

Annual Report

2019 / 2020



Who we are

Animal Welfare League NSW™ is a registered charity that has been operating for over 60 years. We provide expert care to surrendered, neglected and abandoned animals across NSW.

We believe that all companion animals in NSW deserve a safe and loving home. We strive to accomplish this through our work in rehoming, education and discount desexing programs. We are one of the only two regulating bodies authorised to exercise powers under the NSW Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act. Our Inspectors are authorised to seize and prosecute cases of animal cruelty and neglect, and our team are on the road every day protecting animals, educating owners, providing emergency rescue and investigating allegations of animal cruelty.

As part of our 'Getting to Zero' philosophy we are committed to achieving zero euthanasia of healthy and treatable cats and dogs. Animal Welfare League NSW relies on the generous support of the community.

What we do

Animal Welfare League NSW operates animal welfare shelters and a veterinary hospital in NSW where surrendered animals are cared for prior to adoption. Animal Welfare League NSW also has various branches located across the state, managed and operated by dedicated and passionate volunteers.

Our operations include:

- 🐾 Animal welfare shelters in NSW where surrendered animals are cared for prior to adoption.
- 🐾 Inspectors who respond to reports of animal cruelty or neglect across NSW.
- 🐾 A full-service veterinary hospital that helps care for our inspectorate and shelter animals.
- 🐾 A foster care network for those wishing to care for abandoned and surrendered pets until we can find them forever homes.
- 🐾 A bequest and legacy program, to provide ongoing care for the animals of people who have passed away.
- 🐾 A discount desexing program through a network of volunteer branches around NSW.
- 🐾 The largest mobile vet service in Australia which enables Animal Welfare League NSW to provide discounted vaccination and desexing services to pets in disadvantaged communities and provide aid to drought-affected regions.
- 🐾 An Animal Ambulance service that rescues sick and injured animals and helps to transport them to receive urgent medical treatment.
- 🐾 A rapid-response team that is ready to be deployed to provide veterinary care and aid during natural disasters and other emergencies.



Sydney's Crankiest Cat, Sky found his new home in January, 2020

From the President



Dr David Hope
President

During a year of multiple crises, Animal Welfare League NSW has been able to continue its animal welfare mission through the dedicated work of its staff, volunteers and branches, and the support of its members. In all areas we have taken up the challenges and responded with effective strategies to target the increased needs created by such catastrophic events. In response to the continued drought we delivered goods including stock feed to farmers to various areas. The statewide bushfire crisis saw us providing veterinary care, dog and cat food and other animal supplies, firstly at Taree late last year, and then the south coast around Cobargo and Bega in January. Despite the COVID-19 restrictions the shelter, vet clinic and inspectorate have continued operating, and our adoption and foster rates have increased dramatically. We were able to undertake desexing, vaccinating and microchipping trips to regional areas prior to the more extensive lockdown conditions. The new cattery is now operating and providing state of the art accommodation for our shelter cats. Future uncertainty will continue to require innovative solutions, but I am confident that we can continue to expand our branch network and increase our support of their animal welfare role in their communities. The importance of that work in the coming years as those communities recover has never been more necessary. The dedication and expertise of everyone at Animal Welfare League NSW will ensure a healthy and happy future for those in our care. 🐾

“Future uncertainty will continue to require innovative solutions, but I am confident that we can continue to expand our branch network and increase our support of their animal welfare role in their communities.”

2019/2020 Statistics

AVERAGE
33,000 UNIQUE
WEBSITE
VISITORS EACH
MONTH



107,960
FACEBOOK
FOLLOWERS



20,482
INSTAGRAM
FOLLOWERS

7,015

Animals Desexed

DESEXING VOUCHERS
ISSUED THROUGH OUR
VOLUNTEER BRANCHES
TO HELP PREVENT
UNWANTED ANIMALS
BEING BORN



32 VOLUNTEERS

ACROSS OUR SHELTERS,
NOT INCLUDING THE
HUNDREDS OF BRANCH
VOLUNTEERS ACROSS NSW

*Mobile
Vet Truck*

6 COMMUNITY
TRIPS AND
EMERGENCY
RESPONSES

*Veterinary
Clinic*

1,278 SURGERIES
2,527 CONSULTATIONS
2,080 SHELTER CHECKS
827 ANIMALS DEXED

6

CORPORATE
VOLUNTEER DAYS
WITH 122 CORPORATE
VOLUNTEERS

Rescued

257 ANIMALS
WERE RESCUED FROM
COUNCIL POUND



Rehoming

REHOMING FIGURES
ALL ANIMALS

2,166 REHOMED
3 RECLAIMED

384 IN OUR CARE AT THE END
OF THE FINANCIAL YEAR
283 EUTHANISED (MEDICAL
AND BEHAVIOURAL)

Cats and Kittens

1,935
IN OUR CARE
(2019-20)

1,439
REHOMED

202
EUTHANISED
(MEDICAL AND
BEHAVIOURAL)

2
RECLAIMED

292
IN OUR CARE
(AT THE END OF THE
FINANCIAL YEAR)

Dogs and Puppies

886
IN OUR CARE
(2019-20)

717
REHOMED

81
EUTHANISED
(MEDICAL AND
BEHAVIOURAL)

1
RECLAIMED

87
IN OUR CARE
(AT THE END OF THE
FINANCIAL YEAR)

Other Animals

(livestock, pocket pets,
birds, native animals etc.)

15
IN OUR CARE
(2019-20)

10
REHOMED

0
EUTHANISED
(MEDICAL AND
BEHAVIOURAL)

0
RECLAIMED

5
IN OUR CARE
(AT THE END OF THE
FINANCIAL YEAR)

Foster Care

The Foster Care Program has experienced significant growth in the 2019-20 financial year due to various improvements that have been made. Some of these improvements includes the removal of mandatory house checks for every new foster carer, foster care application forms going online, less restrictions and easy recruiting for new foster carers, allowing carers to keep ringworm animals in care and allowing foster carers to promote on social media the fact that they are fostering. Additionally, COVID-19 has also helped to increase the number of people interested in fostering.



530 ANIMALS WERE PLACED
IN FOSTER CARE HOME

104 ANIMALS WERE ADOPTED
THROUGH THE FOSTER-TO-ADOPT
PROGRAM THAT WAS INITIATED
DUE TO COVID-19

261 FOSTER CARERS HELPING
TO SUPPORT THE KEMPS
CREEK SHELTER

Inspectorate Update



COMPLAINTS AND INVESTIGATIONS CONCERNING THE TREATMENT OF ANIMALS

During the nominated period Animal Welfare League NSW received **741** complaints. As a result of these complaints, **956** attendances (including re-checks) were conducted in order to investigate the complaints effectively. The complaints received were in general, omissions (neglect) rather than commissions (abuse).

COMPLAINTS AND INVESTIGATIONS	INSPECTORATE ACTION
ANIMALS SEIZED OR SURRENDERED	275 animals were either seized or surrendered following investigations that were carried out. Those animals were taken into the care of our animal shelter at Kemps Creek for assessment.
COUNSEL, ADVICE OR CAUTIONS GIVEN	46 cautions given. All cautions are issued verbally and noted in the officer's contemporaneous notebook. An officer will issue a caution if they suspect an offence has been committed.
NOTICES ISSUED	8 penalty notices were issued to offenders by officers.
NUMBER OF NOTICES ISSUED BY OFFICERS OF THE ORGANISATION UNDER SECTION 24N OF THE ACT	62 notices of direction were issued under section 24N of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979 (POCTAA).
NUMBER OF VISITS OR INVESTIGATIONS MADE BY OFFICERS OF THE ORGANISATION THAT WERE UNRELATED TO THOSE COMPLAINTS (SUCH AS ROUTINE INSPECTIONS OF ABATTOIRS, VETERINARY PRACTICES, PET SHOPS OR SALEYARDS)	108 Inspectors conducted 108 routine trade inspections. Those inspections involved facilities for livestock, pet shops, dog and cat breeders, security companies and horse-riding facilities. Frequent inspections continue to be carried out in order to maintain standards.

741
COMPLAINTS
RECEIVED

956
ATTENDANCES
COMPLETED

**PROCEEDINGS
FOR OFFENCES
INSTITUTED**

Animal Welfare League NSW finalised 8 prosecutions in various local courts across NSW, and all matters were successful in proving the allegations as put before the court. There were no proceedings from the previous years that were not finalised.

Bequests

Animal Welfare League NSW would like to express our heartfelt thanks to the following supporters who are just some of the generous people who have left a lasting legacy by leaving a gift in 2019-20.

Barr, Joy	Kolderie, Jazina Pitronella
Berger, Merle Patricia	Lawton, Joyce
Brindley, John Stuart	Loveday, Leila Mary
Chaldecott, Margaret Mary	McDonald, Jean Elizabeth
Clarson, Thelma Rae	Munro, Vera
Emanuel, Margot Joy	Norman, Lilith George
Godfrey, Dorothea	Skovsgaard, Karina Patricia
Gotch, Patricia Aley	Robertson, Louise
Grummet, Valerie Gloria	Walton, Julianna
Hawke, Osric	



Vale

Maryann Dalton, April 2020



Maryann was appointed CEO of Animal Welfare League NSW in 2003, a position she held until 2011. Dedicated to animal welfare, Maryann later pursued a similar position with Vets Beyond Borders (VBB). In 2015, Maryann devised the Australian Veterinary Emergency Response Team (AVERT) program, under which veterinarians and veterinary nurses were invited to register interest in volunteering to assist in animal welfare efforts following natural disaster or outbreak of exotic disease within Australia. Her efforts in this area has seen VBB volunteers partner with Animal Welfare League NSW to provide additional support to communities who need help the most. Animal Welfare League NSW thanks Maryann for her incredible services to Animal Welfare League NSW and the impact she had on many animals and people's lives within the organisation.

Elizabeth Miles, August 2020



Animal Welfare League NSW was saddened to hear of the loss of a truly remarkable woman who dedicated over 40 years to helping animals in need. Elizabeth 'Liz' Miles was a volunteer of the Animal Welfare League NSW Hawkesbury Volunteer Branch and had been the branch's only dog foster carer, never saying no to any request to take in a dog that needed help. At the same time Liz indulged her love of German Shepherds by fostering for GSD Rescue as well. Elizabeth's unwavering love of dogs saw her foster hundreds of dogs over the years, an amazing achievement by a wonderful and kind person who will be dearly missed.

TREASURER'S REPORT 2019-2020

I am pleased to present the treasurers report for financial year ended 30 June 2020. Animal Welfare League NSW made a loss of \$1,717,782 in the financial year ended 2020 (2018/19 profit \$4,659,132). The main reason for the turnaround in results from the previous year is due to decrease in bequest income receipts of \$7.3M over the previous year. The five-year average tracking of bequest income is \$4.9M pa, see the following table:

Bequests and Legacy receipts

5 Year Average	4,942,965
2020	1,520,173
2019	8,845,134
2018	4,512,102
2017	3,186,609
2016	6,650,808

Financial Goals

The Board continues to work on the five-year strategic plan to implement a sustainable financial model for cashflows to meet operating expenses and move away from reliance on Bequests and Legacies. The goal is to at least cover operating expenses year on year to continue to provide a high level of animal care. Unfortunately, the financial goal was not met in FY20.

Income

Bequests and legacy income continue to be a significant component of our income representing 20.8% of total income. The year ended 30 June 2020 was another challenging year for fundraising especially in the last quarter of FY20 with the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic and the impact on revenue generation. Fundraising income was \$1.13M or 15.4% of total income received. Other income was \$778K or 10.7% of total income, see details of other income under Note 1 to the abridged financial statements. Total income from all sources for the year ended 30 June 2020 was \$7.3M.

If we deduct the overhead cost of fundraising and corporate office, 65% (2018/19 82%) of all income was directed to the caring of animals. Although this metric is down on the previous year, it is the goal of both the Board and Management to ensure continuous improvement in this area so that an ever-increasing percentage of funds raised is directed to animal care.

Income 2020	\$	%
Animal placements	470,895	6.4%
Bequests	1,520,173	20.8%
Boarding	11,675	0.2%
Dividends	87,762	1.2%
Donations	313,835	4.3%
Fundraising	1,126,532	15.4%
Gain on sale of assets	1,457,061	20.0%
Grants	397,190	5.4%
Interest income	202,389	2.8%
Memberships	16,810	0.2%
Merchandise	69,537	1.0%
Op-shop	60,751	0.8%
Veterinary fees	788,800	10.8%
Other income	777,611	10.7%
TOTAL INCOME	7,301,021	100%

"The Board continues to work on the five-year strategic plan to implement a sustainable financial model ... The goal is to at least cover operating expenses year on year to continue to provide a high level of animal care. Unfortunately, the financial goal was not met in FY20."

TREASURER'S REPORT 2019-2020

Expenditure

Expenditure increased by \$1.71M overall from the previous year. The two largest line items with increases in expenditure were Salary & Wages Expense and Audit, Legal and Consultancy fees. Salary and Wages expenses increase over FY19 was \$1.17M due, in the main, to a number of new positions created including the roll-out of the Mobile Vet Service, moving the HR department "in-house". Audit, Legal and Consultancy fees increase over FY19 was \$135K. For a detailed breakdown of Other Expenses refer to Note 2 to the abridged financial statements. Cost control remains a priority for the Board and Management, with the underlying goal of providing the best possible animal care as economically as possible.

Expenses 2020	\$	%
Audit, Legal and Consultancy fees	335,050	3.7%
Computer expenses	90,804	1.0%
Consumables	528,857	5.9%
Contract fees	58,233	0.6%
Depreciation	611,885	6.8%
Equipment Hire	123,744	1.4%
Food/board of sheltered animals	160,876	1.8%
Fundraising expenses	54,126	0.6%
Motor vehicle expenses	118,402	1.3%
Postage expenses	49,745	0.6%
Publications and printing	85,814	1.0%
Rent	18,415	0.2%
Repairs and maintenance	184,918	2.1%
Salaries, wages and other employee benefits	4,668,471	51.7%
Utilities	127,696	1.4%
Vet fees expenses		
· branches	813,137	9.0%
· shelter external	135,444	1.5%
Other expenses	853,185	9.4%
TOTAL EXPENSES	9,018,802	100%

ABRIDGED FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Statement of Financial Position

Our net assets decreased by \$1.17M over the previous year, cash and cash equivalents were down by \$4M while Investments were up by \$4.5M due to a timing difference at year end as we looked to reinvest matured term deposits with an external investment manager. In terms of capital expenditure, \$835K was spent on property, plant and equipment assets, including final progress payments on the new Cattery building of \$284K and a new Animal Laundry facility at \$81K. \$9K spent on computer software and \$207K on motor vehicles, mainly associated with the fit out costs of the mobile vet truck. Accounts Payable and other payables increased by \$460K over the previous year including deferred payment for GST and BAS liabilities.

I want to thank the staff, volunteers, branch members and supporters for their commitment and passion.

Audrey McGeown
Director/Treasurer

	2020 (\$)	2019 (\$)
ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	788,195	4,802,352
Term Deposits	2,375,179	243,612
Receivables and other debtors	68,247	65,664
Other current assets	356,023	57,078
Investments - Equity Method	12,606,683	8,076,002
Intangible assets	69,384	101,495
Property, plant & equipment	12,395,093	16,482,472
TOTAL ASSETS	28,658,804	29,828,674
LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable and other payables	1,506,241	1,046,447
Provisions	332,091	243,973
TOTAL LIABILITIES	1,838,332	1,290,420
NET ASSETS	26,820,472	28,538,254
MEMBERS' EQUITY		
Reserves	6,954,523	8,694,523
Retained surplus	19,865,949	19,843,731
TOTAL MEMBERS' EQUITY	26,820,472	28,538,254

ABRIDGED FINANCIAL STATEMENT

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

	NOTE	2020 (\$)	2019 (\$)
INCOME			
Animal placements		470,895	416,396
Bequests		1,520,173	8,845,134
Boarding		11,675	23,362
Dividends		87,762	2,369
Donations		313,835	194,155
Fundraising		1,126,532	925,247
Gain on sale of assets		1,457,061	200
Grants		397,190	111,294
Interest income		202,388	239,047
Memberships		16,810	19,846
Merchandise		69,537	85,848
Op-Shop		60,751	92,507
Veterinary fees		788,800	671,839.27
Other income	1	777,610	342,194
TOTAL INCOME		7,301,021	11,969,437

	NOTE	2020 (\$)	2019 (\$)
EXPENSES			
Audit, legal & consultancy fees		335,050	200,443
Computer expenses		90,804	60,046
Consumables		528,857	433,656
Contract fees		58,233	208,149
Depreciation		611,885	579,600
Equipment Hire		123,744	27,114
Food & boarding for sheltered animals		160,876	77,331
Fundraising expenses		54,126	86,965
Motor vehicle expenses		118,402	71,648
Postage expenses		49,745	67,299
Publication & printing expenses		85,814	60,736
Rent		18,415	10,154
Repairs & maintenance		184,918	109,810
Salaries, wages and other employee benefits		4,668,471	3,493,912
Utilities		127,696	148,695
Vet fees expenses			
· branches		813,137	727,451
· shelter external		135,444	94,281
Other expenses	2	853,185	853,013
TOTAL EXPENSES		9,018,802	7,310,304
Profit/(Loss) before income tax		(1,717,782)	4,659,132
Income tax expense		-	-
Profit/(Loss) after income tax		(1,717,782)	4,659,132

BREAKDOWN OF INCOME & EXPENSES

NOTE: 1 BREAKDOWN OF OTHER INCOME

	2020 (\$)	2019 (\$)
Note 1:		
Corporate Giving	10,194	28,645
Corporate Giving - AWLA	-	149,883
Events	3,197	1,240
Govt Assist (COVID-19)	557,000	-
Legacy & Orange Grove	2,727	-
Profit/(Loss) on investments	(21,465)	14,470
Puppy School	2,445	-
Rent	12,648	39,552
Sponsorship	27,715	2,975
Sundry Income	114,853	36,522
Surrender Fees	35,250	31,382
Trust income	3,236	-
Workplace Giving	29,811	37,525
TOTAL INCOME	777,610	342,194

NOTE: 2 BREAKDOWN OF OTHER EXPENSES

	2020 (\$)	2019 (\$)
Note 2:		
Accommodation	49,211	17,931
Advertising	43,905	57,635
AWLA	-	33,285
Bad Debts Expense	-	4,417
Bank Charges	17,557	14,086
Cleaning	39,160	29,306
Companion Animal Desexing Scheme (CADS)	40,136	42,067
Computer expenses	82,015	51,862
Donations	19,709	6,886
Events	13,012	5,553
Insurances	77,627	106,097
Legacy & Bequest expenses	489	9,80
Licence & Filing Fees	1,414	2,654
Media	29,391	69,103
Meeting Expenses	35,637	13,633
Membership	5,720	19,846
Merchandise	94,434	110,346
Micro Chips	5,624	5,188
Office Supplies & Equipment	28,457	22,977
Sponsorship	175	7,224
Subscriptions	6,003	19,729
Sundry Expense	159,329	125,548
Transport-Animals	1,251	-
Travel & Travel Meals	83,357	76,411
WHS	19,572	1,426
TOTAL EXPENSES	853,185	853,013

CEO Message

2019
2020

I have been reflecting on the year that was, the challenges faced by our organisation and what we achieved under such difficult circumstance.

We started the financial year with a focus on our strategy and the pillars that support our focuses.

Our foster care program has gone from strength to strength and eclipsed any expectation of what we thought was possible, showing growth of over ninety five per cent.

Shelter operations have also grown and our rehoming numbers have shown real promise in growth through the adoption of excellent management processes and a more coherent working team. This has been supported through our corporate partners in Hills Pet Nutrition and Elanco.

We as an organisation have always been fortunate in the support we receive from the public. This year we have again been the recipients of extraordinary support from Ms Pat Sweeney, who has provided us her fifteen acre property in Dapto as a working cattery and equine facility, while she remains in residence. Our genuine and heartfelt appreciation for Pat cannot be overstated.

During October, it was an absolute pleasure to host our members at our bi-annual Branch conference. Personally I felt that while there is always room for improvement, I came away from the two days both challenged and informed as to what we can improve in our service provision to our branches. Thank you again to everyone who attended and for all of your contributions.

From November through to the end of February, we had the opportunity to be tested beyond any measure that we could have invented by the bushfire crisis. Our newly launched mobile vet truck, our Veterinary, Inspectorate and Shelter teams, were deployed by state government firstly on the 26th November with our branch Great Lakes and Manning branch, then again on the 31st December into catastrophic conditions on the far south coast. Space and time we shared with our branches south of Sydney who through all of the circumstance, their personal loss and family upheaval remained on task and actively

contributing to their communities. I was and still am genuinely humbled by the strength of character within our membership.

At the tail end of the bushfire crisis we completed the sale of our Ingleside property for \$6.6 million. The funds

from this sale have been invested with our Equity Partners JB Were and Perpetual for the growth of our organisation as well as some funding of the five year strategy.

From bushfires to Senate Inquiries into POCTA Enforcement Agencies and COVID-19 we continued to be challenged by circumstance in the first three months of this year. The Senate inquiry placed extraordinary pressure on our Inspectorate who were already working under duress with the COVID-19 situation. However amongst the fourteen recommendations published by committee, was both greater recognition of the work our team delivers as well as dramatically increasing the funding government provides us. Both very welcome comments.

The last quarter of this financial year has not been without its challenges due to the restrictions of COVID-19. However through planning and the use of our newly finished cattery we have not only continued our service provisions, we have grown rehoming year on year by almost four fold. With a continued focus on management and process, these are numbers we are very confident we can maintain. While our focus at the end of this year has been on making changes for better welfare outcomes and our organisations growth, we undertook a restructure of our veterinary clinic. The team had been working tirelessly to deliver an almost impossible brief of running a profitable public practice, being on call for our Inspectorate and the animals the team were providing for, as well



Mr Mark Slater
CEO

as ensuring the health of the animals in our care in shelter and the cattery. The decision was made to close our public service provision and allow the team to focus purely on internal needs.

From the tireless individual contributions of our branches, through to the aggregated outcomes of our organisation across the state of NSW, if we as an organisation can achieve as we have under the conditions of the past twelve months then our

future and that of the animals that form the basis of our work every day can be a little more assured.

I would like to close by thanking each and every one of our members, staff and volunteers. Every day I represent our organisation, Animal Welfare League NSW in larger and larger theatres. This privilege is only surpassed by the fact that I stand on your shoulders, the shoulders of giants to do so. 🐾



Mark Slater speaks to the media about the importance of pet ownership during Dogs in Politics Day.

Animal Ambulance

Animal Welfare League NSW has launched its Animal Ambulance Service to help care for more animals in need.



The Animal Welfare League NSW Animal Ambulance Service assists our Inspectorate with rescuing sick and injured animals by helping to transport animals to our veterinary clinic to receive urgent medical treatment and care.

Our dedicated Animal Ambulance team respond to emergency situations and may provide first aid where required. They can also provide assistance to disadvantaged, immobile or senior members in the community who may have difficulty in accessing veterinary care for their pets.

The Animal Ambulance Service can:

- Transport pets to receive veterinary care
- Assist with animals struck by vehicle
- Rescue injured or trapped animals

The Animal Ambulance Service also provides assistance by helping with natural disasters and other emergencies, as well as providing additional support to Animal Welfare League NSW community programs. 🐾

Animal Ambulance Service support at evacuation centres



In December 2019, the Animal Welfare League NSW Inspectorate and Animal Ambulance Service were deployed to Hawkesbury Showground and Penrith Paceway to provide support to the NSW Department of Primary Industries and Local Land Services as the NSW bushfire emergency saw many residents flee to various evacuation centres for safety.

For over two weeks, Animal Welfare League NSW provided assistance to those who had to evacuate their pets and livestock from bushfire-affected and at-risk areas. Our teams helped to care for the animals who found themselves at evacuation centres by routinely providing fresh clean water and feed, assisting with registrations and assessing those who may be affected by heat or stress. 🐾

Mobile Vet Truck

Our Mobile Vet Truck is Australia's largest vet service on wheels

The Animal Welfare League NSW Mobile Vet Truck is an Australian-first, fully-fitted out B-Double trailer which has been purposefully designed to enable Animal Welfare League NSW to travel to regional areas in NSW to provide desexing, vaccination and microchipping programs to communities doing it tough, and to help reduce the burden of unwanted litters and stop the source of pets that may find themselves at council impound facilities.

The truck, which is over 25 metres long, features specially designed areas to conduct minor animal surgeries (such as desexing) as well as an isolation room and over 35 recovery cages. It also features equipment to perform blood works, fridges, a veterinary scale, and extensive storage to hold veterinary supplies and more.

Our veterinary team based at our Kemps Creek clinic travel to destinations in collaboration with our volunteer branches across the state to ensure we are helping those that need us most. In addition, the truck can be deployed to areas of crisis to assist with natural disasters and other emergencies.

"We've done a lot of vaccination drives throughout the state, a lot of country areas such as Tamworth and Taree. We were also deployed to assist with the bushfires down the South Coast. Our vets were able to provide emergency treatment to assist with burns and other injuries"

– Dan Naethuys, Mobile Vet Truck Driver

"It has quite a number of uses, it can be used for everything from surgical procedures, examinations, it can be used as transport if we ever need to evacuate animals. It can also be used as a base during emergencies to provide veterinary services, storage of supplies and essential items. As time goes on, we're finding more and more uses for it. It's a very adaptable piece of equipment that's very useful for a lot of situations.

The more uses we find, the more need we'll have for these sorts of vehicles. Obviously, we don't want to have more disasters, we've had enough already but just the routine veterinary work is certainly going to be enough for quite a number of these vehicles.

The target clients for our community drives are people that probably would not be current users of veterinary services due to their economic circumstance or other things, and in that way we're not going to be competing with veterinary practices across the state. Instead, we're going to work in conjunction with them and raise the profile of the veterinary profession. In that way, we'll educate them to use these services more commonly which will hopefully see that they go back to their local veterinary clinics. This should help support the increase of business for local veterinarians and also increase the opportunity to improve animal welfare because these animals will now receive veterinary care whereas in the past they may not have."

– Dr David Hope, President



Bushfires

Help for Bushfire Victims



In November 2019, Animal Welfare League NSW CEO Mark Slater travelled to Wingham, NSW to get an understanding of the bushfire crisis. Mark went to help at a property located 30km down the end of a dirt road, with no services, the back fence still on fire, with power lines down and cattle walking around.

"The owner of the property lived there on her own and was wandering the paddock with nothing but the clothes on her back. She lost her companion animals who ran into the house to take shelter but, sadly, they did not survive. The fires were so fast and intense, there's nothing they could have done."

Seeing the devastation first-hand, the Animal Welfare League NSW Mobile Vet Truck was deployed on Tuesday 26 November 2019 to have its inaugural run to the Mid North Coast to assist those who had been affected by the bushfires and to provide disaster relief by treating injured animals. The Mobile Vet Truck parked for two days at Taree Showground where our team also provided free health checks, vaccinations, microchipping and first aid to local animals. The Animal Welfare League NSW veterinary team, which also included President Dr David Hope, travelled to Hillville, Old Bar, Wingham and surrounding areas to treat pets and livestock with respiratory problems, injuries and burns from the bushfires. At the end of the visit, our vet team had treated mainly livestock which had shown signs of burns around their hooves and feet from attempting to flee hot, fire-affected properties.

As the NSW bushfire crisis continued to devastate more areas, the mobile clinic was again deployed on 1 January 2020 to provide assistance in the South Coast region. The Mobile Vet Clinic Initially travelled to Cooma and then parked at Bega Showground for seven days where Animal Welfare League NSW provided first aid to injured pets and animals, as well as providing pet food and other supplies to evacuees. During this time, teams of Animal Welfare League NSW veterinarians and vet nurses also travelled to Moruya and surrounding areas to check on livestock and provide critical care. Our Inspectors also travelled to Cobargo to work with NSW Department of Primary Industries and Local Land Services to distribute feed, rescue animals and assist with recovery efforts.

"As the first 'animal responders' on the scene in Bega, we actioned three teams to assist with the care of companion animals, livestock and wildlife for the communities directly impacted. Stationed at the Bega Emergency Operations Centre and Bega Sale Yards with a third team visiting local farmers throughout the district, we were able to offer care and respite. Our teams worked tirelessly, caring for those injured animals and assisting with the humane euthanasia where necessary. These catastrophic fires have already destroyed over 5 million hectares of land. And not only have large numbers of animals been lost or injured, but there will also be long-term food, water and habitat shortages for surviving animals."

– Mark Slater, CEO



"I was quite surprised to discover this echidna whilst out in the field. I did not hold high hopes considering the devastation. But thankfully this echidna was given a clean bill of health by our vet team, supplied with clean drinking water and safely returned to his native forest. Such a positive outcome!"

- Dan Naethuys, Mobile Vet Truck driver 🐾



COVID-19

COVID-19 may have changed the way we live, but it won't change the way we help



Australians have been through a lot in the past twelve months with the drought and bushfires, but with COVID-19, we are all facing challenges of a completely different kind. And it's an incredibly difficult situation – for both people and animals – and everyone has their own worries and hardships. But in these unprecedented times, the Animal Welfare League NSW inspectors, veterinarians, support staff, carers and volunteers have continued to help when and where we can. This has ranged from helping with veterinary, fostering and rehoming services, to caring for the animals in our shelters and dealing with cases of animal cruelty and neglect.

Early in 2020, the COVID-19 outbreak devastated the community and Animal Welfare League NSW closely monitored advice from Government and health authorities to ensure every precaution was made to protect the health, safety and wellbeing of our people. This meant implementing drastic changes to enable us to continue providing the best care possible to the animals that need us. Our Kemps Creek Shelter was closed to the public, and

a new virtual adoption process ensured we could continue to rehome the pets in our care. As many people found themselves either working from home or staying at home due to recommendations from health authorities, this resulted in an increase in adoption and foster care applications as more people turned to pets for companionship during these bleak times. The new virtual and appointment-only process reduced the risk to our frontline shelter staff as face-to-face contact exposure was limited, visitor numbers managed, and new hygiene protocols implemented.

"The COVID-19 situation has been incredibly hard for many people, particularly those who live alone. For example, we have a client who lives in Blacktown who we visit on a monthly basis. He has a cat Ginny who he absolutely adores, but he is unable to apply her flea treatments due to a disability. He is currently in isolation and was worried that because of this, we wouldn't be able to visit him anymore. We assured him that we are following safe work practices and that we are here to assist him at any time, including continuing to pop in to check on him and Ginny's welfare".

– Inspector Mahon



Branch Updates

ARMIDALE BRANCH

We had our inaugural Armidale Branch Meeting in March 2020 and despite these challenging times, we have achieved so much since our opening. We set forth with the grand plans of upholding the values and ethos of Animal Welfare League NSW, becoming a financially sustainable Branch to support our local community.

Our achievements to date have been

- The establishment of a charity OP-Shop in Armidale as our main income stream.
- The establishment of a space where community members can come and share their stories, about life and their journey with their animals.
- A volunteer space for community members to connect with others.
- Supporting the re-invigoration of the Armidale CBD.
- Rescuing and rehoming animals (including mice) and the provision of community desexing assistance.

Acknowledgments for these achievements goes to the great team that works hard behind the scenes as well as are the faces of our every-day interactions. Looking forward as a Branch, we have acknowledged that we now have to turn our attention to being visible to the community to be providing services locally. We will report back to the community, through our Facebook Page and notifications in the Op Shop as to how and where we spend the money generated. 🐾

BATEMANS BAY DOG TRAINING CLUB

A fairly new branch, the BBDDTC team have suffered greatly with the bushfires in their community and then COVID-19 putting a pause on their training activities. Despite the tough start to 2020, they have had 103 new dog-owners register for their training sessions and look forward to providing subsidised desexing programs in the near future. 🐾

CENTRAL COAST BRANCH

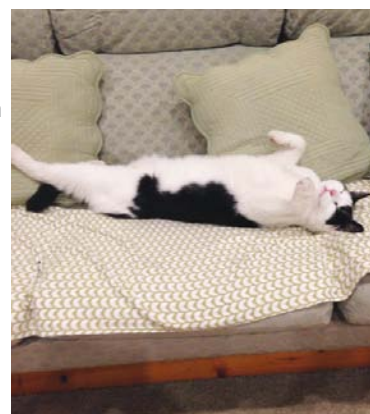
Our smallest branch has had an amazing year, with this one-person team focused on providing discount desexing opportunities for the disadvantaged in their community. In the last year, 112 desexing vouchers have been issued with another 55 consultations also done. What a great effort! . 🐾

EASTERN SUBURBS BRANCH

Eastern Suburbs have found it very difficult throughout this year, as when the Virus hit, we had to halt all our meetings and fundraising, this made a lot harder for us to help the community.

However, we were still able to desex a couple of cat colonies (60 cats) also to continue helping the colony at the NSW University, being a small Branch with retired people doing most of the work it has not been possible to do a lot more.

Thank you to all the people that support us, and to our wonderful Executive who do their best to help where they can. We hope to resume our meetings as soon as we can. 🐾



EUROBODALLA BRANCH

It truly has been quite an amazing, extraordinary and at times, a very frightening year

The drought continued, the heat was relentless and then, at the end of 2019, the fires changed our region forever. There is nothing I can say that has not already been said but we had members who lost homes, members who lost everything and so many of us were evacuated time and time again. The stress was immense but most of us managed to keep going and even help other people looking after their animals.

The pandemic then changed how we operate. No meetings, no markets and no fundraising but we have managed to rehome and de-sex a record number of companion animals and just hope that next year is not as dramatic. 🐾



FAR SOUTH COAST BRANCH

We have had an extremely tough year with the bushfires and COVID. However, it hasn't been all doom and gloom.

We donated \$900 to the FSC Regional Co-Ordinator Wildlife Rescue South Coast which was spent on a variety of much needed equipment.

Our Trivia Night in August was a huge success with over 200 attendees. The event raised over \$4,000 which went to our rehoming and desexing efforts.



Also, in August we had a Georgie's Day raffle of two \$100 gift vouchers from Georgie's Fine Jewellery which raised over \$1,000.

Wendy and Jim Cook attended the AWL NSW Conference in October. It was a three-day event and from her report it was very well received with informative information and lots of information sharing between branches.

Ann McKenna held a number of information stalls at the various Rotary Markets in the area.

Olivia Forge continued her work at the Wallaga Lake Koori Village and started a new project at the local dairies to reduce the cat population.

We had received a bequest last year and Helen Hall arranged a plaque in their memory. 🐾



GREAT LAKES AND MANNING BRANCH

What a topsy turvy year this was with the first fires attacking Forster in August then the big fires in November with the drought continuing.

The mobile vet truck made its maiden voyage and came to Taree in November to assist and give support to the fire victims. The vets and nurses travelled around to the various properties giving pain relief etc to the animals and to give support to property owners.

In February/March we celebrated our 40th anniversary by having a vaccination and desexing campaign with the mobile vet truck on display on one of the weekends. The campaign was a great success with lots of cats and dogs being de-sexed for FREE, which was greatly appreciated by the community.

On the second weekend the rains and floods came and stopped a few people from getting to Taree to have their animals de-sexed. Manning Vet Hospital allowed us the use their brand new facility in Taree to do the vaccinations and desexing over 3 weekends and Geert and Elena (from Manning Vet) hosted the Kemps Creek team to a BBQ on their property and Great Lakes and Manning Branch thank them sincerely, not only for this campaign, but also the work they do for us throughout the year What a delightful evening it was even if a bit damp.

Then Covid 19 hit! We had to close our OP Shop for several months which dried up our income source. Donations continued to come, in so we have plenty of stock for when we do open again on limited hours. (This happened in mid-July).

The surrender of dogs almost dried up and the number of people wanting to adopt went through the roof. The surrender of cats and kittens escalated I think, but also did the demand for adoptions and we very rarely had to say no to anyone wanting to surrender and at times we had people on a waiting list to adopt.

The annual stats for the year were:

- In care start of the year – 3 dogs, 2 cats and 17 kittens
- 8 dogs 37 cats and 140 kittens were surrendered
- 9 dogs, 31 cats and 151 kittens were adopted
- 2 dogs were transferred to Kemps
- 7 cats and 2 kittens had to be euthanised
- 4 kittens were born in care
- 2 kittens became cats while in care

At the end of the year we had 0 dogs 3 cats and 6 kittens in care.

Desexing stats for the year:

- Under CADS, the Companion animal desexing scheme 298 dogs, 301 cats 1 rabbit and 2 ferrets were de-sexed.
- In house animals – 4 dogs and 119 cats were de-sexed

Giving us a total 302 dogs, 420 cats 1 rabbit and 2 ferrets

CAAS stats for the year (excluding desexings): We assisted 41 animals for consults, 23 were euthanised, 6 had tick treatments, 27 were assisted with surgery cost.

All in all, despite the challenges of drought, fire, floods and a pandemic, the Great Lakes and Manning Branch has had another good year. We are looking forward to an even better 20/21. 🐾



HAWKESBURY BRANCH

The last 12 months have been difficult for Hawkesbury Branch, coping with the sudden departure of our Secretary and Treasurer in November 2019 and the Covid-19 outbreak in March 2020. The Branch President was forced to take on these additional committee roles. The branch is currently being run by 2 people, President and Welfare Officer. We are currently, actively, trying to recruit branch members and additional foster carers.

Despite the difficulties, we opened an Adoption Centre in Windsor at Macquarie Vet Clinic. This has been very successful and is proving a much better alternative than having potential adopters visit foster carers





homes. The Centre operates on scheduled appointments, adhering to social distancing and sanitising. Covid-19 also saw an increase in requests for assistance for food and vet care. Our donation bins at Coles Richmond and North Richmond have kept up with pet food parcels and 8 people were assisted with the cost of vet care, this ranged from microchipping, vaccinations, euthanasia and one dog with a bowel blockage.

135 cats and 5 dogs were rehomed through the branch. We also issued just over 500 subsidised desexing vouchers for a cost of \$30,000. 379 cats and 106 dogs were desexed.

We continue to have a good relationship with Hawkesbury Companion Animal Shelter and during the year worked with Council to TNR a small colony on private property. 25 adult cats from this colony were desexed and returned and 18 kittens from the colony were rehomed through the branch.

We also receive support from Penrith Council each year in the form of a \$5,000 grant to put towards desexing. As the majority of requests for desexing assistance come from the Penrith area, we are hoping to put forward a case to Council to increase this amount in the future. 🐾

ILLAWARRA BRANCH

The last financial year has been busy for our branch as we have taken on several new ventures. We have begun a foster and adoption program - something the branch has not done for nearly 40 years, since the early days of its inception.

This has gone from strength to strength, so much so that we can hardly keep up with the demand for kittens.

The most significant and exciting event for our branch was being the beneficiary of a most generous bequest. Our member Pat Sweeney has allowed her property in Dapto to be used by Animal Welfare League NSW. Pat has run a cattery at her acreage and is well-known in the community. Age though is catching up with her and AWL NSW has stepped in to help. We are looking forward to perhaps running education programs and an adoption centre there, highlighting Animal Welfare League NSW and its values and really making an impact in the Illawarra as an organisation that promotes the welfare of companion animals.

Our branch continues with its core work of offering subsidised desexing for those on low incomes but now feels re-invigorated and has a new sense of purpose. 🐾



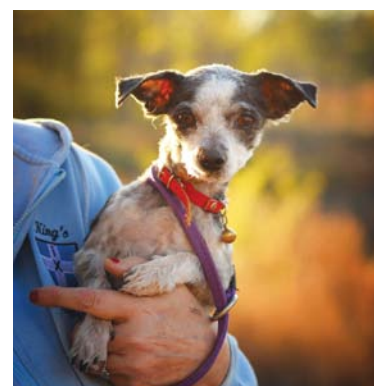
MOREE BRANCH

Moree Branch has had a difficult year. In addition to everyday challenges that life may throw at us, our team has had to deal with drought, floods, and then the pandemic. As well, each of our branch executives have been battling various illnesses which has left the branch unable to do as much as we usually do in our area.

Branch President Carol has been taking animal from various pounds and sending them to other rescues. These animals have still received their vaccinations and vet work prior to being released. Unfortunately this has eaten into our funds and incurs significant travel costs associated with meeting rescues groups, especially those in the QLD area.

We have managed to adopt 188 animals and transfer 205 animals to other rescue groups.

Our branch is small and we would welcome anyone interested in supporting us due to the increasing workload. We are hoping for a better year for us and the animals in 2021. 🐾



NAROOMA DOG TRAINING CLUB

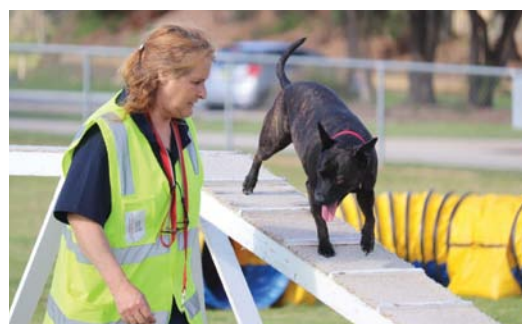


The January 2020 Bushfire catastrophe and the state-wide Covid-19 emergency shutdown the activities of NDTC during the 2019/2020 period. These two events significantly reduced NDTC's annual canine education program; halted the Trainee Instructor program; resulted in the cancellation of the May 2020 "Dogs Day Out" event; saw the cancellation of in-house competitions; and severely curtailed branch fundraising activities.

Dog Obedience programs did begin on February 15, two weeks later than originally scheduled. Five weeks later, and prior to the official shutdown, the Executive Committee ceased all NDTC operations due to the pandemic threat. In July, after a sixteen-week hiatus and with an extensive Covid-19 Safety Plan in place, outdoor Obedience Training programs were successfully rebooted.

It is sad that the impact of these two emergencies overshadowed the positive achievements of the previous six-month period.

In November 2019 NDTC donated \$1,500 to the AWL Christmas Appeal; in December successfully held a fun Dogs Christmas Party for handlers and friends; and in January 2020 responded to the AWL callout for donations to WIRES, with a contribution of \$500 to support bushfire affected native wildlife.



As NDTC moves through the rest of 2020, we look forward to a slow but steady recovery. Handlers who registered for training programs at the beginning of 2020, and who were financially disadvantaged by the shut-down, were offered free training for the remainder of 2020, as was anyone fire-affected. Thankfully many handlers have responded and since July 2020, NDTC has achieved record monthly intake of new handlers wanting to participate in programs that support responsible pet ownership. 🐾



NORTH COAST BRANCH

By December 2019, the Cat Adoption Centre was in full swing. Adoptions were slow. A few cats were receiving treatment for gastrointestinal sickness. Fundraising was on track. Community events, including a micro chipping day and a Council 'Dog Fun Day' had eventuated. Vet Practices participating in CADS appeared likely to equal the number of desexing procedures as in 2018/19.

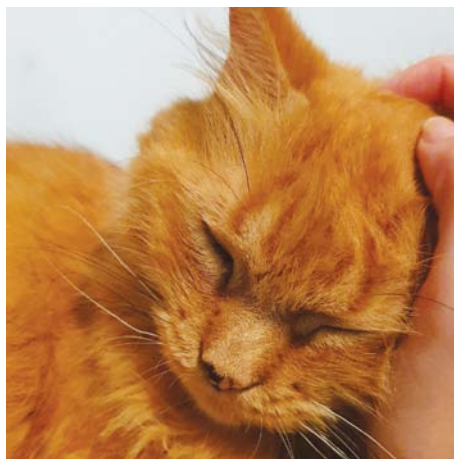
In March 2020, corona virus ended 'people gathering' activities. Fundraising, Branch meetings, and other similar events, were stopped. Other branch activities continued.

In compliance with Government health and safety measures around social distancing and hygiene, the cattery continued to operate with:

- Daily shifts reduced from two, to one
- Adoptions by appointment only, March to June
- Additional foster carers helped reduce animal numbers at the cattery.

By the end of June:

- Cattery operating appropriately. 53 cats adopted, 9 above previous year.
- Two generous people enabled up-grading of an indoor cat isolation cage: and the installation of a laundry tub outside the cattery for washing of litter trays and hand washing.
- The strongest result to date for the assisted desexing scheme, with 25 participating Veterinary Practices accounting for desexing 285 dogs and 177 cats, totaling 462, 17 more than last year. 🐾



NORTHERN BEACHES

The Northern Beaches Branch was initially formed with just a few animal lovers on the beaches. With the use of social media and word-of-mouth, the group quickly grew and formed a branch that the AWL NSW welcomed in with open arms.

After a lot of set-up discussions, ideas and a mountain of enthusiasm, our branch has developed marketing, fundraising, finance and community support strategies. We aim to increase adoptions, fosters and be a large part in responsible pet ownership education programs. It is exciting to represent an amazing organisation and advocate for better animal welfare on the Northern Beaches. 🐾

NOWRA-JERVIS BAY BRANCH

What a year this has been so far for our branch and those South of us. Between the horrific bushfires causing detestation and heartbreaking loss of animal life, and COVID-19, recovery will be long and difficult.

We are a very small branch, and the impact of these disasters is obvious in many areas. Fundraising for us has always been a battle, but in these times almost impossible. The momentum has been lost, the number of members lost due to their lack of financial stability, and very few active carers, has taken its toll.



Difficult times still hasn't stopped us from achieving some results we are proud of, the least of which is the 104 kittens / cats adopted into new homes and the 100 cats, dogs and 1 ferret that have been desexed. Though we do not have carers for dogs, we have either helped through our FB page with assisted re-homings or referred on to branches that can offer support. Thanks to our adoptions, discretionary fees and charges, donation boxes at various outlets, market stalls and garage sales before the lockdown, we have managed to pay over 51,000 in outstanding and current vet fees.

We hope the next few months are the lead up to a positive new year for everyone. 🐾



ORANGE BRANCH

The AWL NSW Orange branch has had a few unique challenges; however, these have been almost resolved thanks to an enormous amount of teamwork. It has been a long year for the Orange branch, and we are incredibly proud of our efforts and where the branch is heading. We have an amazing team of intelligent, compassionate, funny, beautiful people ensuring nothing but the best for animals in our care. In the last year, our branch has had over 100 dog adoptions, 50 cat adoptions and a horse! Our branch averages between 10 - 15 adoptions per month with an average turnover of 2-4 weeks from the moment an animal comes into care to the time of adoption. 🐾

SHOALHAVEN BRANCH

The Shoalhaven Branch turned 40 this year and it has definitely been one to remember! First we had the devastating bushfires that burnt out most of our branch area and left over 80 families homeless. We had to evacuate some animals but thankfully all our carer's homes escaped unscathed.

Then of course the Pandemic hit. We quickly adapted though and we were barely affected by the shutdowns as we brought in contactless adoptions for kittens and foster to adopt so people could take cats home to get to know them rather than meeting in our carer's homes and all dog meetings moved outdoors.

This year also saw us join with the Shoalhaven Animal Shelter and the Jervis Bay Branch to launch the Shoalhaven Cat Project. The mothers were desexed through our desexing program as a condition of kitten surrender and we simultaneously ran a discounted desexing drive to get as many other cats as we could desexed before they had kittens.



We also had quite a few events that we attended as a branch. The Shoalhaven Pet Expo and our Bunnings day as well as our raffle ticket sales and garage sales and subsidised desexing day in Ulladulla. We have a great group of volunteers who are always willing to put their hands up to help when needed and are just plain fun to hang out with when we do. The AWL NSW branch conference was another highlight and we made many new friends within our neighbouring branches and learnt a lot from the branches further afield. 🐾

TAMWORTH BRANCH

We have a great, dedicated team!

Our kitty rescue and adoptions have given us no break this year. The litters are continuous. However we have an amazing team of carers. Each one has opened their homes and properties to provide all the comforts and organise vetting to prepare all these little rescued kitties for their forever homes.



The hunt continues for appropriate premises to run a Charity Shop. The branch is supportive and realise the advantage of having a space for us to work more together, have more adopt-a-Pet days, fundraise and be able to distribute information on educating towards animal welfare. We were fortunate previously as all this was carried out at our very supportive Bunnings Store.

Our desexing program has grown and runs continuously due to demand. With encouragement from KC, we are helping our community to a great degree.

At present we do not take in rescue dogs but work effectively to help animals to stay at home.

We are looking forward to continuing our work into the future. 🐾

WESTERN SUBURBS & HILLS DISTRICT BRANCH

What a year! Australia has struggled with devastating natural disasters and now the world is facing a health crisis unprecedented during our lifetime. However, the work of AWL NSW continues unabated and our branch is no exception. Desexing continues to be a focus with 216 dogs and 1,676 cats desexed and 164 animals rehomed. We want to see as many cats desexed as possible as the cat population in Western Sydney seems out of control.

Nothing is too much trouble for our volunteers when it comes to saving or enriching the lives of animals. Examples are street kittens Tiffany, who somehow managed to survive, despite not being able to see and no carer, Hamish, rescued from a cactus bush which injured his eye and Possum who recovered after vet treatment. All have been adopted.

Reading this, you may realise that work to help street cats continues and due to the skill of our special carers, even the most challenging kittens eventually realise there are advantages to being tame!

Community work continues with help and advice, including provision of pet food and assistance with vet bills.

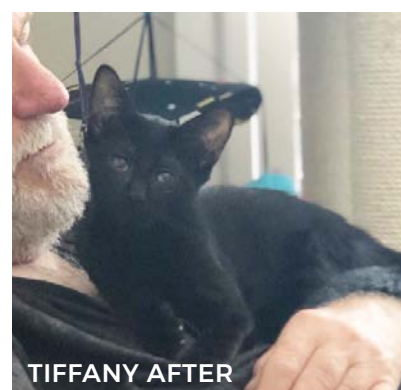
Thanks to all members and volunteers for supporting us and keeping us strong, able to achieve amazing results, sometimes – it seems – against all the odds! 🐾



POSSUM



TIFFANY BEFORE



TIFFANY AFTER

Corporate Sponsors

Animal Welfare League NSW would like to thank our corporate sponsors for their ongoing support. Their generosity does not go unnoticed and enables us to care for and assist a greater number of animals. On behalf of the staff, volunteers, and animals at Animal Welfare League NSW we thank you.



Transforming Lives™

Hills Pet Nutrition Supporting us by providing food to help feed and care for the dogs and cats that come through our doors each year.



Bayer Animal Health Supporting us by providing treatment for our shelter animals to help prevent unwanted illness and provide parasite protection.



TCLS Supporting us by providing our Inspectors with legal support when prosecuting cases.



Bunnings Warehouse Supporting us by providing assistance through the donation of goods and services.

Brock's Story

On the 30th of October 2017, a 10-year-old male Foxhound was surrendered to our Inspectorate after it was found that his previous owner was not able to care for him due to illness. **Brock** spent almost a year with our vets and shelter teams – putting on weight and learning how to be a very good boy. After passing his medical and behavioural assessments, Brock was made available to adopt from our Kemps Creek shelter on 8th October 2018. After spending 820 days with us, and after a short stay in foster care, beautiful Brock was adopted in January 2020 after his foster-dads fell in love with him and decided to make him part of the family. 🐾



Staff say goodbye to Brock after being adopted from our Kemps Creek shelter.



Branch locations

Armidale
Batemans Bay Dog Training Club
Central Coast
Eastern Suburbs
Eurobodalla
Far South Coast
Great Lakes and Manning
Hawkesbury
Illawarra

Moree
Narooma Dog Training Club
Northern Beaches
North Coast
Nowra and Jervis Bay
Orange
Shoalhaven
Tamworth
Western Suburbs & Hills District

**Report animal
cruelty by contacting
Animal Welfare
League NSW on
02 8899 3333**

awlnsw.com.au
helpingpets@awlnsw.com.au
02 8899 3333



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Animal Welfare League NSW

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ACN 000 533 086 | ABN 88 000 533 086 | RON R251000222

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