









ANNUAL REPORT 2020-2021

Who We Are

Animal Welfare League NSW (AWL NSW) believes that all animals should be treated humanely, free from unnecessary pain and suffering.

Animal Welfare League NSW is dedicated to advocating for all animals and having a positive impact on their lives.

-  **Inspectorate Team** – Inspectors enforce animal welfare legislation such as the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, regulations and codes of practice by investigating cruelty complaints, assisting State Government to provide disaster relief and provide education on best animal welfare standards.
-  **Veterinary Services** – A veterinary team providing expert care to animals through our Veterinary Clinic and Mobile Vet Truck.
-  **Shelter** – A dedicated shelter in Western Sydney, New South Wales with a team of highly trained professionals providing care to animals, including rehabilitation, adoption, accepting surrenders into our care and reducing the euthanasia rates of healthy and treatable animals.
-  **Foster Care** – A foster care network that provides care to animals in need and helping them reach their full potential until they can find a forever home.
-  **Branches** – Animal Welfare League NSW, has over 20 Community Groups/branches located across New South Wales, who assist with rehoming animals, foster care, subsidised desexing vouchers and community welfare education.
-  **Animal Welfare League NSW (AWL NSW)** relies heavily on the generosity of individuals, the community, and partnerships to carry out our work.

Message from the President



What a year! As FY 2020-21 draws to a close, I want to thank all of Animal Welfare League NSW staff, volunteers, branches and members for your contributions to what has been an incredibly challenging year. We have found new ways of working and connecting, enhanced who we are as an organisation, and overall performed well under very challenging circumstances.

Despite the odds, it is promising to witness a much greater understanding of how mental health and well-being can be benefitted by pet ownership. Animal Welfare League NSW will continue to educate the public on best welfare standards for all animals and the importance of spending time with pets during these trying times. Together we can continue to help members of the community access free and low-cost care for their pets and protect the unique bond between humans and animals.

Animal Welfare League NSW's Mobile Vet Truck travelled across regional New South Wales to visit the country towns of Tamworth, Armidale, Nambucca, Gunnedah and Dubbo and council areas within Greater Sydney to deliver free microchipping and health checks along with heavily discounted vaccinations to residents undergoing hardships. Our veterinary staff showed exemplary courage on the ground, tackling rough weather and rising floodwater to provide material aid and medical assistance to rescued pets and livestock.

Our team of inspectors have been relentless in their pursuit of justice, leaving no stone unturned to rescue animals that found themselves in distressing situations. Our shelter staff, foster carers and volunteer members have gone above and beyond the call of duty to ensure every animal receives the very-best chance in life.

Finally, I would like to emphasise the importance of staying connected and supporting each other during tough times. It is remarkable to see how each one of you has continued to grow despite the challenges. Animal Welfare League NSW will continue to connect with communities, provide the best resources to help animals and persevere through hardships. Let us build upon the exceptional work that our teams have been doing for so many years.

Dr David Hope
President

f 113,878
FACEBOOK
FOLLOWERS

i 23,518
INSTAGRAM
FOLLOWERS

WWW 39,369 AVERAGE
WEBSITE VISITORS
EACH MONTH



Veterinary Clinic

592 SURGERIES
2,217 CONSULTATIONS
1,727 SHELTER CHECKS
1,403 ANIMALS
DESEXED

Mobile Vet Truck **10**

COMMUNITY TRIPS AND
EMERGENCY RESPONSES

437
ANIMALS ASSISTED

Rehoming

NUMBERS ARE INCLUSIVE OF
BRANCHES & SHELTER

3,284 REHOMED
7 RECLAIMED

757 IN OUR CARE AT THE END
OF THE FINANCIAL YEAR

193 EUTHANISED (MEDICAL
AND BEHAVIOURAL)

Rescued

NUMBERS ARE INCLUSIVE OF
BRANCHES & SHELTER

720 ANIMALS WERE RESCUED
FROM COUNCIL POUNDS.

Branch Desexing

6054 ANIMALS DESEXED

Cats and Kittens

Total number is inclusive of branches & shelter

4448
IN OUR CARE
(2020-21)

2491
REHOMED

155
EUTHANISED
(MEDICAL AND
BEHAVIOURAL)

2
RECLAIMED

587
IN OUR CARE
AT THE END OF THE
FINANCIAL YEAR

Dogs and Puppies

Total number is inclusive of branches & shelter

994
IN OUR CARE
(2020-21)

727
REHOMED

26
EUTHANISED
(MEDICAL AND
BEHAVIOURAL)

4
RECLAIMED

157
IN OUR CARE
AT THE END OF THE
FINANCIAL YEAR

Other Animals

Total number is inclusive of branches & shelter

117
IN OUR CARE
(2020-21)

66
REHOMED

12
EUTHANISED
(MEDICAL AND
BEHAVIOURAL)

1
RECLAIMED

13
IN OUR CARE
AT THE END OF THE
FINANCIAL YEAR

Foster Care

WE PLACED MORE
ANIMALS IN FOSTER CARE
IN FY 2020-21
COMPARED TO ANY
OTHER YEAR



910
NEW ANIMALS PLACED
IN FOSTER CARE

374
FOSTER CARERS UTILISED



Message from the CEO



As another year goes by, I take this opportunity to reflect on our journey. Whilst the year started on an extremely challenging note, with sweeping new COVID-19 restrictions across New South Wales transforming life as we knew it, it is important that we celebrate the wins and successes we have experienced together. This year, despite the challenges that COVID-19 brought right to our doorstep, we have continued to deliver (working on the ground and remotely) on our major pillars that make Animal Welfare League NSW who we are.

After a brief hiatus during the COVID-19 lockdowns last year, our Mobile Vet Truck took to the roads once again, travelling across regional New South Wales and reaching out to communities that need a helping hand. Crucial

partnerships have been formed with regional councils and more country towns explored to address animal welfare concerns. Our friends from Vets Beyond Borders have accompanied us to destinations far and near, as we delivered critical veterinary care for animals across regional New South Wales as well as in Sydney and surrounds.

In March, when the torrential rains and floods swept through large parts of the state, our veterinary staff accompanied the Mobile Vet Truck to Castle Hill Showground, providing relief to all the animals that had been brought in to ensure their safety and wellbeing. Kind contributions made by our supporters and members of the public went a long way in providing food, safe drinking water, veterinary aid and general husbandry to the dogs, cats, horses and other farm animals that were rescued and brought to the relief centre.

In keeping with the spirit of embracing animals of all shapes and sizes, our shelter operations have continued to grow. Our adoption numbers have reached an all-time high, while our steady stream of foster carers ensure no animal goes without a home. Our newly constructed memorial pond overlooking our cattery is a tranquil place for people to gather and reminisce about a dearly departed pet. Our newly unveiled pocket-pets section is now a hub of activity with rabbits and guinea pigs adding to the ensemble of animals in our care. New memorial plaques sponsored by our cohort of supporters in memory of their furry friends now adorn some of our cat condos and dog kennels.

Participating in advising the legislative change process and policymaking has remained a top priority for us through the year. 2020-21 has been a watershed year in bringing sweeping changes to legislation around Protection of Cruelty to Animals Act (POCTAA). Animal Welfare League NSW welcomed the significant increase in penalties and ruling on lifetime ban on owning animals passed by the New South Wales Parliament to act as a deterrent to potential animal cruelty.

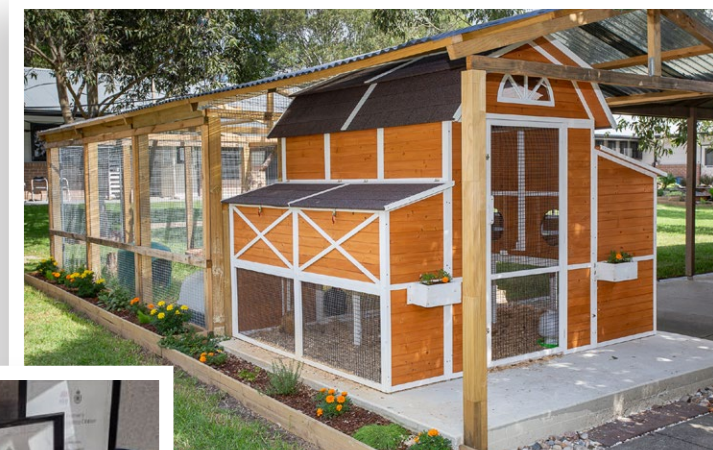
Encouraging responsible pet ownership and ensuring every animal in our care is a perfect match for its new family are paramount to our mission and our vision.

The past year has seen our branches grow from strength to strength, with new branches opening their doors in Armidale, Northern Beaches, Wagga Wagga and Dubbo. Working with their own sets of challenges and curveballs tossed in by COVID-19, our branches have continued to raise the bar on welfare initiatives in their local areas. They have all come out on top with their creativity and resolution to advance the cause of animal welfare across communities.

“Our adoption numbers have reached an all-time high, while our steady stream of foster carers ensure no animal goes without a home.”

Thanks to the ongoing commitment of each one of you, we were able to ensure the health and wellbeing of every animal that has been with us through this time and take our message of kindness and best welfare standards to a larger audience. I would like to again thank you for your steadfast dedication and hard work throughout the year. May we scale greater heights next year!

Mark Slater
Chief Executive Officer



Premier Citations for several staff members of Animal Welfare League NSW to recognise their efforts in providing critical support to the community during bushfires





Sam March, Shelter Manager

At Animal Welfare League NSW we have a dedicated shelter in Western Sydney, New South Wales with a team of highly trained professionals. We provide ongoing care for neglected, abandoned, and surrendered animals.

We rehabilitate animals, provide adoption and surrender services and reduce euthanasia rates of healthy and treatable animals.

At our shelter we provide adoption and surrender services for the following animals but not limited to cats, dogs, rabbits, guinea pigs, rabbits, chickens, ducks, birds, horses, sheep, goats, and pigs.

We are dedicated to advocating for all animals and having a positive impact on their lives.

We've had some challenging times during the 2019-2020 period due to bushfires and COVID-19 pandemic. To best manage these circumstances, we had some of our shelter team assisting at various locations including spending a week in Bega helping the community and their animals.

Whilst this stretched the team, everyone did an amazing job to manage the shelter and continue to provide exceptional services for the welfare of animals in our care and continue to provide adoptions.

"We brainstormed and decided the best way to move forward – whilst the state was in lockdown – was to rehome animals in people's homes. This was a great success."

Soon after the bushfires, COVID-19 became a national disaster. This meant we needed to reassess how our day-to-day business could operate. We brainstormed and decided the best way to move forward – whilst the state was in lockdown – was to rehome animals in people's homes. This was a great success.

2020-21 has also been a challenging period, but the shelter staff stood tall and banded together to overcome the challenges and have continued to provide exceptional services for animals in our care.



Floods

When the sudden floods hit the state in March this year, it threatened lives, property and livelihood of tens of thousands of people. Animal Welfare League NSW was there to offer aid and relief to those who needed it.

The disruptions to the lives of people across New South Wales over the last two years have been unprecedented. While large parts of the state experienced widespread destruction brought on by the deadly bushfires, several communities across NSW had been undergoing hardships caused by the long-standing drought.

In the last week of March 2021, Animal Welfare League NSW's Mobile Vet Truck (MVT) along with volunteers and staff were deployed to Castle Hill Showground at the request of the Department of Primary Industries (DPI).

With the MVT parked at the showground, staff helped supply food, fresh drinking water, bedding and towels to all the animals that had been rescued.

The team spent the next few days stationed at Castle Hill, offering emergency veterinary relief to companion animals and livestock.

The veterinary team also assisted several panic-stricken horses that had made their way into the showgrounds after they were rescued fleeing the floods. They were monitored for signs of hypothermia, pneumonia, and colic. Wound-cleaning, antibiotics and pain relief were also provided to horses in need.

Staff members and volunteers found it encouraging to see the community come together, providing each other with help and support in such hard times.

"The Animal Welfare League NSW team is always ready to help panic-stricken animals when they have no one to turn to."

– **Dr Celine Berjot** Veterinarian, Animal Welfare League NSW



Mobile Vet Truck assists Dubbo and Wellington

The cities of Dubbo and Wellington were grappling with a problem all too common across regional New South Wales. They had been witnessing a spike in the number of free-roaming animals reported to the local regional council, and responsible pet ownership had been seeing a decline.

Animal Welfare League NSW was quick to notice that, besides responding to the need of the hour vaccinations and microchipping, a holistic approach was required to ensure better welfare standards for animals in the community.

So began a 12-month-long partnership between Animal Welfare League NSW and Dubbo Regional Council (DRC), that continues to see the Mobile Vet Truck (MVT) and a team of veterinarians travel to Dubbo every month to help extend critical veterinary care to the animals at Dubbo City Animal Shelter.



Animal Welfare League NSW Mobile Vet Truck (MVT) conducted its first voyage to Dubbo in April. The purpose-designed B-Double trailer trekked into town greeting representatives from the DRC and curious bystanders, who were quick to queue up to know more on Animal Welfare League NSW's community engagement programs.

Dr Nicole McMillan, Vet Services Manager, and Derek Thompson, Mobile Vet Truck Coordinator, along with Animal Welfare League NSW Chief Executive Officer, Mark Slater, played hosts to members of the local media who were visiting for the day.

Speaking on the occasion, Mark Slater said, "Vaccinations, microchipping and desexing are essential in maintaining the welfare status of animals within the community. We were presented with an opportunity to support the Dubbo Council, and in this manner ensure a greater welfare outcome for companion animals, and those who need our help."

"We are committed to providing our support and services to those doing it tough across regional New South Wales. We hope this will drastically reduce the numbers of animals being abandoned."

The MVT will travel to Dubbo every month, helping offer better welfare standards for companion animals across the area.

News

Mobile Vet Truck assists communities across greater Sydney

The Mobile Vet Truck made a two-day stop at Penrith Paceway Showground in Greater Sydney.

Around 10 percent of the companion animal population in Penrith did not have microchips and had not received their vaccinations.

To help extend vital veterinary care to members of the public with pensioner/concession cards, a team of veterinarians and vet nurses issued 121 microchips at no cost and administered 239 vaccinations at heavily discounted rates over two days. The event was open to all residents of Penrith and Hawkesbury Council.

To help educate the community about responsible pet ownership, volunteers from Animal Welfare League NSW Hawkesbury Valley Branch addressed the gathered crowd on the importance of desexing pets and distributed desexing vouchers to members of the public for their companion animals.

“Around 10 percent of the companion animal population in Penrith did not have microchips and had not received their vaccinations.”

– Dr Nicole McMillan, Vet Services Manager, Animal Welfare League NSW

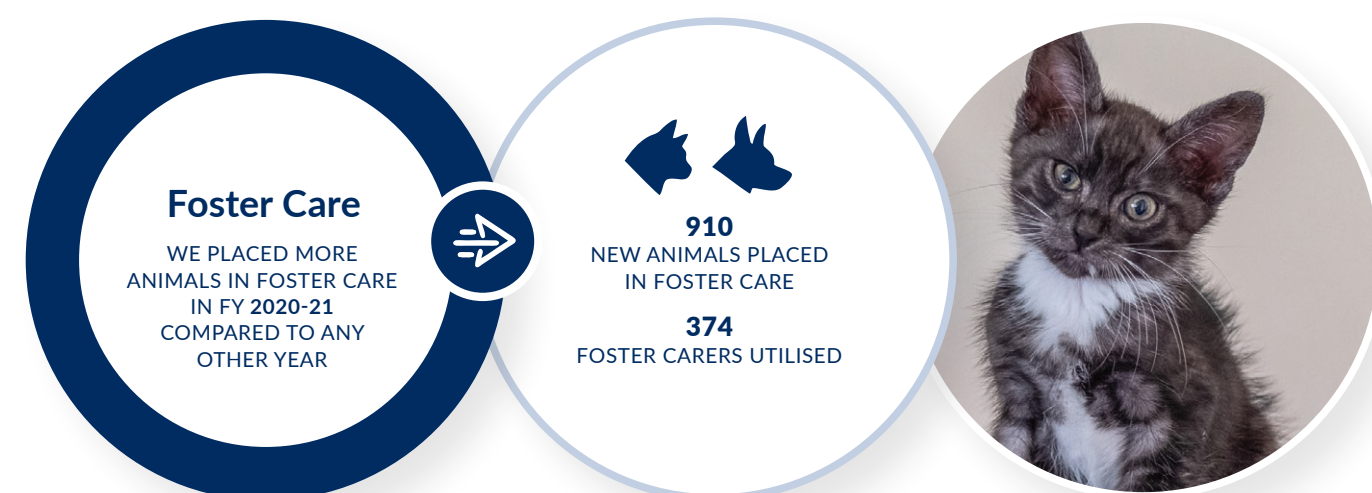
Reaching out to Gunnedah

To fulfil our ongoing commitment to carry out welfare initiatives across regional New South Wales, the MVT travelled to the Gunnedah Showground on June 22 and 23, offering free and discounted veterinary services to pensioners and concession card holders from the area.

Partnering with the Gunnedah Shire Council for the event, our veterinary team issued 58 microchips at no cost, and administered 81 vaccinations at a heavily discounted rate.



Foster Program Update



The Animal Welfare League NSW foster care program is an integral part of ensuring animals who are placed in our care are provided with the ability to thrive in a supportive environment. Our foster care network provides a temporary living situation for animals, in preparation, and ensuring they are ready, to be placed in to their forever homes.

Animal Welfare League NSW relies on our dedicated foster carers to help save more lives.

Our Legacy animals continue to thrive in loving foster homes. Sixteen year-old Chloe and fifteen year-old Dusty (pictured right) met at our shelter years ago as part of the Legacy program. They became a bonded pair and were placed together in a foster home. They've now got a new lease on life in their permanent foster home where they are spoilt and even get taken out for leisurely strolls in pet prams by their foster carer who lives in a village for seniors.





Mobile Vet Truck and Vet Update

The Animal Welfare League NSW Mobile Vet Truck (MVT) is an Australian-first, fully-fitted out B-Double trailer that has been purpose designed to enable Animal Welfare League NSW to travel to regional areas across the state. Animal Welfare League NSW MVT along with specialist staff assist Governing bodies during states of emergency such as the 2019/2020 Bushfires and the 2021 floods and will continue to provide support in the future.

As part of our ongoing efforts to roll out and further sustain welfare initiatives across regional New South Wales, our Mobile Vet Truck is of critical significance.

Our Mobile Vet Truck







The Mobile Vet Truck is over 25 metres long and features specially designed areas to conduct animal surgeries, as well as an isolation room, consult areas and 35 recovery enclosures for animals.

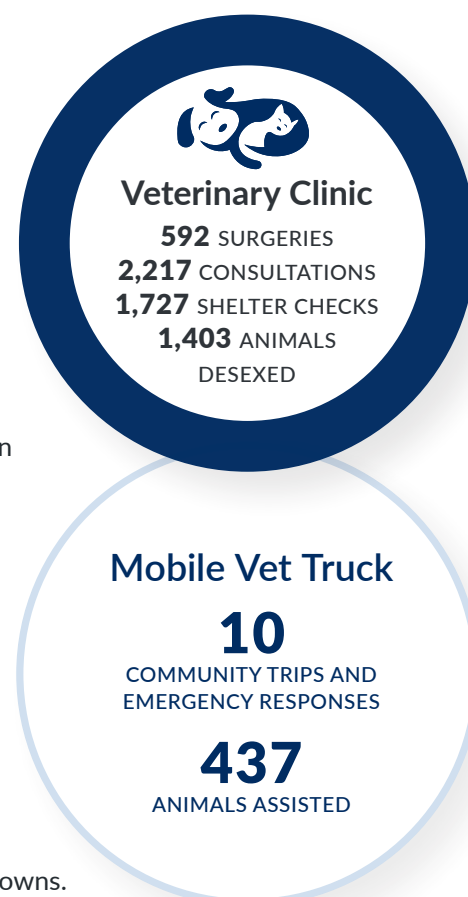
The Mobile Vet Truck also features equipment to perform blood works, specialist fridges, weighing stations and extensive storage to hold veterinary supplies and more.

Connecting with communities

The MVT travels across large parts of regional New South Wales, as well as Greater Sydney, to connect with communities undergoing hardship, as well as spread information and awareness around responsible pet ownership.

The Animal Welfare League NSW veterinary team from our Kemps Creek clinic accompanies the MVT to destinations in collaboration with AWL NSW volunteer branches.

-  Providing free microchipping
-  Health checks and veterinary consultations
-  Subsidised vaccinations
-  Provide relief and aid in consultation with local state government bodies during emergencies and natural disasters
-  Educating members of the public on the best standards of welfare for all animals
-  Assisting in the rescue and recovery of animals from regional towns.



Treasurer's Report 2020-2021

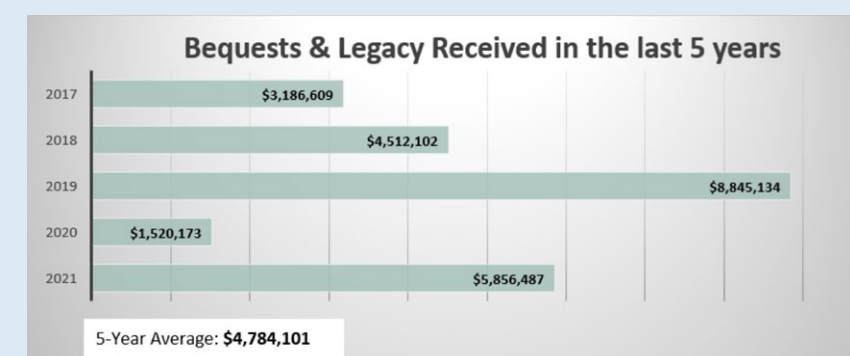
I am pleased to present the Treasurer's Report for the financial year ending 30 June 2021. Animal Welfare League NSW (AWL NSW) recorded a surplus of \$2,214,256. The cash balance at the beginning of the period was \$3,507,693 and income received during the financial year was \$11,029,812, expenses were \$10,069,621.

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 diversify income streams, reducing the reliance on Bequests and Legacies. The goal is to at least cover operating expenses year on year while continuing to provide a high level of animal care.

Income

Bequests and Legacy income continue to be a significant component representing 53% of total income. The five-year average tracking of bequest income is \$4.8M per annum, as indicated in the table below:



The year ended 30 June 2021 was another challenging year for fundraising with the ongoing pandemic and the impact it had on revenue generation.

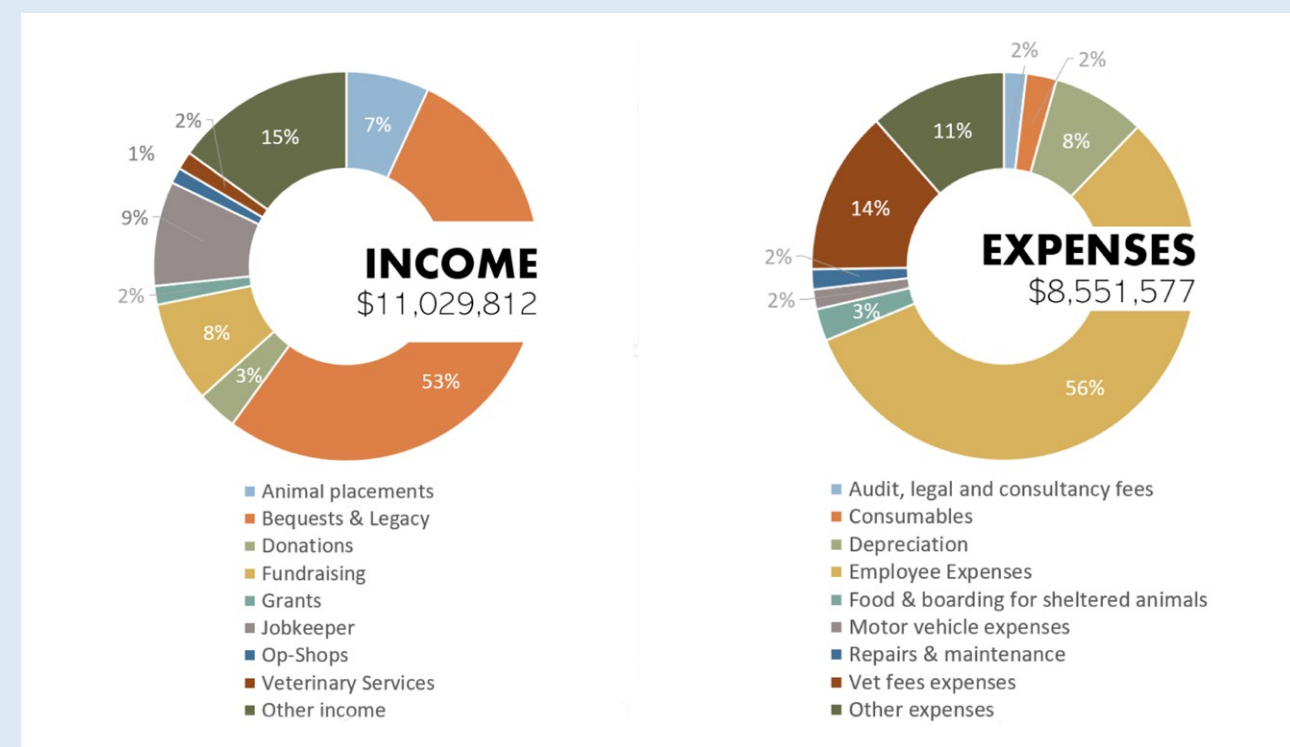
If we deduct the overhead cost of fundraising and corporate office, 76% (2020: 65%) of all income was directed to the caring of animals. The Board and Management remain committed to maximising the percentage of funds raised which are directed in this way

Expenditure

Overall expenditure decreased by \$467K from the previous year. The two largest line items with decreases were Other expenses and Consumables. Other expenses were reduced by \$341K. This was largely due to restrictions imposed on operations during periods of lockdown. Consumables were reduced by \$310K as a result of increased efficiencies following the implementation of a new vet system in November 2020.

Employee costs increased by \$165K and account for 56% of total expenses. Vet fees increased by 221K overall, including \$169K spent assisting the community with vet fee subsidies via the branch Companion Animal Desexing Scheme (CADS).

Treasurer's Report 2020-2021

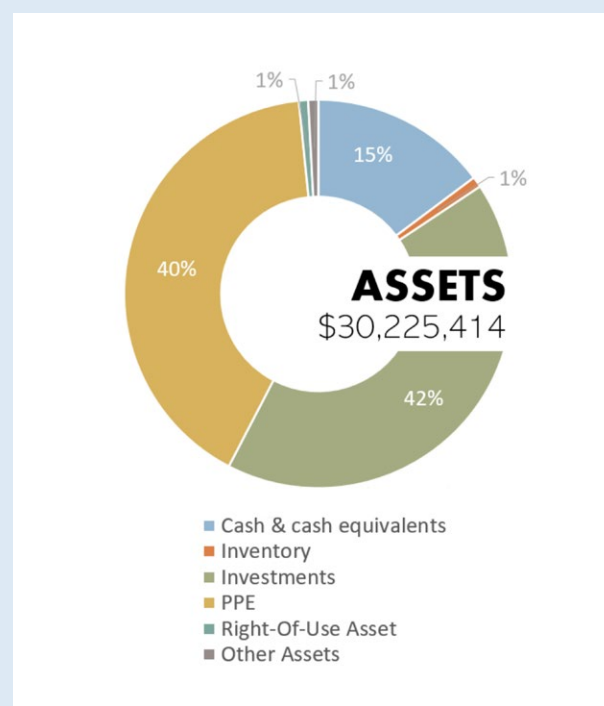


Statement of Financial Position

Member's equity balance for the year ended 30 June 2021 was \$29,034,728 (2020: \$26,820,472) representing an increase of \$2.2M over the previous year. Liabilities are \$1.19M.

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

Nick Deberè, Treasurer



Abridged Financial Statements 2020-2021

Statement of Financial Performance

	2021	2020
INCOME	\$	\$
Animal placements	765,936	470,895
Bequests	5,856,487	1,520,173
Boarding	7,121	11,675
Dividends	64,013	87,762
Donations	371,818	313,835
Fundraising	929,204	1,126,532
Gain on sale of assets	393,093	1,457,061
Grants	171,360	397,190
Interest income	235,524	202,389
Membership	17,982	16,810
Merchandise	43,286	69,537
Op-Shops	143,887	60,751
Veterinary fees	166,073	788,800
Other income	1,864,027	777,610
TOTAL INCOME	11,029,812	7,301,021

Statement of Financial Position

	2021	2020
ASSETS	\$	\$
Cash & Cash Equivalents	4,189,784	1,132,514
Term Deposits	278,100	2,375,179
Receivables & Other Debtors	40,063	68,247
Inventory	268,751	-
Other Current Assets	86,922	356,023
Investments - Equity Method	12,682,661	12,262,364
Intangible Assets	126,507	69,385
Property, Plant & Equipment	12,321,152	12,395,093
Right-Of-Use Asset	231,474	-
TOTAL ASSETS	30,225,414	28,658,805
LIABILITIES		
Accounts Payable & Other Payables	498,980	1,506,243
Provisions	452,872	332,090
Lease Liabilities	238,834	-
TOTAL LIABILITIES	1,190,686	1,838,333
NET ASSETS	29,034,728	26,820,472
MEMBERS' EQUITY		
Reserves	6,690,544	6,954,523
Retained Surplus	22,344,184	19,865,949
TOTAL MEMBERS EQUITY	29,034,728	26,820,472

	2021	2020
EXPENSES	\$	\$
Audit, legal and consultancy fees	159,683	335,050
Computer expenses	81,743	90,804
Consumables	218,699	528,857
Contract fees	25,734	58,233
Depreciation	669,471	611,885
Equipment Hire	22,677	123,744
Food & boarding for sheltered animals	228,451	160,876
Fundraising expenses	50,568	54,126
Motor vehicle expenses	139,961	118,402
Postage expenses	61,523	49,745
Publication and printing expenses	113,932	85,814
Rent	29,193	18,415
Repairs & maintenance	144,096	184,918
Salaries, wages and other employee benefits	4,833,973	4,668,471
Utilities	89,281	127,696
Vet fees expenses		
- branches	982,813	813,137
- shelter external	187,287	135,444
Other expenses	512,492	853,184
TOTAL EXPENSES	8,551,577	9,018,802
Profit/(Loss) before income tax	2,478,235	(1,717,782)
Income tax expense	-	-
Profit/(Loss) after income tax	2,478,235	(1,717,782)
Other Comprehensive Loss		
Loss on revaluation of land and buildings	(263,979)	-
Total other comprehensive loss	(263,979)	-
Net Profit/(Loss)	2,214,256	(1,717,782)



Animal Welfare League NSW Branch Updates

Branch locations:

Armidale	Far South Coast	Northern Beaches
Batemans Bay Dog Training Club	Great Lakes and Manning	Nowra-Jervis Bay
Central Coast	Hawkesbury Valley	Orange
Dubbo	Illawarra	Shoalhaven
Eastern Suburbs	Moree	Tamworth
Eurobodalla	Narooma Dog Training Club	Wagga Wagga
	North Coast	Western Suburbs & Hills District

Animal Welfare League NSW Branches have been helping animals in distress, providing a safe and secure haven for animals.

Over the years, our commitment to animal welfare has remained constant. Our welfare initiatives have continued to grow over time and so has our pledge to reach out to local communities across regional New South Wales.

In the midst of a global pandemic, transforming life as we knew it, coupled with the worst flooding in 60 years, Animal Welfare League NSW grew from strength to strength, opening four new volunteer branches over the last 12 months.

May 2020 saw the Armidale branch being established, with volunteers hitting the ground running and setting up an op-shop and raising funds through the sale of donated goods.

In late August 2020, Sydney's Northern Beaches branch officially opened and remains dedicated in assisting vulnerable animals in the area and its surrounds.

Animal Welfare League NSW's Wagga Wagga volunteer branch opened in November 2020 and has since successfully contributed towards making a huge difference in the lives of so many animals in the Riverina area.

Considering our ongoing pledge of support to the community in Dubbo to address animal welfare concerns from the city and its surroundings, Animal Welfare League NSW launched a Dubbo Volunteer Branch in June. The new volunteer members immediately set to work, to expand on their foster network to accommodate more animals that found themselves in trying situations.

Volunteers from branches generously contribute their time and talent to care for abandoned, neglected, sick, injured and surrendered animals. With additional services like subsidised desexing, microchipping and vaccination programs, all Animal Welfare League NSW branches continue to create a positive impact in the community and in the lives of those who need it most.

ARMIDALE BRANCH

This past year has seen the Armidale Branch further evolve into a dynamic community group, developing positive and collaborative relationships with businesses, council and community members and groups. Support for us has been overwhelming.

Our Op Shop celebrated its first birthday and has become an important hub in our CBD. Thanks to all our crew of hard-working volunteers that keep this, our major fundraiser, running.

This past year has seen us rehome 56 dogs and puppies, with days of care by our wonderful foster carers being 1,743 (fun fact: equates to nearly 4.8 years!). In December, we commenced fostering and rehoming cats and kittens and we have successfully rehomed 5 adult cats and 12 kittens, with days of care by our wonderful foster carers being 1,512 (fun fact: equates to just over 4.1 years!).

Our desexing assistance program has been appreciated by so many in the community. We have contributed over \$35,000 towards desexing 133 dogs and 59 cats.

Our collaborative community events have included attending the local council free microchipping and vaccination day where we worked alongside council and sold Animal Welfare League NSW desexing vouchers. We also held stalls at various community events where we provided community education and sold desexing vouchers. These events included NAIDOC Week celebrations, Earth Day and local Farmers Markets. Pet's Domain has given us space in their store for a monthly adoption day and this is an amazing opportunity to showcase our foster pets.

Our community education activities and sale of desexing vouchers will continue to ensure that pets will have better prospects for the 'good life' in the Armidale area. 🐾



BATEMANS BAY DOG TRAINING CLUB



Batemans Bay Dog Training Club (BBDTC) is a small Branch offering weekly classes for owners and their dogs in 'Basic Manners and Skills', 'Obedience', Co-operative Care for husbandry' and 'Enrichment' using reward-based training methods. We also have pet dog-Agility, Scent Games and Rally-O fun days. Our dog training program builds skills, confidence and strengthens relationships between owners and pets.

The past year has once again been a challenging one with our community still grappling with the fallout of drought, fire, flood and now the new COVID-19 'normal'. The commitment and spirit upheld by our Branch has been invaluable in supporting those in classes and the wider community.

We organised a Christmas-themed training afternoon where prizes were given for best dressed pooch and team games, with all dogs given treats and prizes. It was a fun way to finish our 2020 training season. We plan to expand on this.

Committee members continue to grow and share their knowledge base by way of completing companion animal training and behaviour modification workshops/courses. These education opportunities afford valuable experience when working with community, classes and pets. Guest instructors visit once a month, and the Branch continues to make contacts that are supportive of the BBDTC information, education and welfare goals.

We were able to contribute \$500 towards desexing companion animals this year.

The Branch is looking forward to being able to continue to offer dog owners a local place to train and have fun with their dogs, learn new skills, socialise their dogs, and support them in being responsible pet owners. 🐾



DUBBO BRANCH

We are a new branch, and what a challenging time to start up. The community has been supportive with donations of blankets and other goods for the animals in care. Our team of volunteers hit the ground running and have already managed to get several animals adopted.

We have been fortunate with our wonderful foster carers. It is so heartwarming to see our foster carers' commitment to ensure every animal has somewhere safe, warm and caring to go.

We are establishing a good relationship with our local council shelter, working together to place animals in need within our foster families. We are also receiving enquiries from members of the public regarding private surrenders.

One of our very first rescues was a tiny newborn kitten that had been left at the council shelter. The kitten was in urgent need of a nursing mother cat. Our carers found another mother cat that willingly took the kitten in as her own and saved its life.

We also recently accepted a request from the council shelter to take in a litter of six puppies that didn't have a great start to life. They came into our care filthy, malnourished and with a belly full of worms. Within a week with all the love and care from our foster carers, the pups perked up, ready for a second chance in life. We are proud of our work with the council shelter, and our good name in the Dubbo community. Working in collaboration has been a great learning curve for all of us, and we hope to continue in educating members of the public on responsible pet ownership. 🐾

EASTERN SUBURBS BRANCH



The Eastern suburbs branch continues to provide help for pensioners by subsidising the cost of desexing and other health matters.

On top of providing help in the form of subsidised desexing, our volunteers travel multiple times a week to provide food and care for cats whose owners are unable to look after them due to their own ongoing health issues.

We have been working with a family who rescues cats and together we help with their desexing and rehoming. A lot of cats and kittens (including the ones in the photo) have benefitted from our help and collaboration.

We have continued to run an inner-city market stall which not only provides much needed funds, but also presents us with opportunities to raise awareness around Animal Welfare League NSW activities.

While we are a very small branch, we are full of hope and optimism. Knowing that we have been able to create a difference in the lives of so many animals keeps us going. 🐾

EUROBODALLA BRANCH

Last year we weathered the fires and pandemic with enthusiastic responses to local needs. Shelagh Ingram, joint Vice President and Welfare Officer, was awarded the NSW Premier's Bushfire Emergency Citation for her work providing shelter at Moruya showground to pets displaced by the fires. There was a huge community response with donations of pet bedding and food.

Fundraising continues to be challenging with limitations on crowd numbers, but markets and community festivals are gradually starting up again to the delight of locals and visitors. We held an online raffle which was successful.

Our monthly face-to-face meetings stopped, but thanks to digital communication platforms, all our members were able to share the positive news around our ongoing efforts to rehome pets.

Our Community Assistance Desexing Scheme (CADS) work positively influences the numbers of unwanted pups and kittens, but we are increasingly taking in older pups that have suffered a neglected start to their young lives.

Our foster carers work hard to help some of these animals who have had limited human contact or the comforts of a safe home environment. It's most rewarding to see healthy, happy, and affectionate results. 🐾



FAR SOUTH COAST BRANCH

It's been a very busy year for rehoming and desexing. From July 2020 to end May 2021 we have rehomed 62 dogs/puppies and 126 cats/kittens. Additionally, nine dogs/puppies were transferred to other groups. We have desexed 113 dogs, 95 cats and four rabbits with our vouchers totalling \$24,400.

We also assist members of the community who are in need of financial assistance to pay for special needs veterinary care. Assistance varies from 20% of cost to full cost for victims of the fires who lost everything and are still living in sheds without bathroom facilities.

As well as all our rehoming and desexing, our Welfare Officer tries to help those in need whenever she can. Such was the case with Blossom, a Golden Cocker Spaniel/Poodle who was urgently in need of respite care.

A local vet alerted us when they were asked to put Blossom to sleep. Her owner's husband was terminally ill and with the strain of palliative care plus the high cost of medications to manage Blossom's Addison's Disease (thyroid imbalance) she felt that no one would want a 13-year-old dog with ongoing health issues. At that time, she was unaware of Animal Welfare League NSW. The vet clinic asked us to take Blossom as a surrender and we agreed.

It was obvious however, when we went to collect Blossom that the owner was very distressed about parting with Blossom because she'd had her since she was a tiny puppy and she was a very gentle and sweet little dog. After a short discussion with the owner, it was decided that rather than take Blossom as a surrender, Animal Welfare League NSW Far South Coast branch would take her into respite care with the plan to return Blossom to her owner when she was able to take her back, as she would really need Blossom's company once her partner passed away.

Blossom easily settled in with the carer and enjoyed her 5 km morning walks and plenty of ball chasing. She even slept with her ball. A week later the owner's husband passed away and another week later the owner was ready to have Blossom back. Both were delighted to see each other again and we were very happy to be able to help both Blossom and her owner at their time of need, reuniting them and allowing them to remain together.

We received some grant funding due to the bushfires in the area which was greatly received. It went towards rebuilding pens and fences for our carers. We also received donations of food for our animals in care and for those in need.

Our fundraising activities were put on hold due to COVID-19. However, we continued with our Calendar of Second Chances which was well received and our annual Santa Paws event which is now in its thirteenth year. 🐾



GREAT LAKES AND MANNING BRANCH

These last 12 months have been just as challenging as the previous 12 months when we suffered from drought, bushfires and COVID-19 lockdowns. This year too has seen some effects of the pandemic and has witnessed record floods. We were faced with harrowing scenes of destruction and displacement and witnessed a home floating down the Manning River with the family's dogs inside. We kept busy trying to get food and bedding for those in need.

Our little shop is doing remarkably well, even with reduced hours of 10am-2pm on weekdays and 9am-12pm on Saturdays. Our customers are very happy that we are still operating, often just dropping in for a friendly chat even if nothing is purchased (which does not happen frequently as there is such a diverse range of items and always something to catch your eye!). We have several four-legged furry friends who drag their humans in for a browse while they get all the scratches, cuddles and pats.

Unsaleable goods are still a big problem, but that seems fairly common with Charity Shops.

Our volunteers, shop workers and animal foster carers do an amazing job, and we can never thank them enough.

Desexing stats for the year

- Under the Companion Animal Desexing Scheme (CADS), 129 dogs, 220 cats and 6 rabbits were de-sexed
- In house animals – 6 dogs and 142 cats were de-sexed
- Giving us a total 135 dogs, 362 cats and 6 rabbits

CAAS stats for the year (excluding desexing)

- We assisted 45 animals for consults, 2 animals had to be euthanised and we assisted with funds for 29 surgeries.

All in all, despite the challenges of floods and a pandemic, the Great Lakes and Manning Branch has had another good year. We are looking forward to an even better 21/22. 🐾

HAWKESBURY BRANCH

Hard to believe another year has come and gone so quickly. COVID-19 continued to present challenges to be faced, and overcome, as they arose.

The two key components of our branch — rescue and rehoming and providing subsidised desexing to people feeling financial pressure and hardship, continue unabated. The past year has seen an increase in people seeking financial help to afford basic vet care for their pets, requests for food parcels, as well as assistance to transport pets to and from vets.

The branch continues to build on and enjoy a good working relationship with both councils in our area and recently (in May 2021) we were proud to host a two-day visit by the Animal Welfare League NSW Mobile Vet Truck to Penrith. This was extremely well received by all who attended with their pets and many favourable comments were shared with us. A total of 248 pets received free health-checks, 239 were vaccinated, 121 microchips were implanted and 120 subsidised desexing vouchers issued.

During the past financial year, two initiatives that the branch undertook were the opening of a small adoption centre located within Macquarie Vet Clinic in Windsor, and the introduction of an online auction to fundraise. The adoption centre has seen approximately 125 cats and kittens rehomed and the two online auctions so far have proved quite successful.

Each July, this branch participates in the National Desexing Month program and each year the demand grows. July 2020 saw us issue almost 600 vouchers, with well over 1,000 issued for the entire year.

One of the major challenges facing our branch is the recruitment of new people willing to take on the responsibility of executive/administration roles and we continue to work on improving this situation.

As always, our goal is to bring together healthy, well-socialised pets and caring adopters to ensure the best outcome for our companion animals. 🐾

ILLAWARRA BRANCH

The new direction and focus for the Illawarra Branch on fostering and adoptions has seen the program go from strength to strength with new people interested in helping with fostering and lots of interest in kittens to adopt.

A steady increase of cats and kittens were surrendered to Animal Welfare League NSW Illawarra Branch during the financial year, with a total of 285 coming in. 261 have been adopted, representing an almost doubling of adoptions in the first six months of 2021, compared to the previous six months. Our teamwork with Shoalhaven and Nowra-Jervis Bay branches saw us collectively manage a mini colony of 23 felines that started with a single un-desexed female cat.

We have a Facebook page where we can inform the public about our activities and advertise the animals we have for adoption. A Facebook call for foster carers early this year saw an enormous response.

An outstanding group of over 50 foster carers fostered the cats and kittens over the year. This included several foster carers who cared for multiple cats/kittens, which is such an exceptional commitment. One of our foster carers also found time to set up a dedicated Facebook page for Animal Welfare League NSW Illawarra Branch foster carers to share information, photos and stories.

Several of our multitalented foster carers are ensuring that the cats and kittens ready for adoption are presented well on social media through professional quality photos and accompanying text and stories on the unique personalities of each animal.

As part of our support for volunteers and new owners, we developed and distributed a foster carer kit, as well as an adoption kit, and have received good feedback on these initiatives.

To thank our foster carers for all their hard work we held a happy and celebratory picnic lunch at the Wollongong Botanic Gardens on what turned out to be a sunny and warm day.

Subsidised desexing was provided to 218 animals this financial year, illustrating the importance of this valuable service to assist people on low incomes to desex their companion animals. 🐾

MOREE BRANCH

Our tiny branch marches on for another year, despite COVID-19 posing a bevy of challenges.

We have been overwhelmed throughout the year with huge numbers of animals needing help at our local pound, as well as a long list of surrender requests.

In order to save more lives, we have collaborated with other animal rescue groups in the surrounding area to help with transportation of animals in our care.

We are always very thorough with keeping our puppies in the best of health. We vaccinate them and keep them with us for at least a week before transporting, and then drive for four or five hours to meet volunteers from other rescue groups that help with adoptions, and then make our way back home.

We continue to rehome smaller dogs and most of the kittens by ourselves. Considering there are still only three of us in the branch, plus a couple of casual foster carers, our numbers are quite remarkable!

This financial year, we have adopted out 58 dogs, 57 pups, 10 cats and 94 kittens. We have also collaborated with other animal rescue groups to help a set of 123 dogs, 170 pups, 3 cats and 17 kittens.

We have helped save the lives of 181 dogs, 227 pups, 13 cats and 111 kittens.

Seeing these numbers makes us very proud, as we continue to work towards improving the lives of animals in our care. 🐾

NAROOMA DOG TRAINING CLUB

Narooma Dog Training Club (NDTC) Branch Committee is pleased to report that all canine education programs are back in full swing for 2021. Restrictions related to COVID-19, which dominated the 2020 program and seriously curtailed enjoyment of the Dogs Christmas Party, have eased allowing for the complete resumption of Obedience, Agility and Rally Obedience training in February 2021.



Public announcements on training days help to bring back the collegiality we all missed in 2020 and Branch members have returned to fundraising activities at Dalmeny Markets, providing NDTC with an important public face. Many handlers who participated at the end of 2020 returned to continue training their dog, and the newly structured Beginners Class for 2021 has been 'sold out' on three occasions.

NDTC continues to offer weekly safe and effective canine training to dogs of all breeds upwards of three months, thanks to the amazing work of dedicated volunteers. The remainder of 2021 looks bright as NDTC moves towards its annual goal of 100 participants, and the promotion of responsible pet ownership in the local community. 🐾

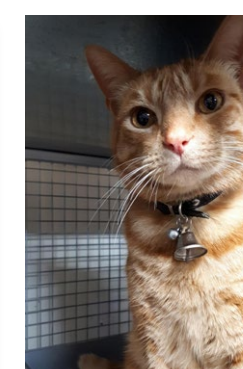
NORTH COAST BRANCH

Working with COVID-19 health and safety regulations in place, we were able to carry out most of our branch activities. Volunteers gave their best effort, remaining focused on delivering the most achievable outcomes.

Our cat adoption centre thrived, from where 85 felines found a new home. Several featured in our Branch newsletter. Some left us more quickly than others. Handsome ginger boy Mister Puss [pictured] was snapped up within days. Feisty female tabby Leia [pictured] waited for eleven months.

Financially, we were able to provide necessary veterinary care, special dietary requirements, and foster care, to several sick cats.

In difficult times, the local community maintained their support, in donations and in kind. Bunnings Byron generously contributed to an upgrade of the outdoor kitten enclosure.



From March 2020 onward, 'on the street' events could no longer be arranged which in turn meant our fundraising took a battering. In lieu, three garage sales, held between October 2020 and February 2021, were moderately successful. Street Stalls resumed in March 2021, with noticeably reduced sales than pre-COVID days.

We highly appreciate all the help we receive from our volunteers. Sadly, a family from Netherlands that had been helping and supporting our work for several years had a change in their personal circumstances and left the country in June. They will be dearly missed.

The CADS year ended positively, with 24 Vet practices accounting for the desexing of 261 dogs and 193 cats. 🐾



NORTHERN BEACHES BRANCH

We have often been asked why setting up a new Animal Welfare League NSW branch been such good timing during a stressful pandemic. How animals are treated is a clear reflection of education and awareness, and mental health of the people around them. So, opening the Northern Beaches branch during such an incredibly difficult year couldn't have come at a better time for our animal friends out there.

Since August last year we have managed to rehome 63 animals to new loving pet owners making both our furry friends and their humans even happier, together.

Another pride and joy of our branch has been creating and maintaining a mammoth foster care network across the Beaches. We have been blown away by the capacity for love and care by our community towards the animals who need our help.

One of the secrets to our success in growth and impact this year was due to the hard work and dedication of our social media guru – Sarah Woollorton. She has grown our Instagram account to a whooping 1,351 followers! The combination of followers and fun digital content helps reveal the stories of our animal friends, which makes it easier to rehome our adoptees-in-waiting.



This year we have also managed to host “The Northern Beaches cutest dog photo competition” to help raise awareness of our branch. Our message to the community is loud and clear – let us give more homeless animals a second chance in life!

A big thank-you to all the volunteers who have spent countless hours driving animals to vet appointments, rehoming, dropping off food, toys and much more. And a special thanks to our crew who have made this possible by dedicating their time and talent to ensure Northern Beaches keep their animals safe.

Under the direction of the Vice President Tali Weihart and President Felicity Hillenaar, we are set up for another successful year ahead! 🐾



NOWRA-JERVIS BAY BRANCH

COVID-19 and the subsequent challenges brought on by it are still impacting our community, as well some of the animal welfare issues that our volunteers and carers are faced with.

Attending to messages like “Free to good home”, “Abandoned units with multiple litters”, or “Does anyone want a pregnant cat?” has kept us busy. Our abandoned unit gave us 13 cats and kittens. All bar the Mumma have since found homes.

Working with the Shoalhaven and Illawarra branches, we took a pregnant mum in, and Mum and bubs were all adopted. We also watched a Chihuahua lovingly help raise two abandoned two-week-old kittens, and they were adopted together

Our recent ‘Roadside Babies’ melted hearts. Found in a box by the roadside, amidst torrential rain, Ben, an on-duty police officer checked the box and took them home, dried them, fed them and delivered them to us. One sadly passed away, but the four others (photographed) - Sarge, Lou, Maz, Bluey have now all been adopted. Thank you Ben!

Overall, 55 cats and kittens were rehomed. We facilitated the desexing of 97 cats and kittens, 54 dogs and puppies, 1 ferret and 6 rabbits. We have helped with assisted rehoming for dogs and puppies.

As we only have two full time foster carers, and one lovely lady as our go-to person in an emergency, we are proud of our achievements. Thank you to those that support us do what we love and helping the voiceless. 🐾



ORANGE BRANCH

The Orange Branch has been very busy, with most of our members also working full-time. We're extremely proud of how much we have been able to achieve, juggle and multi-task. We've had some great success stories, and amazing updates from adopters, which make all the tough times worth our while. We're very lucky to have met some fantastic people and have such a supportive team to work with.

We've been working closely with local pounds in the Central West, assisting with rehoming animals whenever we can. Whilst COVID-19 has had some down sides, it has also shown us just how much our community can pull together during the tough times.

We're extremely excited to welcome aboard our new neighbour, the Dubbo Branch! Welcome to the Animal Welfare League NSW family! We wish all our members and supporters the best for the challenging times ahead. We can't wait to see what the next six months bring. 🐾



SHOALHAVEN BRANCH

Another busy year gone by already. Seems not that long ago we were trying to hold our last AGM amongst COVID-19 lockdowns and restrictions and here we are ready for the AGM again.

Our branch has had its ups and downs over the last 12 months. Our fundraising took a definite hit during 2020 but we have finally been able to get back out there again and have started thinking outside the box rather than just relying on our raffle sales. Some of our new initiatives this year included online raffles, food drives, market stalls, Petstock Wishing Tree, grants and garage sales.

The past year also brought its fair share of interesting animals. From attending to diaphragmatic hernias to persistent pupillary membrane to rescue missions on busy highways, we also took in quite a few timid kittens and adults. The kittens were all socialised and rehomed as were two of the adults. The last one found a great home as a barn cat. It's always so rewarding to take an animal in that has had no prior positive experience with humans and teaching it to become a family pet.

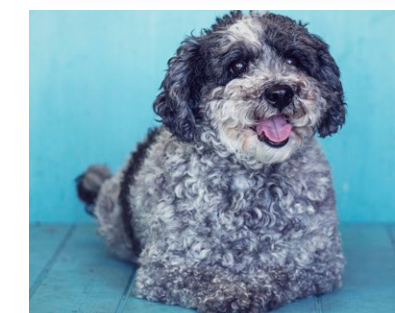
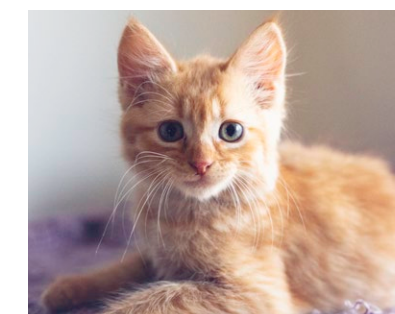
All up this year, we rehomed 25 cats and 59 kittens.

We had some lovely dogs come through our branch as well this year. As some of our foster carers are older, we mostly rehome small breed dogs. We had many older dogs and dogs with dreadful dental problems come to us, who after treatment went on to find loving homes. We have noticed a higher demand for canine pets brought on by COVID-19. It has also brought about a reduction in the number of smaller breed dogs being surrendered for rehoming.

This year we rehomed 28 dogs and puppies.

The past 12 months have been very busy for our desexing officer. Since we started working with the local Council pound on our desexing program, the number of desexing vouchers issued has doubled. Our collaborative work has been of huge help to our branch, as the Council helps us with verification of details of pet ownership.

We were also involved in the launch of the Shoalhaven Cat Project in 2019 and our continued push to educate owners on the need to desex their cats has led to a 60 percent increase in desexing vouchers being issued to cat owners. 🐾



TAMWORTH BRANCH

We have spent the last 12 months living by our motto to the fullest – we never turn anyone away. We are always there to help with advice, comfort and a positive attitude. We understand and acknowledge the difficult times that the community has found itself in, and we like to extend our help to those who need it most.

We had a good run with our adoptions this year, adopting 173 kittens and 25 cats. While we put together this summary, we can picture them sitting cosily by the fireplace in their new homes or watching the world go by from their comfortable perch by the window.

We have managed to conduct three barbeque fundraisers at our local Bunnings and making a beeline for the farmers markets once a month to spread the word on adoptions. We also attended an event organised by the local council to help educate and inform members of the public on the importance of desexing pets.

We had a great experience hosting the Animal Welfare League NSW Mobile Vet Truck at Tamworth, it was a great success for everyone who was involved and those it supported. There has been a surge in new members joining our branch. We couldn't be more pleased!

Under the Companion Animal Desexing Scheme (CADs) 22 dogs and 177 kittens/cats were desexed. 🐾



WAGGA WAGGA BRANCH

The Animal Welfare League NSW Wagga Wagga Volunteer Branch opened in November 2020. The initial focus was to set up a foster care network of volunteers with the aim of rehoming local dogs and cats in need. We also aimed to provide access to discounted desexing services to low-income earners as well as educate and improve awareness about the work of Animal Welfare League NSW.

We reached out and connected with our local animal shelter and local vets. Thanks to the hard work and dedication of our volunteers, our foster care network is now up and running.

Our branch has fostered/is fostering 22 kittens/cats with 5 adoptions into happy homes.

We often face challenges that come with being based out of a regional area. Our discounted desexing program has had a slow start but is up and running. We try and help as many people and their animals as possible, having recently assisted someone who lives in Jerilderie (a couple of hours drive away from Wagga Wagga).

Our branch also held an information stall at a popular local market and raised much needed funds. It was a very busy day with lots of questions and interest in the work of Animal Welfare League NSW and our branch.

Thanks to the RSL Club Wagga Wagga and Glenfield Road Animal Shelter, members and volunteers for their generosity and support. Here's to bigger and better things for our branch in 2021-22. 🐾



WESTERN SUBURBS & HILLS DISTRICT BRANCH

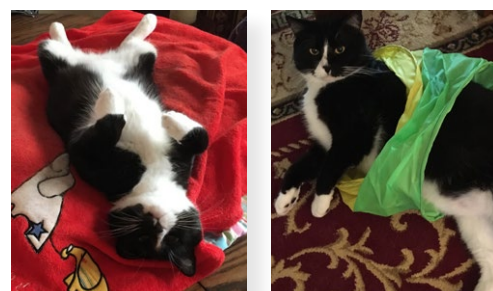
The world continues to struggle with COVID-19 challenges, but our branch work continues uninterrupted. Some things have changed, for example, holding Zoom meetings, however no animal has gone without help due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Our low-cost July desexing drive was the most successful yet and total desexing vouchers redeemed for the year totalled 1,990 animals, mostly cats. We rehomed 13 cats and 120 kittens with a further 8 kittens transferred to the Kemps Creek Shelter.

Our volunteers remain committed to helping street cats by rehoming kittens and adults when possible. It's sometimes heartbreaking to see the conditions in which these cats live, but the rewards can be enormous – for example when a street cat finds a home of his own.

Alan is such a cat – he has stolen the hearts of his owners, and as you can see, he sometimes has difficulty relaxing! He's not much in the 'looks department' but has 'cattitude' to compensate. His owners tell him 'It doesn't matter what you look like, as long as you're loved' and he is!

Community work continues, with help, advice, and assistance with vet bills and food. Thanks to everybody who helps our branch enrich the lives of animals. 🐾



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.



Hills – 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.



Pet Circle – Supporting us by providing assistance through the donation of goods.

Mae finds her forever home

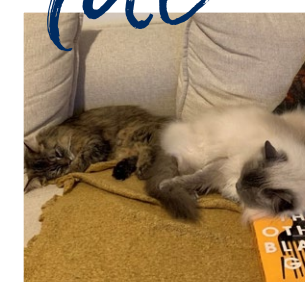
It was love at first sight for 11-year-old Ragdoll Mae and her new owners. When they first arrived at Kemps Creek shelter earlier this year, the couple was quite taken by the gentle yet clever cat who had been waiting to find her forever home.

Originally rescued in 2019 by our Inspectorate who found her in a state of utter neglect, Mae was provided life-saving veterinary care, nutrition, and lots of TLC by our team of veterinarians and shelter staff to prepare her for a second chance in life.

Her new owners were very keen to bring home an older shelter pet, and highlight the importance of giving vulnerable animals an opportunity to find safe and loving homes.

After living at the shelter for many months, Mae comfortably settled in her new household, and has even learnt to respond to her new name – Mars aka Marsy Mae. Her new owners now describe her as an affectionate, agile and crafty cat who loves her regular grooming sessions, and enjoys all the attention from the couple's many friends.

With the family recently adopting another cat from the Kemps Creek shelter, Mae now has a playmate called Peru and loves to chase her through the cat tunnel. 🐾



Mae at her new home



Branch locations:

Armidale
Batemans Bay Dog Training Club
Central Coast
Dubbo
Eastern Suburbs
Eurobodalla
Far South Coast
Glen Innes
Great Lakes and Manning
Hawkesbury Valley
Illawarra
Moree
Narooma Dog Training Club
North Coast
Northern Beaches
Nowra-Jervis Bay
Orange
Shoalhaven
Tamworth
Wagga Wagga
Western Suburbs & Hills District



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