% were adopted or reclaimed. Overall adoption rates for cats are higher than dogs but there is a vast difference in reclaim rates. 47% of dogs were reclaimed by their owners whilst only 5% of cats were reclaimed. Lower microchipping rates, feral cats and perhaps the community perception that cats can take care of themselves are contributors to the low reclaim rates.

In conjunction with Hill’s Pet Nutrition, our major sponsor, we promoted twilight adoptions over the summer months with the rehoming rates positive.

Cat welfare – a community issue

In 2007/08 we recorded a significant increase in the number of cats and kittens arriving at our shelters, to such an extent that many of our regional facilities reported difficulty in housing the number of cats and kittens arriving. Consequently, our metropolitan shelters faced the difficult issue of increased euthanasia due to overpopulation and the spread of communicable disease.

Sadly, 2008/09 presented the same challenges despite the RSPCA’s best efforts to highlight the issues of cat overpopulation through our involvement with the Cat Crisis Coalition and through media campaigns to the broader community. Although we have made a little progress with an increase in cat reclaims and decrease in euthanasia, the admissions remain high suggesting the message isn’t getting to the people who need to hear it.

Evidence shows us that 17,265 cats and kittens arrived at our shelters this year, compared to 17,870 for the previous year. What is most disturbing is that the previous year showed an extraordinary increase of over 37% in metropolitan shelters and 22% in regional shelters. So while there has been a slight decrease this year, the numbers are still very high and present the same animal welfare issues for the RSPCA.

“There is no psychiatrist in the world like a puppy licking your face.” ~ Ben Williams
Enhancing the five freedoms for animals

Victorian summer – bushfires and extreme temperatures

For the first time in many years, the shelter team responded to the effects of severe heat within our own facilities when Victoria experienced several days in a row of over 42 degrees. The measures to address the intense conditions included moving animals indoors where possible and hosing down kennels and cattery areas in an attempt to keep them cool. Other more unorthodox methods, included providing dogs with frozen treats.

The impact was lessened thanks to the quick and decisive work of shelter staff and volunteers and the positive response from our supporters and clients.

Consistent with most departments within the RSPCA, animal welfare staff supported the rescue efforts for those animals impacted by the bushfires.

The role of staff included the provision of supplies such as feed, bedding and identification, distribution of information material and maintenance of an animal lost and found database for members of the public. Their role also included direct care in the bushfire affected areas.

For more details on our bushfire relief efforts, please refer to pages 22-24.

Local government partnerships

The RSPCA provided various animal management services under contract to a number of councils across the state.

Unfortunately in April this year, we closed the doors at our RSPCA Echuca shelter when we were unsuccessful in tendering for the council pound services. While this shelter closure was extremely disappointing, especially for the staff and volunteers who worked tirelessly at Echuca, it presented an opportunity to further plan our strategic impact on animal welfare across regional Victoria.

Other council services that the RSPCA supported included programs that resulted in 1,800 animals being desexed this year. In addition to this desexing activity, we delivered an enormous number of microchipping and health clinics across the state. The RSPCA remains committed to working with local governments to improve animal welfare.

Ambulance service

The RSPCA is strongly committed to meeting the community’s animal welfare needs, including the services of our emergency animal ambulances. This service has a long and rich history and in 2008/09 the Ambulance continued to support the community through the rescue of 2,189 animals.

Animals cared for by the RSPCA ambulances 2008/09

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<tr>
<td>Cats</td>
<td>893</td>
<td>40%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wildlife</td>
<td>589</td>
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<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>2189</td>
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Dogs admitted
- Reclaimed
- Adopted
- Euthanased
Cats admitted
- Reclaimed
- Adopted
- Euthanased
Other admissions
- Wildlife
- Other (Non domestic)
Total
### RSPCA Shelters 2008/09

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### Burwood & Epping 2007-08, 2008-09

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### Total 2007-08, 2008-09

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**Note:** The table contains data on various categories such as admissions, euthanasing, adopting, reclaiming, and so on, for different regions and years. The specific numbers and percentages are detailed, with some calculational errors visible, such as percentages not summing to 100%. The table format is a grid with columns and rows, each representing a specific category or location, followed by corresponding numbers and percentages for comparison.
Regional site redevelopment

The RSPCA continued to upgrade regional facilities with the redevelopment of RSPCA Bendigo.

The eight month construction project at RSPCA Bendigo was completed in July 2009 and was officially opened by our President Dr Wirth AM KSJ and Chief Executive Officer, Maria Mercurio. This extensively renovated and extended shelter is now the largest facility of its type in regional Victoria.

Key features in the new facility include:

• Indoor, climate controlled cat adoption and quarantine facilities.
• Insulated, north facing dog adoption kennels.
• Dog exercise yards, familiarisation areas and walking track.
• Services building for food preparation, storage and laundry.
• Vet room, manager’s office, staff lunch room, Inspectorate office and admissions room.
• Reception and retail facilities.
• Livestock holding facilities (to be completed in August 2009).

Considerable effort has been made at RSPCA Bendigo to implement an ecologically sustainable design that is both innovative and educational. Maximising natural light and ventilation, rain water collection and the planting of indigenous vegetation are some of the ways in which the new facility minimises its environmental footprint.

The shelter remained operational throughout construction to ensure the region’s animals received uninterrupted support. The RSPCA would like to acknowledge the dedication of staff and volunteers who continued operating so professionally and always with a smile.

Our sincerest thanks also to the Bendigo Tyre Centre for their sponsorship of a kennel at our new Bendigo facilities.

The upgrade to RSPCA Bendigo was made possible through bequest income and other funds received from and raised by the region, a grant from the Mary Kibble Trust, the sale of the RSPCA Geelong Op Shop (which was leased back to continue operations) and landscaping materials kindly donated by Bunnings Warehouse Bendigo. We will continue to upgrade our regional facilities to bring them in line with the standards set at Bendigo and Portland as funding becomes available.

Burwood East site redevelopment

The planning phase of the RSPCA Burwood East upgrade continued. The complex and detailed planning process has included consultation with various government authorities that require input into the project, negotiations with our neighbours over site access and the development of detailed designs.

A town planning application has been submitted to the City of Whitehorse and a design team has been commissioned to complete the final phase, with construction due to commence in the first quarter of 2010.

This redevelopment is made possible with the support of two very generous bequests that were specifically bequeathed to upgrade our facilities at RSPCA Burwood East. This upgrade will include:

• Indoor, climate controlled adoption facilities.
• New behavioural facilities.
• Upgrades to our veterinary facilities.
• Additional and improved exercise areas.
• Improved public access.
• A consolidation of our staff facilities.

These enhancements will incorporate various improvements to our environmental and financial sustainability. A particular emphasis will be on reducing our water consumption by employing subsurface wetlands to recycle water on-site, as well as harvesting rain from roofs and hard surfaces.

RSPCA Burwood East will remain fully operational throughout the redevelopment, with construction to be completed around July 2011.
“Animals are such agreeable friends - they ask no questions, they pass no criticisms.” ~ George Elliot

As the RSPCA Bushfire Recovery Manager, Catherine has been working tirelessly for months providing critical support to bushfire affected families and their animals, including Kevin.

Kevin was surrendered to the RSPCA after his owners were unable to keep him in their temporary accommodation. Tragically, the bushfires had burned their home and the hobby farm where Kevin had once lived.

In his stay at the RSPCA, Catherine formed a strong bond with Kevin, visiting him daily with treats of apples and yoghurt, and regularly brushing him as promised to his original owners. Kevin was recently rehomed on a farm where he will spend his days socialising with other rescued pigs.
One of the most important things to me is giving back to the community. I love animals so the RSPCA was a perfect match!

Emma is one of our much valued volunteers at the RSPCA. In her five years of volunteering, she has performed a range of roles from dog walking to organising arena events at the Million Paws Walk. Using her professional public relations skills, Emma has also undertaken skilled corporate volunteering at Burwood East.

Emma’s commitment as a volunteer helps the RSPCA make a difference to animals in need, and ensures dogs like Eley have a second chance at happiness through our adoption program.
We were simply overwhelmed with the immediate response from the community all over Victoria and Australia who wanted to help in any way they could. Our staff and volunteers had a strong presence in the bushfires regions and at the relief centres where people gathered for help. We all learned how valuable the support of animals can be to people affected by a disaster such as this.

Throughout the year, the RSPCA receives hundreds of requests for staff and volunteers to attend business and community group meetings to share information about the RSPCA’s work. This year the requests increased with many people wanting to understand about our rescue and relief work in the bushfire regions. These presentations provided an important opportunity to inform audiences about the RSPCA and engage with them in animal welfare issues. Our teams also participated in many local council and community events including microchipping days with our local council partners.

Despite a tough economic climate we continued to receive vital support from many of our corporate partners. Hill’s Pet Nutrition continued as the exclusive pet food sponsor and the major national sponsor of our Million Paws Walk. Money Managers, TressCox Lawyers and Bib Stillwell BMW continued their vital support of key events.

The RSPCA is fortunate to receive support from organisations aligning themselves to charities as part of their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) commitment. Such CSR strategies can involve workplace volunteering and giving programs. The number of organisations involved in supporting the RSPCA in this way has grown significantly over recent years. We again received outstanding support from media outlets. As an organisation with limited funds for paid promotional activities, we rely heavily on support from media networks to inform and educate the community. We are very grateful for the support of Mitchell Media, the Herald Sun and the Sunday Herald Sun, The Age, Leader papers, Fairfax and regional newspapers, radio and television.

“A dog wags its tail with its heart.”

~ Martin Buxbaum
**Million Paws Walk**

Our Million Paws Walk proved to be our biggest and best yet with record funds raised and the largest participant numbers ever experienced across Victoria. On Sunday 17 March more than 22,000 people across Victoria participated in the annual RSPCA Million Paws Walk. This national event has captured the heart of Australians and continues to add to its loyal supporter base every year.

Walk locations in Victoria were Albert Park, Ballarat, Bendigo, Castlemaine, Geelong, Mornington Peninsula, Sale, Shepparton, Swan Hill, Wangaratta, Warragul, Warrnambool and Werribee. Albert Park was once again the largest Walk in Australia with an estimated 17,000 attendees. The regional walks showed an equally impressive turnout with significant increases.

Record funds were raised through entry fees, sales of merchandise and retail opportunities. Total funds raised from the 2009 event were $362,100, including regional income. The Million Paws Walk was again generously supported by our national sponsor, Hill’s Pet Nutrition. other sponsors were TressCox Lawyers and Money Managers, with in-kind support from Parks Victoria and Yarra Trams.

This successful event could not have taken place without the participation of regional co-ordinators, volunteers, staff and the Victorian community who lend their loyal support to this event year after year.

**World Animal Day Gala Ball**

World Animal Day is a global event that celebrates animals and the contribution they make to our lives. RSPCA Victoria once again celebrated this special event by hosting their 5th annual Gala Ball at the Grand Hyatt on Friday 10 October.

This event attracted almost 450 people who helped raised more than $154,000 for animal welfare and adoption services.

We were able to offer a fantastic range of live and silent auction items, generously donated by businesses eager to help. An organising committee comprising of sponsors, volunteers and staff was integral to ensuring that our guests enjoyed a night filled with fun and entertainment.

Once again Bib Stillwell BMW was the major sponsor of this event with supporting sponsorship from TressCox Lawyers and Money Managers. In-kind support was generously provided by U-bahn design, James Walshe Photography and Gorgeous Films.

**All Creatures Open Day**

RSPCA All Creatures Day was held at Burwood East on Sunday 15 March and was attended by over 11,000 people.

This annual event is an opportunity for the RSPCA to showcase its services and facilities to the community. With the tragic Black Saturday fires occurring only weeks before, all donations from the event went towards the RSPCA Bushfire Appeal. More than $98,000 was raised on the day through public donations and major contributions from Metricon Homes, Simonds Homes and Fort Dodge Animal Health Australia.

Attendees of the event were treated to demonstrations from the Casterton Kelpie Association, the German Shepherd Dog Club and the Eastside Flyers. Cat Kingdom was a new addition to this year’s event with the aim of educating our visitors about cat welfare and responsible ownership of cats.

Behind-the-scenes tours of the shelter and clinic, and presentations covering topics such as our bushfire rescue effort and animal behaviour were informative and integral in building upon the positive awareness and understanding of the RSPCA.
Channel 7 – RSPCA Animal Rescue

RSPCA Victoria was proud to be involved in the filming for RSPCA Animal Rescue. Aired nationally on the Seven network, RSPCA Animal Rescue is an observational documentary. Consistently rating in the top 5 shows nationally, RSPCA Animal Rescue was able to reach over 15 million people per episode and significantly increase awareness of the work undertaken by the RSPCA.

For many, the highlight of series three was the show dedicated to the Victorian bushfire rescue efforts. The episode featured RSPCA teams and other volunteers working together to help save, treat and care for animals. Until this show was aired there was limited coverage of the devastation to wildlife, livestock and companion animals. We are grateful for the support of Imagination TV and Channel 7 for bringing this episode to air.

We are extremely pleased that due to the strong ratings and support from the public, it has been confirmed that series four will air in 2010.

Cupcake Day for the RSPCA

Cupcake Day was a new national event in 2008, held on 18 August with over 350 registrations in Victoria.

This simple event concept was introduced by RSPCA NSW, with participants encouraged to bake cupcakes, sell them on Cupcake Day and donate the proceeds to the RSPCA in their state. Individuals, schools and businesses took part in this event and together, they helped to raise over $15,000 towards the care of animals in Victoria.

With over $309,000 raised nationally, we are very optimistic about the growth of this event in the future.

Cupcake Day was generously sponsored by New Idea.
Despite tough economic times, Victorians again opened their hearts to generously support RSPCA animal welfare services.

Ongoing community support has enabled us to continue caring for the 40,000 animals that have come through our shelters and to investigate more than 14,400 cruelty complaints. Overall income from our fundraising, retail and events activities increased by 4%. With improved efficiencies and the wonderful support of our volunteers, the net return increased by 17%.

The community also strongly supported the RSPCA Bushfire Appeal. Almost 30,000 people from around Australia and the world donated $4.1 million to assist with the emergency relief efforts and the ongoing care for wildlife and companion animals impacted by the Victorian bushfires.

Fundraising programs
This year has seen strong need for extra charitable funds due to emergency appeals across the country for bushfire and flood victims. Despite this environment, our overall income for fundraising programs grew by 3%, appeal income increased by 4%, our Animal Ambassador program (regular giving) grew by 16% and online donations continued to show strong growth.

Workplace giving continued to also grow with more than 60 companies supporting RSPCA. This is a positive way for companies to support community organisations by enabling their employees to make donations through their workplace payroll.

Many of these companies also encourage us to visit their workplaces to help inform and inspire their employees about animal welfare. We are so grateful for the commitment and dedication of our regular supporters and new donors who choose the RSPCA as their charity of choice.

We also congratulate M&C Saatchi for again being recognised for their work with the RSPCA as award winners at the prestigious Australian Direct Marketing (ADMA) Awards. M&C Saatchi have supported us for several years with pro-bono creative services and strategic advice for our fundraising appeals.

Lasting legacies for animal welfare
Bequest income received by the RSPCA this year exceeded $18 million. This unprecedented figure demonstrates the depth of feeling and support that exists in the community for animal welfare. This bequest income will enable the RSPCA to continue investing in capital improvements to our animal welfare centres throughout regional and metropolitan Victoria.

The RSPCA is thankful for the passion and dedication demonstrated by the generous people whose legacies will have a lasting impact on animal welfare.

The profile of the Bequest Animal Program continues to grow. In the past year we have seen a 21% increase in the number of bequest animals placed in permanent foster homes, with a further increase of 4% for pets on the program.

"An animal is the only thing on earth that will love you more than you love yourself.” ~ Josh Billings
Trusts and foundations

Income raised from trusts and foundations in the last year has enabled us to fund our general animal welfare work, as well as specific projects throughout Victoria.

We are again grateful for the support of the Animal Welfare Foundation of Australia which has continued to fund the RSPCA Education Centre. This support has enabled us to continue providing our educational services and programs to ensure positive animal welfare outcomes well into the future.

Throughout the year we have received generous contributions from the following trusts to fund specific projects and activities:

Mary Kibble Trust (ANZ Trustees)  
$26,375 received for canine exercise yards at RSPCA Bendigo.

Helen Mcpherson Smith Trust  
$27,000 received for our discounted pet desexing program.

Helen Mcpherson Smith Trust (Bushfire Fund)  
$7,000 received to help resolve animal behaviour problems faced by pet owners affected by the Black Saturday bushfires.

Kathleen Agnes Back Estate (State Trustees)  
$6,000 received for the upgrade of the access path at RSPCA Peninsula.

Retail

It has been an exciting but challenging 12 months for the retail team with new strategies implemented to grow our retail sales and attract new customers.

Overall income from our direct retail activities grew by 3% with a strong focus on improving our catalogue design and distribution and enhancing our product range to attract new customers. During October we also launched our online shop, featuring over 400 products. We expect income from this channel to continue to grow in the coming year.

The pet product retail areas at Burwood East and Peninsula have continued to develop and grow by expanding on our offering. Monthly promotional activity has assisted in driving sales during the difficult economic climate with revenue increasing by 2%.

The network of 16 RSPCA stores in Victoria are managed daily by over 150 volunteers who work tirelessly in their local community. This year we have focused on process improvements, gaining further volunteer support and in-store promotional activity to achieve 4% income growth.

Poppy & Andrew

“Recovering from her leg injury has been a long road, but Poppy’s big heart and love of life have seen her get a little stronger every day.”

Poppy was hand raised by Andrew, a Newbury local. Sadly, while evacuating the area from the approaching fires, Poppy badly injured her leg on her horse float. Requiring extensive veterinary work to treat her infections and pressure wounds, Poppy’s recovery has become one of Andrew’s highest priorities.

To ease the strain during Poppy’s longer term recovery, the RSPCA has been providing Andrew with financial support for Poppy’s veterinary bills.
Protectors

Protectors are valued major supporters who show leadership in their giving, which enables the RSPCA to continue delivering critical animal welfare services in Victoria.

The Animal Welfare Foundation of Australia
Miss B Amsden OAM
Mr P Halstead Ms R Hoffman
Mr B and W Ansell
Australian Furry Association
Mr R Bailey
Mr J and Mrs L Bates
Mrs I M Binental
Miss S Burt
C M Gray Pty Ltd
Mrs L Collins
Mrs E Downing
Dr L Duncon
Mr A and Mrs E Finkel
Dr A G Firkin
Mrs H Fish
Mrs Hallett
Ms N Hanley
Miss S Howard
Mrs M Johnson
Mrs M Jones
Just Jeans Pty Ltd
Mrs B A Kelly
Mrs B H McKinnon
Mr T H McLendon
Ms B H J McNicoll
Meticon Homes
Simonds Homes
Dame E Murdoch AC, DBE
Mr and Mrs Baillieu Myer
Dr M Olekalns
Mrs M Orr
Ms P Parfrey
Mr J G Prior
Mr A D Preo
Rees Family Foundation
Miss K Reid
Mrs L Richardson
Ritchies Stores Pty Ltd
Rural Finance Corporation
Mr J P Salmon
Senis Pty Ltd
Sirius Research
Lady M Southey AM
Mr R and Mrs S Stradwick
Mr M Stul
Mr J Thames
Things Seasonal
Mr Q Wallace
Mrs M D Wallace
Mrs J A Whitford
Mr J Wylie
Ms V Newman
The Frontier Touring Company

Companions

Companions are major supporters who help the RSPCA make a difference to all creatures great and small, to ensure the values of the RSPCA are upheld.

Zimmerman Family Foundation
Mrs B Taig
Miss S M Bellard
Mr M J Anderson
Mr G Bindley
Miss S Brookes
Ms L Burgess
CSL Limited Pfizer Australia
Ms B A Cameron
Mr C and Mrs L Catlow
Ms B Chamberlain
Miss L Coles
Mr R Davey
Ms J Davis
Ms J Dawns
Lady M L Dawson
Mrs E Dunell
Mr T Evans
Ms M Frazer
Ms M Frost
Mr I and Mrs J Grant
Mr K Halla
Hanlon Foundation
Ms M Helford
Miss P M Holmes
Ms J Hooper
Ms M Huf
Mr T H Jansz
Mr P King
Mrs D Lee
Ms B J Lewis
Ms Lewis
Ms J McMullin
E McKinney
Malk Pty Ltd
Ms M Mermociro
Mrs M Menzies
Ms A E Miller
Mr R Muirden
Mr D M Nassau
Mr R Nelson
Mr I Pascarl
Mrs J R Peart
Ms J Pitruzzello
Mrs K Rainford
Ms A Ryder
Mr R Semann
Mr A Serebro
Mr G Shalit and Ms M Faine
Mrs J F Smith
Ms V G Stevenson
Mrs J Suckling
Miss E Turnbull
Mr I J Tyler
Mr N Vink
Mr A Walton
Mr G Wignell (Deceased)
Mrs J Williams
Watson Wyatt Australia

Friends

Friends are major supporters of the RSPCA who make a valuable contribution to the wellbeing of ‘all creatures great and small’.

All Souls Opportunity Shop
Mrs R Andre
Mrs S Arnold
Mrs R and Mrs J Austen
Mrs J S Barlow
Miss T J Barradell
Mrs A Baxter
Ms C Belcher
Mr and Mrs R Berry
Mrs D L Bertalli
Miss S M Box
Mrs D Bridges
Mrs A K Brown
Mr P R Brown
Mrs M D Bryant
Dr B M Bullivant
Mrs E Burgess
Ms A Cimino
Ms J L Clarke
Ms A Cleemann
Mr A Cobb
Mr R Colanzi
Mr S and Mrs M Costanzo
Mrs M Cragg
Ms M Cronin
Ms D Cross
Mrs J C Dahlsen
Mrs G Danchin
Ms D Droog
Mr and Mrs G Earney
Mr and Mrs W Edgar
Mrs R Feikema
Mrs A Foletta
Mr S Franzl
Mrs S Fraser
Ms S Garcia
Mrs M Gardner
Mrs K C Genssen
Ms J Gleeson
Miss H H Gower
Mrs C Grant
Ms J Hanusch
Ms S Hardinge
Ms J Heazlewood
Mr S Hesselwood
Mr C and Mrs S Hill
Dr H Hiscock
Mr B Holmes
Dr M J Hrasky
Ms M K Hughes
Miss B E Hughes
Mr D Ingpen
Ms A Jooste
Dr F Judd
Lady C Kater
Mrs D Lewis
Ms D Linton
Mr C P Lunn

Mr A Whyte
Ms J Wilson
Mrs J M Wilson
Corporate partners

**Hill’s**
National sponsor of the Million Paws Walk and major sponsor of RSPCA shelters.

**RITCHIES SUPA IGA**
Ritchies customers contribute more than $140,000 annually to support RSPCA animal welfare services.

**M&CSAATCHI**
Generous providers of pro-bono creative concepts for RSPCA marketing campaigns and appeals.

**sensis**
Pro-bono support, workplace giving partner and corporate volunteering.

**Bib Stillwell BMW**
“Cars are our life.”
Major sponsor of the RSPCA All Creatures Open Day and the World Animal Day Gala Ball.

**TressCox Lawyers**
Sponsor of the Million Paws Walk and the World Animal Day Gala Ball.

**MONEY MANAGERS FFA**
Sponsor of the Million Paws Walk and the World Animal Day Gala Ball.

**JAMES WALSHE**
Photography

**gorgeousfilms™**

**Bendigo Bank**

**U-bahn design**
Due to the generous support of the community, we are able to continue our vital animal welfare work in Victoria. We thankfully acknowledge all those who have supported us through a trust or by leaving a legacy in their Will.

Bequests
Arlie Isabel Baillie
Albert Arthur Robert Bolam
Amelia Maude Gillespie
Ann Birckett
Anna Maria Francisca Knox
Audrey Lois MacDonald
Audrey Patricia Browne
Beatrice Elizabeth Gordon Eldridge
Bernard Charles Patrick Hodgson
Bertha Horvath
Beryl Blight
Beryl Emily Daniel
Beryl Merle Carroll
Beryl Rose Mays
Betty Rogers
Carolyn Elizabeth Rawlins
Catharine Mary Hann
Catherine Davidson
Cheryl Kaye Clara Janetzki
Claire Annette Mahon
Cynthia Isabel Muncey
Dansie Hallett
David Stuart Lawson
Desmond Robert Gibbs
Donald Frank Rider
Dorothy Jane Fone
Dorothy May Parker
Edith Winifred Warren
Edna May Veronica McKenna
Eileen Anne Corke
Eleanor Pierce Harding
Ellen Bakor
Elise Agnes LeClerc Andersen
Emily Theresa Greigreigreig
Ena Jamieson
Ene Gwenda Quirk
Enid Valerie Dawling
Eric Wilfred Holt
Eryl Pamela Villeneuve-Smith
Frank Charles Samways
George Edward Perry
Gottliebe Salicky
Grace Helen Middleton
Harold John Casey
Helen Fleurette Finnie (Fleur Finni)
Helen Margaret Holmes
Helga Christa Roth
Horst Karl Fritz & Erica Irene Ursula Walbrink
Iola Alice Barnes
Irene Elizabeth Marshall
Irene Kozica
Ivy May Clark
J L Thomas
Janice Patricia Holmes
Jean Coats Reid
Jean Doris Green
Jean Elizabeth Dudley
Jean Mavis Massey
Jessie Adelaide Hill
Jill Inez Blackwell
Joan Elwyn Medson
Joan Helen Feeley
Joan Leah Kerr
Joan Lillian Blundell
Joan Mary O’Mara
Johanna Duma
John Anthony West Lau
John Arthur Wilding
John Geoffrey Frederick Schollenberger
John Henry Charles Jarrett
John Keith Betheras
John Lindsay Pearce
John Robert Joseph Lees
Josephine Whitten
Joy Vincombe
Joyce Moya Morton
June Caroline Stoessiger
June Maira Victor Lett
Katye Greene
Kenneth McDonald Martin
Lee Mei Noo (Mary Ho)
Leslie James Marr
Leslie Olive Feather
Lilas Isobel Gordon
Lindsay Harvey Poore
Lloyd Rankin Deans
Lorraine Watson
Lucy Rafferty
Magda Somogyi
Margery Isabel Pierce
Maria Agatha Pauw
Martin Leonard Wray
Mary Ann Janet Atkins
Mary Janet Victoria Stewart
Mary Louise Lowes
Mary Margaret Oakley
Mary Margareta Hughes
Mary Walker
Mayse Meredith
Melanie Schropp
Myra Clair Bowman
Nancy Charlotte Bartlett
Nigel James Chanter
Nola Rubena Curran
Norma Stella Westbrook
Norman Thomas Marshall
Olive Benwell
Patricia Mary Wilkie
Patricia Smith
Patrick Sullivan Staples
Patti Forbes Lloyd
Philip Maxwell Beck
Phyllis Jessie Laidlaw
Robert Derek Greenfield
Robert Henderson Stewart
Ronald Bruce Hetherington
Ronald Peter Sweeney
Ruth Beverley Walsh
Sandra Sue Wussack
Stanley George Durant
Stanley George Skinner
Stella Thomson
Sybil Craig
Sylvia Ruth Hodge
Thelma Joan Densley
Thomas Wade
Valda Irene Keil
Valora May Walke
Vivianrmar Lensky
Winifred Millie Slade
Yasuko Hiraoka Myer
Yvonne Josephine Rosemary Knight
Yvonne Mary Hatton

Trusts
ANZ Trustees Foundation
Aon Charitable Foundation
Arthur Ewdwin and Edith Barry Estate
Baker Foundation
Barnes Bequest
Bruce McDonald Charitable Trust
Donald Dennett James Walters
Elizabeth McCartney Estate
Elise May Atherton Estate
Florence Aileen Anderson Charitable Trust
Frederick Inman Trust
Geoffrey Ian Berry Estate (The Theraupon Foundation)
Helen Fookes Trust
J M Patterson Estate
Jean Mary Greenlees Trust
John Frank Aiken Estate
John Murphy Charitable Trust
Joseph Norman Masey Trust
Jose Patterson Trust
Joyce Adela Healey Trust
Katrina May Russell Estate
Keia Hinde Charitable Trust
Keith and Sylvia McLaren Trust
Kenneth and Waverly Harris Trust
Kevin Stewart Cowell Trust
Leiie Hedi Basch Charitable Trust
Leslie and Helen Crawford Fund
Lola Poynton Memorial Fund
Marjorie Hayes & Olivia Cock Memorial
Mary Evelyn Bowley Estate
Mary Gray Trust
Patricia McIntyre Foundation
Peter Isaacson Foundation
Ruth Fagg Foundation
Sarah Josephine Lodge Memorial Fund
Spencer Investments
Thelma May Bradbury Estate
Thelma Silver Trust
William Barr Trust
Honorary Life Membership is the highest recognition given by RSPCA Victoria. Awarded by the Board, Honorary Life Membership acknowledges those individuals who have made a significant contribution to RSPCA Victoria and animal welfare.

In 2008 Honorary Life Membership was awarded for the first time according to new eligibility guidelines and criteria. This new policy extended the criteria to ensure people who previously may not have been considered for nomination were eligible. The successful nominees and worthy recipients for 2008 were Pat Salmon, Edna Hambridge and Charles (Bill) Beauchamp.

Miss Betty Amsden OAM
Dr John Ayerbe
Mr Peter Barber
Mrs H Bartholomew
Miss Laurie Batiste
Mr Doug Baudinette
Mr Charles Beauchamp
Dr Robert Begg
Dr Onn Ben-David
Mr Charles Brown
Mrs Joan Brown
Mr Peter Brown
Mrs Jan Buchter
Mrs Erica Cairns
Prof Ivan Caple
Mr Robert Carrail
Mrs Karen Cosgriff
Mrs Janice Crowley
Mr Rod Curtis
Miss Barbara Dart
Mr Peter Dunk
Mr David Elsum AM
Snr Sgt Peter Given

Mrs Nenda Gray
Mr A G Hall
Mrs Barbara Halse
Mrs Edna Hambridge
The Hon Vernon Hauser
Ms Karen Hazel
Mr Garth Hodge
Mr Michael Holland
Ms Barbara Horn
Mr Richard Hunter
Mr Monty James
Dr Neville Japp
Mrs Alwynne Jona OAM
The Hon William Kaye AO QC
Mrs Marjory Kent OAM
Mrs June Killian
Mr Keith King
Mr Stuart Lawson
Mrs Rosemary Lill
Mrs Phylis Lowe
Miss Hazel Luke
Dr Barbara Maddern-Wellington
Mrs Ursula Manning

Mrs Heather McCracken
Mrs Barbara Meehan
Capt Michael J Meehan
Mr S I Miller AO LVO QPM
Mrs Helen Moore
Dame Elizabeth Murdoch AC DBE
Mr Kevin O’Brien
Ms Glennis Ooijes
Mrs Carol L J Pennman
Dr Peter Penson
Miss Ninon Phillips
Mrs Ann Pollard
Mrs Mirriam Quick
Mrs Joan Quin
Mr Brian Reid
Mrs H Ronzio
Mr Pat Salmon
Mr Michael Schildberger
Mr Stephen Sedgman
Mrs Lynette Sedgman
Dr Michael Sheedy
Mrs D Sipavicius
Mr F Smith

Mrs Dianne Smith
Mr James T Smith B. Comm FEA
Prof Virginia P Studdert
Mrs Jean Wallbridge
Dr Carole Webb
Ms Shirley Westerburg
The Hon Frank Wilkes AM
Mrs Lorna Williams
Dr Hugh Wirth AM KSJ
Mrs Betty Wood
Mrs Janet Wood
Mr Graham Zetter
Mrs Sally Zetter

Honorary Life Membership was awarded to the following individuals who have now sadly passed away. Their contribution to animal welfare and the RSPCA will be remembered.

Miss Nan Moore
Mrs E Paxton

Jennifer & Dexter
“My volunteering work at the RSPCA brought Dexter to me. Together we make a great team.”

Jennifer and Dexter are regular volunteers for the RSPCA’s Fundraising team. Dexter originally came to the RSPCA at the age of 14 as part of the Bequest Animal Program. Jennifer was a perfect match for Dexter and it was not long before this Dachshund gentleman settled into a life of love and devotion with Jennifer by his side.
Financial report

The 2008/09 financial year proved to be another sound period for the RSPCA. Despite deteriorating economic conditions in Victoria, our generous and committed supporters again provided the vital funding that allowed the RSPCA to continue to assist animals in need.

Victorians will long remember the devastating Black Saturday bushfires. The fires were barely a day old when the RSPCA started receiving support and funds from the community to help affected animals. Our subsequent Bushfire Appeal raised in excess of $4.1 million.

All of the Bushfire Appeal funds will be spent on services and provisions that directly benefit bushfire affected animals and their owners. As at 30 June 2009, the RSPCA had distributed $1156,000 from this fund and an additional $505,000 had been allocated to individuals via assistance grants. The funds have been used to provide food and shelter for affected animals, share the cost of veterinary care and support families who are unable otherwise to look after their animals. Wildlife, livestock and companion animals have all received assistance.

The RSPCA has also contributed a considerable amount of its own funds, personnel and equipment towards the bushfire relief effort. This contribution is over and above the funds distributed from the RSPCA Bushfire Appeal.

The RSPCA Bushfire Appeal is being independently audited by KPMG. This audit will provide confidence to the community that the fund is transparent and to ensure that the money and materials donated are being used as intended.

In regards to the RSPCA’s ongoing operations, bequest income for 2008/09 exceeded our highest expectations with over $10 million received during the year. A large component of this income was directed by the bequestors to upgrade facilities at RSPCA Burwood East. This legacy will allow the RSPCA to commence construction of the remaining stages of our Burwood East master plan in the coming financial year. This will result in considerably improved facilities for the animals in our care and will help to drive increased adoption rates, and improve our veterinary and behavioural services.

Fundraising revenue (excluding funds donated to the RSPCA Bushfire Appeal) also exceeded our target for 2008/09. This was an exceptional result given the value of funds raised to support our bushfire efforts, and the current economic climate.

Some revenue streams during the year were negatively affected by external events. Our retail sale levels were impacted by both the downturn in economic activity and the hot weather of January and February which decreased visitation to our retail outlets. Our corporate sponsorship was impacted by the global financial crisis with a number of long-term sponsorships cancelled or reduced in value. Fortunately the diverse nature of the RSPCA funding model allowed us to weather this storm with no reduction in our services.

From an expenditure standpoint, as always, demand for our services remained high and this in turn kept pressure on our funding requirements. The Inspectorate team had a very busy year and as a result our costs to care for seized animals increased. The costs of prosecuting the offenders who harm or neglect animals also increased, and our legal fees were particularly high following a number of complex animal cruelty prosecutions.

While demand for shelter services remained high, the RSPCA invested over $2 million in improving regional shelter facilities during 2008/09. The vast majority of this was expended on our redevelopment at RSPCA Bendigo which was completed in July 2009. Operational costs grew during the year and extracting maximum value from our expenditure will continue to be a focus in the coming year to ensure all animals that require assistance receive it.

In the next financial year, we will continue to expend funds on improved services and facilities, grow our funding base to ensure that demand for our services is met and fund animal welfare campaigns to ensure that all animals are afforded the five freedoms they rightly deserve.
Sources of income 2008/09

- Bushfire donations: 9%
- Government grants: 2%
- Investments: 5%
- Other: 2%
- Fundraising: 13%
- Retail sales: 7%
- Bequests: 43%
- Fees for service - animals: 19%

Expenditure 2008/09

- Support services: 13%
- Other: 2%
- Animal welfare related expenses: 62%
- Fundraising & bequest expenses: 9%
- Bushfire support & grants: 4%
- Retail expenses: 10%

Animal welfare expenditure trend
The directors of The Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Victoria) ("RSPCA") present the following report for the year ended 30 June 2009.

The names and particulars of the Directors at any time during or since the end of the year are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Names</th>
<th>Qualifications</th>
<th>Occupation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dr Hugh J Wirth AM KSJ</td>
<td>BVSc, Hon DvSc (Melb)</td>
<td>Retired Veterinary Practitioner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr Onn Ben-David</td>
<td>BVSc</td>
<td>Veterinary Practitioner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms Barbara Horn</td>
<td></td>
<td>Published Author Former ABC Radio Presenter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr James Smith</td>
<td>B.Comm FCA</td>
<td>Practicing Chartered Accountant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Robert Carrall OAM</td>
<td>B.Ag.Sc, Dip.Ag.Extn. FAIAST</td>
<td>Agricultural Scientist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs Lorraine Bates</td>
<td></td>
<td>Business Experience - Tourism and Customer Service Retired Travel Consultant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr Carole Webb</td>
<td>BVSc (Hons), MACUSC (Feline Medicine)</td>
<td>Veterinary Practitioner</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Directors were appointed on incorporation of the company on 1 July 2008 and held office throughout the year unless otherwise noted.

Meetings of Directors

Number of meetings held during the year.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Names</th>
<th>Period of Directorship</th>
<th>Board Members</th>
<th>Audit Committee</th>
<th>Site Redevelopment Steering Committee</th>
<th>Strategy and Corporate Policy Committee</th>
<th>Animal Welfare Committee</th>
<th>Budget and Finance Committee</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dr Hugh J Wirth AM KSJ</td>
<td>1 Year</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr Onn Ben David</td>
<td>1 Year</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms Barbara Horn</td>
<td>1 Year</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr James Smith</td>
<td>1 Year</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Robert Carrall OAM</td>
<td>1 Year</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs Lorraine Bates</td>
<td>1 Year</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr Carole Webb</td>
<td>1 Year</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Principal Activity

The principal activity of the economic entity during the year was the prevention of cruelty to animals (and animal rehabilitation). There were no other significant changes in activities during the year.

Results of Operations

The net amount of consolidated surplus of the economic entity for the financial year was $14,889,318 (2008: $6,365,733).
Review of Operations

In 2008/09, the RSPCA raised $43,764,740. This included $4,107,462 raised from the RSPCA Bushfire Appeal. 100% of funds from this appeal will be used to supply aid to animals and their support networks impacted by the February 2009 Victorian bushfires.

Total revenue in 2007/08 was $32,481,489.

Bequest income was significant during 2008/09 and totalled $19,347,489.

RSPCA expended $28,875,422 during 2008/09. This included $1,221,668 of expenditure on the Bushfire Appeal funds and has committed another $505,000 to the relief effort as at 30 June 2009.

RSPCA undertook a major redevelopment of its Bendigo Shelter during 2008/09. This work was completed in July 2009 and $1,612,575 was expended on this project during the financial year.

RSPCA (Vic) Foundation Pty Ltd (“RSPCA Foundation”) experienced a reduction in value of $1,768,251 during the year as the value of the equities held in the RSPCA Foundation fell in line with the markets they were invested in. The RSPCA did not draw on RSPCA Foundation capital during 2008/09.

The RSPCA finished the year in a stronger financial position with Net Assets increasing by $14,889,318.

Significant changes in the State of Affairs

There was no significant change in the state of affairs of the economic entity during the year.

Significant after Balance Date Events

There has not been any matter or circumstance that has arisen since the end of the financial year that has significantly affected, or may significantly affect, the operations of the economic entity, the results of those operations, or the state of affairs of the economic entity in future financial years.

Future Developments and Results

In the opinion of the Directors, disclosure of information regarding likely developments in the operations of the economic entity and the expected results of those operations in subsequent financial years would prejudice the interests of the RSPCA. Accordingly, this information has not been included in this report.

Indemnification of Officers

During the financial year the RSPCA paid a premium in respect of a contract insuring the Directors of the RSPCA (as shown above), and officers against a liability incurred as such a Director or officer to the extent permitted by the Corporations Act 2001. The contract of insurance prohibits disclosure of the nature of the liability and the amount of the premium.

The RSPCA has not otherwise, during or since the financial year, indemnified or agreed to indemnify an officer or auditor of the Society or of any related body corporate against a liability incurred as such an officer or auditor.

Auditor’s Independence Declaration

The auditor’s independence declaration under section 307C of the Corporations Act 2001 follows.
**Income Statement for the year ended 30 June 2009**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>RSPCA (Victoria)</th>
<th>RSPCA (Victoria) &amp; Foundation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2009 $</td>
<td>2008 $</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>INCOME</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fees for service - animals</td>
<td>8,798,646</td>
<td>8,633,476</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bequests</td>
<td>19,347,489</td>
<td>13,349,946</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>5,936,461</td>
<td>5,842,844</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retail sales</td>
<td>3,277,587</td>
<td>3,208,125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest *</td>
<td>1,398,876</td>
<td>965,459</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Distribution from RSPCA Foundation</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>666,355</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grant from RSPCA Foundation</td>
<td>422,238</td>
<td>484,104</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government grants</td>
<td>1,000,000</td>
<td>1,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bushfire donations **</td>
<td>4,107,462</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drought Animal Aid appeal donations</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1,840</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education and rental income</td>
<td>161,715</td>
<td>272,422</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net gains/(losses) on trading portfolio</td>
<td>161,303</td>
<td>(122,850)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Membership subscriptions</td>
<td>70,325</td>
<td>77,574</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dividends and franking credits</td>
<td>144,390</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Profit on disposal of non-current assets</td>
<td>642,682</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL INCOME</strong></td>
<td>45,469,174</td>
<td>34,379,295</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>EXPENDITURE</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Animal welfare related expenses</td>
<td>17,433,008</td>
<td>16,116,358</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education, campaigns and communication</td>
<td>591,933</td>
<td>424,160</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundraising and bequest expenses</td>
<td>2,477,101</td>
<td>2,372,856</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retail expenses including cost of sales</td>
<td>2,881,090</td>
<td>2,823,514</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support services</td>
<td>3,654,910</td>
<td>3,596,095</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taxes and insurance</td>
<td>246,075</td>
<td>220,107</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bushfire support and grants **</td>
<td>1,221,668</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drought Animal Aid appeal costs</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>5,823</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Borrowing cost expense - interest paid</td>
<td>357,599</td>
<td>512,911</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</strong></td>
<td>28,844,384</td>
<td>26,071,824</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NET SURPLUS</strong></td>
<td>16,624,790</td>
<td>8,307,471</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* $30,726 of interest income relates to interest earned on the RSPCA Bushfire Appeal receipts. All interest earned from the Bushfire Appeal will be directed to bushfire relief.

** All funds raised under the RSPCA Bushfire Appeal will be directed to support bushfire affected animals. At balance date $1,221,668 of these funds had been expended and an additional $505,000 has been committed.

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

“Thousands of years ago, cats were worshipped as gods. Cats have never forgotten this.” ~ Anonymous
## Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2009

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>RSPCA (Victoria)</th>
<th>RSPCA (Victoria) &amp; Foundation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Note</td>
<td>2009 $</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CURRENT ASSETS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash and cash equivalents</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2,197,921</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trade and other receivables</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5,429,084</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inventories</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>556,914</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial assets</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>26,313,381</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Current Assets</td>
<td></td>
<td>34,497,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NON-CURRENT ASSETS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Receivable</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>954,654</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property, plant &amp; equipment</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>25,642,482</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL ASSETS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>61,094,436</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CURRENT LIABILITIES</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trade and other payables</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>958,387</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest bearing liabilities</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>5,808,211</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provisions</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>1,678,999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Current Liabilities</td>
<td></td>
<td>8,445,597</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest bearing liabilities</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>158,525</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Non-Current Liabilities</td>
<td></td>
<td>325,752</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL LIABILITIES</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>8,771,349</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NET ASSETS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>52,323,087</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>EQUITY</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retained profits</td>
<td></td>
<td>52,323,087</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL EQUITY</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>52,323,087</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

### Statement of changes in Equity for the year ended 30 June 2009

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>RSPCA (Victoria)</th>
<th>RSPCA (Victoria) &amp; Foundation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Retained profits at 1 July</td>
<td></td>
<td>35,698,297</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surplus</td>
<td>16,624,790</td>
<td>8,307,471</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>RETAINED PROFITS AT 30 JUNE</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>52,323,087</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.
# Cash Flow Statement for the year ended 30 June 2009

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>RSPCA (Victoria)</th>
<th>RSPCA (Victoria) &amp; Foundation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Note</strong></td>
<td>2009 $</td>
<td>2008 $</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cash Flows from Operating Activities</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Receipts from customers and others</td>
<td>24,837,481</td>
<td>21,121,172</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bequests received</td>
<td>13,791,050</td>
<td>13,958,089</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Distribution/grant from RSPCA Foundation</td>
<td>422,238</td>
<td>1,150,459</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Payments to suppliers and employees</td>
<td>(28,518,521)</td>
<td>(27,132,918)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dividends received</td>
<td>110,910</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest received</td>
<td>964,808</td>
<td>282,989</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest paid</td>
<td></td>
<td>(512,911)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net Cash Provided by Operating Activities</strong></td>
<td>17(b)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cash Flows from Investing Activities</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proceeds from disposal of land</td>
<td>4,000,000</td>
<td>1,500,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proceeds from disposal of property</td>
<td>809,419</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purchase of property, plant and equipment</td>
<td>(2,549,495)</td>
<td>(1,635,399)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Redemption of Bank Bill facility</td>
<td></td>
<td>984,608</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purchase of investments</td>
<td>(97,327)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purchase of term deposits (period greater than three months)</td>
<td>(13,554,928)</td>
<td>(13,554,928)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proceeds from sale of investments</td>
<td>8,700</td>
<td>54,920</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net Cash Flows (used in)/Provided by Investing Activities</strong></td>
<td>(11,383,631)</td>
<td>904,129</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cash Flows from Financing Activities</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bank bill facility (repayment)/draw down</td>
<td>(3,400,000)</td>
<td>343,574</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finance lease repayments</td>
<td>(2,425)</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net Cash (used in)/Provided by Financing Activities</strong></td>
<td>(5,402,425)</td>
<td>343,574</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net (decrease)/increase in cash held</strong></td>
<td>(5,535,689)</td>
<td>10,144,583</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash at the beginning of the year</td>
<td>11,425,300</td>
<td>1,310,717</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CASH AT THE END OF THE YEAR</strong></td>
<td>7,889,611</td>
<td>11,425,300</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

## Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2009

### 1. Introduction

The Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Victoria) ("RSPCA") is a Company Limited by Guarantee. On 1 July 2008 the Society changed its legal status from that of an Incorporated Association to a Company Limited by Guarantee. The new company was incorporated on 1 July 2008 with the name “The Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Victoria)” (ACN 131 965 761). The guarantee is $10 per member and at 30 June 2009 there were 1,727 members. This financial report is therefore the first to be prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Corporations Act 2001. The inaugural seven directors of the company were all Councillors of the Incorporated Association.

The 2008 financial report was prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act 1981. The comparative figures reflect the Society’s operations in 2008 when it was governed by the Associations Incorporation Act 1981.

The operations and principal activities of the RSPCA comprise the care and protection of animals within Victoria.

The consolidated financial statements include the financial statements of the controlled entity, RSPCA (Vic) Foundation Pty Ltd ("RSPCA Foundation"). The financial statements are presented in Australian dollars. The registered office and principal place of business is 3 Burwood Highway, Burwood East, Victoria.

The financial report was authorised for issue by the directors on the date shown on the Directors’ Declaration attached to the financial statements.
Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2009

2. Accounting policies

(a) Overall policy
The financial report is a general purpose financial report that has been prepared in accordance with the Corporations Act (2001) as amended and Accounting Standards and Interpretations in Australia.

The financial report has been prepared on an accruals basis using the historical cost method, and except where stated does not take into account current valuations of non-current assets.

Financial report complies with AIFRS
Accounting Standards include Australian equivalents to International Financial Reporting Standards. A statement of compliance with International Financial Reporting Standards cannot be made as the Society is considered to be a not-for-profit entity and has prepared the financial statements in accordance with the requirements regarding Not-for-Profit entities as contained in Australian Accounting Standards.

New Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations
The introduction of revised accounting standard AASB 101 Preparation of Financial Statements will impact disclosures in future financial reports however it is not currently anticipated that any other new Standards or Interpretations on issue will impact on the financial reporting of the RSPCA in future years.

(b) Significant judgements and key assumptions
Judgements made in applying accounting policies that have the most significant effect on the amounts recognised in the financial statements concern depreciation rates. These are reviewed annually by the Board Members to ensure that assets are being appropriately depreciated.

No key assumptions have been made concerning the future and there are no other key sources of estimation uncertainty at the balance date that the Board Members consider have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year.

(c) Financial assets and financial liabilities
Financial assets and financial liabilities are recognised on the balance sheet when the RSPCA becomes party to the contractual provisions of the financial instrument on trade date.

A financial asset is derecognised when the contractual rights to the cash flows from the financial assets expire or are transferred and no longer controlled by the RSPCA.

A financial liability is removed from the balance sheet when the obligation specified in the contract is discharged or cancelled or expires.

(d) Consolidation
The consolidated financial statements are those of the consolidated entity, comprising the RSPCA and its 100% owned controlled entity, the RSPCA Foundation.

The effects of all transactions between entities in the economic entity have been eliminated in full and the consolidated financial statements have been prepared using uniform accounting policies for like transactions and other events in similar circumstances.

(e) Revenue recognition
Revenue from the sale of goods is recognised when control has passed to the purchaser. Revenue from the rendering of a service is recognised upon delivery of the service to the customer.

Revenue from government grants is recognised when control of monies is attained and the amount of revenue can be measured reliably.

Dividend revenue and distributions are recognised when the right to receive payment is established.

Interest revenue is recognised using the effective interest method.

Revenue from government grants is recognised when control of monies is attained and the amount of revenue can be measured reliably.

Dividend revenue and distributions are recognised when the right to receive payment is established.

(f) Donations of goods in kind
Material donations of goods in kind are recognised as income at the net fair value of the underlying asset.

(g) Impairment
At each reporting date the RSPCA reviews the carrying amounts of assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss if any. The recoverable amount is assessed as the higher of fair value less costs to sell or the assets value in use being the depreciated replacement cost.

(h) Income Tax
RSPCA is exempt from income tax under Section 50-5 of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997.

(i) GST
Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST included is not recoverable from the Australian Tax Office.

(j) Cash and cash equivalents
Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, deposits held-at-call with banks and other short-term highly liquid investments which have a term to maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition.

(k) Receivables
Receivables represent the principal amounts due at balance date plus accrued interest and less, where applicable, provision for doubtful accounts. An estimate for doubtful debts is made when collection of the full amount is no longer probable.

(l) Inventory
Inventory is valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value. Cost is assigned on a specific identification basis.

(m) Property, plant and equipment
Property, plant and equipment are stated at cost or deemed cost. Items of property, plant and equipment, other than freehold land are depreciated over their estimated useful lives to their estimated residual values on either a straight line basis or a diminishing value basis as appropriate so as to write off their value progressively over their estimated useful lives commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use.

The following depreciation rates are in use:
- Buildings 2.5% to 5%
- Improvements and equipment 10% to 35%
- Motor vehicles 20%

(n) Investments
Investments in listed company shares and unit trusts are designated as being held at fair value through profit or loss being a portfolio with a history of regular trading and profit taking. Fair values are determined by reference to published price quotations in an active market. Term deposits are carried at amortised cost.

(o) Payables
Payables represent the fair value of the consideration to be paid in future for goods and services received, whether or not billed to the consolidated entity, plus where applicable, any accrued interest.
Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2009

(p) Short-term employee benefits
Short term employee benefits are employee benefits (other than termination benefits) which fall due wholly within 12 months after the end of the period in which employee services are rendered. They comprise wages, salaries, social security obligations and short-term compensation absences payable within 12 months and non-mandatory benefits such as medical care, housing, car, and service goods.

The undiscounted amount of short-term employee benefits expected to be paid is recognised as an expense.

(q) Other long-term employee benefits
Other long-term employee benefits include long-service leave payable 12 months or more after the end of the period in which employee services are rendered.

(r) Borrowing costs
Borrowing costs are recognised as an expense in the period in which they are incurred except borrowing costs that are directly attributable to the acquisition, construction or production of an asset that necessarily takes a substantial period to get ready for its intended use or sale. In this case the borrowing costs are capitalised as part of the cost of such a qualifying asset.

No borrowing costs were capitalised during the 2009 or 2008 financial years.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expenses</th>
<th>RSPCA (Victoria)</th>
<th>RSPCA (Victoria) &amp; Foundation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2009 $</td>
<td>2008 $</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depreciation Expense:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buildings and improvements</td>
<td>571,357</td>
<td>539,989</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plant and equipment</td>
<td>124,003</td>
<td>105,324</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motor vehicles</td>
<td>26,147</td>
<td>35,419</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motor vehicles – leased</td>
<td>2,015</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>723,522</td>
<td>680,732</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Auditor’s Remuneration:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Audit services</td>
<td>39,000</td>
<td>38,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other services</td>
<td>9,500</td>
<td>9,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>48,500</td>
<td>47,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employee benefits expense</td>
<td>14,207,913</td>
<td>12,696,660</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accumulation fund superannuation contribution</td>
<td>1,094,657</td>
<td>987,418</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operating lease expense</td>
<td>815,454</td>
<td>704,743</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bad and doubtful debt expense</td>
<td>89,292</td>
<td>314,276</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4. Cash and cash equivalents

| Cash on hand | 7,200 | 12,066 | 7,200 | 12,066 |
| Cash at bank | 2,190,721 | 1,517,666 | 2,843,043 | 1,813,393 |
| Total | 2,197,921 | 1,529,732 | 2,850,243 | 1,825,459 |

5. Trade and other receivables

| Current | | | | |
| Trade and other receivables | 1,211,700 | 1,571,983 | 1,211,700 | 1,691,993 |
| Less: provision for impairment loss | (286,495) | (392,508) | (286,495) | (392,508) |
| Receivable on property sale | 925,205 | 1,179,475 | 925,205 | 1,299,485 |
| Due from RSPCA Foundation | 4,200,000 | 4,000,000 | 4,200,000 | 4,000,000 |
| Receivable on property sale | 303,879 | 615 | 303,879 | 615 |
| Total | 5,429,084 | 5,185,590 | 5,125,205 | 5,299,485 |
| Non-Current | | | | |
| Deferred receivable on property sale | 954,654 | 4,720,586 | 954,654 | 4,720,586 |

Allowance for Impairment Loss
Trade receivables are non-interest bearing and are generally on 30 day terms. A provision for impairment loss is recognised when there is objective evidence that an individual trade receivable is impaired. An impairment loss of $89,292 (2008: $314,276) has been recognised by the RSPCA in the current year.
## 5. Trade and other receivables (cont’d)

Movements in the provision for impairment loss were as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2009 $</th>
<th>2008 $</th>
<th>2009 $</th>
<th>2008 $</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Opening Balance</td>
<td>392,508</td>
<td>431,992</td>
<td>392,508</td>
<td>431,992</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additional Provision</td>
<td>89,292</td>
<td>314,276</td>
<td>89,292</td>
<td>314,276</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amounts Written Off</td>
<td>(195,305)</td>
<td>(353,760)</td>
<td>(195,305)</td>
<td>(353,760)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amounts Recovered</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Closing Balance</td>
<td>286,495</td>
<td>392,508</td>
<td>286,495</td>
<td>392,508</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As at 30 June 2009

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Gross $</th>
<th>Impairment $</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Current</td>
<td>227,815</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31 – 60 days</td>
<td>52,581</td>
<td>51,156</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>61 - 90 days</td>
<td>22,179</td>
<td>22,179</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>91 days and over</td>
<td>213,160</td>
<td>213,160</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Closing Balance</td>
<td>515,735</td>
<td>286,495</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As at 30 June 2008

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Gross $</th>
<th>Impairment $</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Current</td>
<td>387,748</td>
<td>6,698</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31 – 60 days</td>
<td>88,047</td>
<td>5,196</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>61 - 90 days</td>
<td>42,407</td>
<td>4,195</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>91 days and over</td>
<td>518,481</td>
<td>376,419</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Closing Balance</td>
<td>1,036,683</td>
<td>392,508</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## 6. Inventories

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2009 $</th>
<th>2008 $</th>
<th>2009 $</th>
<th>2008 $</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Goods for resale - at cost</td>
<td>556,914</td>
<td>802,545</td>
<td>556,914</td>
<td>802,545</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## 7. Financial Assets

### Fair value through profit and loss

- Shares and units in listed entities
  - 5,123,005  103,521  11,136,903  7,803,227
- Unlisted unit trusts
  - 309,929  85,409  309,929  85,409

### Held to Maturity

- Term deposits (period 3 months or less)
  - 7,325,519  11,277,531  7,325,519  11,277,531
- Term deposits (period greater than 3 months)
  - 13,554,928  -  13,554,928  -

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2009 $</th>
<th>2008 $</th>
<th>2009 $</th>
<th>2008 $</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Closing Balance</td>
<td>26,313,381</td>
<td>11,466,461</td>
<td>32,327,279</td>
<td>19,166,167</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## 8. Property, Plant and Equipment

### Freehold land

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2009 $</th>
<th>2008 $</th>
<th>2009 $</th>
<th>2008 $</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Land, buildings and improvements</td>
<td>2,867,127</td>
<td>2,880,235</td>
<td>2,867,127</td>
<td>2,880,235</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less: Accumulated depreciation</td>
<td>(4,901,727)</td>
<td>(4,381,624)</td>
<td>(4,901,727)</td>
<td>(4,381,624)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plant and equipment</td>
<td>18,012,224</td>
<td>18,696,172</td>
<td>18,012,224</td>
<td>18,696,172</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motor vehicles</td>
<td>538,705  489,534  538,705  489,534</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less: Accumulated depreciation</td>
<td>(344,716)</td>
<td>(318,569)</td>
<td>(344,716)</td>
<td>(318,569)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motor vehicles - Leased</td>
<td>183,191  85,548  183,191  85,548</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less: Accumulated depreciation</td>
<td>(2,015)</td>
<td>-  (2,015)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buildings under construction</td>
<td>3,982,801  1,771,308  3,982,801  1,771,308</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total property, plant and equipment</td>
<td>25,642,482</td>
<td>23,922,797</td>
<td>25,642,482</td>
<td>23,922,797</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
8. Property, Plant and Equipment (cont’d)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Movement in Carrying Amounts</th>
<th>RSPCA (Victoria)</th>
<th>RSPCA (Victoria) &amp; Foundation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>$</td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance at the beginning of the year</td>
<td>2,880,235</td>
<td>18,696,172</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additions for the year</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>41,038</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disposals for the year</td>
<td>(13,108)</td>
<td>(571,357)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depreciation expense</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carrying amount at the end of the year</td>
<td>2,867,127</td>
<td>18,012,224</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>$</td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance at the beginning of the year</td>
<td>2,880,235</td>
<td>10,203,862</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additions for the year</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>27,356</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transfers</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>9,004,943</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depreciation expense</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>(539,989)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carrying amount at the end of the year</td>
<td>2,880,235</td>
<td>18,696,172</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Society’s land and improvements at the RSPCA State Office at Burwood East have been independently valued as at 30 November 2005 on the basis of current market value at $15,600,000 by Charter Kock Cramer. This valuation was completed prior to the installation of the new kennel facility at Burwood East.

9. Trade and other payables

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>RSPCA (Victoria)</th>
<th>RSPCA (Victoria) &amp; Foundation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2009 $</td>
<td>2008 $</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sundry creditors and accruals</td>
<td>957,751</td>
<td>1,219,582</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unearned revenue</td>
<td>636</td>
<td>3,029</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>958,387</td>
<td>1,222,611</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

10. Interest bearing liabilities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>RSPCA (Victoria)</th>
<th>RSPCA (Victoria) &amp; Foundation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2009 $</td>
<td>2008 $</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overdraft</td>
<td>1,633,829</td>
<td>1,381,963</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bank bill facility</td>
<td>4,160,883</td>
<td>3,400,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lease liability (Note 12)</td>
<td>13,499</td>
<td>13,499</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5,808,211</td>
<td>4,781,963</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Current</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business loan</td>
<td>114,000</td>
<td>114,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lease liability (Note 12)</td>
<td>44,525</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>158,525</td>
<td>4,274,883</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The bank facilities are secured by a first registered mortgage over 3 Burwood Highway, Burwood East. The business loan is secured against the property at 88 Forest Street, Castlemaine. During the current and prior year there have been no defaults or breaches of any terms on any of the borrowings.


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>RSPCA (Victoria)</th>
<th>RSPCA (Victoria) &amp; Foundation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2009 $</td>
<td>2008 $</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provision for annual leave</td>
<td>912,507</td>
<td>850,624</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provision for long service leave</td>
<td>766,492</td>
<td>612,616</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1,678,999</td>
<td>1,463,240</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Current</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provision for long service leave</td>
<td>167,227</td>
<td>186,717</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aggregate employee benefits</td>
<td>1,846,226</td>
<td>1,649,957</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

12. Lease commitments

(a) Operating leases

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Operating lease commitments, payable:</th>
<th>RSPCA (Victoria)</th>
<th>RSPCA (Victoria) &amp; Foundation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>not later than one year</td>
<td>393,120</td>
<td>356,689</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>later than one year but not later than 5 years</td>
<td>643,456</td>
<td>643,456</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>later than 5 years</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>146,757</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1,036,576</td>
<td>670,725</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The operating leases are in respect of retail shops and motor vehicles.
12. Lease commitments (cont’d)

(b) Finance leases

Leasing arrangements
Finance leases relate to motor vehicles. The RSPCA has options to purchase the equipment at the conclusion of the lease agreements. The RSPCA’s obligations under finance leases are secured by the lessor’s title to the leased assets.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Minimum Future Lease Payments</th>
<th>Present Value of Minimum Future Lease Payments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Consolidated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No later than 1 year</td>
<td>15,948</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years</td>
<td>47,373</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Later than 5 years</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimum future lease payments*</td>
<td>63,321</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less future finance charges</td>
<td>(5,297)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Present value of minimum lease payments</td>
<td>58,024</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Minimum future lease payments include the aggregate of all lease payments and any guaranteed residual.

13. Right to set-off
Funds held in general accounts with the NAB by regions of the RSPCA may be used as a set-off in order for the RSPCA to meet its net overdraft obligations. Interest is only charged to the RSPCA on the net cash position for all NAB bank accounts.

14. Related party transactions
Transactions entered into during the year with Board Members, their firms and associated entities are within normal customer relationships on terms and conditions no more favourable to those available to other members and customers including the payment of usual members’ subscriptions and receipt of normal benefits of membership.

Key management personnel compensation
The aggregate compensation of the key management personnel is set out below. The personnel are the same for both the consolidated entity and the RSPCA.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Short-term employee benefits</th>
<th>2009 $</th>
<th>2008 $</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>661,841</td>
<td>665,919</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post-employment benefits</td>
<td>120,429</td>
<td>96,085</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>782,270</td>
<td>762,004</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

15. Contingent Assets and Liabilities
At the date of the preparation of these accounts, the value of contested bequest or bequests in probate but potentially receivable by the RSPCA after 30 June 2009 is estimated at $8,953,773 (2008: $8,953,773). There are a number of legal actions that are currently unresolved in relation to bequests as at the date of preparation of the accounts and which will potentially incur costs to the RSPCA.

As at 30 June 2009 the RSPCA is in the process of prosecuting three complex animal cruelty matters in the courts. The first matter involves an appeal to the County Court with costs estimated to be up to $40,000. The second case involving the prosecution of an animal hoarder in the Magistrates Court has costs estimated at $30,000 and the third matter which is also on appeal has legal costs estimated at $10,000. Whilst it is difficult to determine a likely date for the final settlement of these matters, the RSPCA remains optimistic for resolutions in the next three to six months.

16. Capital Commitments at Balance Date
The RSPCA is committed to a pledge to spend $500,000 in the City of Whittlesea to enhance animal welfare in this area. The form and timing of this commitment are subject to current negotiations between the RSPCA and the City of Whittlesea.

The RSPCA upgraded its Shelter and Inspectorate facility at Bendigo during 2008/09. Final payments to the builder and landscape contractor were outstanding at balance date to the value of $185,238.

The RSPCA has engaged a team of consultants to undertake the planning for, and oversee construction of, the next stage of the Burwood East Site redevelopment project. This project is currently in the planning phase and no contract has been signed with a builder or other contractor. Contracts with the consultant team will be signed at the start of 2009/10 and are expected to be worth $169,350 over the next two financial years.
17. Cash flow information

(a) Reconciliation of cash

For the purpose of the statement of cash flows, cash includes cash on hand and at bank. Cash at the end of the reporting period as shown in the statement of cash flows is reconciled to the related items in the financial statements as follows:

| Cash on hand | 7,700 | 12,066 | 7,700 | 12,066 |
| Bank overdraft | (1,633,829) | (1,381,963) | (1,633,829) | (1,381,963) |
| Term deposits (period 3 months or less) | 7,325,519 | 11,277,531 | 7,325,519 | 11,277,531 |
| Total | 7,889,611 | 11,425,300 | 8,541,933 | 11,721,027 |

(b) Reconciliation of Net Cash provided by Operating Activities to Surplus:

| Surplus for year | 16,624,790 | 8,307,471 | 14,889,318 | 6,365,733 |
| Depreciation | 723,522 | 680,732 | 723,522 | 680,732 |
| Net (gains)/losses on trading portfolio | (161,304) | 122,850 | 1,606,948 | 1,385,148 |
| Doubtful debts | 89,292 | 314,276 | 89,292 | 314,276 |
| Imputed interest on terms sale | (434,068) | (682,470) | (434,068) | (682,470) |
| Profit on disposal of non-current assets | (642,682) | (642,682) | - | - |
| Non-cash donations | (4,994,073) | (4,994,073) | - | - |
| Net cash provided by operating activities | 11,250,367 | 8,866,880 | 11,689,406 | 8,559,578 |

(c) Non cash financing and investing activities

During the year the RSPCA acquired $60,449 (2008: $Nil) of motor vehicles under finance leases. This acquisition will be reflected in the cash flow statement over the term of the finance leases via lease repayments.

18. Financial risk management objectives and policies

The RSPCA’s principal financial instruments comprise receivables, payables, bank loans and overdrafts, cash and short-term deposits and an investment portfolio held at fair value through the profit and loss. These activities expose the Group to a variety of financial risks: market risk (including interest rate risk and price risk), credit risk and liquidity risk. Although the RSPCA does not have documented policies and procedures, the Board manage the different types of risks to which it is exposed by considering risk and monitoring levels of exposure to interest rate risk and by being aware of market forecasts for interest rates. Ageing analyses and monitoring of specific credit allowances are undertaken to manage credit risk whilst liquidity risk is monitored through general business budgets and forecasts.

The parent entity and the group hold the following financial instruments:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash and cash equivalents</td>
<td>23,078,368</td>
<td>12,807,263</td>
<td>23,730,690</td>
<td>13,102,990</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trade and other receivables</td>
<td>6,670,233</td>
<td>10,298,684</td>
<td>6,366,354</td>
<td>10,412,579</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fair value through profit and loss financial assets</td>
<td>5,432,934</td>
<td>174,339</td>
<td>11,446,832</td>
<td>7,888,636</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Financial Assets</td>
<td>35,181,535</td>
<td>23,280,286</td>
<td>41,543,876</td>
<td>31,404,205</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Trade and other payables</td>
<td>958,387</td>
<td>1,222,611</td>
<td>958,387</td>
<td>1,234,126</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest bearing liabilities</td>
<td>5,966,736</td>
<td>9,056,846</td>
<td>5,966,736</td>
<td>9,056,846</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Financial Liabilities</td>
<td>6,925,123</td>
<td>10,279,457</td>
<td>6,925,123</td>
<td>10,290,972</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net exposure</td>
<td>28,256,412</td>
<td>13,000,829</td>
<td>34,618,753</td>
<td>21,113,233</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Risk exposures and responses

Interest rate risk

The RSPCA’s exposure to market interest rates relates primarily to short term deposits and the bank overdraft.

Sensitivity analysis

The sensitivity analysis is based on the interest rate risk exposures in existence at the balance sheet date. At 30 June, if interest rates had moved, as illustrated in the table below, with all other variables held constant, net surplus and equity would have been affected as follows:
### Credit Risk

At balance date the maximum exposure to credit risk, excluding the value of any collateral or other security to recognised financial assets is the carrying amount of those assets, net of any allowance for doubtful debts, as disclosed in the balance sheet and notes to the financial report. The RSPCA trades only with recognised, creditworthy third parties, and as such collateral is not requested nor is it the policy to securitize trade and other receivables. It is the RSPCA’s policy to consider the credit worthiness of all customers who wish to trade on credit terms. In addition, receivable balances are monitored on an ongoing basis with the result that the exposure to bad debts is not significant. There are no significant concentrations of credit risk.

### Price Risk

The RSPCA is exposed to equity securities price risk. This arises from investments held by the RSPCA and classified on the balance sheet as at fair value through profit and loss. The RSPCA is not exposed to commodity price risk. The table below summarises the impact of increases/decreases in the value of the equity securities price risk based on an assumption that share prices increased/decreased by 5% with all other variables held constant, and all the equity instruments held moved according to this change.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2009 $</th>
<th>2008 $</th>
<th>2009 $</th>
<th>2008 $</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RSPCA (Victoria) &amp; Foundation</td>
<td>+ 5%</td>
<td>558,645</td>
<td>394,432</td>
<td>558,645</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- 5%</td>
<td>(558,645)</td>
<td>(394,432)</td>
<td>(558,645)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RSPCA (Victoria)</td>
<td>+ 5%</td>
<td>257,950</td>
<td>9,447</td>
<td>257,950</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- 5%</td>
<td>(257,950)</td>
<td>(9,447)</td>
<td>(257,950)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Liquidity Risk

RSPCA manages liquidity risk by monitoring cash flow and maturity profiles of financial assets and liabilities.

#### Maturities of Financial Assets and Liabilities

The table below analyses the RSPCA’s financial assets and liabilities into relevant maturity groupings based on the remaining period at the reporting date to the contractual maturity date. The amounts disclosed in the table are the contractual undiscounted cash flows.
Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2009

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year ended 30 June 2008</th>
<th>&lt; 6 months</th>
<th>6 – 12 months</th>
<th>1 – 5 years</th>
<th>&gt; 5 years</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Consolidated Financial Assets</strong></td>
<td>$</td>
<td>$</td>
<td>$</td>
<td>$</td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash and cash equivalents</td>
<td>13,102,990</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>13,102,990</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trade and other receivables</td>
<td>5,691,993</td>
<td>4,720,586</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>10,412,579</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fair value through profit and loss financial assets</td>
<td>7,888,636</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>7,888,636</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Consolidated Financial Liabilities</strong></td>
<td>$</td>
<td>$</td>
<td>$</td>
<td>$</td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trade and other payables</td>
<td>1,234,126</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1,234,126</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest bearing liabilities</td>
<td>4,781,963</td>
<td>4,160,883</td>
<td>114,000</td>
<td>9,056,846</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net maturity</strong></td>
<td>20,667,530</td>
<td>559,703</td>
<td>(114,000)</td>
<td>21,113,233</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Parent Financial Assets**

| Cash and cash equivalents | 12,807,263 | -             | -        | -        | 12,807,263 |
| Trade and other receivables | 5,578,098  | 4,160,883      | 114,000  | 10,290,972 |
| **Net maturity** | 18,555,126 | 559,703        | (114,000) | 13,000,829 |

**Parent Financial Liabilities**

| Trade and other payables | 1,222,611  | -             | -        | -        | 1,222,611 |
| Interest bearing liabilities | 4,781,963  | 4,160,883      | 114,000  | 9,056,846 |
| **Net maturity** | 12,555,126 | 559,703        | (114,000) | 13,000,829 |

**Capital Management Strategy**

Capital Management objectives, which are unchanged from the prior year, are limited to the investments made by the RSPCA Foundation and the obligation to repay the bank borrowings used in the site redevelopment. Receipts from the sale of the Doreen Estate are timed to occur with repayment at the bank facility to ensure funds are available to meet this commitment. The investments made by the RSPCA are predominantly in the form of cash and Australian securities and the Foundation Board uses professional advisers to invest in long term growth assets of a non-speculative nature. All other capital is employed in providing the services of the RSPCA.

**Independent Audit Report to the Members of The Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Victoria)**

We have audited the accompanying financial report of The Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Victoria) and the consolidated entity comprising of the company and the entities it controlled at the year's end and from time to time during the financial year. The financial report comprises the balance sheet as at 30 June 2009, and the Income Statement, Statement of Changes in Equity and Cash Flow Statement for the year ended on that date, a summary of significant accounting policies, other explanatory notes and the Directors’ Declaration.

**Directors’ responsibility for the financial report**

The Directors of the company are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations) and the Corporations Act 2001. This responsibility includes establishing and maintaining internal controls relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies, and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

**Auditor’s responsibility**

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. These Auditing Standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free from material misstatement. An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor’s judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity’s preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity’s internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the Directors, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

**Independence**

In conducting our audit, we have complied with the independence requirements of the Corporations Act 2001.

**Auditor’s opinion**

In our opinion the financial report of The Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Victoria) is in accordance with the Corporations Act 2001, including:

(a) giving a true and fair view of the company’s and consolidated entity’s financial position as at 30 June 2009 and of its performance for the year ended on that date; and

(b) complying with Australian Accounting Standards (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations) and the Corporations Regulations 2001.

PKF J A Mooney
18th September 2009, Melbourne

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RSPCA Victoria

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3 Burwood Highway, Burwood East 3151
P (03) 9224 2222

Ballarat
PO Box 4050, Ballarat 3353
P (03) 5334 2075

Bendigo
20 Piper Lane, Bendigo East 3550
P (03) 5441 2209

Castlemaine
PO Box 701, Castlemaine 3450
P (03) 5472 5277

Epping
O’Hearns Road, Epping 3076
P (03) 9408 7356

Peninsula
1030 Robinsons Road, Pearcedale 3912
P (03) 5978 4690

Portland
PO Box 878, Portland 3305
P (03) 5523 4690

Sale
PO Box 23, Sale 3853
P (03) 5143 2295

Wangaratta
1 Connell Street, Wangaratta 3677
P (03) 5722 2874

Warrnambool
23 Braithwaite Street, Warrnambool 3280
P (03) 5561 2591

If you are considering adopting an animal, please visit your local RSPCA or view our animals available for adoption at www.rspcavic.org

“I’ll never forget working at Kinglake in the days following the bushfires. Endless hours were dedicated to helping wildlife, livestock, pets and providing comfort to families so affected by their experiences. It’s so rewarding to play such an important role in helping those same communities rebuild their lives and look to the future.”

Stuart has worked for the RSPCA for more than 12 years and most recently, joined our Inspectorate team to care for and protect animals in the north east of Melbourne. As an Inspector, Stuart’s work involves educating the community, protecting animals from cruelty and supporting the RSPCA’s ongoing bushfire recovery efforts.