



Companion  
Animal Network  
Australia CAN

# Impact Report 2022-23

A national voice for  
companion animals  
and the people who  
care for them



## Who we are

**Companion Animal Network Australia** is a registered charity representing the companion animal welfare work of our **six 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

Our movement fights for a society that recognises **the positive impact pets** have on **people and a world where every pet is in a loving home**.



Our members have more than 300 years of combined experience caring for companion animals.





“Supporting the passion and commitment of our staff and volunteers.”





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## Companion Animal Network Australia fights for a world that values the extraordinary bond between people and their pets.

CANA values and celebrates diversity in our community. We are committed to providing services that are inclusive and support equality and accessibility.

CANA acknowledges the traditional custodians of country throughout Australia and their continuing connection to land, sea and community. We pay our respects to them and their cultures and to their elders both past and present and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.



## Message from our President and CEO

The past year has seen Companion Animal Network Australia as active as it's ever been, with several pet-related issues really beginning to gain traction.

The focus on aged care and the needs of an ageing population has allowed us to advocate for greater understanding among aged care facilities of the benefits to helping older people retain their pets. Meanwhile, the challenges facing employers in convincing staff to return to the workplace has elevated the profile of our pets at work advocacy.

The separation of pets and families who rent remains unacceptably high, and CANA is supremely motivated to bring together renters and landlords to find common ground on this issue.

CANA continues to work hard in the media to grow our profile. Our public relations efforts are generating ever-greater awareness of our work, while media relationships have resulted in powerful advertising placements, especially in out-of-home channels that were donated free of charge.

In this past year, CANA has evolved its branding in an effort to create a striking new visual identity and consistency in the way it communicates. We are thrilled with the response to this important work.

We urge all people who have the welfare of companion animals at heart to play their part in advocating for and supporting change that promotes the human-animal bond, and we hope that this impact report inspires all readers to add their voice to our cause.



**Melissa Penn, President, and Trish Ennis, CEO**  
Companion Animal Network Australia

## About us

**Companion Animal Network Australia (CANA) is Australia's peak body for companion animals. We represent the companion animal welfare work of our six member agencies.**

**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.**

**Adoptions and fostering are the core of what our members do. Our network has found homes for millions of animals that have been surrendered and neglected but we always have thousands more awaiting adoption.**





## From AWLA to CANA

The minutes of a meeting of various animal welfare leagues from across Australia, held in 1992, record a decision to form a national body that would offer a strong representative voice for the existing state-based bodies.

**There was unanimous agreement that the body would be named Animal Welfare League of Australia (AWLA). It took until 2007 for this vision to be realised, with the addition of Tasmania (2010) and Western Australia (2014) truly making AWLA a national association.**



## From AWLA to CANA

**In 2022, Animal Welfare League Australia underwent a brand transition that incorporated a new name — Companion Animal Network Australia — and a new visual identity.**

Our new name better describes our representative role as a national body that unites six state-based member agencies. It also permitted us to create the assertive advertising statement 'Australia CAN' as a powerful lobbying slogan that speaks to positive action and change.

**The new logo combines elements of a pet's nose, a heart and a smile to create a friendly and positive brand mark that is simple and memorable.**

The new name and logo have been warmly received and will give us a distinctive and consistent identity that can underpin our work in the years to come.



**Companion  
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## Pet Friendly Aged Care

**Pet Friendly Aged Care, an initiative of CANA, was established 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, and to provide a more practical way forward.**

As our population ages, solutions to maintaining a high quality of life include finding ways to help ageing people retain their pets. 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.**



**18%**

Did you know that just 18% of aged care facilities consider allowing residents to keep a pet?

**“He provides sanity and a reason to rise each day”**

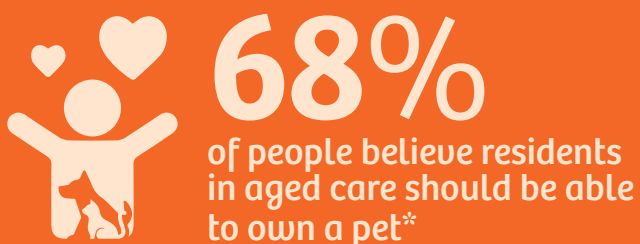
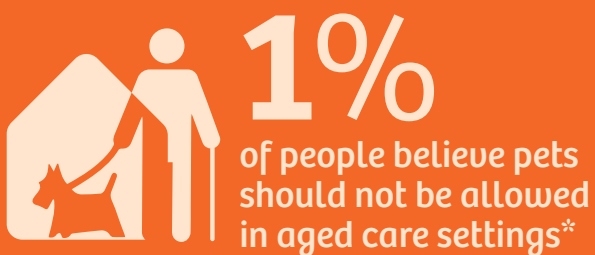


**Pet Friendly Aged Care**

# “Having animals that depend on me keeps me active.”



## Our surveys have found:





## Pet Friendly Aged Care

Pet Friendly Aged Care is lobbying government for pet support to be included in home-care packages.

We continue to work with residential care facilities by supplying workable policies and protocols that make pet ownership easier to adopt.

This package was developed in conjunction with Lifeview Residential Care following their highly successful programs running throughout their four (soon to be six) homes in Victoria.

This suite of resources are now available through CANA for all residential aged care to access and adopt in their facilities.

How would you rate the importance of access to pets in aged care?\*

0% Unimportant      1% Quite important  
1% Some importance      14% Very important



Vitality   
important

\*CANA Aged Care Survey Results 2023

“Life would be so lonely and aimless without them.”



Pet Friendly Aged Care

## Bupa and the benefits of pets in aged care

Healthcare company Bupa operates 58 residential aged care homes in South Australia, Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland.

Amanda Grimmer, business development manager at Bupa, says that pet admissions are considered at every Bupa residential facility and permitted with the approval of the general manager.

**“Bupa currently has many homes where residents reside with cats, dogs and birds,” she says.**

Grimmer adds that Bupa is flexible in the way it facilitates the human-animal connection:

**“Some of our homes have facility-owned pets who resided in the homes for all residents to enjoy.”** Bupa has a pet agreement in place for potential residents and their families to sign when entering a facility with an existing pet. **The company believes that keeping a pet helps new residents settle and assimilate, with the bonus of bringing an extra friend for existing residents to enjoy.**

**“Even if language is a problem, everyone can pat a dog,”** says Lisa Myers, one of Bupa’s general managers.



**“Their faces light up. There’s nothing better than giving an animal a cuddle.”**



## Rent With Pets

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

Rent With Pets was established to create a bridge between responsible pet owners and the nation's landlords, sharing information that will help them work together for the benefit of companion animals.

CANA's website [rentwithpets.com.au](http://rentwithpets.com.au) supplies educational and factual information for landlords, agents and tenants. This includes ideas on being a responsible pet owner and hints and downloadable documents to help tenants applying for properties.

**“House hunting is so stressful for pet owners.”**



Companion  
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Australia CAN

**Rent  
with Pets**



**“We had no choice but to surrender our beloved cat.”**



## The facts:

**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.**



**10%**

Less than 10% of rental properties are advertised as pet friendly.



## Jake's story

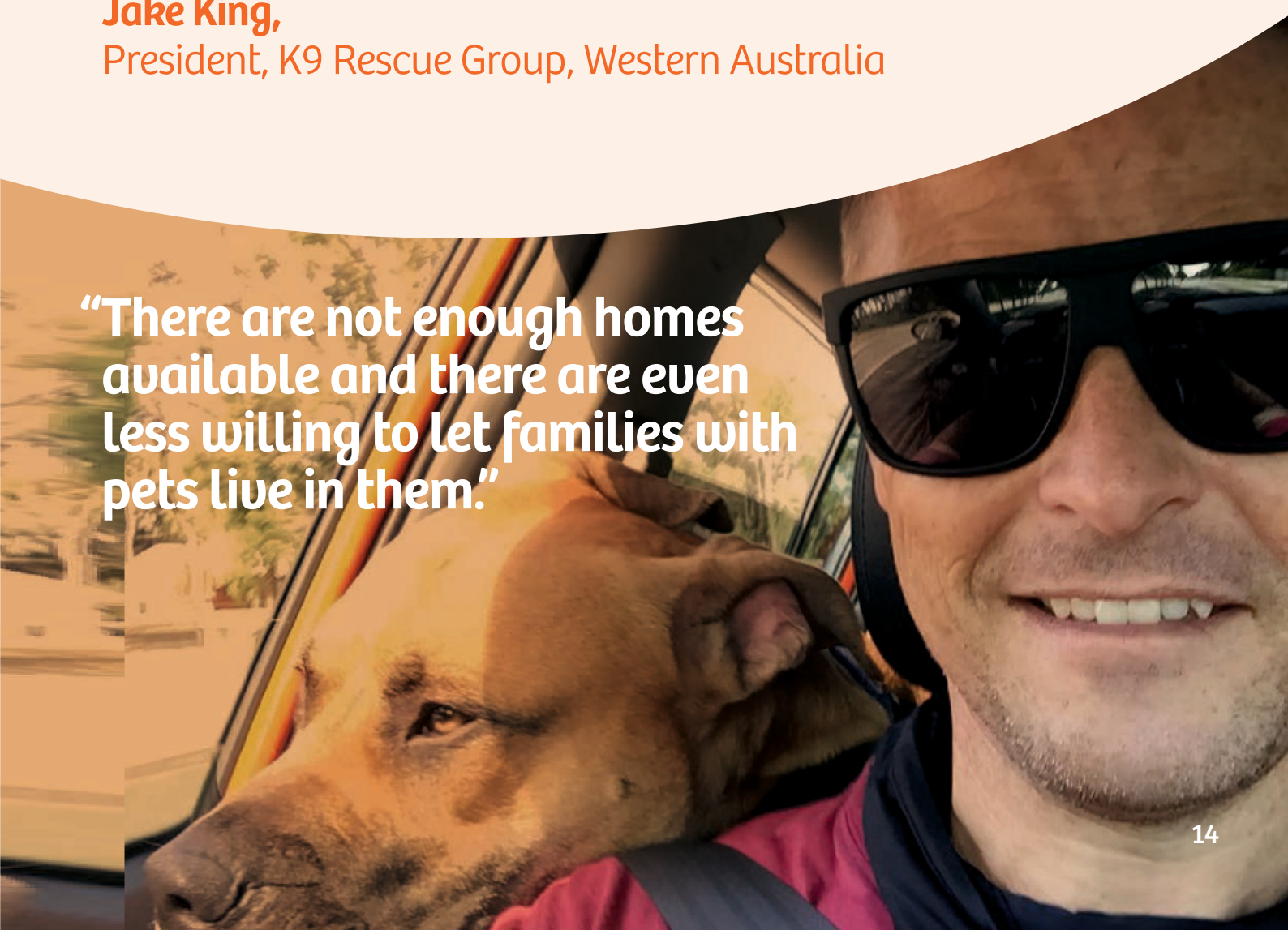
**My name is Jake King and I'm an ex-Royal Australian Navy clearance diver and volunteer for K9 Rescue Group, a non-profit organisation that rescues, treats and re-homes dogs in WA.**

We receive on average around 10 to 15 phone calls a week from the public specifically having to surrender their dog due to landlords' blanket "no" to pets. That's not including the pounds in the area we service.

**The impact of the crisis is huge. We see families almost daily that have to give up their family pet.**

**Let's start to change how we think and help each other. Even a little change will inject so much goodwill into the community – it has to be a good thing!**

**Jake King,**  
President, K9 Rescue Group, Western Australia



**“There are not enough homes available and there are even less willing to let families with pets live in them.”**

## Companion Animal Network Rental Law for Renters

2023

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### VIC

**Landlords are only able to refuse if they have permission from the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT).**

### NSW

According to tenants.org.au there is no term in the Residential Tenancies Act 2010 that prohibits a renter from keeping a pet, or that requires you to ask for your landlord's consent before you keep a pet.

### WA

A pet bond is optional and, unlike in other Aussie states, permissible by law - although only one pet bond at a maximum of \$260 is allowed to be charged per property, regardless of the number of pets.

### QLD

**The property owner must respond to a request for a pet in writing within 14 days, or consent is implied.**

**The property owner's consent may be subject to reasonable conditions. Rent increase or a pet bond are not reasonable conditions.**

### TAS

Landlords are not allowed to charge pet bonds. The changes also mean landlords are not permitted to unreasonably reject applications from prospective tenants, on the basis they'll be accompanied by a pet.

### ACT

**Landlords can only refuse consent on very specific grounds and with the approval of the ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal.**

### SA

There will be an option for the tenant to apply to South Australian Civil and Administrative Tribunal if they are not satisfied that conditions imposed by the landlord are reasonable or if they believe their request for a pet was unreasonably refused.

### NT

**Pet bonds are not allowed.**

**Tenants in the Northern Territory need to notify the landlord that they want to bring a pet onto the property and the landlord has 14 days to approve or deny the request.**

## Companion Animal Network Rental Law for Strata

2023

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### VIC

Meanwhile, the standard or default Victorian strata building rules do not prohibit pets or require advance permission for strata owners and residents to keep a pet in a strata building.

### NSW

**Blanket up-front bans on animals cannot be imposed.**

### QLD

**Strata bodies are not allowed to have a blanket ban on pets.**

### WA /ACT /SA /NT

The keeping of pets is at the discretion of the strata council or body corporate.



## Pets In Business

**With one in five Aussies taking time off the job because of work-related stress and anxiety,** it's clear the Australian workforce could benefit from some extra creature comforts.

**There has been an increasing trend in recent years for employers to implement pet-friendly workplaces to boost employee morale and productivity.** The basis of the concept is that pets are widely understood to improve a person's mood and reduce levels of stress and anxiety.

**For a small donation, Pets In Business can set up any company with a branded Pets In Business kit that includes rules and regulations that meet the needs of everyone in the workplace.** With some businesses having difficulty convincing employees to spend a greater share of their work hours onsite, a pet-friendly policy could be just the tonic for happier and more productive workplaces.



Australia enjoys the highest pet ownership per capita in the world.

**“Pets in the workplace reduce stress, promote happiness and increase collaboration.”**



**Companion  
Animal Network**  
Pets in Business

## **Pets make Eastern Innovation a happier workplace**

**Eastern Innovation (EI) is a co-working space in south-east Melbourne with suites, labs and offices for more than 40 future-focused businesses.**

**We recognised that workers and pets spent a lot more time together during the pandemic,** meaning that coming back to the office was likely to be a challenge for many people and their employers.

**Accordingly, we collaborated with CANA to produce a pet-friendly policy for the business owners and teams who tenant the region's innovation centre.**

**The goal was to get people back in the workspace** with a robust policy, prepared by a team of pet experts, that created an environment few other flexible working spaces could offer.

**“Pets primarily reside in the offices of their owners, and we have wonderful outdoor spaces where they can relax too,”** says chief executive officer of EI, Allira Cundy.

**“We love seeing the smiles on people's faces when a pet comes through the door.”**





## How our members make a difference

**CANA exists to support and represent the outstanding work of our six member agencies, each of which is united in a commitment to the welfare of companion animals.**

Our members provide shelter, food, veterinary care, training and lots of love and cuddles to lost, homeless and abandoned animals (mostly dogs and cats).

They also care for pets until they can be reunited with their owners or find a suitable new home.

Community programs are a cornerstone of the work our members undertake. These variously include aged care visits, mental health support, wellbeing initiatives, grief services, community education and opportunities for volunteering.

**“Our members continue to work tirelessly to promote the human-animal bond and support the welfare of pets.”**

## Partners and collaborators

**CANA is supported in its work by valued national and international partners and collaborators who contribute knowledge and awareness 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.**

**Some of our current partners include:**

Alliance for Animals Australia  
Australian Veterinary Association  
Aged and Community Care Providers Association  
Australian Pet Welfare Foundation  
Animals Australia  
Austin Health  
Bupa Aged Care  
Cherished Pets – Dr Alicia Kennedy  
Charles Sturt University  
Council on the Ageing - COTA  
Dailycare  
Four Paws

G2Z  
Pets and Positive Ageing Inc - PAPA  
Lifeview Residential Aged Care  
Older Persons Advocacy Network - OPAN  
Perfect Pets  
RSPCA  
Rural Care  
St Vincent's Care Services (SVCS)  
Society of Companion Animal Studies (UK)  
Uni SA – Dr Janette Young  
Voiceless  
World Animal Protection





**“It makes everyone feel like they have a greater purpose.”**



**The power of donations  
CANANETWORK is dedicated to making donations work as hard as possible for the benefit of companion animals.**



**75% of donations are passed directly to our members.**



**25% is used by CANANETWORK to build awareness of the benefits of animal companionship and lobby for change.**

### **Workplace giving / Matched giving**

**When a worker gives**

**\$5.00**



**It costs the worker**

**\$3.40**



**Their employer matches**

**\$5.00**



**CANANETWORK receives**

**\$10.00**

Pre-tax donation

## 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.**

Our members receive funding first, so that donations go directly to support the animals and their care. We then charge an annual membership fee and receive a 10% levy each month to support CANA and our programs.

## Workplace Giving Australia

**CANA can be supported through the Workplace Giving Australia platform**, whereby individuals contribute a small portion of their pre-tax salary to CANA and receive the tax benefit straight away rather than waiting until the end of financial year. Companies then match the donation either in full or in part, giving the company a tax benefit while supporting CANA.

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

Our other fundraising channels include:

## Play for Purpose & Go Fundraise

**Bequests** When CANA is included in a Will, it leaves a legacy of kindness that endures.





## Corporate sponsorship

**Australians spend more than \$13bn per year on their pets and it's estimated that the ownership of dogs and cats saves our health system nearly \$4bn a year.**

A corporate sponsorship with CANA is a huge opportunity for companies to leverage an association with Australia's peak body for companion animal welfare. Other benefits include reaching a massive audience through CANA's social media, access to market intelligence and an array of marketing opportunities.

**CANA continues to offer flexible corporate sponsorship packages to market leaders who wish to support our work and enjoy unique ROI benefits.**

## Government funding

**It's important to note that CANA does not receive any funding from government.** While CANA actively seeks government support through the likes of grant opportunities, these are rarely offered. CANA is currently sustained by donations, bequests, workplace giving and corporate support.

**To all those who make a financial contribution to CANA, we offer our sincere thanks. Simply, we can't do it without you.**



**\$13bn**

Australians spend more than \$13bn per year on their pets



**\$4bn**

Ownership of dogs and cats saves our health system nearly \$4bn a year.

# Summary of activities\_2022-23

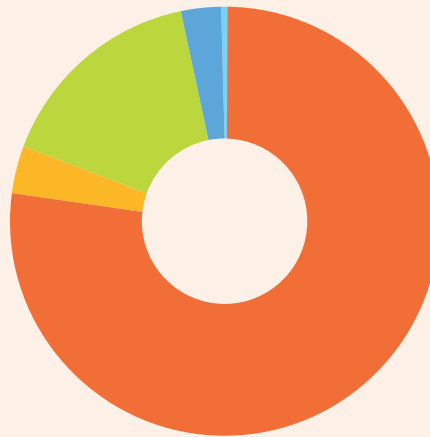
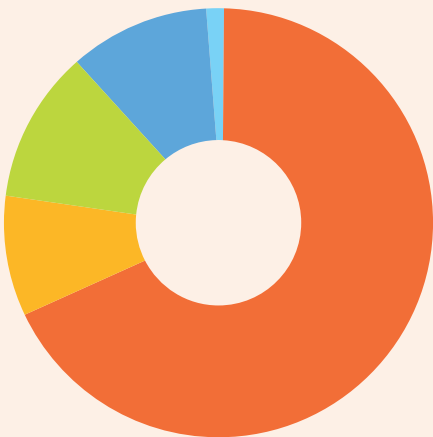
## Overview

### Expenses

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

### Revenue

- JB Hi-Fi
- Starbucks
- Collins Foods
- Donations
- Sponsorship



## National Statistics\_Pets sheltered and fostered

	Dogs	Cats	Total
<b>Total incoming</b>	<b>11624</b>	<b>12994</b>	<b>24618</b>
<b>Total outgoing</b>	<b>10099</b>	<b>11351</b>	<b>21450</b>
<b>Reasons for surrender</b>			
Renting issues	391	235	626
Bad match	174	39	213
Behaviour problems	507	102	609
Owner unable to cope - time/training/control issues	269	143	412
Age-care/elderly, age related	98	54	152
Legal intervention	67	56	123
Animal - Medical issues	32	57	89
Owner - Medical issues	157	76	233

“Now, more than ever, pets are an integral part of our lives.”



## Strategic goals

# To become the leading advocate for companion animals

- Build awareness and credibility.
  - Define the advocacy agenda.
  - Build relationships with government and industry bodies.
  - Work collaboratively with members and partners to deliver services.
  - Build a collaborative culture.
  - Be well managed and financially stable.
- 



To create, uphold and encourage the highest standards of care, health and welfare for pets in our community

“Lives enriched by companion animals.”

# 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.



VET magazine



Australia (CAN) issues warning to pet adopters about fake pet rescue group

## NEW WARNINGS ABOUT TICKS TRANSMITTING DEADLY DISEASE TO DOGS IN AUSTRALIA

Written by Australian Dog Lover 3 years ago · 0 Comments



...are enriched by companion animals Help us help them

australiacan.org.au



## Help pets help the elderly

By Maggie Maxwell

The benefits of pet ownership are well documented but as more pet owners grow older, so does the aged care sector. In Australia, they are faced with the prospect of their much loved companion animals being rehomed or euthanised.



## YourLifeChoices

HOME MONEY RETIREMENT CENTRELINK PROPERTY HEALTH TRAVEL LIFE

Home Podcast: The power of pets in aged care

### Podcast: The power of pets in aged care

by John Deeks · 20 August 2023, 12:20 am



## Australia's rental crisis: Why some renters are having to choose between their pet or a roof over their heads



## Pets In Aged Care Is Unacceptably Low

August 11, 2023



## IMPROVING ELDERLY ASSISTED LIVING TO PREVENT PETS FROM BEING SURRENDERED

Australia has one of the highest rates of pet ownership in the world, enjoying the many physical and mental health benefits.

Yet, there is a painful absence of government support for elderly pet owners in in-home care, resulting in their much-loved animals being surrendered to shelters across the country.



## VETNEWS

### Pick a winner

The Companion Animal Rescue Awards returns for its fifth year to recognise rescue efforts and animal shelters.

A celebration was recently held in Sydney, Digi and Cash Home (group member of Companion Animal Network Australia) in Sydney to launch the 2023 rescue awards program where pet adoption advocates, and both Pet4Life and rescue awards founder Corby Beer welcomed back Pet Insurance Australia on the Platinum Rescue Pets and Nipping Partners.

The program - called the Pet Insurance Australia Companion Animal Rescue Awards 2023 - is managed by Pet4Life, an independent adjudicator for pet and



A very happy pet owner with her three rescue dogs





## Social media

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



Roxy makes Bupa Clayton feel like home



Freckles makes life better at St Vincent's Care



Providing animal care is more than walking dogs



Pet Friendly Aged Care

Aged care facilities and pets. A perfect fit!



CANA Aged Care Survey Results: Urgent Action Needed!



Frankie saved my life



Companion Animal Network Australia CAN

Share your story!



Bringing lonely pets and empty laps together



Freckles makes life better at St Vincent's Care





## Our Ambassadors

Our ambassadors have been outstanding in their support, leveraging their links to the public and media. Their crucial involvement raises much-needed attention and support for our cause.

### Lara Shannon

As a pet behaviourist, TV presenter, producer and author, Lara is one Australia's most well-known animal welfare advocates and canine experts, reaching millions of Australians each year through her education work to help improve the lives of companion animals.

Lara has been the media spokesperson for a number of high profile animal welfare and conservation organisations in Australia and the UK including the World Wide Fund for Nature, Planet Ark, Keep Australia Beautiful, The Orangutan Project, Wildlife Asia and others, and currently presents Channel 10's Pooches At Play and features in Channel 9's The Pet Rescuers.

**Her mission is to help reduce the needless euthanasia of adoptable shelter animals to zero.**

### John Deeks

Respected throughout the media industry, John has been a popular and in-demand fixture of the Melbourne TV, radio, advertising and corporate worlds for almost 40 years.

Perhaps best known as the voice of 'Wheel of Fortune' and the man that told excited contestants on the 'New Price Is Right' to 'come on down', John, or 'Deeksie' as he is widely known, was also the face of Tattslotto and Powerball draws and the host and compere of 'Family Feud'.

**John has also supported CANA through podcast interviews with our CEO on Your Life Choices.**







**Companion  
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Australia CAN

## Contact us

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