



Companion
Animal Network
Australia CAN

Impact Report 2023-24



A national voice to
improve the lives of
companion animals

Who we are

Companion Animal Network Australia (CANA) is a registered charity representing the companion animal welfare work of our member agencies.

What we do

Together, our members provide rescue, shelter, re-homing, fostering, health care and enrichment services to **more than 50,000 animals every year**, as well as social programs that advance pet inclusion and welfare in all areas of society.

Why it matters

Through targeted activities, our movement fights at a national level for a society that recognises **the positive impact pets have on people** and a world where every pet is in a loving home.

Getting to Zero

Every CANA member aligns with G2Z, ensuring **humane, sustainable practices** are foundational to all member activities.





68%

**of people believe
residents in aged care
should be able to
own a pet**



**'The gentle loving
presence of a dog is
simply irreplaceable.'**

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**‘Working for a society where
all companion animals
are loved and cared for.’**



Message from the President

As we reflect on the past year, I am filled with immense pride by the work accomplished by Companion Animal Network Australia (CANA) and our incredible network of member organisations.

Together, we have made significant strides toward our vision: a nation where every companion animal is cherished and in a loving home.

In 2023–24, CANA and our members touched the lives of over 50,000 animals, providing rescue, re-homing, fostering, and vital healthcare services. Our advocacy efforts have brought critical issues like pet-friendly aged care, rental housing and workplace policies into the national spotlight, driving meaningful conversations and legislative improvements.

Through initiatives such as Pet Friendly Aged Care and Rent With Pets, we've championed innovative solutions to pressing challenges, ensuring pets remain integral parts of their families. Our commitment to the Getting to Zero ethos underpins every action, striving for humane, sustainable practices across our network.

This year's successes would not have been possible without our dedicated members, partners and donors. Thank you! Your unwavering support demonstrates the collective power of a community united by compassion and purpose.

Looking ahead, we remain steadfast in our commitment to advocating for companion animals and their human families. Together, we will continue to foster a society that celebrates the human–animal bond and upholds the highest standards of animal welfare.

Thank you for being an essential part of this journey.

With gratitude,

Melissa Penn

Melissa Penn
President, CANA

'We've championed innovative solutions to pressing challenges.'



Message from the CEO

It is our great pleasure to present CANA's 2023–24 impact report, a journal of our activities and influence over the most recent 12-month period.

Despite there being many hurdles to achieving our overall vision of every pet in a loving home, we are optimistic about the future. This year we saw meaningful progress towards acceptance of pets in the workplace, the inclusion of pet support in the federal government's home care packages and a closing of the gap between landlords and tenants regarding pets in rental accommodation.

CANA was represented in policy debates around pets and family law, rental laws across four states and widening the accessibility of pet care.

None of our work on the national stage occurs without the incredible support of our donors, supporters and workplace giving partners. Australia is a pet-friendly nation and the generosity of so many individuals, trusts and organisations gives CANA the ability to educate and advocate ever more strongly and effectively each year.

Our members continue to do exceptional work on the ground, dealing compassionately with pet surrenders, re-homing and healthcare, among their many other activities. We are thoroughly proud of their ongoing efforts.

I extend my personal thanks to the CANA board, a richly experienced and talented group of outstanding contributors from across the country, who are unified in their belief that a national body has an essential role in representing the interests of the state-based membership.

We look forward to making further progress on our goals in 2024–25.

With thanks,

Trish Ennis

Trish Ennis
CEO, CANA

**'We are optimistic
about the future.'**



About us

Companion Animal Network Australia (CANA) is Australia's peak body for companion animals. We represent the companion animal welfare work of five member agencies. CANA began life in 2007 as Animal Welfare League of Australia.

Through national campaigns, partnerships and initiatives, CANA advocates for the human–animal bond and responsible pet ownership.

With the help of our members, industry partners and the public, we compile real data to share and inform. We lobby government and industry to drive positive change for companion animals and the people who care for them.

We help our members achieve the highest possible standards and facilitate their collaboration in activities that identify and communicate best welfare practice.

CANA is a national not-for-profit organisation and a registered charity.

A black kitten is perched on a white, textured ledge, reaching out with its right paw towards a human hand. The human hand is extended from the left side of the frame, with the index finger pointing towards the kitten. The background is a soft, out-of-focus light blue and white. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

'CANA exists to promote the human–animal bond.'

Promoting the benefits of pets in aged care



Educating children with pets



“Championing responsible pet ownership”



Assisting with emergency care and de-sexing programmes



Helping to create pet-friendly businesses



Working towards an independent office of Animal Welfare



Bringing together landlords and pet owners



Around the CANA network

Adoptions and fostering are the core activities of our members.

Our network has found homes for millions of animals that have been surrendered and neglected, but we always have thousands more awaiting adoption.



July 2023–June 2024

Consolidated Data

Canine

Surrenders	Incoming	Outgoing
2,885	10,935	11,738

Feline

Surrenders	Incoming	Outgoing
2,081	11,797	12,780

Animals in

Dogs	Cats	Others	Total
10,935	11,797	1,172	23,904

Animals out

Dogs	Cats	Others	Total
11,738	12,780	1,207	25,725

Adoptions

15,619

Reasons for Surrender	Dogs	Cats	Total
Renting issues	386	242	628
Bad match	150	40	190
Behaviour problems	361	47	408
Owner unable to cope – time/training/control issues	290	155	445
Age-care / elderly, age related	80	46	126
Legal intervention	70	81	151
Animal - Medical issues	15	52	67
Owner - Medical issues	171	83	254
No longer wanted / unwanted	567	650	1,217
Financial	111	137	248
Change in circumstance	273	103	376
Undisclosed	411	445	832
TOTAL	2,885	2,081	4,942

Surrenders are 30% of incoming with the balance made up of public strays and impounds.



74%

**of people
believe pets
reduce loneliness**

**'I can't imagine
life without her'**



Pet Friendly Aged Care

Just 18% of aged care facilities consider allowing residents to keep a pet, a regrettable statistic that drives the work of Pet Friendly Aged Care, an initiative of CANA.

Chief among our goals is to highlight the often-catastrophic emotional harm caused when older people are forced to give up their pets upon moving into an aged care home. Pet Friendly Aged Care wants to find a better way forward.

The benefits for keeping older Australians connected to pets include:

- Preventing animals from being needlessly euthanised or surrendered to shelters.
- Maximising the physical and emotional health of our animal-loving older people.
- Promoting the social benefits for communities who welcome pets.

This past year, Pet Friendly Aged Care has had the following impact:

- Worked with Lifeview and Bupa to increase the number of residential care facilities that now allow people and pets to move in together
- Developed in conjunction with Australasian College for Infection Prevention and Control a comprehensive kit for residential care facilities that allows them to successfully integrate pets.
- Created a national database of inclusive places for public enquiries.
- Collaborated with aged care advocacy bodies, including COTA, OPAN and ACCPA, and worked closely with industry partners and universities to advance the cause.
- Contributed to Your Life Choices podcasts, hosted by CANA ambassador John Deeks.

Home Care Services support update

As Australia's population ages and government policy and supporting infrastructure evolves, many older people are choosing to stay longer in their own homes. Often, they have pets as a constant (and sometimes only) companion.

The home care industry agrees that pet support is a required service for people accessing Home Care Services and should at least be listed so suppliers can offer it. The costs of such support could be paid for, in part, by the client or other home care services offerings adjusted.

CANA continues to advocate strongly for pet support in Home Care Services.

**'Looking after people;
looking out for pets.'**



**Pet Friendly
Aged Care**

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Rent With Pets

Despite being a nation of animal lovers, less than 10% of Australian rental properties are advertised as pet friendly.

Rent With Pets, an online resource created by CANA, encourages landlords and tenants to work together so that more animals can live in responsible, loving rental homes.

Our goal is to increase the number of pet-friendly rental homes to prevent animals from being euthanised or surrendered to shelters due to difficulty finding pet-friendly rental properties.

During 2023–24, Rent With Pets was active in the following areas:

- Achieved positive changes through advocacy among several state government bodies.
- Worked with tenants' unions, owners' corporations and real estate bodies to expand education for renters and landlords.
- Expanded advice for the public on responsible pet ownership.

'Working to bring landlords and renters together.'



Rent with Pets

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Pets In Business

Pets In Business, a CANA project, works directly with companies and employees to develop policies for an integrated workplace that meets the needs of the company, non-pet owners and pet-owning staff.

Many businesses continue to have people who work both from home and in the office. For those of us who share a workspace with our pets when working at home, a visit to the office, leaving our pets behind, feels unjust.

The Pets In Business resources on our website have been designed to inspire businesses to consider making their workplace pet-friendly, sharing advice around how to make it work for everybody.

In the past year, Pets In Business has:

- Developed a comprehensive personalised workplace kit including rules and policies to help businesses to implement workable pet-friendly arrangement for their premises.
- Added several inspiring success stories to the Pets In Business website.

It's always worth remembering that the benefits of pets in the workplace aren't just for workers. Most companion animals love company, and the Pets In Business model provides them with the social contact they crave!



Pets in Business

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Advocacy and influence

A major part of our work is to drive the public narrative around pet ownership and the contribution pet-friendly programmes make to a happy and well-functioning Australian community.

This past year, CANA has been an active participant in policy discussions and the rallying of support among special interest groups.

Family Law Amendment Bill 2024

CANA joined with Lucy's Project and wrote to the Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee with recommendations.

Home Care Services list

CANA participated in a joint submission in support of widening the resources available for pet care support to older people who receive home care services.

Aged Care Bill 2024

CANA worked with Pets in Positive Ageing (PAPA), writing to Senate Standing Committees on Community Affairs to submit comments on the Aged Care bill.

Statement of Rights

CANA achieved the recognition of an individual's right to opportunities, and assistance, to stay connected (if the individual so chooses) with significant persons in the individual's life and pets.

NSW Cat Containment Submission

CANA responded to a New South Wales parliamentary inquiry into the management of cat populations in NSW.

Advocacy and influence continued

Rental laws NSW, TAS, SA, WA

CANA is a consistent and influential voice in support of the simplification, relaxing and harmonisation of tenancy laws in all state jurisdictions.

Deductible Gift Recipient reforms

CANA made a submission for the DGR to include charities that work to advocate for support of their sectors.

Clarity for Public Benefit Institution guidelines

CANA lobbied for the rights of workers in the pet charity sector to be afforded the same tax concessions and allowances as those in the health industry.

The Renewing the Australian Animal Welfare Strategy

CANA submitted our recommendations and offered to be a part of the steering committee.

Hepburn Shire Positive Ageing Expo

CANA presented in support of Hepburn Shire Council's No Barrier Positive Ageing Strategy, a leading municipal programme that fosters social inclusion, encourages physical activity and promotes the use of outdoor spaces for older people.

Animal Justice Party

CANA presented an update of our advocacy work to the AJP, which aims to give a political voice to animals.

In addition, this year CANA worked with industry bodies and partners, such as Cherished Pets, Australian Veterinary Association and various levels of government to instigate more accessible pet care.


'Driving the public narrative around pet ownership.'



CANA Aged Care Survey Results 2023

86%

of people believe pets improve physical and mental health



'There's nothing better than giving an animal a cuddle'

Partners, donors and collaborators

CANA is supported in its work by valued national and international partners and collaborators who contribute knowledge, awareness and financial support for our work. CANA is incredibly grateful for the efforts of our partners and collaborators that help to make our communities safer and more welcoming for companion animals.



Companion Animal Network Foundation (CANF)

Anyone can support the direct-care work of our member agencies on behalf of companion animals with a tax-deductible donation administered through Give Now. As part of each donation through Give Now, CANA receives a 10% project levy and 20% facilitation fee to support our work at the national level. Donations received through the Foundation are distributed evenly to CANA members monthly, after which CANA receives its levy and fee.

Donors and supporters

CANA offers its deep gratitude to Lin Huddleston Charitable Foundation for its significant financial support in 2023–24. The generosity of donors makes a tremendous ongoing contribution to the viability of our work.

In addition, each member of the CANA network relies heavily on donations that support their day-to-day, on-the-ground operations. Legacies and bequests fund their missions to support companion animals in need.



Workplace giving

Workplace giving is a valuable and meaningful way to support not-for-profit organisations like CANA.

Through the agency of the Workplace Giving Australia platform, individuals can contribute a small amount of their pre-tax salary and receive an instant tax benefit (rather than waiting until the end of the financial year).

Workplace giving offers a donor the chance to support a cause like ours that might be close to their heart. They can do so via small, regular payments that are less burdensome than larger, one-off sums.

In 2023–24, we give special thanks to the following workplace giving partners, who each support the involvement of their staff in providing CANA with much-needed funding:



We are extremely grateful to our workplace giving corporate partners and their staff for this meaningful support.

The power of donations

CANA is dedicated to making donations work as hard as possible for the benefit of companion animals.



MY CHARITY CHANGE
Change for Change



little Phil
GOOD MOMENTS

Members of the community can support CANA through My Charity Change, a smartphone app that allows donors to round up their daily purchases, and Play for Purpose, a not-for-profit online raffle where donors can win prizes while supporting our work.

Workplace giving / Matched giving

When a worker gives

\$5.00



It costs the worker

\$3.40



Their employer matches

\$5.00



CANA receives

\$10.00

Pre-tax donation

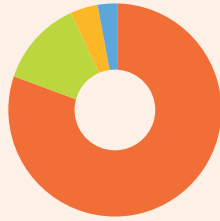


Summary of activities_2023-24

CANA Foundation Overview

Revenue

- JB Hi-Fi
- Starbucks
- Collins Foods
- Donations and Bequests

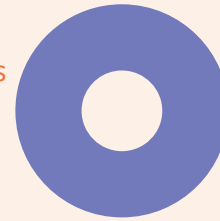


Revenue

Workplace Giving	\$812,350
Donations and Bequests	\$26,577
TOTAL	\$812,350

Expenses

- Administrative Expenses



Expenses

Administration	\$7,749
TOTAL	\$ 7,749

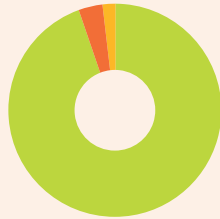
CANA receives a 10% project levy and 20% facilitation fee to support our work at the national level. Donations received through the Foundation are distributed evenly to CANA members monthly, after which CANA receives its levy and fee.

All revenue received by the Foundation is evenly distributed monthly to the members to support the animals once expenses have been paid.

Companion Animal Network Overview

Revenue

- Sponsorship
- Other
- Membership and Facilitation Fees

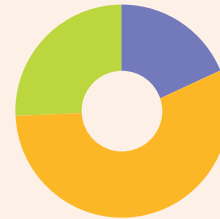


Revenue

Membership & Facilitation Fees	\$306,000
Sponsorship	\$8,463
Other	\$2,860
TOTAL	\$ 317,343

Expenses

- Administration
- Employee expense (including wages, training, fundraising, travel)
- Brand and Marketing

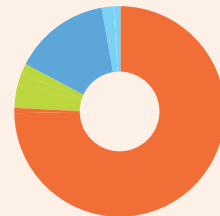


Expenses

Administration	\$47,110
Employee expense	\$147,173
Brand & Marketing	\$65,414
TOTAL	\$259,697

How funds are used

- Direct Animal Care
- Advocacy
- Brand & Marketing
- Education & Training



There was significant underspend to budget:

Administration	(\$67,000)
Brand & Marketing	(\$30,000)

CANA is in a strong financial position with \$38,000 improvement over prior year.

Media

Media mentions make a vital contribution to raising the profile of issues related to the welfare of companion animals. In turn, the conversations started by media mentions help to open doors with policy makers that allow us to discuss meaningful change.



Social media

CANA is active in social media, sharing news, research and information that supports our cause and generates positive discussion among our followers.



My makes Bupa Clayton feel like home



Let's create more moments like this



Pet friendly policy for a happier and more productive workplace



Frankie saved my life



"My cats are my family"



CANA Aged Care Survey Results: Urgent Action Needed!



JUST THANK YOU!

Together We Create a Paw-sitive Impact



Monkey brings comfort in transition to aged care



Deb enjoys life at Snug Village with her budgie friends

A brief history of CANA

Animal Welfare League Australia (AWLA) was founded in 2007 to address crucial gaps in advocacy for companion animals. Its remit was more focused than that of the RSPCA, whose principal function was addressing cruelty and mistreatment.

Four member states were represented at the launch of AWLA, with the importance of a national identity driving efforts to recruit more state members. Subsequently, Tasmania and Western Australia joined, and AWLA was truly national.

In 2022, AWLA underwent a brand transition, incorporating a new name and logo. Companion Animal Network Australia (CANA) more accurately describes our representative role as a national body. The logo combines a pet's nose, a heart and a smile to create a friendly and positive brand mark.

The CANA brand celebrates the human-animal bond, promotes responsible pet ownership, campaigns for the humane treatment of all animals and rallies support for high welfare standards.



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