

Support for the RSPCA



The Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Western Australia is the State's leading animal welfare organisation.

Since its formation in 1892, it has established itself as a highly regarded and respected authority in investigating animal cruelty, providing care and shelter for animals and providing advice, education and information to the community around animal care and responsible pet ownership.

Fast Facts

- The WA Department of Agriculture and Food has responsibility for regulating the Animal Welfare Act. Inspectors from DAFWA and the RSPCA have authority to investigate complaints of animal cruelty and undertake a range of compliance and enforcement actions.
- The Dog and Cat Acts are administered by the Department of Local Government and Communities.
- The Cat Act requires the identification, registration and sterilisation of domestic cats. Under the Dog Act all dogs must be micro-chipped.
- The RSPCA is the single point for receiving all animal cruelty complaints from the public.
- Last year (2015/16), more than 15,200 calls were made to the RSPCA's 24 hour/7 day a week cruelty hotline.
- RSPCA Animal Welfare Officers travelled more than 465,000km.

A Strong Record of Support

- The Liberal-led government was the first to commit to ongoing funding for the RSPCA in 2008 with a commitment of \$250,000 a year.
- In 2011 that funding was doubled to \$500,000 a year.
- The RSPCA's new \$420,000 State Government-funded cat management facility opened in 2015.
- The Liberal-led Government also provides \$200,000 a year to companion animal shelters.
- In 2016 \$1.2 million in Lotterywest funding went to a new Adoption and Education Centre at the Dogs' Refuge Home in Shenton Park.
- The Liberal-led Government undertook a comprehensive Ministerial Review into the Animal Welfare Act 2002, tabled in December 2015.
- Review recommendations included reviewing the Act and implementing a strategic plan. In 2016 \$1.1m was allocated to implement some of the recommendations of the review including employing more inspectors.



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Better Facilities Needed

The existing RSPCA kennels were designed and built in the 1990s, but they are now getting rusty and damaged. The kennel design no longer aligns with modern recommendations for best practice in shelter facilities.

A full refurbishment of the kennels will significantly improve the quality of life of dogs needing shelter at the RSPCA. It will include

- individual exercise runs for each kennel
- secluded sleeping areas in each kennel
- temperature and water control systems to protect dogs from extreme weather
- the ability to safely provide care for dogs who are too frightened to be handled
- a new 'whelping den' area for bitches and pups.
- a new animal adoption centre.

RSPCA WA Animal Welfare Officers conduct their work in the field across the whole State, following up on cruelty reports, conducting animal rescues and educating the community on the appropriate care of animals. Several RSPCA Animal Welfare Officer vehicles are in need of replacement.

Our Commitment

A Liberal Government will provide \$1.5 million to the RSPCA to

- Upgrade facilities at the RSPCA WA Animal Care Centre at Malaga to include a major kennel refurbishment, including,
 - individual exercise runs for each kennel
 - secluded sleeping areas in each kennel
 - temperature and water control systems to protect dogs from extreme weather
 - the ability to safely provide care for dogs who are too frightened to be handled
 - a new whelping facility
 - a new animal adoption centre.
- Replace six Animal Welfare Officer Vehicles.

A Liberal Government will also work with RSPCA WA to identify a suitable government-owned site in the south metropolitan area for RSPCA WA to lease at a peppercorn rate in order to build a new Animal Care Centre in Perth's growing south.

