RSPCA Victoria has been the trusted voice in animal welfare for more than 145 years. As a not-for-profit organisation, we rely on the generous support of the Victorian community to carry out our work.

Our work; our vision, is to end cruelty to all animals. To do that requires education, advocacy, animal care and protection. It takes a community.

Our vibrant and diverse RSPCA Victoria community includes our customers, supporters, donors, stakeholders and members. It includes peak bodies and policymakers, neighbourhoods and individuals. It includes our employees and volunteers.

Our community includes you.

In this report you will find many examples of what we’ve achieved together to improve animal welfare. Because together, we are RSPCA Victoria. And we thank you for your support.

© The photos in this Annual Report were taken by the following RSPCA Victoria supporters: Alia Josephine (Grace), Joanne Moloney (Ivy), Emma Dunemann (Pandora), Carole Carey (Buster), James Walshe (CEO, Chair, thank you and Bernie the goat), Phil Hankin (Foxy), and Lara Kron (Bruce). We also thank all our supporters for their kind words.

ABOUT THIS REPORT

Victoria at CATpacity...
At the end of every lead, and at the start of every decision, is a real person: striving each day to make a difference in animal welfare. Our team represents a diverse range of capabilities, skills, experience and passion – all working together to achieve our vision of ending cruelty to all animals. From guiding policy and connecting people on social media, to providing life-changing care and supporting fundraising activities, our team’s broad workload is reflected in the diversity of activities across the state.

ONE TEAM: ONE PURPOSE

Of our funding comes from the generous support of the Victorian community and fee-for-service activities.
Achieving our Vision
In 2016/17 RSPCA Victoria started a transformative journey towards achieving our vision of ending cruelty to all animals. This new vision reflects our progress over 145 years as a trusted advocate for animals in the community, and strengthens our focus on prevention activities.

Our Vision
Ending cruelty to all animals.

Our Purpose
With the community, achieve outstanding animal welfare through education, advocacy, animal care and protection.

CEO MESSAGE
In 2016/17, we reaffirmed our commitment to ending animal cruelty with a new organisational vision, purpose and values. Together, they act as a roadmap for all our work: focusing our efforts and resources, and guiding our people, partners, and supporters to achieve the best possible outcomes for animals in Victoria.

We know that working with the community to achieve outstanding animal welfare is critical to our success in ending cruelty to all animals.

Our commitment to achieving change in legislation, policy and individual behaviour is steadfast and unwavering. We are building trust and creating opportunities for improvement by using the right approaches, with the right groups, at the right time. We want our stakeholders and the community to understand why animals are important and why we have a duty to care for them.

Our vision is clear and our path is set. We are the voice of animal welfare. We are advocates for change.

Dr Liz Walker
Chief Executive Officer
RSPCA Victoria

Key events in 2016/17
• The Board approved an updated Strategic Plan to take RSPCA Victoria through to 2021. It reflects a refreshed organisational vision, purpose and values.
• In October 2016, we published the Independent Review of the RSPCA Victoria Inspectorate (IRRVI) by Neil Comrie AO APM into our Inspectorate operations. Its recommendations set a clear path for improving the effectiveness of our Inspectors’ work. All the findings and recommendations are being implemented (page 13).
• We appeared before the Victorian Parliament’s Economy and Infrastructure Committee Inquiry into RSPCA Victoria’s powers and use of government funding. This Inquiry provided an opportunity to emphasise what we do and the importance we all place on improving how we go about our work. (Report tabled August 2017).
PLANNING AHEAD

In addition to our vision and purpose, RSPCA Victoria launched a set of common values and pillars across the organisation in 2016/17. Our values clarify HOW we work together, and our pillars determine WHERE our work is focused.

With all these elements now in place, a new Strategic Plan 2017-21 was developed to guide our work over the next five years, setting strong, clear goals to deliver a large and lasting impact.

Our Values

Respect & Consideration
- We value and acknowledge every contribution from our people, our supporters, and the community.
- We show courtesy, compassion and a genuine desire to help, and we seek to understand others’ perspectives.

Clarity & Accountability
- We are clear, ethical and consistent in everything we do.
- We take ownership of, and responsibility for, our actions.

Expertise & Collaboration
- We value evidence and insight.
- We actively share our knowledge and partner with others to educate and influence change.

The Year In Review

Our work is underpinned by three key areas of focus: protect, prevent and sustain – ensuring we stay focused, manage our resources sustainably, and put animal welfare at the heart of everything we do.

Our Pillars

Protect
- Animal care and protection helps animals find a permanent, caring home and ensures people who are cruel to animals are held to account.
- Advocacy, communication and education shapes Victorian laws, influences community attitudes and changes behaviour to prevent cruelty and improve animal welfare.
- Sustainability and operational effectiveness ensure that RSPCA Victoria can continue its work into the future.

Prevent
- Contributed to the Victorian Government’s draft Animal Welfare Action Plan: which includes an amazing opportunity to have input into the overhaul of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act within the next two years.
- Identified cruelty hot spots and achieved media coverage in every local government area to raise awareness and understanding of key cruelty issues, including lack of basic care.
- Provided 4,495 training sessions for dogs and their owners, over 500 dog behaviour sessions, and introduced an Understanding Dog Behaviour short course for the public.

Sustain
- Launched RSPCA Victoria’s vision, purpose, values and pillars: forming the foundation of our Strategic Plan 2017-21 and guiding our activities and operations for the future.
- Reviewed our approach to tendering for council pound contracts to ensure greater transparency and cost recovery, and agreed to operate the Epping Animal Welfare Facility (opening October 2017).
- Made difficult decisions in support of our sustainability to consolidate resources, including relocating or closing op shops at the end of their lease, and announced the closure of our Pets Place Ballarat facility.
- Undertook a volunteer and employee engagement survey, and developed action plans to strengthen engagement and to better support our people to do their great work.

Our Goals

Goal 1
- Focus effort to reduce animal cruelty and neglect.

Goal 2
- Reduce the number of surrendered and homeless animals in Victoria.

Goal 3
- Apply leading practice to achieve the best welfare outcome for every animal in our care.

Goal 4
- Support our people to do their great work.

Goal 5
- Manage costs efficiently, and grow reliable revenue streams.
**FINANCIAL SUMMARY**

This summary financial information has been prepared to give an overview of RSPCA Victoria’s financial affairs. Our full financial figures, including our statutory financial statements, are available at rspcavic.org/2017AnnualReport.

### Statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income

for the year ended 30 June 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RSPCA (Victoria) &amp; Foundation</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Income</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fees for service – animals</td>
<td>9,951</td>
<td>9,305</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bequests</td>
<td>15,969</td>
<td>11,847</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>8,347</td>
<td>7,766</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retail sales</td>
<td>1,719</td>
<td>2,013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government grants</td>
<td>2,000</td>
<td>3,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education and rental income</td>
<td>777</td>
<td>853</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other revenue</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total income</strong></td>
<td>38,787</td>
<td>34,870</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| **Expenditure**               |      |      |
| Animal welfare related expenses | (23,760) | (22,622) |
| Education, advocacy and communication | (1,753) | (1,605) |
| Fundraising and bequest expenses | (3,451) | (2,511) |
| Retail expenses including cost of sales | (1,172) | (1,715) |
| Support services              | (5,982) | (6,315) |
| RSPCA Australia levy          | (511)  | (490) |
| Taxes and insurance           | (169)  | (274) |
| Net loss on trading portfolio | (1)    | (27)  |
| Finance costs                 | (98)   | (56)  |
| Asset write off, accelerated depreciation, lease acceleration and restructuring costs | (1,596) | (1,958) |
| **Total expenditure**         | (38,493) | (37,553) |

**Net surplus/(deficit)** 294 (2,683)

Other comprehensive income – –

**Total comprehensive income/(loss) for the year** 294 (2,683)
TIME TO GO HOME

Reducing the length of time animals stay in our care is vital for their wellbeing. While our teams provide the best care they can, an animal care centre is not a home. That’s why it’s a priority to find ways to reduce an animal’s length of stay.

Working together

- We trialled a streamlined adoption process at Burwood East, making it quicker and easier to adopt. The initiative has already reduced the length of stay for cats, and will be launched at other sites shortly.
- Volunteer drivers transfer animals to the sites best able to support their adoption. More than 400 site trips were scheduled from Burwood East alone: including to Petbarn outlets, which more than doubled the number of cats they adopted on our behalf this year to 365.
- Targeted adoption promotions helped more than 900 animals find homes in 2016/17. Long-timer Chanel was adopted after 240 days when we shared her story on Facebook during our No Fee for Felines promotion.
- Our adoption pages were viewed over 12 million times by people searching for information or a new furry family member. Puppies, kittens and small breed dogs are usually adopted quickly, sometimes within five minutes. Other animals take much longer.
- Our partnerships with other rescue groups also help facilitate adoptions, reaching niche audiences looking to adopt specific needs or breeds such as working dogs, high-care animals or livestock.

24.6
Average days in care (includes animals reclaimed by their owners)

8,956
Total animals adopted

641
Animals transferred to other groups

Ivy was left at a vet clinic after suffering a broken leg that her first owners couldn’t afford to repair. Surgery and foster care helped the young Whippet recover from both her injured leg and her wounded spirit: after more than 150 days in our care, Ivy found her forever home.

We were on the lookout for another Whippet when we got the notice from a Facebook Whippet page about Ivy at RSPCA Victoria. We took Floyd to meet her and they got along well. She’s a beautiful dog and we couldn’t imagine life without her.

Joanne
Ivy’s adopter

I help people find the right pet, the best animal for them. Sometimes that search takes time, but it’s always worth the effort. Knowing an animal is living out the rest of its life in a loving home brings me joy and satisfaction – it’s a real privilege.

Carmen Main
Customer Care Team Leader
RSPCA Burwood East
ACCOUNTABILITY ON THE FRONTLINE

We’ve achieved a lot since we initiated the Independent Review of the RSPCA Victoria Inspectorate (IRRVI), with the final report released in October 2016. In less than 12 months we’ve addressed the majority of the recommendations made in the report. The result: a stronger, more efficient and more effective Inspectorate.

Working together

- New processes have reduced the number of cases open at any one time from an average of 1500 to an average of 500.
- A new triage system has allowed around 20% of reports to be quickly resolved by the Intake and Referral team, instead of being added to Inspector workloads.
- We’re processing prosecution briefs more quickly, so that seized animals can be rehomed – and perpetrators brought to justice – much sooner.
- Changes to the structure of the Inspectorate have increased Inspectors’ immediate access to senior team members to guide and support their decisions in the field, improved safety, and increased our flexibility to allocate resources more effectively.
- New personal protection equipment, including operational vests, uniforms and body cameras, has increased personal safety and boosted our efficiency in evidence collection and investigation.
- Our Champions’ Circle members supported our Inspectorate transformation as their special project for the year.
- An Intelligence Analyst seconded from Victoria Police in April 2017 has already assessed more than 100 jobs against VicPol databases – flagging 71 as requiring support from Victoria Police. This process has significantly increased the safety of our Inspectors. We have also developed an information sharing arrangement to allow us to pass on information to Victoria Police.

RSPCA Inspectors are widely acknowledged... as Victoria’s pre-eminent animal cruelty experts. The RSPCA Inspectors are a dedicated team who perform extremely challenging roles under very difficult circumstances.

Neil Comrie AO APM
Senior Reviewer
Excerpt from page 10 IRRVI final report

Foxy’s owners repeatedly failed to comply with the directions given by our Inspectorate. The overweight and undesexed senior never received the treatment needed for her chronic ear infection and severe flea infestation, and was seized and awarded to our care. Despite her many conditions, her sweet nature soon won her a new home.
A CARING COMMUNITY

Each year we care for thousands of animals across Victoria. Some come to us through our Inspectors, others are lost, abandoned or surrendered by owners who can no longer care for them. Whatever the reason, our Animal Care Centres provide the shelter and care they need.

Clinical improvements

In 2016/17 we introduced mentoring partnerships with small animal surgeon (orthopaedics) Dr Wing Tip Wong and internal medicine and ultrasound specialist Dr Sue Ramoo across our veterinary teams to expand skills and knowledge. With support from Melbourne University’s Carol Bradley, we created a new Central Sterile Services room, leading the way in surgical asepsis. Clinic teams also trained in guinea pig desexing techniques, and our new high-volume desexing initiative has the capacity to more than double the number of animals desexed in a single session.

Animal health and welfare

The rollout of cat portal doors in all cat quarantine areas began, improving feline health at Burwood East with regional sites to follow. New volunteer roles, such as isolation nurse assistants and dog enrichment volunteers, encourage better physical and mental health for long-term patients. Teams of employees and volunteers ensure dogs are walked daily and have in-kennel interactions. Cats, rabbits and guinea pigs also enjoy various enrichment activities.

Generous support

Community members from across the state look for ways they can help the animals in our care. Our Old for New Beds promotion provided more than 100 animals with a ‘new’ bed, with a thank you video shared over 418,000 times on social media. And volunteer Margaret Panetta established a regular craft group for volunteers and employees to learn to make dog enrichment toys.

CALLING OUT CRUELTY

The number of animal cruelty reports we received remained high. Most reports appear to be the result of preventable negligence that causes needless suffering.

A disappointing 47% of reports were for animals without sufficient food, water or shelter. Insufficient grooming, housing and hygiene made up a further 33%, including one instance in February 2017 where our clinic team removed 0.5kg of matted fur from a small dog surrendered to our Inspectors.

In many cases a quick discussion of an owner’s obligations to care for animals will resolve a report, but some cases require a stronger response. In 2016/17, RSPCA Victoria Inspectors issued 388 notices to comply, seized 288 animals and accepted the surrender of more than 350 animals.

Punishment to fit the crime

Amendments made in 2015 to the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act have gone some way to address the discrepancy between community expectation and legal recourse available. In 2016/17 we laid 382 charges against 90 people and finalised 90 prosecutions: with facts proven in 83 cases.

In a landmark ruling in May 2017, a Victorian man was banned for life from owning horses after being found guilty of animal cruelty. The man pleaded guilty to aggravated cruelty and neglect towards six horses under his care. He had previously been disqualified from owning horses for five years, from 2008 to 2013, for similar offences.

A 33-year-old man who fatally beat his housemate’s miniature poodle with a tree branch appealed a two-month jail sentence and was resentenced to perform 200 hours unpaid community work. A disqualification order banning him from being in charge of an animal for the maximum 10 years was not appealed.

An injured cat brought in from Bundoora Park was found to have been shot. A public call for help did not generate any leads, but her story caught our online community’s imagination and she was given a new name – Malala, after the brave young human rights activist from Pakistan who was shot while riding the bus to school. Malala the cat has since found her forever home.

Sentences and banning orders send a strong message that both the court and the community take animal welfare very seriously.

Terry Ness
Head of Inspectorate
RSPCA Victoria

View our full Animal Care Centre figures at rspcavic.org/2017AnnualReport

View our full Inspectorate results at rspcavic.org/2017AnnualReport
THE RIPPLE EFFECT

Our immersive education programs increase knowledge and awareness and foster children’s passion for animal welfare – creating a ripple effect as students of all ages carry their new-found know-how into their schools, homes and communities.

Working together

- We introduced 93 students to careers in animal welfare through our Certificate II in Animal Studies. Supported through Box Hill Institute, the course is 15 weeks of hands-on industry-based training and accreditation. We have a 96% pass rate, with many students going on to employment, volunteering or further studies in animal care.
- Extra Pet First Aid courses were added, and Caring for Horses and Understanding Dog Behaviour short courses were delivered, to address welfare needs in our community.
- Our popular school holiday programs and school incursions and excursions offer a range of activities for 5-18 year olds, including close contact with a range of animals, as well as sessions with vets, Inspectors and animal carers.
- Our Education & Learning team delivered courses to support RSPCA Victoria teams, as well as animal management officers at municipal and regional councils.
- Four CARE (Creating Animal Respect and Empathy) programs were delivered to help students from refugee and asylum seeker backgrounds better understand companion animals and attitudes to animals in our community.

93  
Certificate II graduates

5,526  
Student engagements

296  
Short course participants

Brian, Bernie (pictured) and Barney were surrendered after their owner sold them as part of his property – but the new owners refused to take the goats at the last minute. The trio have been practising their manners at Burwood East, and hope to join our Education & Learning team soon.

My daughter wants to work with animals and has been very inspired by the RSPCA to ‘help give animals a voice’ (her words). – Parent feedback

I’ve lived with dogs for 50 years and I learned a huge amount on this course. It was fun, logically presented and thought provoking. The presenters were knowledgeable and generous and their dogs were the stars of the show! Highly recommend for people new to dogs and for people who want to enrich the life of their best 4-legged friend.

Kate

Understanding Dog Behaviour short course participant
SHARED KNOWLEDGE = SHARED UNDERSTANDING

Sharing data and stories of the animals that come into our care builds community understanding of welfare issues and generates discussion about how we can work together to prevent harm.

Working together

- More than 66% of cats and dogs were surrendered due to changes in owner circumstance. We advocate for legislative changes that would allow pets in more rental properties, and monitor emerging trends to identify other ways to reduce surrenders.
- Concerned with the number of animals being abandoned, we’re talking with the community about options for seeking help and surrendering their animals. We’re working to reduce examples like the two elderly Chihuahuas who were abandoned in our clinic waiting room. The more we can learn about an animal from an owner in the first instance, the more quickly we can find them a home.
- Cruelty statistics (page 15) and other data shared with local councils and in the media identify areas for improvement. Data helps build a picture of how and why animals – and people – come to us in need and how we can best use our resources to prevent issues or help when they arise.

- Regular social media posts help us connect with our community – often with surprising results. When our donation box was stolen, Facebook pledges and donations quickly replaced the money.
- Sharing adoption stories and campaigns raises awareness of our work and helps dispel adoption myths. Most animals come to us in good health and good spirits – ready to find a good home.

We encourage people to be realistic about the number of animals they are capable of caring for. If people find they don’t have the resources to care appropriately for their animals, they should consider rehoming them or surrendering them to us.

Lisa Calleja
Senior Inspector
RSPCA Victoria

So awful to hear! I have just donated hopefully we can get it replenished in no time!

Luana
In response to stolen donation box
May 2017
AN ACTIVE COMMUNITY

Encouraging and taking part in discussions about animal welfare helps us create an active and engaged community. We share stories, raise awareness of our services and programs, and respond quickly to customer enquiries all to support our community’s desire to know more about ‘their RSPCA Victoria’.

Our more than 161,000 social media followers and other supporters respond quickly to online and offline calls for action: donating blankets and beds, sharing adoption profiles and posts, and helping raise funds. Importantly, they also raise their voices to discuss and debate animal welfare issues.

Regular media appearances and meetings with peak bodies and communities also create change for good. In 2016/17 we joined Victorian Minister for Agriculture Jaala Pulford to spread the word about not leaving dogs in hot cars, worked with peak bodies and communities also raising their voices to discuss and helping raise funds. Importantly, they also raise their voices to discuss and debate animal welfare issues.

Regular media appearances and meetings with peak bodies and communities also create change for good. In 2016/17 we joined Victorian Minister for Agriculture Jaala Pulford to spread the word about not leaving dogs in hot cars, worked with peak bodies and communities also raising their voices to discuss and helping raise funds. Importantly, they also raise their voices to discuss and debate animal welfare issues.

Raising awareness

In response to alarming numbers of horse welfare reports in 2015/16, we strengthened our relationship with horse owners: participating in Equitana to raise awareness of our services and find homes for some of the horses in our care. We also nurtured an online community, engaging them with seasonal competitions supported by welfare tips and advice.

Ongoing campaigns to raise awareness of puppy factories and the benefits of adoption reached over 100,000 Victorians. Campaigns busted common myths about adoption animals, and helped prospective pet owners use the RSPCA Smart Puppy Buyers Guide to choose their new pet wisely. We want to educate people to think adoption first – but if they have their heart set on a specific breed, to be wary and avoid potential puppy factories.

Excellent and interesting read. Very informative.

Michele
RSPCA Victoria Facebook follower

Online horse welfare campaign supporter

The course covers all areas, all disciplines: it’s science-based information that helps people new to horses and those who’ve owned them for many years. We’re just looking for good horse welfare.

Kirsten Gillen
RSPCA Education Liaison Officer
Caring for Horses instructor

LEADING GENUINE CHANGE

RSPCA Victoria has a long and proud history of raising awareness of welfare issues and advocating to improve animal welfare standards. Over the past year we’ve made a very deliberate shift to a more collaborative approach to advocacy that seeks to create genuine change for the long term. This approach is already having a real impact.

For example, in 2016 our influence contributed to the greyhound racing industry’s decision to publish its euthanasia rates for the very first time. We’ve had highly constructive conversations with the Victorian Government and racing industry about improving animal welfare within each of the three racing codes.

And while we remain committed to achieving a ban on duck shooting, we also acknowledge the Victorian Government’s continued support for the practice. While it remains a legal activity, we’re focusing on reducing harm, and advocating for the introduction of compulsory shotgun skill education and testing to reduce the number of birds injured through the season. We have again had some promising discussions with key decision-makers on the issue.

Another example of our advocacy last year involved our evidence to the Victorian Parliament’s Inquiry into the Domestic Animals Amendment (Public Factories and Pet Shops) Bill 2016. Our input reflected both our policy position on companion animal breeding, and also research that highlights community expectations that puppies and kittens be bred and raised to the highest standards of welfare.

Bringing policy to life

In 2016/17 we made numerous policy submissions, including advocating for renters’ rights to have pets, improved welfare standards for livestock at processing plants, and a humane approach to the control of invasive animals on Crown land.

We welcomed the Victorian Government’s decision to allow pit bulls to be registered in Victoria under changes to breed specific legislation. However, while this change is a solid step in the right direction, we believe that ‘deed, not breed’ should be the determining factor in labelling a dog as dangerous.

We also endorsed the Victorian Government’s draft Animal Welfare Action plan. Future advances in animal welfare depend on three elements: a clear, modern legislative framework with strong enforcement; effective public education; and partnerships between Government, industry, communities and welfare organisations. The draft plan has the potential to deliver a significant change to the welfare of Victorian animals, and we look forward to the release of the final action plan later in 2017.

Susan Chandler
Executive Officer
Australian Veterinary Association (Victorian Division)

We’ve been working more closely with RSPCA Victoria over the last year or so and, while we don’t agree on everything, our shared focus on improving the lives of animals has helped us build a lot of trust and mutual respect quickly.

Organise a meeting with key stakeholders to discuss the impact of the draft plan on animal welfare.

In 2016/17, RSPCA Victoria had a long and proud history of raising awareness of welfare issues and advocating to improve animal welfare standards.
PARTNERSHIPS BRING BEST RESULTS

From wandering sheep to injured chooks without a place to roost, RSPCA Victoria takes all sorts: and these animals require specialised care and diets. Community support, including partnerships with rescue groups and other supporters, helps us care for and find homes for the livestock and wildlife that come through our doors.

Working together

- Our Animal Care Centres at Burwood East, Peninsula and Bendigo all receive and care for livestock. The Barn at Burwood East was built in 2002 with generous ongoing support from Honorary Life Members Lyn and Stephen Sedgman. Our upcoming Peninsula renovations have been generously supported by Honorary Life Member and major contributor Roy Poyser.

- Nurturing partnerships with local shops and individuals helps to provide the large quantities of food required to care for livestock. Corporate partners provide hands-on support or in-kind donations such as the incredible generosity of Hill’s who provide food for all the dogs and cats in our care.

- Funds raised state-wide are used where they are most needed: including upgrading our fleet of transport vehicles to comfortably facilitate more animal transfers across Victoria.

- We call on a wide range of livestock and wildlife specialists to supplement the care of animals: from farriers and horse dentists to shearsers. Independent groups such as the Greyhound Adoption Program, Blue Cross, Homeless Hounds, Racing Victoria and others, also help us to rehabilitate and rehome specific animals.

- RSPCA Victoria chooses not to adopt out birds, wildlife or native animals. They are transferred to specialist groups, such as Wildlife Victoria, for rehoming or release into their native environment when well.

Every animal deserves a good home: there is no place in today’s world for animal cruelty. I decided to leave a gift in my will to RSPCA Victoria as I know it will be spent on the welfare of animals.

Viv Williams
Volunteer
RSPCA Victoria

Temporary resident rooster, Walter White, starred in a Year of the Rooster real estate video predicting the hottest property spots for 2017. The best news: Walter’s prediction of finding a good home came true and he was adopted, along with his lady friends.

Piglet Bruce came to us as a council stray who was never reclaimed: one of more than 320 livestock (other than horses) crossing into our Peninsula paddocks. Hobby farmers adopted him as a companion for their adopted calf, Bobbies, and now he’s the proverbial ‘pig in mud’.

Livestock in our care

324

Livestock rehomed, reclaimed or still in care

63%

Average amount of food consumed by a pig weekly

20kg
Fostering a Caring Community

Many animals come to us needing extra medical or behavioural support – in 2016/17 the number of animals we placed into foster care increased by 15%. Our network of volunteer foster carers provides homes outside the shelter environment where creatures of all kinds can recuperate. Carers give their love: community support helps us cover the expenses.

Working together

- Foster carers can look after one or several animals over the course of a year. Anyone can apply, and many volunteers and employees also foster animals in their homes.
- Some carers specialise in kittens, fostering multiple litters throughout the peak season. Guinea pigs and rabbits also benefit from foster care. Daily play and interaction helps them become more family-friendly and ready for adoption.
- We initiated a special program to provide foster care for animals in protective custody. This will reduce the amount of time animals spend in our Animal Care Centres as they wait for court decisions, significantly improving their long-term welfare.
- Community and corporate donations of beds, cat litter trays, feed bowls, blankets, leads, toys, transport cages and hutches all help reduce the initial outlay of foster care.
- Foster carers make a vital contribution to many animals’ rehabilitation: improving their behaviour, noticing their quirks and preferences, and helping them recover from injury, illness or low spirits.
- Foster carers make a vital contribution to many animals’ rehabilitation: improving their behaviour, noticing their quirks and preferences, and helping them recover from injury, illness or low spirits.

- Community and corporate donations of beds, cat litter trays, feed bowls, blankets, leads, toys, transport cages and hutches all help reduce the initial outlay of foster care.

731
Foster carers

300
Average number of animals in foster care at any time

277
Animals in protective custody

I wanted to do something to help the community and that was also easy for me to stay at home. It’s so much better for the animals to be at home in a family.

Diane Harrison
Volunteer foster carer
The work we do is only possible thanks to the generous support of the Victorian community.

In 2016-17 we held 17 Million Paws Walks across Victoria, celebrated Cupcake Day, provided short courses in animal care, and stayed in touch with thousands of Victorians who chose to support our work through events, fundraising activities, generous donations or leaving a lasting legacy in their Will.

Our community continues to surprise us. From the family who donate half a bale of hay and rabbit mats whenever they stock up for their adopted bunny, to the gentlemen who donated the 'profits' from his resale of a mixer bought from our Chelsea op shop, we are grateful for, and humbled by, the support we receive.

You make all the difference.
And we thank you.
Here’s just some of the wonderful generosity people have shown towards helping our work.

We received an incredibly generous gift of more than $6 million from the estate of an animal welfare trailblazer Winifred “Winnie” McCook, after her passing in 2016.

Peter Alexander held a chocolate drive through retail stores over the Christmas period (nationally) and raised more than $45,000 for RSPCA Victoria.

Our friends at Probuild raised over $20,000 after participating in the Moomba Birdman rally.

Grade 6 student Mattea held a bake sale and raised more than $300 to support our work.

The work we do is only possible thanks to the generous support of the Victorian community.

The work we do is only possible thanks to the generous support of the Victorian community.

RSPCA Victoria would also like to thank the following companies and organisations for their generous support:

Bayer, Bendigo Bank, Doggone Gorgeous, Eric Insurance, Frasers Property Group, Greencross Vets, Greencross Financial Services RSPCA Pet Insurancenatures Organics, Petbarn, Petcloud, Peter Alexander, Precision Mail, Ritchies IGA, RSPCA Animal Health Products, RACV Foundation, Scotchmans Hill, Storage King, Susan’s Sportsgate, Villages Cinemas.

RSPCA Victoria also would like to thank the following companies and organisations for their generous support:

Bayer, Bendigo Bank, Doggone Gorgeous, Eric Insurance, Frasers Property Group, Greencross Vets, Greencross Financial Services RSPCA Pet Insurance, Natures Organics, Petbarn, Petcloud, Peter Alexander, Precision Mail, Ritchies IGA, RSPCA Animal Health Products, RACV Foundation, Scotchmans Hill, Storage King, Susan’s Sportsgate, Villages Cinemas.

MAJOR SUPPORTERS
RSPCA Victoria would like to thank all those whose generous support continues to make a significant impact on animal welfare across Victoria.

**RSPCA MILLION PAWS WALK**

Peter Alexander participated in Celebrity Walk MC Tim Campbell.

Honorary Life Member and regular RSPCA Million Paws Walk MC Tim Campbell.

Peter Alexander held a chocolate drive through retail stores over the Christmas period (nationally) and raised more than $45,000 for RSPCA Victoria.

Our friends at Probuild raised over $20,000 after participating in the Moomba Birdman rally.

Grade 6 student Mattea held a bake sale and raised more than $300 to support our work.

National and corporate partners
We are extremely grateful for the generosity of our national and corporate partners, their staff, customers and the wider business community. Their continued support helps us provide our vital animal welfare services across Victoria.

Hill’s” has supported the RSPCA for over 15 years by supplying and delivering food for animals in all RSPCA animal care centres, as well as supporting the annual RSPCA Million Paws Walk.

**COMMUNITY SUPPORT**

The story of RSPCA Victoria is our story. We couldn’t do it without our community, and we are extremely grateful for the generosity of our National and corporate partners.
We thank and acknowledge all those who have left a lasting imprint on animal welfare by leaving a legacy in their Will or by supporting RSPCA Victoria through a Trust.

HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS

Honorary Life Membership is the highest recognition given by RSPCA Victoria. Awarded by our Board, it acknowledges those individuals who have made a significant contribution, both to animal welfare, and to our organisation.

The successful nominees and worthy recipients for 2016 were Mr Tim Campbell, Ms Vicki Jackson, Mr Josef Mika and Mrs Gigii Hodges.

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

- Ms Betty Amos OAM
- Mrs Hilda Batchelor
- Mr Douglas Baudinet
- Ms Cynthia Neubcker
- Ms Margaret Simpson
- Ms Annette Smith
- Ms F Smith
- Mr James Thomas Smith
- Prof Virginia P Studdert
- Mrs Sally Zetter
- Mrs Lorna Williams
- Dr Barbara Wellington AM
- Mrs Shirley Westerberg
- Mrs Lorna Williams
- Ms Rob Thomas
- Ms Jean Wallbridge
- Dr Carole Anne Webb
- Mrs Rowan Webb
- Dr Barbara Wellington AM
- Mrs Shirley Westerberg
- Mrs Lorna Williams
- Ms Rob Thomas
- Ms Jean Wallbridge
- Dr Carole Anne Webb
- Mrs Rowan Webb
- Dr Barbara Wellington AM

RSPCA VICTORIA

ANNUAL REPORT 2016/17
ENDING CRUELTY TO ALL ANIMALS TOGETHER

Each year we respond to thousands of reports of animal cruelty, care for thousands of animals, and help many thousands more find their forever homes.

We work with the community – the policymakers, keen citizens, special interest groups, businesses, other welfare advocates, and industry and government stakeholders – to achieve outstanding animal welfare through education, advocacy, animal care and protection.

We work with ending cruelty to all animals in mind.

And it’s all possible thanks to you.