

# NiE Dig deep for dogs and cats

**Wordy news**  
Dig deep to make a lot of effort physically, mentally, or financially to achieve something you would not normally do.

## Did you know?

A public meeting to discuss the ill-treatment of horses in Victoria led to the formation of Australia's first Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals in 1871. Other states soon followed: New South Wales (1873); South Australia (1875); Tasmania (1878); Queensland (1883); Western Australia (1892); ACT (1955) and Northern Territory (1965).

# All creatures great and small

FROM the smallest of animals to the largest, all creatures on this Earth should be protected.

Thankfully there's an independent, non-government community-based charity providing animal care and protection services – the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

As its name suggests, the objectives of the RSPCA is to prevent cruelty to animals by actively promoting their care and protection.

RSPCA Australia is a federation comprising of eight independent state and territory bodies called member societies.

**What they do**  
To ensure all animals can live free from pain and suffering, the RSPCA member societies engage in a wide range of activities.

They enforce existing animal cruelty laws at federal and state level and prompt new legislation where required; develop and promote policies based on scientific knowledge; operate animal care shelters and adoption

facilities; raise community awareness through education; and undertake fundraising events and campaigns.

RSPCA policies cover: companion animals; farm animals; animals used for sport, entertainment, recreation and work; research animals; wildlife; transportation of animals; humane killing; and other miscellaneous areas.

The society conducts fundraising events throughout the year such as the RSPCA Million Paws Walk.

In May, animal lovers along with thousands of paws hit pavements and parks across Australia to raise money and make a stand for animals in need.

The funds raised in this annual event enables animals to receive daily care, veterinary treatment and helps with rehoming programs.

## ROYAL FACTS

- The RSPCA Australia runs 40 shelters and employs about 1000 staff.
  - is Australia's oldest and largest animal welfare organisation.
  - received 137,391 animals into animal shelters and adoption centres across the country (2015/16).
  - offers two scholarships to encourage students to take an active interest in animal welfare issues.
- It costs about \$48 million in Queensland alone to cover the services the RSPCA provides – with less than 1% of that received in government funding.

## IN THE NEWS

**Aiming to deliver**  
A STATE-of-the-art classroom on wheels filled with interactive animal welfare education is visiting schools and communities, allowing students to explore the responsibilities of pet ownership, the lives of farm animals, and our relationship with our unique wildlife.

During its time on the road, RSPCA Educational Mobile Unit has visited over 400,000 students and offers schools an impressive, high-profile community education program.

Visitors to the mobile unit have the opportunity to take part in a number of different activities, to learn about responsible animal care.



Students care for dogs in the RSPCA's EMU. PHOTO: JERAD WILLIAMS / THE NORTHERN ST



## CHECK IT OUT

**Cakes vs cruelty**  
TO HELP rescue, rehabilitate, and re-home approximately 135,000 animals that come through RSPCA shelters every year, the federation holds an annual Cupcake Day.

All the funds raised through the bake off help improve the lives of all creatures great and small, so support the thousands of animals the RSPCA care for everyday by participating in their national Cupcake Day, either as a baker or an eater.

Cupcake Day is on Monday, August 21. Visit the website to find out more and to register online. [www.rspcacupckaday.com.au](http://www.rspcacupckaday.com.au)

NEXT WEEK: Where in the world



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