

# ANNUAL REPORT

## 2014-15



# PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Animal Welfare League NSW extends our most sincere thanks to the many volunteers, staff, members and supporters who make it possible for us to reach so many animals in need. Thanks to the combined efforts of these dedicated and caring people, we have helped over 11,500 animals in the last year. What an extraordinary effort!

A highlight this year has been the success of the desexing program – with 8,440 animals desexed thanks to the tireless efforts of our volunteer branches. Desexing programs are so important in helping stop unwanted animals ending up on the streets, or dumped in pounds and shelters. This year the branches particularly focused their efforts on cats as there is such a critical need to increase desexing in the feline population.

Cats can become pregnant as young as four months of age, and with unrestricted breeding the numbers can add up to the thousands from just one female cat and her offspring.

**"A highlight this year has been the success of the desexing program - with 8,440 animals desexed thanks to the tireless efforts of our volunteer branches."**

In addition to providing discount desexing, our branches played a vital role in educating local communities on the importance of desexing and responsible pet ownership. Preventative work in desexing and education, combined with the work of our shelters, branches, vet clinic and inspectors, means that AWL NSW continues to position itself better in helping to reduce the number of cats and dogs ending up in pounds and shelters in the first place.

Our resources were again stretched to the limit this year, with over 2,000 abandoned and surrendered pets coming through our doors in need of a second chance. These animals ranged from surrendered pets who were loved by their former families but had to be sadly surrendered due to family situations, health issues or going into aged care ... all the way through to animals who were terribly neglected in their former homes or were rescued from pounds.

Two of our sadder cases this year were both mass-seizures from former breeders. The first case saw

our Inspectors rescue 22 Maltese Terriers in terrible condition – with severely matted fur, rotting teeth and flea infestations. The second case involved the rescue of 19 cats by our Inspectors. These poor cats were trapped living in cages in some of the filthiest conditions we have ever seen. Our team was determined to rehabilitate these animals so they could be rehomed into the caring homes they deserve and never have to suffer again.

While it deeply saddens me to see animals living in these conditions, it is heartwarming to then see the transformation in their lives thanks to the love and dedication of our shelter teams and the support received from the community. None of this work would be possible without the kind donations and bequests we rely on from our animal-loving supporters. On behalf of the animals and our entire team, I extend heartfelt thanks to each and every person who has made a donation or volunteered their time - you have directly helped save thousands of lives.

As we look forward, the Board and I are incredibly optimistic about the future of Animal Welfare League NSW. Under the guidance of our Chief Executive Officer, Andrew Mason, we are confident that AWL NSW will be taken forward sustainably and with a focus on improving the lives of animals in NSW.

*Christine Richardson*

Christine Richardson  
President



# CEO'S REPORT



In my inaugural CEO's report, I begin by acknowledging the outstanding staff, volunteers, members and supporters who make AWL NSW the wonderful organisation it is today.

In the short time I have been CEO, I have been truly impressed by their passion, commitment, and dedication to improving the lives of animals throughout the community. The entire AWL NSW family is genuinely inspiring, and I join our new President Christine Richardson, in thanking everyone who has helped us make a tangible difference to the lives of the many animals in our care.

To be CEO of this organisation is a privilege, and I am excited by the opportunities that lie ahead. At AWL NSW we are focused on sustainable growth: we are not trying to be the biggest, but we are certainly trying to be the best. We will strive to deliver welfare support services to more animals at higher standards, ensuring that their individual needs are met. We want to provide best practice care for animals, and by doing this we continue to look for ways to improve our processes and procedures.

AWL NSW is also focussed on minimising animal welfare issues in the community through education, advocacy and training. Our successful desexing program is just one example of the power of education initiatives - helping people to understand that everyone has a role to play in how animals are treated.

There have been a number of governance changes within AWL NSW in the last 12 months, as we have understood the need to listen, learn and acknowledge if something needs to be improved. A recent change is the introduction of dedicated Board Committees with their own charters and deliverables that oversee animal welfare, risk, auditing and building programs.

We are also making good progress on AWL NSW's new strategic goals plan and look forward to sharing that in detail once it has been finalised. Among other things, the strategic plan captures our desire to improve AWL NSW's corporate governance, and gives a structured and professional framework for the organisation to work within.

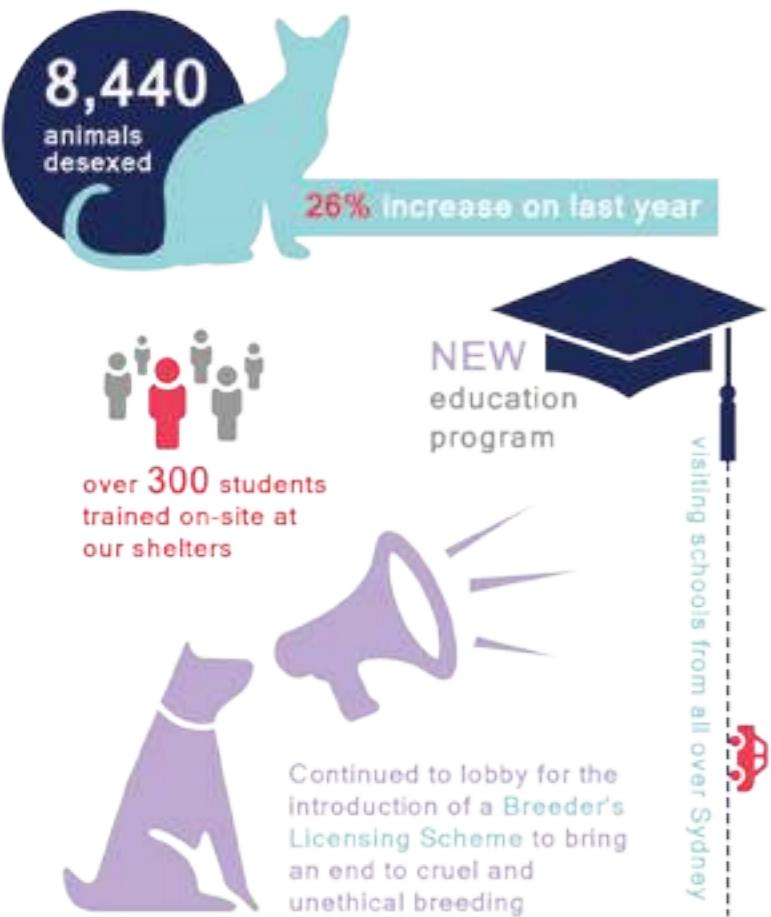
I am greatly enthused by what lies ahead for our organisation, and am blessed with exceptional staff and volunteers who ensure our animals are in the very best of hands. I look forward to meeting more of our members and supporters in the year ahead and hearing your thoughts on how we all can work together to achieve our common goals of protecting and helping our much loved animals.

On behalf of the leadership team and the Board, I sincerely thank you for supporting AWL NSW.

Andrew Mason  
CEO  
MBA, MBus. (Finance), BEc., FFin.

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## PROACTIVE ANIMAL WELFARE



## PROVIDING EXPERT CARE FOR ANIMALS IN NEED



## COMMUNITY SUPPORT



## ADOPTION SUCCESS STORY

### NEVILLE



Neville was rescued from a local pound where he was surrendered before coming to our shelter. He spent almost eight months with us before he found his forever home.

Described as a 'wall flower' who struggled to find happiness in the shelter environment, Neville needed a quiet home with an understanding owner who would help boost his confidence and let him be the quiet, but cuddly, chap he was.

Luckily Neville found that home when an older lady fell in love with him. The pair now spend their days being the best of companions, with Neville enjoying taking up the best side of the bed.

## AWL NSW 2014/15 FINANCIALS

Our financials are publicly available on our website. If you would like to view them online please go to [www.awlnsw.com.au/annualreport](http://www.awlnsw.com.au/annualreport)

## BEQUESTS

Bequest gifts to Animal Welfare League NSW enable us to continue our vital work of protecting and nurturing animals in need. During the year we were honoured to receive bequest gifts from the following people, and on behalf of the animals in our care we are truly grateful for their kindness.

Len Ardley	John Heney Trust
Charitable Trust Fund	Rona Main
Bill & Joy Barrie Foundation	Sonia Moar
Delores Ball	Janice Murphy
Harold Ball	Enid Nancy Gill
Danuta Bednarczyk	Karin Proctor
Robin Bendon	Jill Turnbull
Elizabeth Christie	Elsie Quinn
James Cox	Alison Richmond
Helen Crosbie	Harold Small
Teresa Danutu	Maurice Towers
Pearl Ducrou	John Voss
Barbara Gowan	Ema Yasui

## ADOPTION SUCCESS STORIES



### SHEHLAH

Shehlah was in foster care for over a year before she was adopted. As a long-term AWL NSW charge she never really adapted to life at our shelter, but blossomed under the care of her foster Mum, Faith and her foster brother, Ziggy. She found her forever home by chance while out playing at a doggy park near her foster home. A lady named Suzy was out with her dog Ripley who instantly bonded with Shehlah and from that moment there was

no doubt Shehlah would become a part of the family. Suzy, Ripley and Shehlah still regularly meet up at the park with Faith and Ziggy.

### STEVE



Steve was at our shelter for over nine months. After being surrendered just before Christmas last year because he was "too big", Steve became a very familiar face at our shelters and was known as the 'teacher's pet' because of his intelligence, eagerness to learn and utter lovability. Steve was adopted by a family who live in the country and drove hours just to come and meet him. He now has all the space he needs for his size, and a family that love him no matter what.

sight for the pair, Cleo now has a warm and loving home she can relax and enjoy her own company in, and her new Mum has a cat companion she can bond with when home from work – the perfect match!

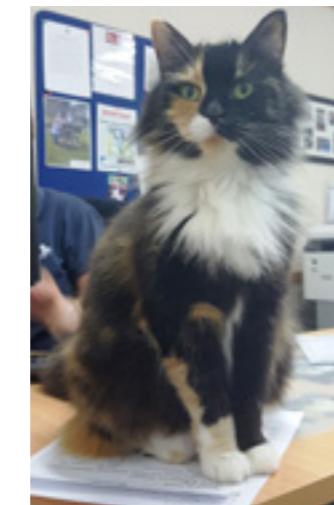


### KUNI

Kuni's story is perhaps one of our best adoption stories this year. After finding himself in the pound and then coming to us in February, Kuni was reunited with his original owner in July after having run away. Owner, Eric had been scanning dog websites looking for Kuni for two years after his family moved houses, causing Kuni to become disoriented by the new environment and escape 'to go home'.

Eric's online searches brought him to our website where he saw Kuni's listing. Not sure it was his missing dog, Eric came to our shelter, blew their secret whistle and knew straight away it was his dog after Kuni's ears pricked up and he became overjoyed to see his father.

The family was overjoyed that after two years searching they found their beloved dog at our shelter.



### CLEOPATRA

Cleopatra was the office cat at our shelter for over a year. As an older girl (11 years old) who didn't require an overly affectionate family, she was overlooked by potential adopters. Luckily for Cleo, her saviour came in the form of a shift-working nurse who recently lost her cat companion and wanted to save the life of a cat in need. It was love at first

sight for the pair, Cleo now has a warm and loving home she can relax and enjoy her own company in, and her new Mum has a cat companion she can bond with when home from work – the perfect match!

## COMMITTEES

Animal Welfare League NSW partakes in a number of committees in an effort to help increase companion animal welfare standards across NSW. We view these committee spots as a key way to make a lasting and positive difference in the lives of those we already work so hard to save.

The committees AWL NSW sits on include:

- Getting to Zero Steering Committee
- Animal Welfare Advisory Council

- Animal Management in Rural and Regional Indigenous Communities (AMRRIC)
- NSW Agricultural and Animal Services Functional Area Committee
- Schools Animal Ethics Committee
- Macquarie University Ethics Committee
- Bio Properties Ethics Committee
- BIADA (Birling Avian Laboratories) Ethics Committee
- Regeneus Ethics Committee

## OUR ORGANISATION

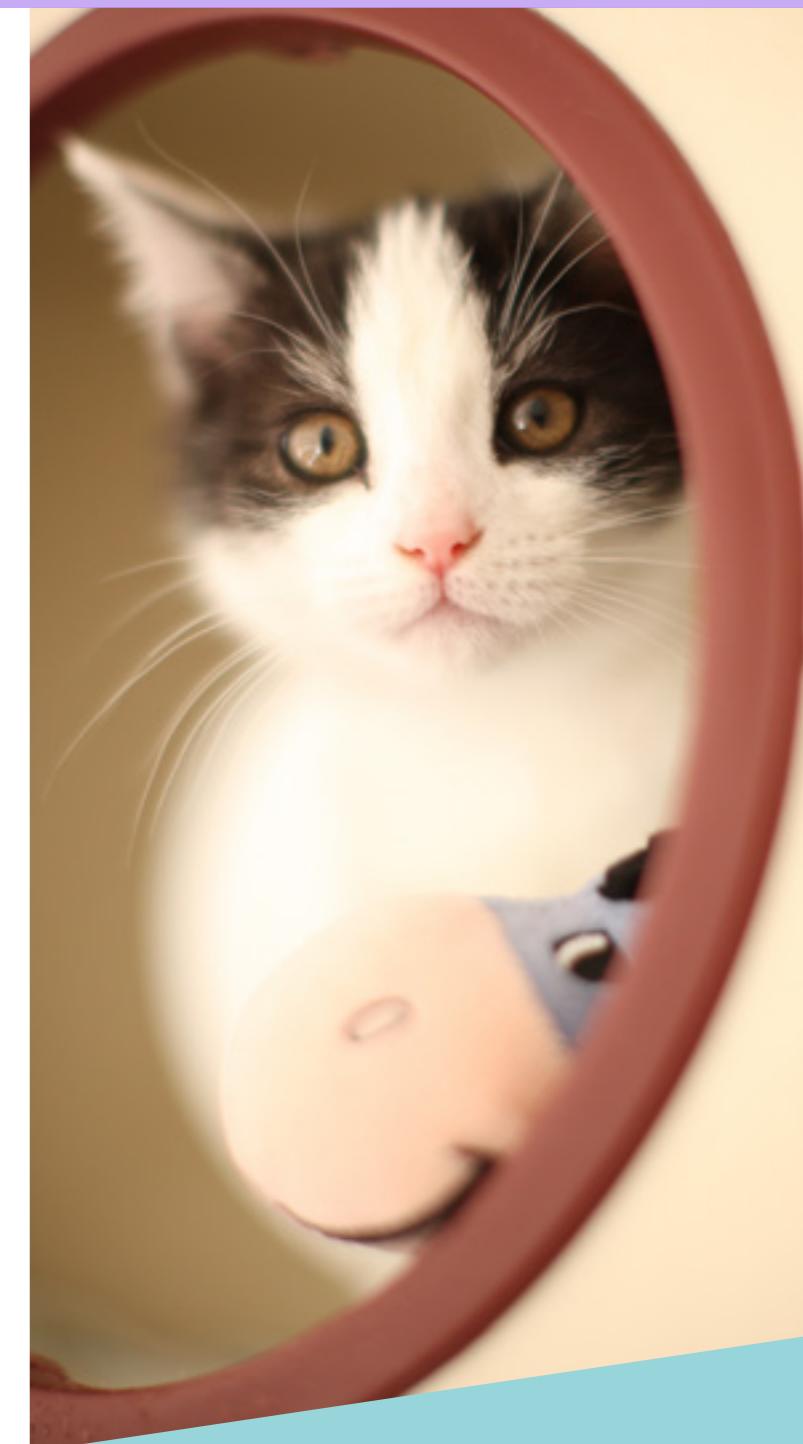
Animal Welfare League NSW believes that all companion animals deserve a safe and loving home.

We provide a safe environment where surrendered, neglected and abandoned animals can feel comfortable and nurtured, and we do our very best to match each pet with a suitable home.

AWL NSW operates three animal welfare shelters, a veterinary hospital, a behaviour team, a foster care network and 13 volunteer branches around NSW. We have a team of Inspectors on the ground protecting animals, providing emergency rescue and enforcing the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act.

You can get involved with our organisation by:

- Adopting one of our beautiful cats, dogs, puppies or kittens
- Making a donation to support the pets in our care
- Volunteering with us
- Opening your home to foster a pet
- Leaving a bequest to Animal Welfare League NSW
- Becoming a corporate partner or workplace giver
- Boarding your pet with us
- Bringing your pet to our Veterinary Hospital
- Liking us on Facebook and sharing posts
- Holding a fundraiser or taking part in a community event





**Kemps Creek Shelter & Veterinary Hospital:**  
1605 Elizabeth Drive, Kemps Creek

**Ingleside Shelter:**  
11 Cicada Glen Road, Ingleside

**Branch locations:**

Central Coast  
Eastern Suburbs  
Eurobodalla  
Far South Coast  
Great Lakes & Manning  
Hawkesbury Valley  
Illawarra

North Coast  
North West  
Shoalhaven  
St George Sutherland Shire  
Western Suburbs & Hills District  
Young

**Report animal cruelty by contacting  
AWL NSW Inspectors: 02 8899 3333**

For contact details of Branches visit [www.awlsw.com.au](http://www.awlsw.com.au)  
Call us on 02 8899 3333 or visit [www.awlsw.com.au](http://www.awlsw.com.au)

**ANIMAL**  
WELFARE LEAGUE NSW  
ABN 88 000 533 088 CFN 10416

