President’s update

By the time this article goes to press I will have stood down as President of RSPCA Australia. So I thought it pertinent to focus on Live Exports as it is a subject that is a key national issue with a strong WA aspect too.

Recently, we saw the inhumane treatment of sheep in Jordan, where Australian sheep were trussed and thrown into the back of vehicles, and brutally slaughtered in the streets. And, very recently, we have seen bulls, believed to be from Australia, brutally slaughtered in the streets in Mauritius.

These incidents once again provide graphic evidence of some of the worst atrocities and wanton cruelty that animals have to endure, and only serves to reinforce the need to transition away from live export to a frozen and chilled meat trade—a trade, which most don’t know, is more than seven times larger than the live animal trade.

RSPCA intends to work even more closely with government and with the live export industry. I was recently invited to address the LIVEXchange conference in Townsville and my message to the industry was clear—what the RSPCA and the Australian public want to see from them is more action demonstrating a genuine commitment to animal welfare. I also stated that an industry self-regulated quality assurance scheme run by live exporters will not be accepted by the RSPCA.

Barnaby Joyce, the new Federal Minister for Agriculture, recently made comment that this would not be endorsed by Government either. The RSPCA believes that until industry can demonstrate that they are prepared to take responsibility for animal welfare, work to reduce incidents of cruelty and take a proactive approach to animal welfare improvements, we will continue to see these incidents reported and the Live Export Industry will continue to suffer public disapproval as a result.

I am often asked by producers and by the Live Export Industry, ‘So, what can we do?’

It’s a simple answer—they can start by weeding out and disowning ‘black sheep’ in their industry who are involved in animal cruelty incidents or who are not willing to work for incremental improvement. Many producers agreed, and I can report that for the first time I witnessed a shift in attitude by the majority.

I would like to personally thank everyone who has given support during the year. We could not continue to carry out the vital work we do without your continued support.

For all creatures great and small

Lynne Bradshaw
President
RSPCA shelter in crisis

Just as we are going to print our Inspectorate team are about to return from yet another large seizure of animals kept in squalid conditions on a property on the outskirts of Perth.

With 71 animals about to arrive at the shelter, staff are urgently responding, busily preparing and building suitable temporary accommodation for the animals’ arrival. Vets are also on standby to administer urgent treatment and assess each animal’s condition.

The pressure on the staff and our facilities is enormous. However, each person here is dedicated to ensure these animals are about to receive the best treatment, care and love they deserve, regardless of the challenges we are currently facing.

Those challenges have stemmed from the unprecedented number of large animal welfare operations the Inspectorate team have performed over the last 12 months. We now find our shelter, which was built to house approximately 170 animals, stretched to the limit with over 350 animals finding their safe haven at RSPCA WA.

And, as it is just before the traditionally busy Christmas period, our resources are stretched greater than ever before.

I ask, if you can help at all, please urgently respond to our Animal Crisis Appeal and donate today. The daily cost of caring for these animals along with many needing urgent vet treatment is stretching our resources.

We know, however, that you, the caring community, have helped us through these crises before and I hope you can help us again.

With your support, we will be able to continue to rescue animals from these terrible situations and continue our public education work, especially in relation to responsible pet ownership and irresponsible breeding.

Thank you for your support and generosity during this critical time.

David van Ooran
Chief Executive Officer

Cats rescued from squalor

Responding to a complaint of cats allegedly living in appalling conditions, RSPCA WA Inspectors seized 49 cats from a suburban Perth property on 12 November.

Inspectors found the cats living among urine and faeces, rotten food covered in maggots, and rancid water, with some of the animals showing signs of infection and injury.

The cats were rushed to RSPCA WA’s Animal Care Centre in Malaga, where they received immediate vet treatment.

This seizure has added to our crisis where our shelter is stretched and we urgently need financial assistance. When animals are the subject of an investigation or prosecution, they are unable to be rehomed until the outcome of the investigation or court case has been completed. During that time the RSPCA cares for the animals.

RSPCA WA acknowledge the assistance of The Cat Haven and Oscar’s Law.
Once again, RSPCA WA’s Inspectors have been kept busy rescuing animals and seeking justice for abused animals through the court system.

**Caged cat cruelty**

In November 2012, after receiving a complaint about cats being locked inside a truck for three days, Inspector Tanya attended, and could hear and smell cats inside the parked vehicle.

As she couldn’t find the owner, Tanya cut the lock to the tailgate to free the cats. She was horrified to find five cages inside, containing 13 cats, including kittens. One of the cats was charging against the door of the cat cage. The truck was unlit, unventilated and very hot.

There was no food or water, and the cats appeared distressed. The animals were seized and taken back to the Animal Care Centre in Malaga, where they underwent a full veterinary examination and treatment.

Magistrate Langdon said that she had no doubt that the cats had suffered harm, having been locked in the van for three days without food, water, lighting or ventilation.

The animals’ owner received a 10-year ban from owning animals, a $3,000 fine, and was ordered to pay $5,000 to RSPCA WA in costs.

Several of the cats are now being prepared for adoption, and will shortly be looking for their own ‘furever’ families.

You can find all the animals waiting for adoption from RSPCA WA at [www.adoptapet.com.au](http://www.adoptapet.com.au). This site is updated several times a day.

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**Inspectorate update**

On 16 October, our new cat adoptions room was officially opened by the Hon Anthony Simpson MLA, Minister for Local Government.

The new room, next to the Retail Shop and Adoptions Centre, was created out of modified staff office space. It houses up to 10 cats waiting for adoption, in individually ventilated pens.

Each cat has its own state-of-the-art condo complete with separate play, sleeping and litter tray areas. The individually ventilated cages give each cat their own special area while waiting for their new families.

Individual condos can house up to five kittens, and some have porthole access between them to create extra play areas for the cats.
Give the gift of love this Christmas by becoming a Guardian Angel.

As we approach the end of the year we brace ourselves for a deluge of abandoned holiday orphans—hundreds of animals, just like Missy, depending on us for help.

Little Missy came to us after Inspector Ian responded to a call about a dog badly burnt two weeks earlier in a house fire.

With burns covering nearly half her body, Missy needed more surgery to clean her wounds. Over the next three weeks, Missy had five further surgeries, including amputating part of her ear.

Our Animal Care Centre staff monitored Missy tirelessly, changing her bandages daily and cleaning her wounds, providing heaps of love and attention as she was nurtured back to health.

By August, Missy was well enough to be sterilised and soon put up for adoption. She is now thriving with her new, forever family.

Missy is one of the lucky ones. Imagine what would have happened to Missy if we didn’t have friends like you to help us?

Donate today, and become a Guardian Angel, giving the gift of hope at Christmas time to hundreds of other animals like Missy.

MY GUARDIAN ANGEL
ANIMAL WISH

CHRISTMAS is a particular time of need for the RSPCA. Every year thousands of animals turn to us for help.

YOU CAN HELP by giving a Christmas gift and sending us your message of HOPE, LOVE AND SUPPORT for the animals to www.rspcawa.asn.au

www.rspcawa.asn.au
Happy Tails Day

Happy Tails Day is a national fundraising event that raises much needed funds to support the work of the RSPCA.

While many organisations participated throughout October, over 40 volunteers assisted on Happy Tails Day itself, collecting donations in central Perth on 4 October.

Happy Tails Day helps us help animals like little Cookie—RSPCA Inspectors received a call on a Sunday in late July about a small dog with a badly damaged eye as the result of a dog fight.

The Inspectors discovered Cookie, a seven-year-old Papillon, in pain with a horrible eye injury. A veterinary specialist determined the injury was so bad the eye had to be removed.

Cookie made a remarkable recovery and quickly went up for adoption. She soon found a new ‘furever’ owner and is now part of a loving family.

Remember to keep Sunday 18 May free for Million Paws Walk 2014.
October school holidays are over—Christmas here we come!

RSPCA WA Community Education Officers took a collective sigh of relief on October 11. Two weeks of school holiday madness were finally over, with 600 children visiting the site during the holiday period, including several vacation care groups.

Planning for the pre-Christmas and January summer holidays is well underway with a mixture of new and old sessions. Pre-Christmas bookings are now open and January bookings open 9 December (2 December for members).

The team has also been very busy at various community and educational events. Inspector Izzy made some new friends at Dowerin Field Days, and Community Education Officers Peta and Steve attended Kings Park’s Kulunga Katitjin Festival. The team also attended the launch of Safety in Schools at Mundaring Primary School, where students learnt about being safe and healthy around their pets.

Thank you to all of our younger donors who have visited the shelter this year with donations of towels, blankets and money. It is inspiring to see the younger generation take an active interest in the welfare of animals.

RSPCA WA Community Education plays an important role in the prevention of animal cruelty by offering a range of educational incursions and excursions to schools in WA.

To find out more about how we can work with your school, or about our holiday programs:

- phone (08) 9209 9325
- email education@rspcawa.asn.au
- visit www.rspcawa.asn.au
Buying a pet?

When you get a pet, you are getting a loving new family member, but also a life-long responsibility.

Choosing the right pet for your family takes time, planning and lots of research. Think about your family’s needs and lifestyle, and how a new pet might fit in with these.

Too often, the RSPCA is left with the sad consequences of impulse purchases. Last year, RSPCA WA provided 102,913 days of animal care, many as a result of people not understanding the level of care an animal requires.

Why adopt?

If you do decide to have a pet in your life, why not adopt? Adoptions give animals a second chance, and our staff will make sure you are matched with the perfect pet for your family.

All dogs and cats adopted from the RSPCA are behaviour assessed, desexed, wormed, vaccinated and microchipped. There are a variety of animals looking for homes, from rabbits to horses. You can find them all at www.adoptapet.com.au.

We may be biased, but here at the RSPCA we reckon adopted pets give back an extra measure of love!

Dogs and Puppies

Before you buy a dog, check out the Smart Puppy Buyer’s Guide at www.rspcawa.asn.au.

Dogs can live for 15 years or more, so on top of the initial costs, you’re looking at around $650 or more every year for the rest of the dog’s life.

Cats and Kittens

Before buying a cat, check out the Smart Kitten and Cat Buyer’s Guide at www.rspcawa.asn.au.

Cats live even longer than dogs—up to 20 years, so on top of set up costs, can cost around $720 or more every year for the rest of their lives.

Rabbits as pets

Just like any pet, rabbits need to be part of the family, and not left living alone in a hutch at the bottom of the garden.

Rabbits probably are not ideal for very young children as they are easily scared, and often don’t like being picked up.

However, they make great pets for working people as they are active in the morning and evening, sleeping during the day while you’re at work.

All rabbits should be desexed—this makes them less aggressive and less stressed, as well as stopping them ‘breeding like rabbits’.

Rabbits can live for 10 years or longer, and cost around the same as a cat to look after.

RSPCA Victoria’s website, www.RSPCAVIC.org/rabbits, has a lot of useful information about caring for rabbits, including what to feed them. (Did you know that lettuce can cause diarrhoea in rabbits?)
At RSPCA’s Animal Care Centre in Malaga, we don’t just adopt out furry friends to forever families, we also have everything you need for their care. Our staff are always happy to help you, and there’s the added bonus of knowing that while you’re caring for your lucky pets, you’re helping us help less fortunate animals.

We’re open every day*, from 10am to 5pm, and there’s lots of parking.

We carry the full range of HILLS Science Diet pet food, for dogs and cats of all ages and sizes.

**Dogs and puppies**

We have all those everyday things you need—brushes, combs, shampoos and nail clippers for grooming, and flea treatments, sunscreen and insect repellent ready for the warm weather.

To help out Santa, we have...

- a huge range of collars and matching leads, and name tags you can order
- quality enrichments toys for dogs of all temperaments
- colourful food and water bowls
- indoor and outdoor beds for every dog, big, small or petite—guaranteeing sweet dreams!

**Cats and kittens**

When you adopt a cat or kitten, you will need a carrier to take your new family member home. It may be a cardboard carrier or one you can use over and over, even on flights. They can double up as a bed or playhouse for your cat.

For those moments when the leather couch looks great for sinking claws into, you definitely need a cat scratcher, and we have a great range to suit all tastes, including ones with two tiers for cats who like to climb.

With the new Cat Laws, your cat needs to have a collar and tag. We have collars in all colours, patterns—even ones with sparkles—and name tags you can order.

We also have stylish food and water bowls to suit all tastes.

There’s even a choice of litter trays for the most discerning of cats—why not try reusable litter crystals which also reduce odour?

Our knowledgeable staff can also help you chose the best product to treat your kitten or adult cat against fleas.

And we’ll even help you play Santa with a fantastic selection of toys and treats for even the fussiest of cats.

* Closed Christmas Day, Boxing Day and Good Friday.
Gift ideas that share the love

Seek out pet stocking fillers at the RSPCA Animal Care Centre Shop in Malaga

Donate on behalf of a loved one

Give a gift of Junior membership, or a school holiday session voucher

Treat your mate to a dog training course

Find out more at www.rspcawa.asn.au

Thanks for filling my bowl with a delicious, healthy meal every day

The wise choice to support your business needs in strategy, culture and leadership.
In the news...

RSPCA names Ellenbrook at Perth's most pet-loving suburb

Gift ideas that share the love

Garage Sale of the Century Raised Over $1000 for RSPCA

George, Jacko join Hocart family

Tips to banish fleas

New laws mean cats in WA must be microchipped, registered and sterilised from November

Women fined $500 for cruelty to dog plus $1000 costs

Note, some clippings have been cropped for reasons of space.
Auxiliary Update

Perth Auxiliary
As well as raising valuable funds at the Million Paws Walk in May, the Perth Auxiliary also ran a successful sausage sizzle at the Whiteman Park Doggies Day Out in September.

The Auxiliary has raised over $4,000 towards the purchase of stainless steel drinking buckets for our dogs and a shelter for the Animal Care Centre paddock to protect livestock in the summer.

The Auxiliary is looking for new volunteers including committee members—to volunteer or for information, email rspcaperth@gmail.com.

Harvey Auxiliary
A special mention must be made of Harvey Auxiliary’s Betty Callegari. Betty founded the Auxiliary in 1935, and, after 77 years, is still an active member of the group.

Betty recently donated her beloved galahs, ‘George’ and ‘Jacko’ to their new home at Hocart Lodge Aged Centre in Harvey.

This photo of the birds in their travel cage was taken just before they were let into a new, luxurious aviary, where we hope they’ll enjoy the company of the residents for years to come.
Volunteer Update

We would like to take this opportunity to thank some of our long term volunteers, and wish all our wonderful volunteers a Merry Christmas.

Cheryl Filmer
Cheryl has been volunteering for nine years, helping with the finance team in administration and looking after cats in the Animal Care Centre.
Cheryl volunteers every Wednesday with the cats and on Thursday in administration.
Cheryl’s commitment to RSPCA WA is unwavering, and she is certainly a part of the RSPCA family.

Hazel Doyle
Hazel has been a volunteer for seven years, working in the Pet Barn every Monday.
Hazel supports all our events—Hazel and her dogs, Teddy and Billy, are a feature of Happy Tails Day in the city (see Hazel and Teddy on page 4, pictured with Michael Schulz and Inspector Izzy).
On top of this, Hazel, Teddy and Billy often assist the Education Team teach school children the importance of treating animals with kindness and respect.

RSPCA Op Shops
Over 50 volunteers at our four Op Shops in Bibra Lake, Palmyra, Mirrabooka and Port Kennedy work extra hard around Christmas, tirelessly, serving customers, sorting clothes, moving furniture, and putting the sparkle back into bric-a-brac!

Mirrabooka Manager, Mel, couldn’t do it without her dedicated volunteers. Pat has been with the shop, off and on, for over five years, while the amazing Julie has been with the shop since it opened, 12 years ago. You can see they’re all ready with great Christmas gift ideas.
If you’re cleaning out your wardrobe ready for summer, why not donate good quality items, along with any unwanted furniture, to our Op Shops?
At the same time, pop in and say hello to the lovely staff and vollies—you might even find a great bargain for yourself or to help Santa out!
Locations and opening hours are on our website www.rspcawa.asn.au.
Corporate support

We rely on your donations to carry out our vital lifesaving work with animals, including currently looking after a large number of seized livestock, mainly goats and horses at our Malaga site.

One key item on our wish list was a ride-on lawn mower to maintain the livestock paddocks and dog exercise yards at the Malaga Animal Care Centre.

The BP Employees Charity Fund helped us out by generously contributing $4,500 to cover the cost of this shiny new mower, complete with trailer.

Bonnie, since adopted into a loving home, checked out the new mower with CEO, David van Ooran, Chief Inspector, Amanda Swift, and Animal Operations’ Clare Temperton and Rachel Higgs.

RSPCA WA is extremely grateful for the generosity of BP’s staff, which is now making it much easier to maintain our site, helping us help animals in need.

Contact Molly, our Fundraising Coordinator, at mhaworth@rspcawa.asn.au to find out more about Workplace Giving.
Dogs die in hot cars

If you see an animal left in a hot car and you can’t find the owner:

• immediately phone:
  ◊ RSPCA Cruelty Hotline
  1300 CRUELTY
  (1300 278 3589) or
  ◊ your local Police 000
  (emergencies only)

• if you are in a car park, notify the centre management immediately.

Remember to provide the make and colour of the vehicle, as well as the exact location.

Under the Animal Welfare Act, owners have a legal duty to care for their animals. Anyone putting an animal at risk could face prosecution.

They also have to live with the fact that their actions resulted in terrible suffering for their beloved pet.

If a dog shows any symptoms of heatstroke, immediately transport him/her to a vet, keeping the dog as cool as possible on the way.

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Thailand Elephant Adventure 2014

Do you want to support RSPCA WA while experiencing the trip of a lifetime to Thailand?

Get more information at www.inspiredadventures.com.au

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Email: rspca@rspcawa.asn.au

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CRISIS APPEAL

HELP OUR INSPECTORS
HELP ANIMALS

PLEASE
DONATE NOW

www.rspcawa.asn.au
or 1300 777 221

Photo: Alex Cearn