



Animal Care Australia

# ANNUAL REPORT 2025

Animal Care Australia Inc.

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Period: 1<sup>st</sup> November 2024 - 31<sup>st</sup> October 2025

**'Animal welfare is animal care'**

## **OBJECTS**

- **To represent Animal Care Groups as the peak animal welfare body.**
- **To engage and advise Government and legislators on welfare issues relating to pets and companion animals.**
- **To protect the rights of ethical hobbyists & animal keepers to breed and keep pets and companion animals.**
- **To clarify the difference between animal rights and animal welfare.**
- **To promote higher animal welfare outcomes.**

## **MISSION STATEMENT**

**Animal Care Australia (ACA) is the Peak Animal Welfare Body representing the keepers and breeders of pet and companion animals in Australia.**

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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Throughout 2025 the Animal Care Australia Team has continued to expand, with the appointment of a Media & Sponsorship Coordinator, a larger Social Media Team, a Research Assistant and a Veterinary Representative along with our Species Representatives.



Just like in previous years, Animal Care Australia has been actively advocating and providing submissions across the country in all areas of animal welfare and pet ownership. Our reach and our influence across multiple reviews and amendments to animal-based legislation continued with pets in strata and residential tenancies; dog management including updated 'puppy farm' legislation; cat management including cat containment policies and attending seminars; the continued domestic/companion animal regulations and the most time consuming – Local Council animal management policies.

Animal Care Australia has continued to become more pro-active than reactive, expanding our education campaigns & initiatives and in providing Local Council's with positive feedback on what they are doing well, how they can improve and what needs to be changed within their animal management plans.

The infiltration of Animal Rights ideology didn't slow down either. Animal Care Australia provided counter-responses during consultation for the Australian Animal Welfare Strategy and called-out the impracticality of proposals within proposed and previously assented Code of Practice within the Australian Capital Territory. Even having to question the structure and knowledge of their Animal Welfare Advisory Committee, which in this early stage has resulted in some hopeful positive outcomes.

***"I look forward to continuing to advocate for all of our members and protect the ability of everyone to own a pet."***

### Looking Ahead

Animal Care Australia will continue to advocate for you and your pets and animals. Our priorities will include but are not limited to:

- Seeking the implementation of an Animal Welfare Commissioner – responsible for overseeing animal welfare improvements, outcomes, compliance, and enforcement. This

means government funded compliance and enforcement officers who are held fully accountable by the government and the Parliament and therefore to society.

- Ensuring the needs of companion animals and pets are adequately and responsibly included in animal welfare legislation at all levels of government including the federal government's Animal Welfare Strategy and National Standards.
- Regulating the rescue and shelter industries. Some of this industry are partly funded by government while all receive charitable funding with limited reporting requirements, and next to no accountability of their actions - that must change.
- Identifying, and clarifying the increasing influences of animal protection (nee: animal rights) ideologies to ensure only animal welfare and animal welfare science are maintained by government.

In November 2024, I was re-elected as President for another three-year term. During this next term, I am hoping to see the above-mentioned goals come to fruition and to grow the Animal Care Australia Team to a level where our workload can be more widely shared and the amount of time I am needing to devote can be reduced.

While it should go without saying, I am honoured to be respected by the Animal Care Australia Committee. I am deeply thankful to each and every member: Sam, Michelle, Sue, Joanne, Karri, Kylie, Michaela, Rachel, and Tracey. I want to thank our other volunteers Amanda, Maya, Emily, Samantha and Farynaz.

I would also like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and pay respects with the passing of one of our founding committee members Sue Kowalczyk. Sue will be missed by so many.

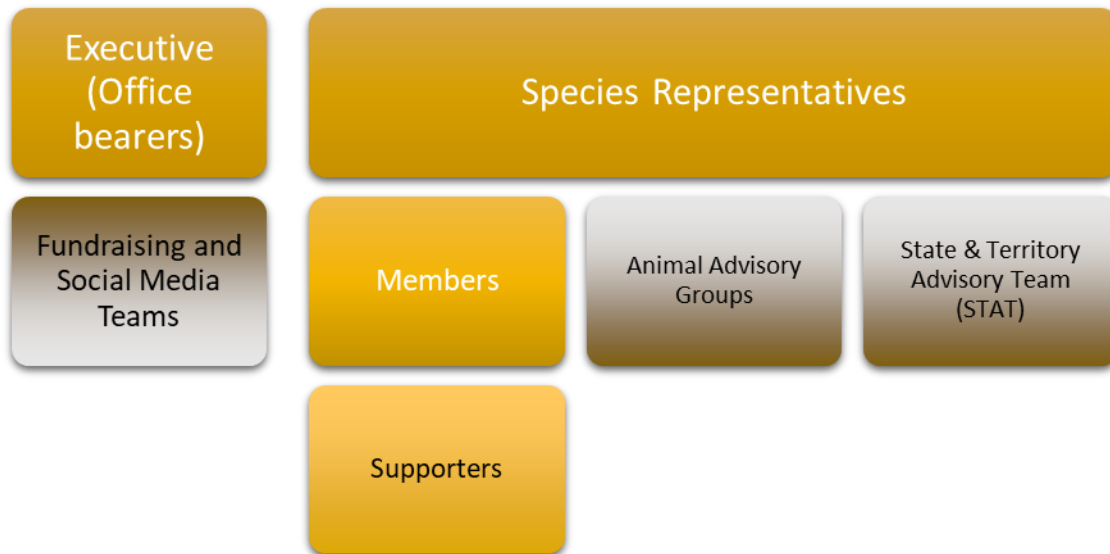
I look forward to continuing to advocate for all of our members and protect the ability of everyone to own a pet. Whether that be one pet or multiple. Animals and particularly pets bring so much into our lives and in return we have the responsibility to ensure their time with us is with a loving and caring home.

Michael Donnelly — President.



# STRUCTURE

Animal Care Australia is governed by a committee comprised of the Executive and Species Representatives from all pet & companion animal species. Representatives are appointed by Member Species Organisations. Executive (Office bearers) are nominated and voted by the Delegates.



## Executive 2024-2025

- **President:** Michael Donnelly
- **Vice President:** Sam Davis
- **Secretary:** Michelle Grayson
- **Treasurer:** Michael Donnelly
- **Public Officer:** Michelle Grayson

## Species Representatives 2024-2025

- **Birds:** Sam Davis
- **Cats:** Michelle Grayson
- **Dogs:** Kylie Gilbert
- **Exhibited Animals:** Tracey Dierikx
- **Fish:** vacant
- **Horses:** Karri Nadazdy
- **Insects & Arachnids:** Michaela Storen

- **Native Mammals:** Michael Donnelly
- **Reptiles:** Joanne Payne
- **Small Mammals:** Rachel Sydenham

## Sub-committee/team members

- **Media & Sponsorship Coordinator:** Amanda Webb
- **Veterinary Representative:** Dr Tanya Phillips BVSc
- **Social Media Coordinators:** Maya David, Samantha Rosella and Emily Kemp
- **Research Assistant:** Farynaz Basiri

# MEMBERSHIP INVOLVEMENT

**Animal Advisory Groups** are comprised of the Species Representative, at least one other Animal Care Australia Committee member, members of Animal Species Organisations (members) and individual supporters. Upon approval of membership members and supporters are invited to participate on an Animal Advisory Group, providing our members with a voice.

The **State & Territory Advisory Team** is comprised of at least two Animal Care Australia Committee members, and volunteer representatives from within each State or Territory.

## Membership Representation:



### Member Associations

National Hobbyist Animal Associations representing:	State Hobbyist Animal Associations representing:	Educators & exhibitors representing:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Birds</li> <li>• Cats</li> <li>• Dogs</li> <li>• Rabbits</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Amphibians</li> <li>• Birds</li> <li>• Cats</li> <li>• Dogs</li> <li>• Native mammals</li> <li>• Rabbits</li> <li>• Reptiles</li> <li>• Rodents</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mobile Educators</li> <li>• Mobile Zoos</li> <li>• Responsible Pet Ownership</li> <li>• Circus</li> </ul>



### Supporters

Pet Owners who keep:	Animal Sector:	Specialist Organisations:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Amphibians</li> <li>• Birds</li> <li>• Cats</li> <li>• Dogs</li> <li>• Farm animals (as pets)</li> <li>• Fish</li> <li>• Insects</li> <li>• Horses</li> <li>• Native mammals</li> <li>• Rabbits</li> <li>• Reptiles</li> <li>• Rodents</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Animal Agility:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dogs</li> <li>• Horses</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Animal Boarding:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cats</li> <li>• Dogs</li> <li>• Small mammals</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Carers &amp; Rescue::               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Companion animals</li> <li>• Native animals</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Veterinary Professionals</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assistance Animals:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dogs</li> <li>• Horses</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Animal Training:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dogs</li> <li>• Cats</li> <li>• Horses</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Pet Industry College</li> <li>• Animal-assisted therapies</li> <li>• Environmental consultants</li> <li>• Product retailers &amp; manufacturers</li> </ul>

**520**  
member  
organisations and  
supporters.

**Members:**

Each member organisation in itself represents it's own membership base.

With several of the organisations being nationally represented the last estimate of overall representation was in excess of 250,000 individuals.

**Members & Supporters Discussion Group:**

Members and Supporters are invited to join our closed Facebook Discussion Group where they can share with us their stories and issues that directly affect them.

This provides a safe space away from the public page and potential ridicule, especially following past occurrences of animal rights advocates harassing and bullying breeders and those who defend their rights to breed animals.

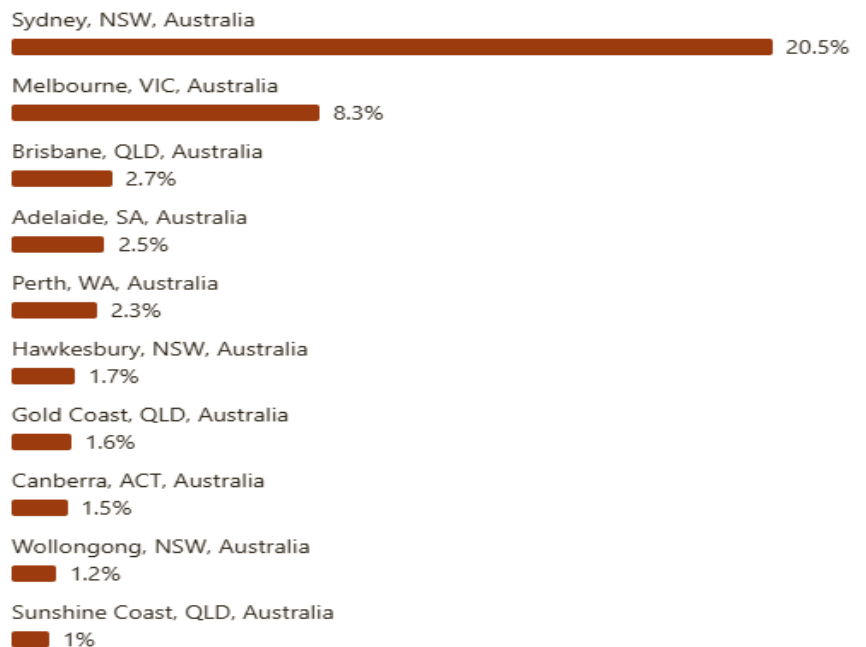
**ACE Newsletter:**

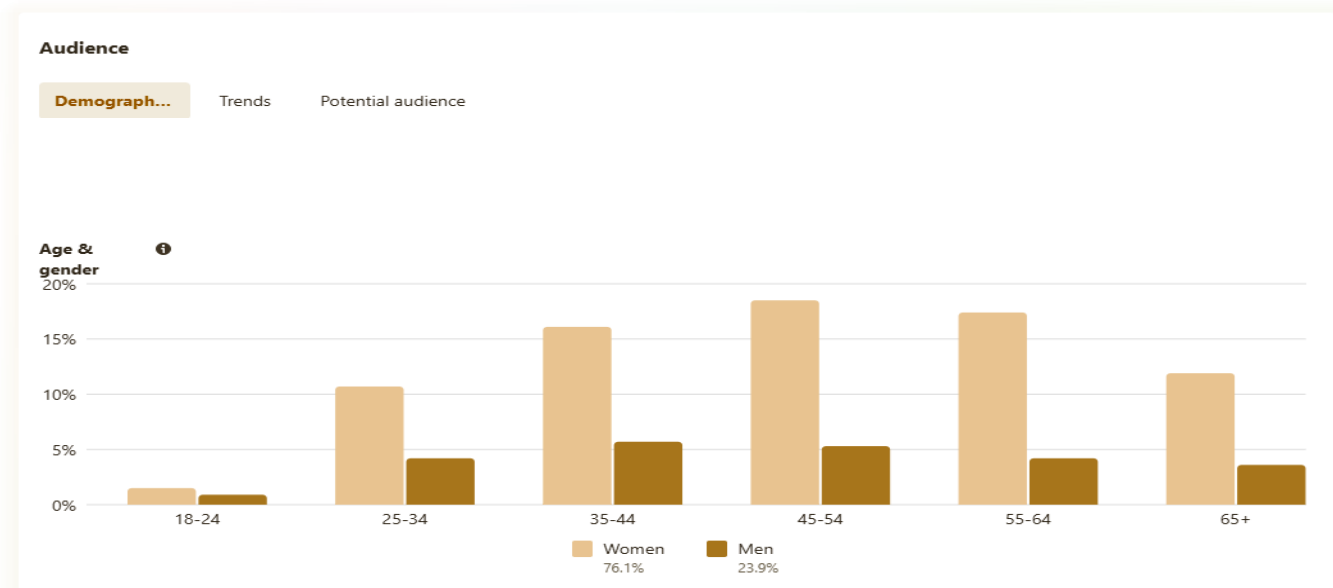
Since moving from Mailchimp to Mailerlite our newsletter has on average been opened 70% of subscribers.

**SOCIAL MEDIA**

Our social media reach has been far greater with posts relating to changes to animal welfare legislation. This past year our Facebook and Instagram posts had 300.5k real time views and 5.3k content interactions.

**3300**  
regular social  
media followers

**Top cities**



## ADVANCING ANIMAL WELFARE

### ADVOCATING FOR YOU

This past twelve months has been the busiest for Animal Care Australia advocating for our members, particularly responding to Victorian Local Council Domestic Animal Management Plans and Local Laws dealing with animal number restrictions.

#### Local Councils:

Key: DAMP = Domestic Animal Management Plan

#### VIC

Macedon Ranges City Council DAMP  
 Macedon Ranges City Council - Offleash  
 Maribyrnong City Council DAMP  
 Maroondah City Council DAMP  
 Melbourne City Council DAMP  
 Moira Shire Council DAMP  
 Monash City Council DAMP  
 Mooney Valley DAMP  
 Swan Hill DAMP  
 Wangaratta Shire DAMP  
 Wellington Shire DAMP  
 Wyndham City DAMP  
 Yarra City Council DAMP

#### QLD

Moreton Bay Council 2025

#### NSW

Eurobodalla Council Animal Policy  
 Shellharbour Council Keeping Animals Policy  
 Uralla Council – Keeping of Animals and Birds  
 Local Policy 2024



## Submissions to Reviews and Legislative Amendments

We're pleased to have consulted and provided tangible input on several animal welfare priorities, including:

### National Animal Welfare Strategy

The renewal of Australia's national animal welfare strategy and review of the government's national standards. Participating in framework development to ensure it remains science-based and continues improve animal welfare.

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### Animal Welfare Commission

While the NSW Agriculture Minister publicly confirmed the Government's commitment to establishing an Office of Animal Welfare, Animal Care Australia provided a proposal for an Animal Welfare Commission to the Ministers Office.

Animal Care Australia also testified at the NSW Parliamentary Inquiry into the charitable organisations calling for the government to implement an Animal Welfare Commission.

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### Animal Welfare Legislation

#### Australian Capital Territory

- Draft Code of Practice for the Welfare of Dogs

#### Victoria

- Animal Care and Protection Bill and draft Regulations
- Domestic Animals Act Regulations
- Cat Management Strategy

#### South Australia

- Animal Welfare Bill 2024
- Dog Cat Management Act
- Veterinary Services Regulations

#### New South Wales

- Draft Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Regulation 2025
- Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Amendment (Puppy Farming) Bill 2024
- Companion Animals Act (1998) - 2025
- Statutory Review of the Strata Laws
- Strata Schemes Legislation Amendment Bill 2024
- Residential Tenancies Amendment (Animals in Residential Premises) Bill 2024
- Pets in Rentals Regulations 2025
- Wildlife Rehabilitation Sector Review 2024



## Animal Care Australia Inc - Annual Report

### Northern Territory

- Animal Protection Act Review

### Tasmania

- Dog Welfare Review

### Western Australia

- Animal Welfare Amendment (Chief Animal Protection Officer) Bill 2025

### International

- Fédération Équestre Internationale - Equine Welfare Strategy

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## Animal-related submissions

### Federal:

National Principles for the regulation of Assistance Animals  
Bengal (domestic) Cat Import Ban

### Aust Capital Territory:

Re-request inclusion of Animal Care Australia as core stakeholder  
Minister RE concerns with AWAC and Codes of Practice  
Minister – Follow up to AWAC’s Codes of Practice

### New South Wales:

Minister - Dog Breeding Staffing ratios  
Minister - Dog Breeding Staffing ratios follow-up  
Request for review of Council powers in restricting keeping of pets

### Victoria:

MAV Re: Hume City Council entry to private property  
Meeting request following Government response to the Wildlife Act Review

### Western Australia:

Native Species List update

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## Parliament Inquiries:

### Northern Territory:

Inquiry into Animal Protection and Related Legislation Amendment Bill 2025

### New South Wales:

Inquiry into Conservation Hunting Bill  
Inquiry into access restrictions to public lands and waterways  
Inquiry into the management of cat populations

Animal Care Australia also participated in a number of consultation meetings to assist in the drafting of legislation and strategies for government including:

- Review of the NSW Companion Animals Act
- NSW Strata and Residential Tenancies Acts consultations
- NSW Prevention of Cruelty of Animals Act – puppy farm legislation amendments
- NSW – Puppy farm legislation education campaign
- National Statement on Animal Welfare
- NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service – changes to e-book system.
- Bird flu - education of bird keepers nationally

Attended numerous meetings with Members of Parliament or their senior staff. The above listing those meetings or the telephone interactions with the staff or departments concerned.



## FINANCIAL POSITION

# FINANCIAL SUMMARY – TREASURERS REPORT

Animal Care Australia continues to balance our needs with our income. There is so much more that we would like to do but simply don't have the funds to complete.

- Our new Sponsorship Coordinator raised additional income for us through Sponsorships with Petcover Australia and Pet & Hobby Farm. The inclusion of the various programs for recycling containers for cash across the country also provided needed funds.
- That said, without substantial donations the organisation did run at a loss for the year.
- Animal Care Australia also incurred additional unforeseen but necessary costs, including needing to reserve all of our domain names and re-purchase them upon expiry, the purchase of licenses with Shutterstock and one-off Affinity Publisher license in readiness to replace the expiring Microsoft Publisher.
- Further to the Domain Reserve: We became aware that at the time of founding Animal Care Australia, domain names were purchased under the existing ABN of the Canary & Caged Bird Federation of Australia (CCBFA) For reasons unknown to me, the domains were not transferred to Animal Care Australia upon completion of obtaining our own ABN. This was only highlighted upon the cessation of the ABN for the CCBFA. The transfer of the domains was time-consuming and ACA's domains expired during that process, so we were advised to 'reserve' the expiring domains in order to prevent anyone else from precurring them, whilst all of the appropriate paperwork include obtaining Statutory Declarations was completed.

I must thank Ron Robertson of the CCBFA for his understanding and assistance throughout the entire process.

- While the bank balance figures appear to show a large loss, this was primarily due to the opening of a Term Deposit account and the transfer of \$5000 into that account.
- Total Assets figure does provide a slightly better position, however still a loss from the previous year.

I would like to be able to confidently declare Animal Care Australia's financial future is secure, but having experienced losses for this past two financial years, without a significant funding injection in the next financial year or two, the continued future for Animal Care Australia cannot be assured.

— Michael Donnelly  
Treasurer

# FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – FY 2024/25

## Statement of Financial Position

Assets		
	2025	2024
Bank balance	\$ 1,842.93	\$ 9,121.41
Term Deposit	\$ 5,000.00	
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$ 6,842.93</b>	<b>\$ 9,121.41</b>

## Statement of Comprehensive Income (Profits and Losses)

Summary	2025	2024
Total Income	\$ 4,400.59	\$ 3,006.75
Total Expenses	\$ 6,679.07	\$ 3,394.43
Yearly Profit/Loss	\$ 2,278.48	\$ 387.68
Brought Forward	\$ 9,121.41	\$ 9,509.09
Sub Total	\$ 6,842.93	\$ 9,121.41
Transfer to Term Deposit	\$ 5,000.00	
Bank Balance	\$ 1,842.93	\$ 9,121.41

## Statement of Cash Flows

The following pages provide the financial breakdowns for income and expenses.

### Notes:

Membership fees can be paid via direct deposit, credit card or cheque. There were no received cheques during this financial period.

Payments by credit cards are conducted via Stripe or Paypal. Both of these services deduct their fees before transferring funds to our account.

The Paypal account starts off each financial year at a zero balance and any remaining funds are transferred to the Commonwealth Bank account just before 30<sup>th</sup> June each year.

## Income Statements

Financial Statement 2024 - 2025				
Animal Care Australia Inc				
Income		\$	4,400.59	
Income Type	Explanation	Statement Period	Current Period	Total
Memberships	Direct Deposit	01 July - 30 Sep	\$ 720.00	
		01 Apr - 30 Jun	\$ 100.00	
	Stripe	01 July - 30 Sep	\$ 187.15	
		01 Oct - 31 Dec	\$ 170.81	
		01 Jan - 31 Mar	\$ 131.80	
		01 Apr - 30 Jun	\$ 82.34	
	Paypal	01 Jul - 30 Jun	\$ 1,016.43	
				\$2,408.53
Donations	Cash for recycling	Year	\$ 438.00	
	Cash	Year	\$ 204.06	
				\$642.06
Sponsorship	Petcover	Year	\$ 650.00	
	Pet & Hobby Farm	Year	\$ 700.00	
				\$1,350.00
<b>Total Income</b>			<b>\$ 4,400.59</b>	
<b>Note:</b> Membership (Stripe & Paypal) - bank charges deducted prior to transfer.				

	Income Type	Scheme	Statement Period	Current Period
	Cash For Recycling	VISY CDS (VIC)	01 July - 30 Sep	\$ 55.60
			01 Oct - 31 Dec	\$ 14.70
			01 Jan -31 Mar	\$ 8.30
			01 Apr - 30 Jun	\$ 10.00
	Cash For Recycling	VIC ReturnIt	01 July - 30 Sep	\$ 17.70
			01 Oct - 31 Dec	\$ 21.70
			01 Jan -31 Mar	\$ 0.60
			01 Apr - 30 Jun	\$ 4.90
	Cash For Recycling	Container Exchange	01 July - 30 Sep	\$ 63.70
			01 Oct - 31 Dec	\$ 20.90
			01 Jan -31 Mar	\$ 38.00
			01 Apr - 30 Jun	\$ 73.10
	Cash For Recycling	Tomra	01 July - 30 Sep	\$ 56.50
			01 Oct - 31 Dec	\$ 27.80
	Cash For Recycling	WA ReturnIt	01 July - 30 Sep	\$ 4.60
			01 Oct - 31 Dec	\$ 2.70
			01 Apr - 30 Jun	\$ 17.20
	<b>Total Income</b>			<b>\$438.00</b>

## Expenses Statement

Operating Expenses	\$	6,679.07	
<b>Expense Type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Current Period</b>	
Bank Fees - Commbiz	01 Jul - 30 Sep	\$ 0.90	
	01 Jan - 31 Mar	\$ 0.30	
	01 Apr - 30 Jun	\$ 0.30	
Website	Domain Renewal	\$ 208.64	
	Domain Reserve*	\$ 82.51	
	Hosting	\$ 155.40	
Email - Bulk subscription	Mailchimp	\$ 21.98	
Email - Signature brand	One-off	\$ 16.25	
Email Hosting		\$ 886.50	
General and Administrative	Fair Trading Returns	\$ 118.00	
	Affinity Publisher - license fee	\$ 20.39	
Promotion	Meta - February	\$ 130.64	
	Vistaprint - pamphlets	\$ 80.97	
Honorarium Payment	January 24 - June 24	\$ 1,500.00	
	July 24 - December 24	\$ 1,500.00	
	January 25 - June 25	\$ 1,500.00	
		\$ -	
Subscriptions	News	\$ 20.00	
	Shutterstock Annual	\$ 190.00	
	Zoom - Annual	\$ 246.29	
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>		<b>\$ 6,679.07</b>	

## ABOUT ANIMAL CARE AUSTRALIA

Animal Care Australia (ACA) is a national incorporated association advocating for higher welfare outcomes for animals by educating hobbyists and keepers and consulting with governments.

Animal Care Australia was founded in early 2018 to establish an organisation run solely by volunteers to advocate for real animal welfare based on centuries of expertise keeping and breeding animals. Extreme animal rights and animal liberationist ideologies currently influencing government legislation, regulation and policy are at expense of real animal welfare and hence to the detriment of our animals and pets. Animal Care Australia provides government with a balancing voice.

By uniting the broad spectrum of animal groups, collectively we offer an experienced, sensible approach to animal welfare.

Animal Care Australia is in the unique position of representing all animals within our care, including the following major animal groups – dogs, cats, birds, horses, insects, reptiles, farm animals (hobby-farming), small mammals, native mammals and mobile and wildlife educators.

When consulting with government, Animal Care Australia prioritises the following:

- Animal Care Australia strives for implementation of stronger achievable animal welfare outcomes using and based upon the extensive expertise of our members.
- Animal Care Australia prioritises education over regulation as the most effective and economical means of improving animal welfare outcomes nationally.
- Animal Care Australia opposes animal rights, an area of much confusion for the general public. We strive to highlight and educate the public on the differences between animal welfare and animal rights and animal protection.

To this end, Animal Care Australia has engaged with government on a range of issues throughout Australia. Our goal is to promote and encourage high standards in all interactions with the animals in our care. To encourage responsible pet ownership and the respectful treatment of all animals in our community.

Sadly many legislative changes are proposed and implemented due to the pressures of the animal rights extremist (ARE) movement and their subsidiaries.

When this happens the welfare of animals is jeopardised by the introduction of restrictions and over-zealous regulations. Their picture is painted with rainbows and promises of improving animals lives, while the true-colours are hidden until it is too late.

Animal Care Australia will continue to:

- Advocate for higher animal welfare outcomes in welfare Acts
- Change the narrative of animal welfare from punishment to education
- Make higher animal welfare the ‘norm’ among pet owners
- Oppose restricted breeding legislations
- Oppose restrictions on pet numbers that can be kept (now only 5 animals in some Local

Councils)

- Oppose the creation of a Commercialised Shelter Industry
- Advocate for the regulation of all rescues and shelters
- Introduce education about pet ownership into primary & higher school education curriculums
- Encourage education on responsible pet ownership, responsible breeding and responsible buying of pets
- Advocate for greater funding of education on responsible pet ownership, responsible breeding and responsible buying of pets.
- Support pets in strata and tenancies
- Continue to call for greater accountability of animal welfare compliance organisations
- Oppose Animal Rights Extremist propaganda
- Oppose Animal Rights Extremist influences on government
- Oppose 'personhood' rights being provided to animals
- Encourage research into more alternatives for 1080
- Encourage expansion of and education about existing alternatives for 1080
- Support continuation of animals in the education arena (zoos, mobile exhibitors etc)
- Support and legislate for the protection of animal victims of domestic violence
- Oppose the release or continuance of feral animals in the natural environment
- Support initiatives for the subsidising of de-sexing programs
- Outlaw the possession of crush and bestiality videos
- Strengthen animal welfare Acts by removing ambiguity and clearly defining animal cruelty
- Clearly define the role of sentience within animal welfare and rebuke its misuse within legislation
- Ensuring species specific Standards (Codes Of Practice) for keeping and breeding are introduced
- Support and call for legislation against leaving animals in hot vehicles
- Support the expansion and continuation of native animal keeping with appropriate licensing and welfare standards
- Oppose trail closures to horse riders, carriage drivers and dog walkers
- Ensure traceability registers provide welfare benefits to the animals being registered

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

- Get our latest news – follow us on all of our social networks



- If you're not already a financial member or supporter then subscribe to receive our ACE Newsletter: <https://subscribepage.io/ACE?>
- If you provide pet products then consider endorsing or sponsoring one of education campaigns
- In 2026, our 'Care Is Welfare' campaign will be calling for the creation of an Animal Welfare Commission in each State/territory and Federally. This will result in a more balanced, transparent and accountable animal welfare system throughout Australia. As animal owners we need to know the review, development and enforcement of animal welfare legislation is being conducted by a trusted office of animal welfare experts and not influenced by extremist ideologies.
- Support our education initiatives and campaigns by sharing them on your socials you're your Association newsletters to your members, and also advising us on issues that need further education and information.
- Become a donor! Every donation strengthens our advocacy for animal welfare reforms. Your donation will help to ensure our ability to keep and care for animals in ever improving standards throughout Australia for the children of future generations. to come.
- Volunteer with us: Animal Care Australia calls out for extra volunteers. If the help we are looking for fits your skills set – consider putting your hand up. If it is not you but someone you know – share our callout. Volunteers' time is invaluable to organisations like Animal Care Australia.
- Remember to follow us on social media to get regular updates on our work, campaigns, upcoming events, core members, and more.

***“Most of all remember:***

***Animal Care is animal welfare – your continued support no matter how small – ultimately helps animal care and welfare”.***

**Animal Care Australia Inc.**

PO Box 314 Macarthur Square Post Office NSW 2560

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