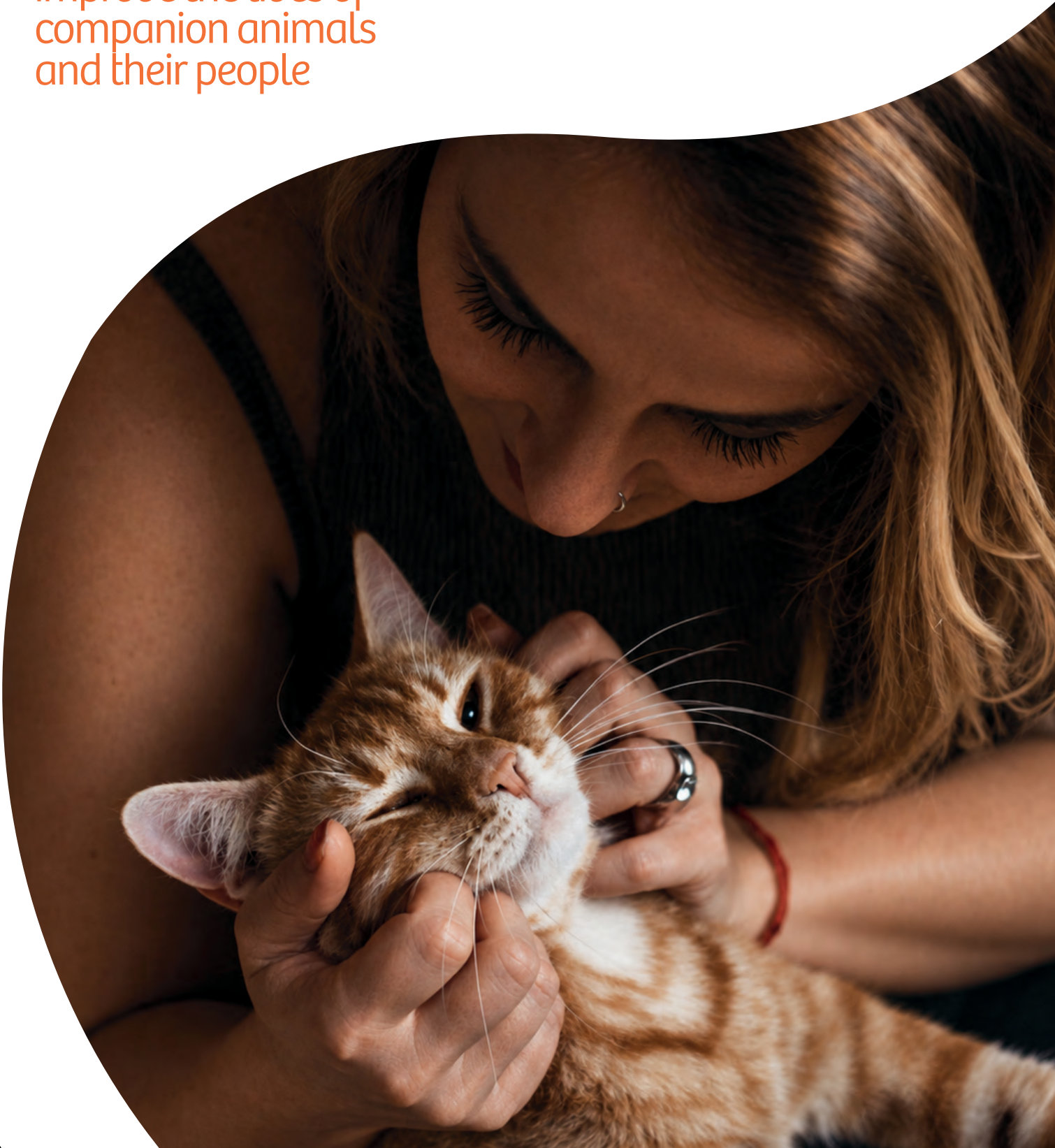




Impact Report 2025-26

A national voice to
improve the lives of
companion animals
and their people



Contents

Who we are	02
Our member network	03
Member Consolidated Data	05
A Message from our Acting CEO	07
A Message from our President	08
Achievements	10-12
Ways to support our work	13
In Memoriam	14
Partners and donors	15-16
Financial summary 2025-26	17
Media	18
Strategic Plan	19
A brief history of CANA	20

Acknowledgement of Country

Companion Animal Network Australia acknowledges Traditional Owners of Country throughout Australia and recognises the continuing connection to lands, waters and communities. We pay our respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, and to Elders past, present and emerging.



Who we are

Companion Animal Network Australia (CANA) is a not-for-profit and registered charity that advocates for companion animal welfare on behalf of our member network.

CANA members are animal welfare organisations throughout Australia, aiming to make the world a better place for pets and people. Our members provide rescue, shelter, re-homing, fostering, health care and enrichment services to more than 80,000 animals each year.

Founded in 2007 as Animal Welfare League Australia Ltd, AWLA began operating as Companion Animal Network Australia in 2022.

What we do

Through national campaigns, partnerships and initiatives, we celebrate the human-animal bond and promote responsible pet ownership. We use our national voice to campaign for the humane treatment of all companion animals and we rally support for programs that keep people and pets together.

With the help of our members, sector partners and the public, we compile real data to inform Government and drive positive change for pets and the people who care for them.

Getting to Zero (G2Z)

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



Our member network

Adoptions, fostering, veterinary services and a variety of support for pet owners are the core activities of our members. With over 300 years of combined experience, CANA members have found homes for millions of animals that have been surrendered, neglected or abandoned.



CANA works to reduce and eliminate the abandonment and surrendering of pets through advocating around these causes:



**Companion
Animal Network
Australia**



Policy

- Renting issues
- Aged care/elderly
- Animal medical issues
- Owner medical issues
- Financial

Education

- Bad match
- Behaviour problems
- Puppies/kittens (de-sexing)

Situation

- Owner unable to cope
- Legal intervention
- No longer wanted
- Change in circumstance
- Other

CANA members work with abandoned and surrendered pets to provide health care, foster care and find loving homes



July 2025-June 2026

Member Consolidated Data*

Canine

Total Incoming	Surrenders	Strays
9,661	3,043	1,256

Feline

Total Incoming	Surrenders	Strays
8,770	2,670	3,925

Other Animals

Total Incoming	Surrenders	Strays
1,104	582	260

Total incoming data also includes animals born in the shelter, returned from adoptions, emergency assistance, and transfers from other agencies.

Outcomes

Dogs adopted 4,842

Cats adopted 7,165

Other animals adopted 762

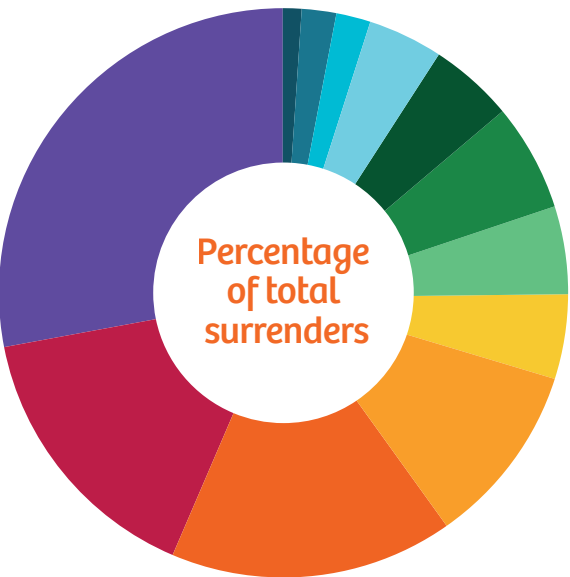
Returned to owner 3,518

Total adoptions 12,769

Benchmarks (YOY)

- Total Incoming animals decreased 2% to 19,535.
- There was a slight increase in adoption of dogs (+9%), and a slight decrease in the adoption of cats (-5%). Overall adoption rates were the same as last year (65%).
- Surrenders increased to 32% of incoming from 25% last year.
- Incoming cats under 6 months old reduced to 34% compared to just over half last year, suggesting an increase in de-sexing.

Reasons for Surrender



Reason

Percentage of total

Owner medical issues	1%
Aged care related	2%
Animal medical issues	2%
Bad match	4%
Legal intervention	5%
Financial pressures	5%
Change in circumstance	5%
Owner unable to cope (time/training/control)	6%
Behaviour issues	10%
Renting issues	16%
Other/not reported	16%
No longer wanted	28%

Key Insights

- Surrenders due to owner medical issues reduced to 1% from 6% last year.
- Renting issues continue to be a leading cause for surrender and increased this year (from 13% to 16%) despite legislation supporting renters to have pets.
- Fewer people surrendered their pets this year due to change in circumstance: 5% compared to 8% last year.

*Data does not include CANA Affiliate Members.

In addition to rescue, fostering
and adoption services, each year
CANA members provide care
for more than

60,000

animals in the community,
including reduced cost veterinary
care and emergency boarding.*

*CANA members reporting veterinary services, reduced
cost or 100% funded veterinary care, and emergency boarding.
Averages calculated from FY 2024-25 (AWLQ) and
calendar year 2025 (LSAH).



Message from the Acting CEO

This year, CANA has continued to put the human- animal bond at the heart of important conversations about ageing, community wellbeing, animal management and family safety. Through advocacy, research and collaboration, we have worked to give greater visibility to the role pets play in the lives of people and communities.

A key focus has been bringing the needs of pets and their people into government policy discussions. CANA made submissions to the Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee's review of the Aged Care Act 2024, advocating for pet care assistance to be included in funded in-home aged care. We also contributed to the review of Western Australia's Cat Act 2011 and the Second Action Plan under the National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children 2028–2032.

Our 2025 Status of Pets in Aged Care Survey and Report has continued to underpin our advocacy and awareness work. Our project services grant from Aged Care Research & Industry Innovation Australia (ARIA), provided additional evidence to develop practical resources to help aged care providers better support people with pets, while continuing to highlight the important role pets play in the lives of older Australians.

This year we celebrated 10 years of partnership with JB Hi-Fi through its Helping Hands Program – an extraordinary milestone that has delivered lasting impact for CANA and our members. We are equally grateful to the teams at Starbucks Australia and Collins Foods for their continued workplace giving support.

Our work this year has reinforced the importance of evidence, advocacy, practical solutions and strong partnerships to drive change.

I am proud of what CANA, our members, partners and supporters have achieved together this year. I would also like to sincerely thank the CANA Board for the significant time and expertise they have contributed during a period of transition, including their support throughout my time as Acting CEO. Their work to articulate a clear vision for CANA has strengthened the foundations for the future and will enable CANA to deliver greater impact for pets and people across Australia in the years ahead.

With thanks,



Julie Jensen
Acting CEO

CANA Board Meeting February 2026;
L to R: Samantha Jacklin (AWLQ), Jane Donnelly (AWLQ), Frances Mirabelli (LSAH), Samantha Bing (SAFE), Melissa Penn (SDCH), Megan Alessandrini (DHoT), Mark Wild (DHoT), Julie Jensen (CANA).
Not pictured: Grant Robb (SAFE)



Message from the President

I am proud to introduce our 2025–26 Impact Report and reflect on a year of collaboration, advocacy and building a strong foundation for our future.

At the heart of CANA's work is the extraordinary bond between people and their pets. Our member organisations see the importance of this connection every day, and their collective experience strengthens our national voice and guides our efforts to create meaningful change.

This year, we continued to bring the needs of companion animals and their people into important policy and community conversations. Through research, advocacy and partnerships, we have built greater awareness of the human-animal bond and the changes needed to help keep people and pets together.

It has also been a significant year for CANA's future direction. Our new 2026–2029 Strategic Plan, guided by the One Welfare framework, recognises the interconnected wellbeing of people, animals and the environment. It gives us a clear, shared focus and a strong foundation for increasing our impact in the years ahead.

I would like to offer my heartfelt thanks to the CANA Board for their incredible work this year, particularly in developing our new strategic direction. Each director has generously contributed time, expertise and thoughtful leadership alongside substantial responsibilities within their own organisations. Their dedication and shared commitment have been invaluable during this period of transition. I would also like to give special thanks to Julie Jensen, who stepped into the Acting CEO role this year. Julie's commitment, care and leadership have helped guide CANA through this transition and maintain momentum in our work.

To our member organisations, their staff and volunteers, and our partners, donors and supporters, thank you. Your commitment makes our work possible, and the longstanding partnerships celebrated in this report remind us how much we can achieve together.

Together, we will continue to champion companion animals and work towards a more compassionate future for pets and the people who love them.

With thanks,

Melissa Penn

Melissa Penn
President, CANA



73%

of Australian households live with companion animals

Source: Pets in Australia: A national survey of pets and people, Animal Medicines Australia 2025, p. 5.



'I did not envision the amount of comfort and a reassurance such a small animal would have on my life.'

Maddie W & Sultan

Achievements

Strengthening our national voice for pets and people

This year, CANA continued to strengthen its role as a national advocate for companion animals and the people who love them. We used our growing evidence base, the expertise of our members and the lived experience of pet owners to contribute to important policy and community conversations across Australia.

Advocacy and policy

CANA made a series of submissions throughout the year, bringing the needs of companion animals and the human-animal bond into government policy and reform processes, including:

- Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee Review of the Aged Care Act 2024 advocating for pet care assistance services to be included in funded in-home aged care.
- Review of the Western Australian Cat Act 2011 – providing recommendations to support effective, evidence-based companion animal management.
- Second Action Plan under the National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children 2028–2032 – advocating for the needs of animals to be recognised in responses to family and domestic violence.

These submissions demonstrate CANA's growing capacity to translate evidence and experience into practical policy recommendations and ensure companion animals have a voice in decisions that affect their wellbeing and their relationships with people.



Achievements – continued

Making pets part of the aged care conversation

Pet Friendly Aged Care remained a major focus for CANA throughout the year. Our 2025 Status of Pets in Aged Care Survey attracted 2,846 responses – more than twice the number received in 2023 – providing nationally significant evidence about community attitudes and the experiences of older Australians, pet owners and aged care providers.

The findings highlighted a significant gap between what Australians expect and what is currently available. 96% of total survey respondents believe aged care residents should be able to have pets, while an analysis of My Aged Care indicates that only 12% of government funded residential aged care facilities allow residents to keep them.

CANA used these findings throughout the year to drive awareness, media engagement and advocacy, including our submission on the funding of aged care services. Our work has helped shift the conversation from simply recognising the importance of pets to identifying the practical changes needed to help people and pets stay together.

A project services grant from Aged Care Research & Industry Innovation Australia (ARIIA), and supported by Lifeview, provided additional evidence to assist in the development of practical resources to support the aged care workforce, as well as the ageing population. Our updated database of pet-friendly aged care providers, guide for in-home care providers, tool kits for residential care and planning resources for pet owners, will help expand our advocacy into practical action.

Building awareness of the human-animal bond

CANA continued to champion the importance of the human-animal bond across a range of issues affecting pets, people and communities.

Our advocacy has highlighted the role pets play in ageing, family and domestic violence, homelessness, community connection and wellbeing, reinforcing the need for services and systems to recognise pets as part of people's lives rather than treating them as separate from the people they love.

We also continued to advocate for greater understanding of the connection between animal welfare and human wellbeing, bringing the One Welfare approach into our work and strengthening conversations with organisations and sectors that share our goals.



Achievements – continued

Working together to create greater impact

Collaboration remains central to CANA's ability to create change.

We continued to work closely with our member organisations, drawing on their collective experience and expertise to inform CANA's national advocacy and ensure that the issues we raise are grounded in the realities faced by pets and the people who care for them. We also strengthened relationships across government, business, aged care, education and community sectors, creating opportunities to bring new perspectives and expertise into the conversation.

Celebrating partnerships that make a difference

This year marked 10 years of CANA's partnership with JB Hi-Fi through its Helping Hands Program. Over a decade, this partnership has provided significant support for CANA and our members and demonstrated the impact that workplace giving can have when businesses empower their people to support causes they care about.

We also continued to receive valuable workplace giving support from the teams at Starbucks Australia and Collins Foods, helping provide the resources needed to deliver CANA's work.

These partnerships are an important part of CANA's ability to advocate nationally while supporting our members working directly to improve the lives of pets and people every day.

Building the foundations for greater impact

Across all of this work, CANA has continued to build its capacity as a national organisation: strengthening our evidence, expanding our relationships, raising awareness of the issues affecting pets and people, and giving greater visibility to the human-animal bond.

Most importantly, the work undertaken this year has helped move important conversations forward: from awareness to action, from isolated issues to connected solutions, and from recognising the value of pets to considering their place in the systems that support Australian communities.

This is the foundation on which CANA will continue to build its impact for pets, people and communities.



Ways to support our work

Companion Animal Network Foundation (CANF)

All donations to CANA are accepted by the CANA Foundation. CANA receives 25% from every donation to support national advocacy and programs that help keep people and pets together; 75% of donations are disbursed to CANA Foundation members for the support of their on-ground work in animal and community welfare.

CANA receives donations from the public through GiveNow and GoFundraise. The majority of CANA's funding comes from Workplace Giving platforms and corporate partners as well as bequests in wills.

We are grateful for product and percentage of sales donations.

Thank you to Dogue for providing harnesses and leads to our members and Bug & Bun for providing products and donating a percentage of sales.

Reduced fee services sustain our work. Thank you Alchemic Design, Pet Journo, Purnell Branding, and The Creative Engine.



In Memoriam

Companion Animal Network Australia honours the life and legacy of Elinor Laura Huddleston, known to all as 'Lin', whose generosity continues to make a lasting difference for animals and the people who care for them.

Lin spent much of her life on Burragan Station, a vast and rugged property in outback New South Wales, which she operated independently for nearly 60 years. In 1964, she married Lawrance (Laurie) Richard Huddleston, a station hand, and were well-known collectors and avid travelers to rural clearance sales in search of a bargain.

Lin was known as a determined, independent and resilient woman, unafraid of hard work. She managed a property spanning 135,000 acres, at times shearing up to 9,000 sheep and running several hundred head of cattle. She was also an accomplished horsewoman, winning many camp drafting and racing events.

A devoted animal lover, Lin's lifelong connection with animals was a defining part of who she was. She had a particular affection for Chihuahuas and was a patron of the Chihuahua Society of South Australia.

Lin's Legacy

Through her estate, The Lin Huddleston Charitable Foundation directed support to causes she cared deeply about, including animal welfare, heart disease and cancer research.

Lin's gift is a lasting testament to the impact one person can make, and how a simple act of giving can create meaningful, lasting change.

CANA is incredibly grateful for Lin's generous bequest which spanned several years. A lasting legacy that continues to make a difference today.

A portrait of Elinor Laura Huddleston, an elderly woman with short, wavy grey hair, smiling warmly. She is wearing a white collared shirt and a pearl necklace. The background is a dark, textured surface.

Elinor Laura
Huddleston
1933-2012

Partners and donors

Workplace giving

Workplace Giving programs are essential for supporting the work of CANA and its members. Workplace Giving allows individuals to donate a small amount of their pre-tax salary which is often matched by their employer.

CANA is a recipient of employee giving through platforms Benevity, Good Company, Good2Give and Catalyser. In 2025–26, we give special thanks to the continued support of the following workplace giving partners, who support their staff to provide vital funding:



JB Hi-Fi Helping Hands

2026 marks 10 years of support from JB Hi-Fi's Helping Hands which matches donations from their teams. Over the years CANA members have visited stores and hosted volunteer days to engage the JB Hi-Fi teams and personally thank them for their essential support.

Thank You JB HI-FI.



**JB HI-FI
HELPING HANDS**



"The in store visit was a really great experience for our team. Everyone was blown away by the amount of help that CANA provides in our community. Elena [Sydney Dogs & Cats Home] provided our team with a lot of insight and information, and Merlin provided more love than we were prepared for."

JB Hi-Fi Rouse Hill

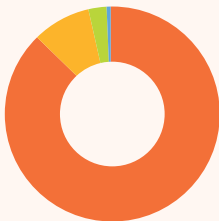


Financial summary 2025-26

CANA Foundation Overview

Revenue

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

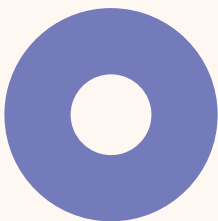


Revenue

Workplace Giving	\$713,189.
Donations and Bequests	\$5,085
TOTAL	\$718,274

Expenses

- Administrative Expenses



Expenses

Administration	\$5,831
TOTAL	\$5,831

Donations received through the Foundation are distributed evenly to CANA members, after which CANA receives a 25% administration fee to support our advocacy work at the national level.

Companion Animal Network Overview

Revenue

- Membership and Facilitation Fees

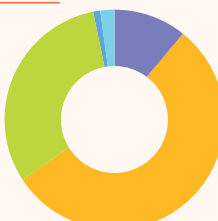


Revenue

Membership & Facilitation Fees	\$219,314
TOTAL	\$219,314

Expenses

- Employee expense
- Advocacy, marketing & PR
- Administration
- Workplace Giving membership
- Training, travel and meetings



Expenses

Employee expense	\$159,994
Advocacy, marketing & PR	\$90,347
Administration	\$45,452
Workplace Giving membership	\$6,000
Training, travel & meetings	\$3,781

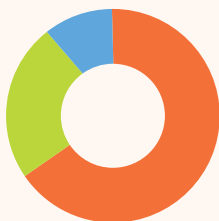
Operational deficit **\$72,925**

TOTAL **\$292,239**

CANA began a transition in 2025-26 to establish a new strategic plan and set future advocacy priorities. Reserves funded the operational deficit.

How funds are used*

- Direct to members for animal care 75%
- Operations, including employees 28%
- Advocacy, marketing and PR 12%



*Total exceeds 100% due to the deficit which was funded from reserves.

Media

CANA is active in a range of traditional and digital media, sharing news, research and information that generates discussion around the value of the human-animal bond. This activity raises the profile of issues that affect pets and the people who love and care for them. Conversations started through the media help to open doors with policy makers that allow us to discuss meaningful change.

Our impact in the headlines: shaping the public narrative



Strategic Plan 2026-2029



Companion
Animal Network
Australia

Our Vision

A community where pets can thrive in a compassionate and kind environment with their people.



Our Purpose

Champion pets, safeguard their wellbeing, celebrate their joy and enrich the bond they share with the people who love them.

CANA's strategy is guided by the One Welfare framework.



Recognising the interconnected wellbeing of people, animals and the environment.

Advocacy and Reform

CANA influences policy and systems to support the human-animal bond, improve the wellbeing of pets, people and the communities we share.

Our Advocacy Priorities



One Welfare Education

Build respect and empathy for pets through education.

- A national curriculum based on One Welfare principles.



Animal Management

Improve policy and systems that govern pets.

- Getting to Zero (G2Z)
- National Desexing Network (NDN)
- Animal Sentience



Community Wellbeing

Support the role pets play in human and community wellbeing, particularly through

- Aged care
- Domestic violence
- Homelessness



Pet Care & Wellbeing

Support the needs of pet-inclusive families.

- Pet-friendly communities
- Affordable pet care

How we deliver



Education & Awareness

CANA promotes knowledge and understanding of human-animal wellbeing to inspire informed action and create positive change.



Partnerships & Alliances

CANA brings together organisations and sectors with shared goals to create greater impact for pets, people and communities.



Funding & Sustainability

CANA's national membership model and corporate partnerships ensure resources and capability to deliver lasting impact for pets, people and communities.

A brief history of CANA

Animal Welfare League Australia (AWLA) was founded in 2007 to address crucial gaps in advocacy for companion animals.

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.

As a national voice for companion animals in Australia, CANA's role is to advocate and educate. CANA has directly influenced changes to residential tenancy laws, achieved new rights for pet-owning older people and encouraged employers to create space for pets in workplaces, all while raising the profile of companion animals and the importance they play in the lives of Australians.

Companion
Animal Network
Australia





**Companion
Animal Network
Australia**

Contact us

Companion Animal Network Australia
Level 2
39 Sandy Bay Road
Hobart TAS 7000

EM: info@australiacan.org.au

australiacan.org.au

petfriendlyagedcare.com.au

rentwithpets.com.au

