ANIMAL WELFARE LEAGUE NSW

INSPECTORS OFFICE

REGISTERED NO. CFN 10416 UNDER THE NSW CHARITABLE FUNDRAISING ACT ABN 88 000 533 086

1605 Elizabeth Dr, Kemps Creek NSW 2178

Telephone: (02) 8899 3333 Facsimile: (02) 8899 3366

Email: inspectors@awlnsw.com.au

AWL NSW Inspectorate

Annual Report 2025-2026

Submitted in accordance with section 34B(3)

of the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979* (NSW)

As per the requirement of Animal Welfare League NSW (AWL NSW) as an approved charitable organisation under Section 34B of the Prevention to Cruelty to Animals Act 1979, I am writing to report to the Minister for Agriculture, of the exercise of powers by AWL NSW Inspectors under the Act for the twelve-month period ending 30 June 2026.

Listed below is information obtained from statistics held by AWL NSW Inspectors for the period 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026.

(1) Information pursuant to clause 41(1) of the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Regulation 2025* (NSW):

(a) complaints received, and investigations undertaken, about the treatment of animals:

AWL NSW received 6,687 animal cruelty complaint calls, from which 4,674 cruelty cases were opened. Inspectors undertook 7,465 investigation attendances, including new cases/jobs and revisits.

(b) Animals seized or taken possession of under the Act

A total of 467 animals were reported as seized or taken possession of under the Act.

(c) Cautions given

Inspectors issued 733 official cautions.

(d) Notices issued

Inspectors issued 131 section 24N notices and 68 penalty infringement notices.

(e) Proceedings for offences

The supplied annual total is 23 prosecution matters, including carried-over matters: 17 finalised and 6 ongoing.

(f) Officers and training

The current list comprises 14 appointed officers. Officer details and training are provided in sections 2(k) and 2(m).

(g) Complaints about the organisation or officers

Eight complaints are detailed in section 2(l).

(2) Information pursuant to clause 41(2) of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Regulation 2025 (NSW):

(a) Number and substance of animal cruelty complaints

AWL NSW received 6,687 animal cruelty complaint calls during the reporting period, resulting in 4,674 cruelty cases being opened. The following 5,249 recorded concerns include multiple concerns within individual cases. These are reported or investigated concerns, not findings that offences were proven.

Complaint concern	Number
Abandonment	621
Advertising ID breach	824
Breach of code of practice	59
Confined — insufficient space	76
Confined — insufficient exercise	232
Confined — overcrowded	32
Confined in car	23
Confined in house	23
Exposed to excessive cold	7
Exposed to excessive heat	21
General abuse	91
General neglect	830

Complaint concern	Number
Inadequate veterinary treatment	633
Insufficient food and drink	921
Insufficient shelter	273
Killed	16
Poisoned	19
Tethered — no exercise	104
Tethered — unreasonably heavy	63
Tethered — unreasonably short	32
Transport — unsatisfactory	12
Welfare concern	337
Total	5249

(b) Visits or investigations arising from complaints

Inspectors undertook 7,465 investigation attendances, including new cases/jobs and revisits. A separate initial-attendance and revisit breakdown has not been confirmed; the number of cases opened is not assumed to equal the number of initial visits.

(c) Visits or investigations unrelated to complaints

Inspectors conducted 350 inspections unrelated to complaints, comprising 276 proactive trade inspections and 74 other routine inspections.

Inspection category	Number
Agricultural shows	1
Boarding establishments — dogs and cats	24
Animal breeders — dogs	47
Animal breeders — cats	23
Animal breeding — all others excluding livestock	6
Animal transport including companion animals	0
Pet grooming establishments	27
Security dog businesses including training	5
Boarding stables and riding centres	17
Rodeo events	0
Equine and other horse events	4
Commercial production — pigs chickens and livestock	0
Transport of livestock — unsatisfactory/AWIRs	0

Inspection category	Number
Animals in film and theatrical performances	79
Pet shops	38
Zoos and other exhibited animals	0
Companion animal pounds	0
Wildlife rehabilitators	2
Saleyards	3
Poultry farms	0
Feedlots	0
Depots	0
Abattoirs and knackeries	0
Greyhound complaints	0
Racetracks — horse or greyhound	0
Total proactive trade inspections	276
Other routine inspections	74
Total inspections unrelated to complaints	350

(d) Persons officially cautioned

Inspectors issued 733 official cautions. A caution delivered by a Magistrate in the ___matter is recorded separately in the proceedings table.

(e) Notices issued under section 24N

Inspectors issued 131 notices under section 24N of the Act during the reporting period.

(f) Animals seized or taken possession of and days in care

The supplied total is 467 animals seized or taken possession of under the Act. Length of stay varied depending on whether an animal remained in protective custody during court proceedings or was surrendered to AWL NSW. Stays were reported as generally extending beyond 60 days.

(g) Penalty notices issued

Inspectors issued 68 penalty infringement notices during the reporting period.

(h) Proceedings instituted during the reporting period

The annual activity total supplied is 23 prosecution matters, including matters carried over from previous years. Of these, 17 are reported as finalised and 6 as ongoing. The following table records the finalised matters supplied so far.

Additional matters progressed towards prosecution; however, a number of Court Attendance Notices and briefs of evidence were served after 30 June 2026. These matters are to be

accounted for in the 2026–2027 reporting period, subject to verification of their institution dates.

(i) Outcomes of supplied proceedings finalised by the report date

Proceedings AWL NSW v	Court and dates	Charges	Outcome
	Campbelltown; September 2025.	Failure to provide veterinary treatment; Failure to provide sufficient food.	Dogs surrendered at first mention. Proceedings withdrawn.
	Windsor December 2025	Failure to provide veterinary treatment; aggravated cruelty	Defendant died before finalisation. Proceedings withdrawn.
	Campbelltown; August 2025.	Failure to provide veterinary treatment; aggravated cruelty; failure to provide food × 2.	Convicted and fined. Dog ownership disqualification 7 years, followed by 3 years restricted to no more than one dog.
	Picton; December 2025.	Failure to provide food; failure to provide drink; unreasonably heavy tether; unreasonably short tether.	Dog ownership disqualification 3 years. Convicted.
	Campbelltown; July 2025.	Failure to provide veterinary treatment × 4; failure to provide food × 2.	Convicted 2 February 2026. Dog ownership disqualification 3 years.
	Liverpool; October 2025.	Being in charge of an animal fail to exercise care Being in charge of an animal fail to provide vet treatment	Convicted. 18-month Community Correction Order from 18 June 2026 to 17 December 2027. Disqualified from owning any animal for 3 years. Seized animal permanently surrendered to AWL NSW.
	Penrith; June 2026.	Failure to provide veterinary treatment; failure to provide food.	Guilty plea and convictions. Fines total $2,000; 50% moiety. Professional costs $8,561.36. Dog ownership disqualification 3 years. Animal seized 23 February 2026 permanently surrendered to AWL NSW.
	Mt Druitt; April 2026.	Failure to provide veterinary treatment.	Convicted. Restricted to owning no more than one dog for 3 years.

Proceedings AWL NSW v	Court and dates	Charges	Outcome
	Blacktown;	Committing an act of cruelty.	Convicted. Disqualified from owning any animal for 5 years.
	Bega; November 2025.	Failure to provide veterinary treatment; aggravated cruelty; failure to provide food.	Guilty on all counts 26 March 2026. Fines $4,000; 50% moiety. Disqualified from owning any animal for 10 years. Professional costs $2,500; veterinary costs $862.50.
	Narooma; October 2025.	Cruelty charge withdrawn; failure to alleviate pain; failure to provide veterinary treatment.	May 2026: guilty without conviction on remaining charges. 2-year Conditional Release Order requiring AWL NSW supervision guidance and education, no reoffending and court attendance if called upon. No dog ownership for 2 years. Disposal orders for 1 dog and further dogs in care. Professional costs awarded $2,120.37.
	Dubbo; March 2026.	Failure to alleviate pain; failure to provide veterinary treatment.	Visible order records $2,000 fine for veterinary-treatment offence and 3-year disqualification covering acquisition possession keeping care and arrangements controlling animals. Conviction.
	Orange; September 2025	Selling a non-prescribed electrical device — corporation offence.	Business owner cautioned by the Magistrate.
	Campbelltown; February 2026	Failure to alleviate pain; failure to provide veterinary treatment; failure to provide food and drink; hindering/obstructing exercise of powers.	Convicted; fines $4,100; 50% moiety. Disqualified from owning any animal for 10 years. Animal care costs $2,539.24 plus prosecution/professional costs. Dog forfeiture order granted; transfer advised after 28-day appeal period.
	Liverpool; December 2025.	Selling a non-prescribed electrical device — corporation offence.	$10,000 penalty imposed, reported as maximum penalty. Conviction.

17 finalised matters are listed across sections (i) and (j). 6 cases remain ongoing.

The 6 cases ongoing are:

AWLNSW v ___ - Breach of Disqualification Order

AWLNSW v ___ - Act of Cruelty (Physical Abuse)

AWLNSW v ___ - Breach of Disqualification Order

AWLNSW v ___ - Act of Cruelty (Physical Abuse)

AWLNSW v ___ - Aggravated Cruelty x 2

AWLNSW v ___ - Fail to provide veterinary treatment, fail to alleviate pain

(j) Outcomes of outstanding proceedings from the previous report

Proceedings	Outcome
AWL NSW v ____	Proceedings withdrawn following admissions by a minor. Evidence suggested another person's involvement but was insufficient to establish that involvement beyond reasonable doubt.
AWL NSW v ____	12-month Community Correction Order on all charges; disqualified from owning dogs for 3 years.

(k) Current officers and changes since the previous report

At the date of the report, the supplied current list comprises 14 appointed officers. There are no further changes to this supplied list.

Officer	Position
	Chief Inspector
	Team Leader
	Team Leader
	Senior Inspector
	Senior Inspector
	Inspector
	Inspector
	Inspector
	Inspector
	Inspector
	Inspector
	Inspector
	Inspector
	Inspector

Compared with the previous report, five inspectors are newly appointed. ____ is now listed as appointed, having previously awaited authority. ____is no longer employed with AWLNSW.

(l) Complaints about AWL NSW or its officers

Eight complaints against Inspectors are detailed below. Each was assessed and reported as unsubstantiated.

Complaint	Resolution
Property entry after an incorrect address was supplied; owner questioned Inspector powers.	Owner informed about Inspector powers. Complaint assessed as unsubstantiated.
Cats surrendered while owner was unable to care for them.	Circumstances reviewed; complaint unsubstantiated.
Seizure of a Labrador following welfare concerns under the Act. Prosecution pending.	Complaint against Inspector assessed as unsubstantiated.
Allegation of unnecessary euthanasia of a dog.	Veterinary opinion supported euthanasia on welfare grounds. Inspector actions in seeking veterinary assessment found appropriate; complaint unsubstantiated.
Complaint about prosecution for failure to obtain veterinary treatment.	Case prosecuted; complaint assessed as unsubstantiated.
Allegation of unnecessary dog seizure for inadequate veterinary treatment.	Case prosecuted; complaint assessed as unsubstantiated.
Complaint about Inspector conduct during attendance.	Body-worn camera footage reviewed; complaint unsubstantiated.
Complaint received from a council about Inspector conduct.	Assessment included body-worn camera footage; complaint unsubstantiated.

(m) Training provided to officers

Course	Code where supplied	Attendees
Certificate IV Government Investigations	PSP40416	2
Use of Firearms to Humanely Destroy Animals	AHCPMG304	6
Apply First Aid	HLTAID009	0
Provide First Aid Remote or Isolated Site	HLTAID013	0
Defensive Tactics	KEF-IC ALPHA; KEF-IC CHARLIE	12
AWL NSW Basic Firearms Course	N/A	6
Revenue NSW SEINS	N/A	6

Course	Code where supplied	Attendees
Operate and Recover Four Wheel Drive Vehicle	FWPCOP3325; FWPCOP3326	0
CPR	HLTAID009	2
NSW Emergency Management Program	N/A	0
RFS Bushfire Awareness	N/A	0
Dangerous Dog Handling	N/A	13

(n) GIPA access applications

AWL NSW received two formal access applications under the Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009. The applications concerned complainant/informant information and reasons for seizure of animals under POCTAA. Material was released explaining the reasons for seizure, with redactions. Confidential complainant/informant identifying information was withheld.

(o) Ombudsman complaints

To the best of AWL NSW's knowledge, no complaints were made under the Ombudsman Act 1974 about the organisation or its appointed officers during the reporting period.

(p) Current memorandums of understanding and service-level agreements

AWL NSW Inspectorate maintains current memorandums of understanding with the following bodies. No changes or additions to the agreements listed in the 2024–2025 report were reported.

NSW Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development
Office of the Children's Guardian
NSW Police
Revenue NSW

Prepared by Chief Inspector

Animal Welfare League NSW