ANNUAL REPORT 2024



because every life is precious

GAWS
geelong animal welfare society
"because every life is precious"



Corey & Van

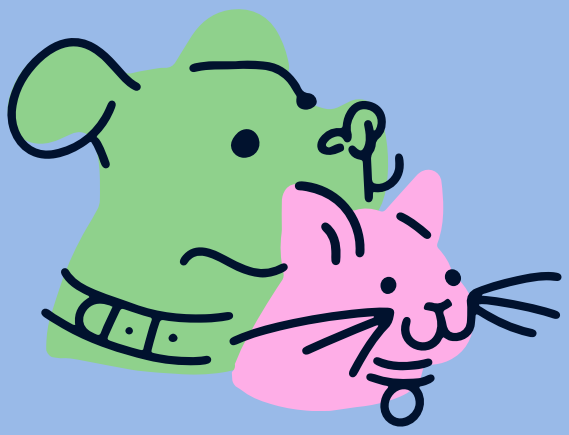
GAWS Animal Shelter Attendant Cory with Van, a 70kg gentle giant who found care and hope at our shelter.

HOME sweet HOME

"6.9 million AUSTRALIAN HOUSEHOLDS HAVE PETS"

– ANIMAL MEDICINES AUSTRALIA, 2022





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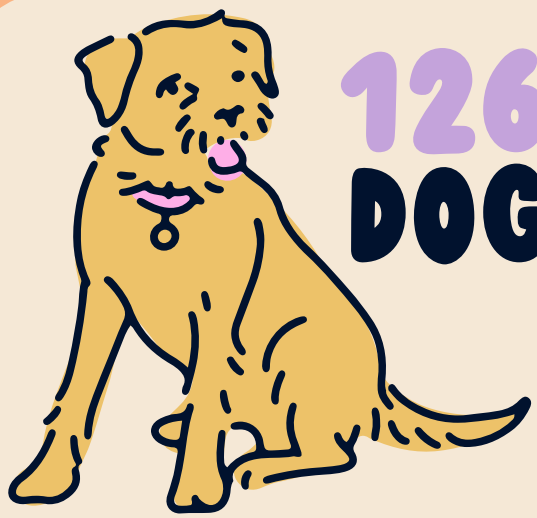
YEAR IN REVIEW



3383

Animals came into our care





1263

DOGS

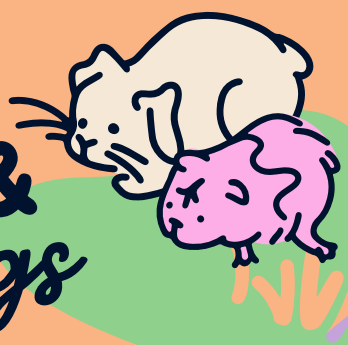


1943

CATS

80

RABBITS & *guniea pigs*



Other animals that came into our care include wildlife, birds, marsupials, and rodents.

ADOPTED, RECLAIMED OR TRANSFERRED TO A RESCUE GROUP

93% OF CATS & KITTENS

90% OF DOGS & PUPPIES

98% OF RABBITS & GUNIEA PIGS

2057 *animals were adopted*

441 DOGS

1565 CATS

51 RABBITS & GUNIEA PIGS



Volunteers

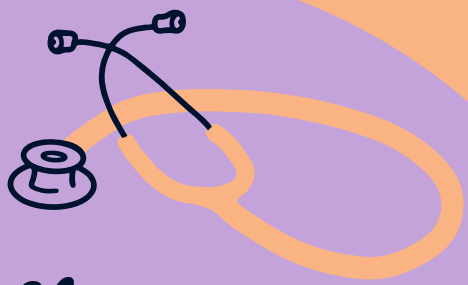
414

PEOPLE DONATED THEIR TIME TO OUR CAUSE

Foster Care

1497 FOSTER CARE ADMISSIONS

264 FOSTER CARERS



Vet Clinic

7240 CONSULTATIONS

2192 DESEXED ANIMALS

1355 MICROCHIPS

VISION & VALUES

Geelong Animal Welfare Society (GAWS) has been providing animal welfare services in the Geelong region for more than 65 years.

GAWS cares for thousands of animals each year reuniting them with their owners or finding new forever homes. The GAWS animal shelter does not receive any government funding and relies one hundred percent on the community to support this important work.

We value this opportunity to reflect on our performance and share some highlights with the many stakeholders who support our work and share our vision 'because every life is precious.'

VISION

"Because every life is precious."

MISSION & PURPOSE

We promote the welfare and value of companion animals to improve the health and wellbeing of the wider community. We do this by:

- Caring for and rehoming lost and relinquished companion animals
- Engaging in research, advocacy and promotion of health and wellbeing through companion animals
- Providing education, services and products that enable responsible animal ownership and improves the wellbeing of both people and their companion animals.

VALUES

Respect & Integrity:

We treat our colleagues and customers with integrity, respect, and care.

Teamwork:

We are open, honest, and transparent in our relationships and communications with our employees, volunteers, partnerships, and community.

Accountability:

We are accountable for our work, and we measure and report regularly on our progress and achievements.

Leadership:

We exercise leadership in our roles to do our best and set a positive example for others.

Learning:

We embrace the need to grow and learn, focus on continuous improvement, and evaluate the impact of our work.



GAWS RELIES

100%

ON THE COMMUNITY TO SUPPORT THIS IMPORTANT WORK.



KAYLEE & CALLUM

GAWS Volunteer Kaylee enjoys a cuddle with Callum, a charming and affectionate boy waiting for his forever home.



Thank you

OUR STAFF REMAIN COMMITTED, ENGAGED AND READY TO CONTRIBUTE TO CREATIVE PROBLEM SOLVING.

MARIA WITH
7 YEAR OLD SCOUT.

OUR PRESIDENT

The Geelong Animal Welfare Society has continued to go from strength to strength in the past year. The care of our animals remains paramount as each is given the best possible chance to thrive.

As in most years, there have been challenges that required innovative thinking and commitment from all our staff led by our CEO, Helen Cocks.

Who could have anticipated cat vaccine shortages due to supply chain issues? The staff countered this situation with new shelter and pound protocols to keep our cats quarantined and safe. As many animals as possible were placed into our foster care program to avoid the stress of a shelter environment until the situation began to normalise.

Every year presents its own challenges. While animal numbers entering our shelter remain relatively steady with the expected monthly variations, other circumstances continue to change. But in all these situations, our staff remain committed, engaged and ready to contribute to creative problem solving.

Our current contract and relationship with the City of Greater Geelong (COGG) have been steady, but the next two years may well become a bridge to a new way forward for GAWS. A trend in local governments across Victoria is seeing more pound contracts being taken in-house by councils. The question remains – what will they do with the animals after their eight days in the pound? Rehoming services will be critical to the success of this new model, and we need to begin our scenario planning so we can position ourselves in a new "market place."

There have been changes in our board over the past year with the resignation of Lauren Solomonson at last year's AGM. We took the opportunity to recruit two new directors: Joanne D'Andrea, who has degrees in Arts, Law, and a post graduate Diploma in International Law. Joanne has experience as a director and company secretary; and Norm Douglas, a technology professional for more than 25 years. Norm also has experience as a company director.

Our new directors have skill sets that will help to fill some of the identified gaps in our board skills matrix. And most importantly, they are excellent team members who will certainly strengthen our ability to create the future of GAWS.

And no Annual Report is complete without comment on our financial position. While the Financials provide more detail on the year's outcomes, we need to acknowledge that we cannot continue to run operating deficits and still retain our ability to plan for strategic initiatives. It is critical that we maintain our significant reserves to invest in the future.

I would like to thank my fellow directors for their ongoing contributions and good humour. While this may not be a standard governance requirement, it helps enormously when hard decisions need to be made. I've also appreciated their ability to work as a team.

Thank you to the CEO, Helen Cocks, who has the very difficult job of producing excellent results on a very limited budget – with outstanding results. All of our GAWS staff and volunteers have one main goal – to drive the best possible animal welfare outcomes. And without exception, they take that responsibility very seriously because "every life is precious."

And thank you to our members and supporters, our partners, our donors and our very generous bequestors who provide the means to allow us to do the work we do.

MARIA MERCURIO

President



OUR CEO

This year, we admitted more than 3,380 animals. Each animal received appropriate care, veterinary treatment, enrichment and importantly the loving attention of our staff and volunteers throughout their journey with us.

Our live release rates of 93% for cats, 90% for dogs and 98% for rabbits and guinea pigs demonstrates our passion and vision that 'every life is precious'.

Each year brings new challenges and this year is no exception. We successfully faced the national feline vaccine shortage which commenced November 2023. We had no idea the vaccine shortage would last many many months. Difficult decisions were made; shelter animals prioritized over private pets for access to the small and diminishing supply of vaccines we had in stock, interim strategies and innovative solutions put in place, which ultimately saw all the teams rise to the challenge and successfully maintain the health and wellbeing of the cats and kittens in our care and those entering our services.

While we have regularly relied on a waitlist for dog surrenders, for the first time this year we introduced a waitlist for cat surrenders. This proved successful and we are very thankful to the pet owners who worked with us while we waited for a place to become available within our shelter.

Two additional initiatives have proven successful including the canine 'foster to adopt' program and the introduction of a new monthly 'Q&A' program for foster care volunteers.

While we never lose focus on our purpose, we have also been working hard behind the scenes. This year we renewed our partnership with Safewill, recognising the increasing trend for people to utilize online systems to write their will. We have migrated much of our work to the cloud alleviating the expense for a new server and making GAWS more flexible and mobile while also reducing cyber security risks. Further work is scheduled next year to identify the best veterinary clinic system. We have engaged Strawberry Seed to support our human resources requirements, and we continue to work in partnership with Council on important animal welfare initiatives such as pet desexing to support lower income pet owners.

We have proactively participated in State Government initiatives including the trial and implementation of Animal Fate Data, consultation on the Victorian Cat Management Strategy (draft) and made successful submissions to purchase new equipment, support our operations and deliver new initiatives to be offered next year.

We expanded our community engagement and fundraising with our first 'PAWS for GAWS'; a community dog walk in the beautiful surrounds of Eastern Gardens and the beachfront.

We welcomed Jess Lynn as our Operations Manager, who brings a wealth of experience to the organization and has made a positive impact already in her short time with us. Our Head Vet, Ruth Dover has a long history with GAWS and brings not only a wealth of experience but both compassion and technical expertise to the clinical operations.

Many rescue groups support GAWS and share our passion for achieving high standards in animal welfare and we thank them for being our partners.

Thank you to the staff and the hundreds of volunteers who support GAWS both in direct animal care and in so many other ways for which I am truly appreciative.

Thank you to our many donors, sponsors and supporters and the GAWS Board for their ongoing support and strategic leadership.

HELEN COCKS

Chief Executive Officer



HELEN WITH 14 YEAR OLD FILBERT.

Thank you

THANK YOU TO THE STAFF AND THE HUNDREDS OF VOLUNTEERS WHO SUPPORT GAWS.



VOLUNTEER CELINE, WHO HAS RECENTLY JOINED US AS A STAFF MEMBER, WITH DOG PATTY.

Volunteer

414 Volunteers

DEDICATED THEIR VALUABLE TIME HELPING GAWS.

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

Volunteers continue to play a crucial role at GAWS by providing invaluable support to the team, animals and the overall functioning of our organisation.

In 2023-34, our volunteer team of more than 410 people dedicated their valuable time helping GAWS.

Our volunteer team consists of 150 people who assist in shifts on site caring for our animals, maintaining our facilities and supporting our events, and 264 foster carers who volunteer their time around the clock caring for GAWS' dogs, puppies, cats and kittens in their own homes. The number of foster care volunteers has increased from the previous year, while the number of our on site volunteers has remained unchanged.

Within the shelter, our volunteers help with daily tasks such as feeding, cleaning animal enclosures, exercising, and socializing animals. This hands-on care is vital for the wellbeing of animals, especially in a shelter such as ours where resources may be limited.

Our volunteers have also provided an abundance of help in our laundry, maintaining the grounds of our facility and assisting us with events and other shelter related tasks such as collecting donations and transporting animals.

Unfortunately, our VCE VM student workplace learning opportunities were placed on hold due to current resource issues. The partnerships we have built with secondary schools in Geelong and giving young people the opportunity to gain experience in the animal welfare industry has been valuable and we hope to get this program back up and running in the future.

We held our first PAWS for GAWS walk in March 2024 with 30 of our volunteers helping to ensure this was a successful and enjoyable event. Our volunteers did a fantastic job of representing and helping GAWS. The volunteers expressed how enjoyable it was to be a part of it and would like to help at our next walk and other future events.

National Volunteer Week was once again celebrated in May 2024.

We recognised our volunteers with a week of morning tea celebrations and provided them with a small gift to show our appreciation for their amazing efforts.



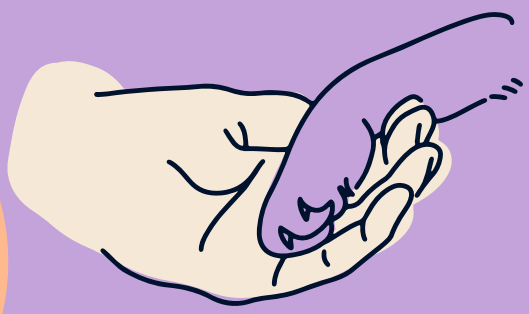


Volunteer

GEOFF & PIPPA

For more than a decade, Geoff has been the heart and soul of GAWS, dedicating countless hours to caring for animals in need. A true living legend, Geoff's unwavering commitment and kindness have transformed the lives of countless animals. Pippa is just one of many animals who has been touched by Geoff's compassion and tireless efforts.

His dedication reflects the very essence of GAWS' mission. Thank you, Geoff, for your extraordinary contribution and for making a lasting difference every day.



VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

Flexibility is one of the key requirements for our volunteers and managing this has been a priority, hopefully leading to better retention ongoing. Our volunteers in all areas require flexibility to provide us with support as well as meet the demands of their everyday lives. With the current cost of living, we continue to value and not take for granted their gift of time. They really are the backbone to our organization. We appreciate and thank all of our wonderful volunteers.

Our volunteers at our GAWS Op Shop in Hamlyn Heights have done an amazing job – working tirelessly Monday to Saturday, sorting donations and serving customers.

They take great pride in their role and show ongoing dedication to our vision, with sales profits going to GAWS and the animals in our care.



OUR VOLUNTEERS

ANNETTE AND STEVE

Annette and Steve can be found in the GAWS laundry, washing and folding the huge amount of blankets and towels to keep our animals comfortable; or helping out with the dogs.

GAWS volunteer coordinator Kim said: “Annette and Steve are new to volunteering with GAWS and they definitely showed their dedication and enthusiasm from the get go! They are passionate about the animals, have a great sense of humour, are easy to get along with and fit right in at GAWS”.

Annette and Steve chose to volunteer at GAWS as they have a love of animals and wanted to help.

They get enjoyment from interacting with the dogs, meeting new people and learning new things. They consider themselves dog people (and have some of their own) but also like cats.

“THEY ARE PASSIONATE ABOUT THE ANIMALS AND HAVE A GREAT SENSE OF HUMOUR.”





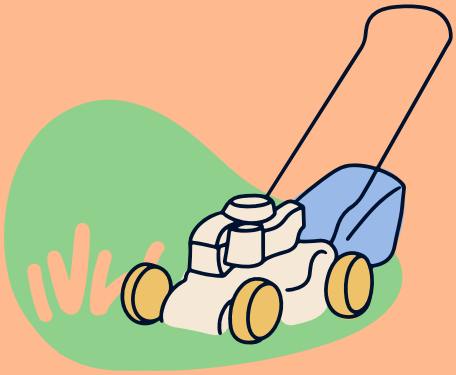
"HE TRULY IS ONE OF A KIND."

Volunteer

NEIL

Neil started volunteering at GAWS in 2020 and keeps the grounds neat and tidy as our gardener. Neil chose to volunteer at GAWS as the gardener to keep busy and it was something he could do. He finds the friendly people and the animals the best thing about volunteering at GAWS. And he has a soft spot for the dogs.

GAWS volunteer coordinator Kim said: "Neil is a dedicated and dependable volunteer who helps us keep our gardens tidy. He loves a coffee and a chat and is always polite and respectful. We don't know what we would have done without Neil helping us over the past four years. He truly is one of a kind".



FOSTER PROGRAM

Last year, there was a need for more dog foster carers and we were delighted with the significant increase of dog carers who came on board this year.

During 2023-24, our pool of active foster carers continued to grow. 264 people volunteered as foster carers for GAWS' animals – 152 cat carers and 112 dog carers.

More than 1000 animals entered our foster program this year. Some animals required foster care more than once, with 1497 foster care admissions in total.

In addition to caring for orphaned or very young kittens and pups, there are a range of reasons for animals to be supported through our foster program including sickness, post operative care, behavior training to ensure they are prepared for their new home, weight management, respite from shelter life, vulnerable mothers and litters, and foster to adopt trials.

Our foster carers are recruited through a variety of channels including the GAWS website, social media channels, letterbox drops, posters placed around the organisation, at promotional events and through word of mouth from staff members and volunteers.

We are so grateful to our foster carers who have taken animals into their homes and hearts.

Animals entering Foster Program:

CATS – 306 INSTANCES 441

KITTENS – 520 INSTANCES 737

DOGS – 131 INSTANCES 178

PUPPIES – 91 INSTANCES 140

RABBITS – 1





SALLY, CHANTELLE & BLADE

Vet Nurse and Animal Attendant Sally with foster carer Chantelle and her newly adopted dog, Blade. Through our foster-to-adopt program, Blade has found a loving forever home, and Chantelle has gained a lifelong companion.

Foster 2 ADOPT

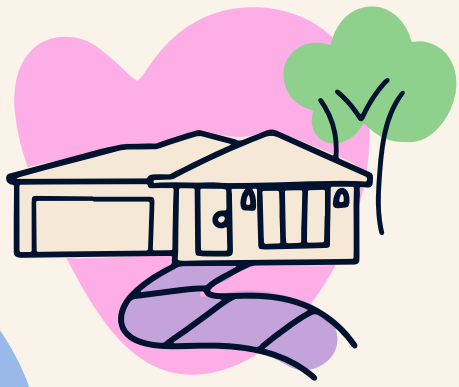


A PURR-FECT NEW CHAPTER

Two Burmese siblings found their second chance through GAWS' foster care program, receiving extra love from foster carer Rosalie before being ready for adoption.

For Laura and Richard, who had recently lost their beloved cats just days apart, the timing couldn't have been better. Guided by GAWS Adoption Supervisor Maggie, they adopted the pair and surprised their three children with the perfect new additions to their family.

Thank you to Rosalie, Laura, Richard, and their family for giving these cats a loving forever home



FOSTER Journey story:

THE STORY OF TIMID GIRL MADISON, WHO HAS BEEN IN FOSTER FOR MORE THAN 650 DAYS.

In January 2023, GAWS advertised for a foster carer to take on a one-year old, timid, female cat. She was not coping in the shelter and was fearful.

When foster carer Ashleigh collected Madison from GAWS, she became aware just how scared the cat was and staff suggested she handle Madison with gloves.

"Her body language told me everything I needed to know. Constantly crouched down, her ears were laying so far back and flat on her head, the poor baby was terrified. This is the part where I burst into tears and fell in love with her. The first couple of days were rough but at least she was eating and drinking and using the litter. There were signs of hope, and I absolutely knew she was going to be ok. She was not going to accept us overnight, but she needed to know that we were not going to hurt her.

It took months for Madison to start trusting, but slowly and surely, she began to enjoy pats.

Gloves were off and scratches behind her ears were welcomed with lots of purrs. Treats were being eaten from our hands, but sudden movements still scared her and although there were some swipes here and there, they were no way near as aggressive as they once were.

We slowly introduced Madison into the cat playroom and to watch her playing with the other cats and our Border Collie, chasing the toys, climbing towers, and rolling on the floor like a dog when we would pat her has been one the most amazing experiences during our foster journey. We have fostered puppies, mum and litter, kittens, Madison is by far the biggest challenge we have faced.

Recently we trialed her in the shelter but after 1.5 days I received a call that she was not coping so headed into the shelter to pick her up. I walked into adoptions where she was curled up in the tightest ball in her bed very scared. I realised then that shelter life was not for her. Within minutes of being home she was back to her old self."





NEW STAFF



L-R Natalie Liddy, Celina Myring, Jake Peachey, Cory Collister, Jess Lynn, Dr Jin and Tamara Davis

We were thrilled to welcome some new team members to GAWS this year.

Yi-Chin Chen Veterinarian

Olivia Adams Vet Nurse

Natalie Liddy Animal Attendant

Jessica Lynn Operations Manager

Sophie Bell Customer Service Officer

Courtney Burgess Animal Attendant

Yu Jin Song Veterinarian

Tamara Davis Marketing & Community Engagement

Christina Fenske Veterinarian

Alyssa Doyle Animal Attendant

Cory Collister Animal Attendant

Skye Armstrong Animal Attendant & Customer Service Officer

TOGETHER, WE ARE CHANGING LIVES —ONE ADOPTION AT A TIME.



ANIMAL ATTENDANT
JAKE & PUPPY

GOOD DOG

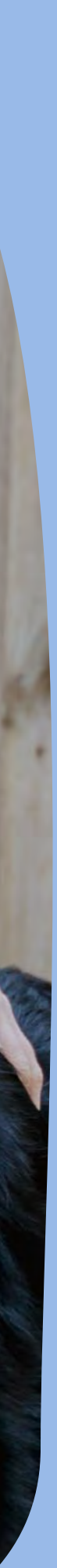
Staff



GAWS OPERATIONS MANAGER

JESS & SPIKE

"I HAVE A LOVE FOR ALL ANIMALS – I'D LOVE TO HAVE A PET COW! HAHA"



STAFF PROFILE

Jess' Story

Jess' career began almost 10 years ago at GAWS with her university placement and volunteering. Her commitment to animal welfare and hard work has her now managing the operations of GAWS.

BACKGROUND AND EXPERIENCE:

I hold an Honours degree in Animal Science, which provided me with a strong foundation in animal behaviour, welfare, and management. My career began with a university placement at GAWS (2016), where I was immersed in the day-to-day operations of animal care and shelter management. This hands-on experience ignited my passion for animal welfare and motivated me to further my involvement in the field.

Following my placement, I transitioned into volunteering, dedicating my time to support the shelter's initiatives and build relationships with the animals. My commitment and hard work led to securing a casual employment position (2017) at the pound and shelter, where I gained valuable insights into the challenges and rewards of working in animal rescue.

In 2019, I was promoted to Canine Supervisor. In this role, I was responsible for overseeing the care and rehabilitation of dogs, managing a team of staff and volunteers, and implementing programs aimed at improving the dogs' well-being and increasing adoption rates.

My journey then took me to a council-run facility (2022), where I served as the Operations Manager. In this capacity, I oversaw all aspects of operations, ensuring compliance with regulations and enhancing service delivery.

In March of this year (2024), I returned to GAWS as the Operations Manager, eager to apply my accumulated knowledge and experience to further improve our operations and continue advocating for animal welfare in the community.

WHAT DOES YOUR JOB INVOLVE?

As Operations Manager at GAWS, my primary responsibility is to ensure the smooth and effective functioning of the pound and shelter. This includes overseeing daily operations, managing a large team of staff with support from volunteers, and ensuring that all animals receive the highest standard of care.

I focus on developing and implementing strategies to improve our processes, from intake procedures to adoption efforts. This involves analysing current workflows, identifying areas for enhancement, and collaborating with our team to refine our practices.

Additionally, I coordinate with local government and community organisations to ensure we meet regulatory standards and fulfill our mission to support animal welfare. I also play a key role in fostering a positive environment for both staff and volunteers, promoting teamwork and a shared commitment to our cause.

In summary, my role encompasses operational oversight, strategic improvement, and community collaboration, all aimed at enhancing the services we provide to the animals and the community we serve.

WHAT'S THE BEST THING ABOUT YOUR JOB AT GAWS?

The most rewarding aspect of my work is contributing to a meaningful cause, ensuring our operations support the community, and collaborating with a diverse team of dedicated staff and volunteers.

FAVOURITE ANIMAL - ARE YOU A DOG OR CAT PERSON?

I'm definitely a dog person at heart, but I have a love for all animals—I'd love to have a pet cow! Haha

Staff



ANIMAL CARE
SUPERVISOR - CANINE

DANIELLE & CHARLIE

DOGS

GAWS has been battling a nationwide crisis in which shelters, pounds and rescue groups have been consistently at capacity. Dog surrenders have risen, and adoption rates have decreased.

Our dogs team has taken it in their stride and worked hard caring for the many dogs who came into our shelter. Our adoption promotions amped up and we ensured we were promoting our dogs to show as much of their endearing qualities as possible to generate more interest.

We reached a record number of dogs available for adoption this year, with more than 60 dogs in our shelter at one time. This well surpassed our average number of approximately 20 available at any given time. 441 dogs and puppies found their forever homes through adoption this year and another 80 found homes through our valued rescue groups.

Our foster to adopt program achieved brilliant results, with some long-termers finding their forever homes while receiving support during the settling in period.

We are further refining our foster to adopt program, and building our dog foster carer base to create space and to help the dogs who need some extra help, whether that be medical or behavioural. This helps when we have puppies come in and they can skip the shelter environment and go into comfortable foster care almost immediately.

We had a record number of 131 dogs through the foster care program last year, which was both a massive help to our capacity issues as well as the dogs' wellbeing. We are hoping to expand our carer base in the future and welcome various carers for our dogs needs. Our dated facility has proven to be a big challenge. Geelong and surrounds has grown significantly over the past decade, and our pound and shelter has struggled with the increase. Finding space for incoming dogs has proven challenging, which is where our much needed dog foster carers are important.

Our volunteer recruitment is always a valuable resource, as without our dedicated volunteers we are unable to achieve what we do. Whether it be helping with the morning clean, participating in social group or walking dogs, our volunteers drive us as a team and we are very thankful.

We built further connections with rescue groups, which helped our capacity issues immensely with a couple of groups saving the day by taking some dogs to free up space for more incoming animals. There were various reasons for a dog requiring rescue, whether that be further medical treatment needed, behavioural training that cannot be provided in a shelter setting or merely adoptable dogs that may find better adoption opportunities elsewhere. There are some key groups that we have a fantastic relationship with who are always happy to assist when they can, and we are very thankful.



441

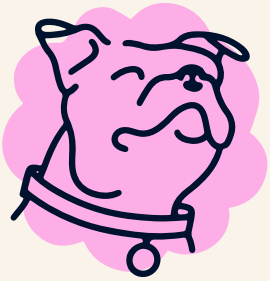
DOGS & PUPPIES FOUND THEIR FOREVER HOMES

"ADOPTED IS MY FAVORITE BREED."

- UNKNOWN



GOOD NEWS story:



ACE & LUNA



Ace and Luna came to GAWS emaciated and had been penned much of their lives. While Luna shut down and was unsure of her surroundings upon arrival, Ace became overstimulated, and the dogs team had to work on their behavior in a tailored approach. A feeding plan ensured they gained weight. Confidence building for Luna and fun food related engagement games for Ace aided their progress and relationships with staff and volunteers. Soon both dogs became happier and healthier, and they blitzed their assessments.

Ace was the first to be adopted, followed by Luna a few weeks later by a friend of Ace's adopter, which means these siblings will get to see each other regularly.



LEO

Leo arrived at GAWS in September 2023 and became known as a big, loveable goofball around the place. It was his second time in our shelter.

While in our care, the seven year old Bloodhound x German Shepherd struggled to gain weight despite his keen appetite. After extensive vet examinations and tests, it was found Leo suffered from exocrine pancreatic insufficiency, meaning his pancreas wasn't working properly. The vet team tailored his medication and he soon began to gain weight, feel better and was ready for adoption. Leo was with us for 221 days, and he finally found his forever person, who was understanding of his life-long condition.

From Leo's owner Rylee "Leo was perfect, he warmed straight away to myself and my partner. He made fast friends with our beagle, Wilson, zooming and running happily around the yard together."

CATS

With almost 2000 cats and kittens entering the shelter in the last financial year we were often bursting at the seams.

From the moment an animal arrives at GAWS, the staff are motivated and committed to ensuring the best welfare and care for them. Whether the animal has been with us a week or a year:

OUR CAT ADOPTIONS TEAM WORK TIRELESSLY TO RE-HOME THESE ANIMALS TO THE BEST POSSIBLE HOME.

The shelter was hit by a panleukopenia outbreak. This was managed well by staff in both the feline and the veterinary areas. Facilities make infection control difficult but staff worked well together, coming up with solutions and working hard – with the welfare of cats of the highest priority.

Rescue options have become difficult to obtain, due to most rescues being full, so more and more animals are staying in the shelter, particularly younger kittens.

Only 37 kittens and three cats were transferred from GAWS to rescue in 2023/24, compared to 80 the previous year.

We continue to focus on ways to address the stray and unwanted cat concern in the greater Geelong area. It is a priority for GAWS to work together with Councils and rescue organisations towards a solution.

Whilst there are often fantastic initiatives by various organisations, this issue needs a sustained and collaborative effort. City of Geelong has 'Desex July' offering discounted rates for cat desexing and many rescues and GAWS offer 'last litter' programs where the parents are desexed for free or at a discount if kittens are surrendered (so they can be desexed prior to rehoming).

We would like to acknowledge and thank every single member of staff working in what can be a difficult environment day after day, while maintaining strong work practices and striving for the best outcomes for every animal in our care.



THIS YEAR WE CARED FOR ALMOST

2,000 CATS & KITTENS

Staff

ANIMAL SUPERVISOR -FELINE MARNIE & BAMBI




I need a home!
"UNTIL ONE HAS LOVED AN ANIMAL A PART OF ONE'S SOUL REMAINS UNAWAKENED."
– ANATOLE FRANCE

GOOD NEWS story:



Before..





SAVOY & JATZ – THE CRACKERS BROTHERS

Two cats arrived at GAWS in poor condition after being found under a house in Corio. The boys were quite scared and very unsure about their new environment. Both cats were severely underweight, they had heavy parasite burdens, and their coats were coarse and matted.

The GAWS vet clinic assessment determined they were stray cats in poor general condition with gastrointestinal concerns. Both cats were entire and did not have microchips, therefore there was no owner to contact in the hope of getting them home.

Savoy and Jatz had a number of health concerns and the GAWS team treated them with numerous medications and many hours of care to ensure they were in optimal health ready for their new home.

The Cracker Brothers, as they became known, found their first home after four months in our care. Unfortunately this did not work out for them and they were returned to GAWS. After spending another six weeks in shelter they finally found their forever family.

FROM NEW OWNER ASHLEIGH:

They're both going really well!! Savoy is an absolute love bug who sleeps on our bed every night. He's such a cuddly little man and loves following us around the house.

Jatz has come out of his shell so much over the last few months. He used to be quite reserved and very anxious around new people and loud noises, and now he loves getting cuddles from all our guests and deals well with noise, and even sleeps in my lap occasionally on his terms.

Both of them are super playful nowadays (especially Jatz). Their favourite toys are fluffy feather wands and tin foil balls. When they're not both playing or napping together they enjoy some sunny outdoor time in their enclosed catio :)

..After





POCKET PETS

Almost 200 small animals, including birds, rabbits, guinea pigs and ferrets entered the facility, with only 11 being reclaimed by their owners.

Pocket pets often come to GAWS in poor condition, entire and not microchipped. Rabbits and Guinea Pigs have very specific needs and requirements, and extensive research needs to be done by potential adoptees before bringing one of these animals home.

We have a small group of dedicated staff who care for our pocket pets. We have offered online care courses to ensure staff are up to date with how to manage the care and enrichment of small animals. We facilitate onsite bonding of rabbits, where possible, to ensure their wellbeing.





200
SMALL ANIMALS, ENTERED THE FACILITY

ONLY 11
WERE RECLAIMED


MARKETING &
COMMUNICATIONS
MANAGER AMY
& BUGS
I found my forever home

ANIMAL ATTENDANT MEL & MEOW

I need a home!





ANIMAL STATISTICS

DOGS & PUPPIES

90% of all dogs were reunited with their owners, adopted into new homes or transferred to a rescue organisation. The 'one day stay' dogs returned to owners on the same day are not included in this data.

	2022/23	%	2023/24	%
Dogs Admitted	**1184**		**1263**	
Reclaimed	618	52%	619	49%
Adopted	389	33%	441	35%
Euthanised	107	9%	101	8%
Other (inc transfer)	36	3%	91	7%

CATS & KITTENS

93% of all cats were reunited with their owners, adopted into new homes or transferred to a rescue organisation.

	2022/23	%	2023/24	%
Cats Admitted	**2258**		**1943**	
Reclaimed	218	10%	208	11%
Adopted	1474	65%	1565	81%
Euthanised	288	13%	217	11%
Other (inc transfer)	138	6%	59	3%

RABBITS & GUNIEA PIGS

98% of all rabbits and guinea pigs were reunited with their owners, adopted into new homes or transferred to a resuce organisation.

	2022/23	%	2023/24	%
Rabbits/Guinea Pigs Admitted	**123**		**80**	
Reclaimed	8	7%	5	6%
Adopted	85	69%	51	64%
Euthanised	6	5%	3	4%
Other (inc transfer)	29	24%	23	29%

Statistical Note: Incoming animal totals may appear less or greater than outgoing totals due to animals already in care at the beginning or end of the financial year.

OUR SHELTER

In 2023-24, a total of 3,383 animals came into our care, 182 less than the previous year.



90%

OF ALL DOGS WERE REUNITED WITH THEIR OWNERS, ADOPTED INTO NEW HOMES OR TRANSFERRED TO A RESCUE ORGANISATION.

93%

OF ALL CATS WERE REUNITED WITH THEIR OWNERS, ADOPTED INTO NEW HOMES OR TRANSFERRED TO A RESCUE ORGANISATION.





98%

OF ALL RABBITS AND GUINEA PIGS WERE REUNITED WITH THEIR OWNERS, ADOPTED INTO NEW HOMES OR TRANSFERRED TO A RESCUE ORGANISATION.





I need a home!

ANIMAL ATTENDANT
NATALIE & PIPPA

COMMUNITY VET CLINIC

Throughout 2023-24, the GAWS vet clinic conducted 7240 consultations. The vet team desexed 2192 animals and microchipped 1355 animals.

The GAWS vet clinic faced a huge challenge in 2023-24 but successfully navigated the worldwide feline vaccine shortage. Fortunately, staff were alerted early and purchased an adequate stockpile. Our veterinary team, shelter managers and City of Greater Geelong Animal Management worked collaboratively to develop interim vaccination protocols for our shelter cats. This ensured that our most vulnerable shelter kittens were given priority for vaccines. Mother cats and their litters were fostered for as long as possible, and the public were informed about this crisis. We temporarily ceased offering vaccinations for publicly owned cats, and owners were encouraged to always keep their cats indoors.

Our vets, nurses and reception staff are extremely passionate about our work and continue to remain flexible in the face of a nationwide vet shortage.

Servicing the three areas of shelter, surgery (public and shelter animals) and consultations, we have adjusted our protocols to ensure that valuable vet time is used most efficiently. We were happy to welcome Dr Jin Chen DVM in February of this year. She has already made a great contribution to our team and is very keen on pursuing a career in Shelter Medicine. We are in the process of hiring more vets to expand our consultation and surgery days for both public and shelter procedures.

'Desex Spring' was a City of Greater Geelong subsidized cat desexing promotion. GAWS Community Vet Clinic provided low cost desexing, microchipping and flea control to 151 cats during this promotion.

Another public outreach service provided by our clinic was a two-day Pets Of The Homeless sponsored desexing program. On the 13th and 14th of May this year, we performed 20 cat and 10 dog desexing procedures.

The GAWS Community Vet Clinic team is close-knit and work in collaboration. A challenge with expanding numbers and services will be maintaining good communication and adherence / modification to procedures so that we're all on the same page. We plan to have regular vet and nurse catchups to achieve this. GAWS is pleased to have a balance of experience in our vets and nurses.

GAWS VET CLINIC CONDUCTED

7,240

CONSULTATIONS

2,192

DESEXED ANIMALS

1,355

MICROCHIPS





HEAD VET DR RUTH WITH HER DOG TIFFY


I found
my forever
home

VET GOOD NEWS story:



SNOWFLAKE

On 16th May, Snowflake, an 11 year old Domestic Medium Hair cat was found by a member of the public and brought into GAWS. Being a white cat, she had developed squamous cell carcinoma (skin cancer) on her ear tips. Our surgery team successfully removed her ear tips and a painful broken tooth.
In the meantime, shelter staff were able to contact her owner via her microchip. Snowflake had been missing for eight years! It was an emotional reunion for snowflake, as she recognized her owner, instantly smooching and purring!

Volunteer Austine & Bailey



FUNDRAISING & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



Every year, GAWS relies on the goodwill and generous donations of its supporting community members. Financial, material and labour donations ensure we can continue with our mission and purpose, and to care for every animal who arrives at GAWS, because every life is precious.

Financial donation avenues include our campaigns and appeals, online donations (once-off or regular), donation boxes, events, op shop and merchandise sales, community and corporate facilitated fundraising and sponsorships including Pen Pals.

While towards the end of the year GAWS had a team on board, the year presented some resource challenges.

Working alongside some external partners, GAWS managed to run multiple fundraising campaigns and appeals, adoption drives, a new community event, a crowd funding initiative, community engagement and events, facilitated merchandise sales and refreshed the GAWS website.





GAWS INTENDS TO BUILD ON THE PAWS FOR GAWS EVENT MAKING IT EVEN BIGGER AND BETTER NEXT YEAR.

PAWS FOR GAWS

This year, we held our inaugural PAWS for GAWS event. The aim of this first event was to create awareness of GAWS and bring the community and their four-legged friends together for an enjoyable morning. GAWS intends on building on the PAWS for GAWS event and making it even bigger and better next year, with the long-term goal of raising more funds for the animals in our shelter.

The event was promoted through various advertising platforms including print and digital media, radio, social media, owned channels and corporate sponsors.

We were able to run this event thanks to our event sponsors:

- APCO Service Stations
- Armstrong Green Retirement Living
- Barwon Water
- Geelong Connected Communities
- K-rock 95.5
- PetStock
- Times News Group
- Ambassador/event MC: Roxie Bennett

With the outlay associated with an inaugural event, we were happy to raise a small amount of funds ($2625) for GAWS through registrations and peer-to-peer fundraising.



A TOTAL OF 217 PEOPLE & 102 DOGS PARTICIPATED IN THE EVENT.

CAMPAIGNS & PROMOTIONS

Our annual Winter Appeal concluded at the end of July 2023, highlighting real life stories of dogs in our care and showing how donations can support our cause. The campaign was incredibly successful, raising more than $60,000. We are so appreciateive of the people who donated and made this our biggest Winter Appeal yet.

In September, GAWS launched the 'GAWS Guardian Angels' campaign with pilot case 'Ned', a staffy pup with an enlarged heart requiring surgery for the best chance to live a normal length of life.

This was our first crowd funding initiative and a target of $7,500 was promoted, within 48 hours $6000 was raised and by day seven we had reached our target.

The fundraising campaign was a success and the funds raised were able to support the treatment of Ned's three surgeries of increasing urgency. Ned saw many specialists and even had a trip to Melbourne. Unfortunatly, Ned passed away but not before he was given every opportunity to overcome his health issues thanks to the community who donated.

GAWS will continue to look into crowd funding intitiaves in the future.

Looking into additional ways to raise funds, GAWS registered for the Container Deposit Scheme in Victoria.

People recycling their eligible drink containers at a refund point can choose to donate the funds to GAWS as the preferred payout via an app.

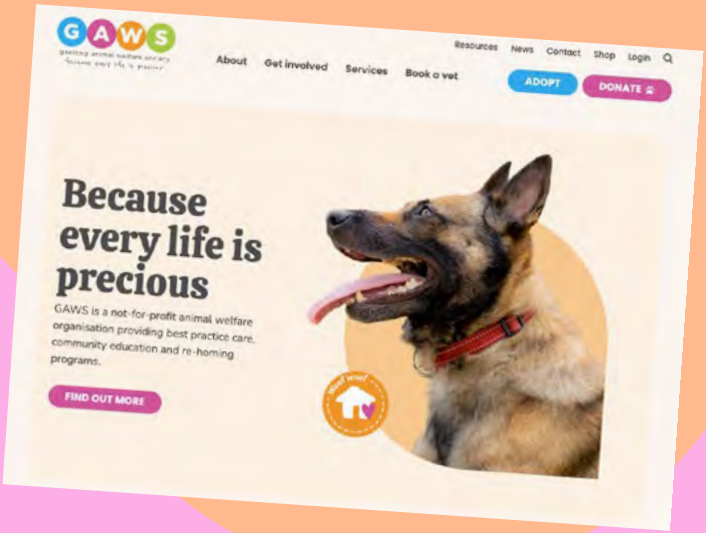
GAWS had two fundraising options for Christmas this year – eCards and the GAWS Graduates Calendar.

While regularly highlighting animals who need forever homes all year round, GAWS also ran a number of promotions to help get as many animals into homes as possible, particularly at times when the shelter was nearing or at capacity and to help animals into homes through the various seasonal changes. Drives included Spring into Summer, Shades of Autumn and Winter Fee Freeze.

In partnership with COGG, GAWS particpated in a Cat Desexing Promotion; an active initiative offering reduced cat desexing prices to members of the pubic. GAWS role in this partnership was to conduct the desexings and assist to promote this initiative.



MARKETING & MEDIA



GAWS continues to work within the evolving digital space, using it as a main channel for our fundraising, promotions, communications and highlighting our vital work and animals available for adoption.

Along with successful use of our owned digital channels (social media and website) and digital advertising (social media and media) we continued our relationships with local print and broadcast media outlets, and are grateful for the opportunities they afford to connect with our community and present GAWS' great work. Our ongoing relationships with News Corp Australia (Geelong Advertiser) and Times News Group (specifically newspapers Geelong Times and Surf Coast Times) are highly valued, and we appreciate the sincere passion journalists and photographers show in creating stories about GAWS.

In partnership with digital agency PIXO, the GAWS website underwent a refresh, making it more user friendly and easy for the team to update.

OP SHOP

Our Hamlyn Heights Op Shop continued to perform well throughout the year, despite economic pressures and the rise in cost of living. The Op Shop is a good fundraising stream for GAWS and we will continue offering good quality, pre-loved items at affordable prices to our local community. We are grateful for the volunteers who provide ongoing support and high-quality service and raise funds for GAWS' animals.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

With advocacy and education being part of our mission and purpose, GAWS increased the number of community tours and educational opportunities this year. We had many groups coming through GAWS for educational tours. Staff also presented or participated in many external organisations' morning teas and school assemblies, whether to educate or receive a donation.

We are thankful to the many people, schools, students and organisations who have made a contribution to our organisation.

OUR PARTNERS & SUPPORTERS

Our shelter relies 100% on corporate and community support. Without this support our shelter would be unable to operate.

We are proud to be in partnership with many businesses throughout the region who support the shelter through our corporate programs, product donations, fundraising initiatives such as the GAWS Graduates Calendar, and other seasonal campaigns.

MAJOR SUPPORTERS

- Hill's
- CatMate
- Always There Automotive
- Davidsons
- City of Greater Geelong

SUPPORTERS

- APCO Service Stations
- Armstrong Green
- Aussiewide Financial Services
- Babel Surfboards
- Bendigo Bank
- Boehringer Ingelheim
- Deakin
- DLC
- DKT Building Solutions
- Easy Waste
- Electica on Pako
- Geelong Canine Fitness
- Geelong Connected Communities
- Geelong's Local Handyman Service
- Geelong Times
- Jeff Redman Contractors
- JMZ Security doors and Screens
- KJ Contractors
- K-Rock
- NexGard Spectra
- Paul Kelly Creative
- Petstock
- Rockin' Donuts
- Rosewood Farm
- SC Technology Group
- The Book Bird
- Wade Veterinary Services



We thank everyone for their generosity and continued support.

REGULAR DONORS

GAWS is very lucky to have so many regular donors. 118 generous people donated regularly to help support our operations and ability to care for animals that arrived at GAWS. Their contribution helps provide stable income and enables us to plan services with confidence. We thank them for their continued support.

MAJOR DONORS

A huge thank you to those who generously donated large amounts to our cause. Whether an individual, small business, anonymous donor or a local organisation hosting a GAWS donation box, the Community Fundraising program has continued to grow from the generous support of the local community.

DONATIONS IN MEMORY

We thank the people who have donated in memory of a loved one or a pet. By paying tribute to a loved one through a memorial donation to GAWS, they have helped us to continue our vital work.

BEQUESTS

We would like to thank and acknowledge all those who have left a lasting imprint on animal welfare by leaving a gift in their Will. This generous support enables us to continue to deliver our vital work.

This year, we partnered up with online will-writing platform, Safewill, to offer our community an opportunity to complete a will for free while having the option to leave GAWS a legacy gift.

GRANTS

Thank you to the organisations who have supported us through giving grants including Animal Welfare Victoria, Bendigo Bank and City of Greater Geelong.

PEN PALS

Alison Bird
Alvin Guest
Angelo Kakouros – Standby Security
APCO Service Stations
Aravinda Vemulapalli
Armstrong Green
Banks Kleehammer
Barbara Twentyman
Brad Baek
Bronwen Pizzey
Bruno Esposti
Candice Morrice
Casual Cruzers
Christine & Mateusz Zemietro
Cole Lindley
Darren Narain
Deanne Cooper
Eliahn McRae
Emma O'Dwyer
Eve Gu
Geelong Connected Communities
Georgina Fuller
Glenice James
Helen Cocks
Hilary Lovibond
James Morris
Jane Meier
Jean McGowan
Jennifer Tucker
Joe Thurrowgood
Joel Karpin
John De Witt
John McOuat
Julie Sleeth
Katrina Murrell
Kayne Naughton
Kerger Family
Kristy Trait
Kyle Dohnt
Lauren Stephenson
Leah Palmer
Leigh Smyth
Lesa Herring
Lyndal McLean
Maria Mercurio
Melissa Young
Michael Menchise
Neil Morris
Nita Krincevska
Qiongyu Zhao
Reza Hosseini
Sheryn Stephenson
Shirley Lanning
Siti Samat
Solveig Ober
Suzanne Blair
Thomas Davey
Thomas Scott
Timothy Simpson

AMBASSADORS

Thank you to Roxie Bennett who has been a great ambassador for many years.

MEMBERS

Thank you to our Lifetime and Annual Members for their continued support of GAWS and its values.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS



Geelong Animal Welfare Society

ABN: 67 005 093 756

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For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

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Geelong Animal Welfare Society
Directors Report
30 June 2024

The Directors of Geelong Animal Welfare Society present their report for the year ended 30 June 2024.

Directors

The following persons were Directors of the Company during the financial year and have been in office since the start of the financial year to the date of this report unless otherwise stated.:

- Maria Mercurio, President
- Jane Meier, Secretary
- Sue Robinson, Treasurer
- Heather Disher, Director
- Anne Marie Ryan, Director
- Lauren Solomonson, Director (resigned October 2023)
- Joanne D'Andrea (commenced May 2024)
- Norman Douglas (commenced May 2024)

Operating Result

The net profit of the Company for the financial year amounted to:

Year ended 30 June 2024	Year ended 30 June 2023
$	$
2,344,898	586,558

Principal Activities and Objectives

The principal activities of the Company during the course of the year were the provision of animal welfare.

No significant change in the nature of these activities occurred during the year.

Review of Operations

A review of operations of the Company during the financial year and the result of those operations identified no significant changes in the society's state of affairs.

After Balance Date Events

No matters or circumstances have arisen since the end of the financial year which may significantly affect the operations of the company, the results of those operations, or the state of affairs of the Company.

Future Developments

The Board is currently involved in a review of the company's operations and fundraising capacity to create greater opportunities to educate the community and ensure financial sustainability.

The Board will continue to monitor and assess the impacts of COVID-19.

Environmental Issues

The Company's operations are not regulated by any significant environmental regulation under a law of the Commonwealth or of a State or Territory.

Geelong Animal Welfare Society
Directors Report
30 June 2024

Objectives and Strategies

The Company's short-term objectives are to:

- Serve Geelong and the surrounding areas by upholding and promoting the welfare and rights of companion animals by caring for and rehoming lost and relinquished animals, providing support services to the community and education in responsible pet ownership.
- Be recognised by its peers and the community in general as a leader in compassionate animal care and animal rehoming.
- Retain and attract outstanding staff and volunteers, building an enthusiastic and motivated workforce where everyone is encouraged to become leaders.
- Educate the Community on responsible animal ownership and the welfare and rights of animals.
- Effectively manage the pound and shelter operations.

The Company's long-term objectives are to:

- Educate the community on responsible animal ownership and the welfare and rights of companion animals.
- Become a leader in exploring new ways to educate the community in responsible pet ownership and continue to promote the welfare and the rights of companion animals in our community.
- Focus on quality improvement of the current offerings and develop and implement strategies to best position the organisation for a healthy, long-term future.

To achieve its stated objectives, the Company has adopted the following strategies:

- Significant inclusion of professional advice from external parties.

Key Performance Measures

The Company measures its own performance through the use of both quantitative and qualitative benchmarks. The benchmarks are used by the directors to assess the financial sustainability of the Company and whether the Company's short-term and long-term objectives are being achieved.

Collaborative information sharing between and comparison with other similar Animal shelters and pound operators.

The continual measurement of statistics and information gathering/storage software that enables comparison from previous years. While there are benchmarks available from the entity's historical data, benchmarks of the industry are not available in a manner that reflects the size and demographics of the entity.

Performance measures in both the qualitative and quantitative areas are obtained via internal reports and the use of external reports and professional advice.

Geelong Animal Welfare Society
Directors Report
30 June 2024

Information on the Directors

Maria Mercurio
Experience – Maria was CEO of the RSPCA for 12 years (retired) and prior to that CEO of Moreland City Council.

Special Responsibilities – President/Chair, Maria is responsible for leading the Board, chairing scheduled Board meetings and ensuring that the organisation and the Board are operating within the context of the Mission, Vision, Values and governance of the organisation

Jane Meier
Experience - Jane has 30 years of experience in management. Her skills include administration, liaison, word processing and minute taking. Jane has previous committee experience as a Secretary to the board of the Warringal Obedience Dog Club.

Special Responsibilities - As Secretary of the Board, Jane is responsible for preparing and distributing Board minutes, maintaining the charitable status of the organisation as well as the external communication of the Board.

Sue Robinson
Experience – Sue was chief examiner and head of subject in Taxation Law at LaTrobe University, has taught financial analysis at MBA level at Deakin University and is currently studying for her Juris Doctor. Sue has also held the position of Treasurer including oversight of risk and compliance for other not for profit organisations.

Special Responsibilities - *Special Responsibilities* - Sue is currently the Treasurer. As such, she is responsible for overseeing the financial movements of the society.

Heather Disher
Experience – Heather has a combination of Business and Operational senior management expertise coupled with governance, risk management, competitive and business intelligence and strategic thinking and planning. She is Chair of the Board of Pony Clubs Australia.

Special Responsibilities **–** Director and Chair of Risk Committee

Anne Marie Ryan
Experience – Anne Marie is a company CEO, has experience in Education, Leadership and Organisation Development.

Special Responsibilities - Director

Lauren Solomonson
Experience – Lauren holds a Bachelor of Laws, Bachelor of Arts (Media Communications) as well as a Graduate Diploma in Legal Practice and is currently employed at a local legal firm as a Wills, Estates & Succession Planning solicitor. She also has experience in marketing and social media strategy.

Special Responsibilities **–** Director

Joanne D'Angelo
Experience – Joanne holds a Bachelor of Law, Bachelor of Arts and Post Graduate Diploma in International Law and is currently employed as General Counsel and Company Secretary to AWH Pty Ltd. Joanne has over 27 years' experience as a practicing lawyer with both Board and commercial experience and was previously a Director of the Geelong Chamber of Commerce including heading up the Governance and Risk Committee.

Special Responsibilities **–** Director

Norman Douglas

Experience – Norman has been a Technology Professional for over 25 years and a Company Director. Norman currently holds the position of Chief Operating Officer at Galway Trading Pty Ltd (Connie Australia) and has been active on national sporting bodies, local sporting clubs and Not for Profit technology projects. Norman has a strong background in both business and IT.

Special Responsibilities **–** Director

Meetings of Directors

The number of Directors meetings held during the year ended 30 June 2024 and the number of meetings attended by each Director were:

	Meetings Held	Meetings Attended
Maria Mercurio, President	11	10
Jane Meier, Secretary	11	10
Sue Robinson, Treasurer	11	7
Heather Disher, Director	11	9
Anne Marie Ryan, Director	11	10
Lauren Solomonson, Director	11	3
Joanne D'Andrea, Director	11	2
Norman Douglas, Director	11	2

Directors Benefits

No director has received or has become entitled to receive, during or since the financial year, a benefit because of a contract made by the company or related body corporate with a director, a firm which a director is a member or an entity in which a director has a substantial financial interest.

Indemnifying Officer or Auditor

No indemnities have been given or agreed to be given or insurance premiums paid or agreed to be paid, during or since the end of the financial year, to any person who is or has been an officer or auditor of the company.

Auditors Independence

The auditors' declaration of independence is enclosed and forms part of the Directors report for the year ended 30 June 2024.

This report is signed and in accordance with a resolution of Directors made pursuant to s. 298(2) of the Corporations Act 2001.

Signed:-



Director- President: Maria Mercurio
Dated this 21st day of November 2024

Davidsons

/ EST.1905

AUDITORS INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION

UNDER 60-40 OF THE AUSTRALIAN CHARITIES AND NOT-FOR-PROFITS COMMISSION ACT 2012

TO THE MEMBERS OF GEELONG ANIMAL WELFARE SOCIETY

As auditor for Geelong Animal Welfare Society for the year ended 30 June 2024, I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, there have been:

a) No contraventions of the auditor independence requirements of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 in relation to the audit; and

b) No contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.

This declaration is in respect of Geelong Animal Welfare Society.



Stephen Kirtley
Director

Dated this 21st day of November, 2024

Davidsons Assurance Services Pty Ltd
101 West Fyans Street
Geelong, Victoria 3220

Geelong Animal Welfare Society

ABN: 67 005 093 756

Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income

For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

	Note	2024 $	2023 $
Revenue	4	**6,189,589**	3,926,602
Total Income From Operations		**6,189,589**	3,926,602
Administration Expenses	5	**(3,777,892)**	(3,283,477)
Computer expenses		**(22,290)**	(10,676)
Marketing		**(17,486)**	(20,621)
Lease expenses		**(27,023)**	(25,270)
Operating profit (loss) before income tax		**2,344,898**	586,558
Income tax expense		**-**	-
Operating profit (loss) after income tax		**2,344,898**	586,558
Other comprehensive income			
Net gain on revaluation of land		**200,000**	-
Other comprehensive income for the year		**200,000**	-
Total comprehensive income for the year		**2,544,898**	586,558

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Geelong Animal Welfare Society

ABN: 67 005 093 756

Statement of Financial Position

As At 30 June 2024

	Note	2024 $	2023 $
ASSETS			
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents		**3,559,025**	1,177,215
Trade and other receivables		**418,691**	358,906
Inventories		**59,407**	42,500
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		**4,037,123**	1,578,621
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Financial assets		**7,240**	8,600
Property, plant and equipment	6	**1,399,227**	1,201,174
Intangibles		**43,433**	4,620
Right-of-use assets		**8,352**	30,422
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS		**1,458,252**	1,244,816
TOTAL ASSETS		**5,495,375**	2,823,437
LIABILITIES			
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Trade and other payables	7	**361,609**	315,938
Provisions	8	**188,919**	168,978
Lease Liabilities		**8,393**	31,303
Deferred income - grants		**101,338**	29,042
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		**660,259**	545,261
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Provisions	8	**49,078**	37,036
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		**49,078**	37,036
TOTAL LIABILITIES		**709,337**	582,297
NET ASSETS		**4,786,038**	2,241,140
EQUITY			
Capital fund reserve		**1,429,409**	1,429,409
Asset revaluation reserve		**540,744**	340,744
Retained earnings		**2,815,885**	470,987
TOTAL EQUITY		**4,786,038**	2,241,140

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Geelong Animal Welfare Society

ABN: 67 005 093 756

Statement of Changes in Equity

For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

	Retained Earnings	Asset Revaluation Reserve	Capital Profits Reserve	Total
	$	$	$	$
2024				
Balance at 1 July 2023	**470,987**	**340,744**	**1,429,409**	**2,241,140**
Total comprehensive income for the year	**2,344,898**	**200,000**	**-**	**2,544,898**
Transfers between reserves	**(2,344,898)**	**-**	**2,344,898**	**-**
Balance at 30 June 2024	**470,987**	**540,744**	**3,774,307**	**4,786,038**
2023				
Balance at 1 July 2022	470,987	340,744	842,851	1,654,582
Total comprehensive income for the year	586,558	-	-	586,558
Transfers between reserves	(586,558)	-	586,558	-
Balance at 30 June 2023	470,987	340,744	1,429,409	2,241,140

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Geelong Animal Welfare Society

ABN: 67 005 093 756

Statement of Cash Flows

For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

	2024 $	2023 $
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:		
Receipts from customers, donors and grants	**6,786,564**	4,021,156
Payments to suppliers and employees	**(4,305,885)**	(3,639,237)
Dividends received	**487**	477
Interest paid	**33,369**	33
Finance costs	**(8,620)**	(14,538)
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	**2,505,915**	367,891
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:		
Purchase of intangibles	**(39,220)**	-
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	**(61,975)**	(1,405)
Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities	**(101,195)**	(1,405)
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES:		
Payment of finance lease liabilities	**(22,910)**	(32,000)
Net cash provided by/(used in) financing activities	**(22,910)**	(32,000)
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents held	**2,381,810**	334,486
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year	**1,177,215**	842,729
Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year	**3,559,025**	1,177,215

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

The financial report covers Geelong Animal Welfare Society as an individual entity. Geelong Animal Welfare Society is a not- for-profit proprietary Company, incorporated and domiciled in Australia.

The functional and presentation currency of Geelong Animal Welfare Society is Australian dollars.

Comparatives are consistent with prior years, unless otherwise stated.

The financial statements, except for the cash flow information, have been prepared on an accruals basis and are based on historical costs, modified, where applicable, by the measurement at fair value of selected non-current assets, financial assets and financial liabilities. The amounts presented in the financial statements have been rounded to the nearest dollar.

1 Basis of Preparation

The financial statements are general purpose financial statements that have been prepared in accordance with the Australian Accounting Standards - Simplified Disclosures and the *Corporations Act 2001.*

The financial statements have been prepared on an accruals basis and are based on historical costs modified, where applicable, by the measurement at fair value of selected non-current assets, financial assets and financial liabilities.

Significant accounting policies adopted in the preparation of these financial statements are presented below and are consistent with prior reporting periods unless otherwise stated.

2 Summary of Material Accounting Policies

(a) Revenue and other income

Donation/Fundraising

Donations and bequests are recognised as revenue when received.

Council

The Company has a contract with the Council under which it is paid for services relating to the day-to-day operation of the Pound. These services include holding and caring for impounded and seized animals as well as associated veterinary services. Prices are calculated based on the contract and are attributed to specific animals and procedures completed within a month, invoiced to the Council monthly. Revenue is recognised in the month the services and performance obligations were fulfilled.

Vet Clinic and Op Shop Revenue

Income is received via the purchase of goods or services from the vet clinic and op shop. Revenue for the vet clinic and op shop is recognised upon receipt.

Shelter

Shelter income is received for adoptions of animals and associated services. Revenue is recognised upon receipt of payment for the adopted animal.

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

2 Summary of Material Accounting Policies

(b) Property, plant and equipment

Each class of plant and equipment is carried at cost or fair value as indicated, less, where applicable, accumulated depreciation and any impairment losses.

Plant and equipment are measured on the cost basis and are therefore carried at cost less accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses. In the event the carrying amount of plant and equipment is greater than its estimated recoverable amount, the carrying amount is written down immediately to its estimate recoverable amount and impairment losses are recognised either in profit or loss or as a revaluation decrease if the impairment losses relate to revalued asset.

A formal assessment of recoverable amount is made when impairment indicators are present for details of impairment.

Plant and equipment that have been contributed at no cost, or for nominal cost, are valued and recognised at the fair value of the asset at the date it is acquired.

Land is feld at fair value. During the current financial year, a Directors valuation was undertaken.

Depreciation

A summary of the depreciation method and depreciation rates for each class of assets is as follows:

Class of Fixed Asset	Depreciation Rate	Method
Plant & equipment	7.5% - 40%	Diminishing value
Motor vehicles	22.50%	Diminishing value
Leasehold improvements	4%	Straight line

(c) Employee benefits

Provision is made for the Company's liability for employee benefits, those benefits that are expected to be wholly settled within one year have been measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liability is settled.

Employee benefits expected to be settled more than one year after the end of the reporting period have been measured at the present value of the estimated future cash outflows to be made for those benefits. In determining the liability, consideration is given to employee wage increases and the probability that the employee may satisfy vesting requirements. Cashflows are discounted using market yields on national government bond terms to maturity that match the expected timing of cash flows. Changes in the measurement of the liability are recognised in profit or loss.

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

3 Critical Accounting Estimates and Judgments

The director evaluates estimates and judgments incorporated into the financial statements based on historical knowledge and best available current information. Estimates assume a reasonable expectation of future events and are based on current trends and economic data, obtained both externally and within the company.

Key estimates - impairment of property, plant and equipment

The Company assesses impairment at the end of each reporting period by evaluating conditions specific to the Company that may be indicative of impairment triggers. Recoverable amounts of relevant assets are reassessed using value-in-use calculations which incorporate various key assumptions.

Key estimates - receivables

The receivables at reporting date have been reviewed to determine whether there is any objective evidence that any of the receivables are impaired. An impairment provision is included for any receivable where the entire balance is not considered collectible. The impairment provision is based on the best information at the reporting date.

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

4 Revenue

	2024	2023
	$	$
Interest Revenue	**33,369**	33
Dividend Revenue	**487**	477
Shelter	**346,746**	366,905
Council	**2,177,335**	2,170,091
Donation / Fundraising	**2,852,835**	468,240
Rebates	**19,950**	18,250
Other Income	**91,381**	233,123
Vet Clinic and Op Shop Revenue	**667,486**	669,483
Total revenue	**6,189,589**	3,926,602

5 Administration expenses

Accountancy	**76,641**	90,238
Bank fees and charges	**10,765**	10,198
Cleaning/rubbish removal	**73,591**	68,466
Consulting and professional fees	**19,771**	23,669
Depreciation expense	**94,752**	91,922
Fundraising Expenses	**96,979**	63,030
General expenses	**11,881**	7,212
Insurance	**21,145**	16,610
Interest expense	**(2,145)**	4,340
Leave - Annual	**4,670**	11,656
Leave - Long Service	**27,029**	26,478
Legal Fees	**(26,850)**	(17,000)
Light & power	**25,198**	25,231
M/V car - other	**1,097**	948
Postage, printing & stationery	**12,782**	11,162
Rates & land taxes	**14,134**	12,111
Repairs and maintenance	**20,502**	15,745
Security	**3,086**	1,631
Shelter Expenses	**61,741**	60,709
Staff amenities	**12,088**	6,702
Subscriptions	**39,686**	38,544
Superannuation	**235,445**	203,754
Telephone	**12,622**	12,758
Vet fees/supplies	**726,960**	627,462
Wages	**2,154,330**	1,839,045
Workers compensation	**49,992**	30,856
Total administration expenses	**3,777,892**	3,283,477

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

6 Property, plant and equipment

	2024	2023
	$	$
Land		
At valuation	**1,000,000**	800,000
Total Land	**1,000,000**	800,000
Plant and equipment		
At cost	**426,971**	364,995
Accumulated depreciation	**(298,919)**	(272,420)
Total plant and equipment	**128,052**	92,575
Motor vehicles		
At cost	**47,715**	47,715
Accumulated depreciation	**(47,228)**	(47,087)
Total motor vehicles	**487**	628
Leasehold Improvement		
At cost	**1,274,775**	1,274,775
Accumulated amortisation	**(1,004,087)**	(966,804)
Total leasehold improvements	**270,688**	307,971
Total property, plant and equipment	**1,399,227**	1,201,174

(a) Movements in carrying amounts

Movement in the carrying amounts for each class of property, plant and equipment between the beginning and the end of the current financial year:

	Land	Plant and Equipment	Motor Vehicles	Leasehold Improvements	Total
	$	$	$	$	$
Year ended 30 June 2024					
Balance at the beginning of year	**800,000**	**92,575**	**628**	**307,971**	**1,201,174**
Additions	**-**	**61,975**	**-**	**-**	**61,975**
Depreciation expense	**-**	**(26,498)**	**(141)**	**(37,283)**	**(63,922)**
Revaluation increase	**200,000**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**200,000**
Balance at the end of the year	**1,000,000**	**128,052**	**487**	**270,688**	**1,399,227**

7 Trade and Other Payables

	2024	2023
	$	$
CURRENT		
Trade payables	**125,756**	100,605
Other payables	**235,853**	215,333
Total trade and other payables	**361,609**	315,938

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

8 Provisions

	2024	2023
	$	$
Current liabilities		
Employee Entitlements		
Annual leave	**126,647**	121,977
Long service leave	**56,471**	41,484
Make Good Provisions		
Vines Road	**5,801**	5,517
Total current provisions	**188,919**	168,978
Non-current liabilities		
Employee Entitlements		
Long service leave	**49,078**	37,036
Total non-current provisions	**49,078**	37,036

9 Key Management Personnel Disclosures

Any person(s) having authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of the entity, directly or indirectly, including any director (whether executive or otherwise) of that entity is considered key management personnel.

The remuneration paid to key management personnel of the Company is $ 377,437 (2023: $ 344,254).

10 Auditors' Remuneration

	2024	2023
	$	$
Remuneration of the auditor Davidsons Assurance Services Pty Ltd, for:		
- auditing the financial statements	**11,600**	11,200
- other services	**2,500**	2,400
Services provided by an associated firm, Davidsons Pty Ltd, for:		
- accounting fees	**56,736**	68,706
- bookkeeping fees	**9,705**	8,632
Total	**80,541**	90,938

11 Related Parties

(a) The Company's main related parties are as follows:

Disclosures relating to key management personnel are set out in Note 9.

The Directors confirm that there have been no related party transactions during the year, nor balances with related parties as at the year end.

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

12 Events Occurring After the Reporting Date

The directors are not aware of any significant events since the end of the reporting period.

13 Organisational Details

The registered office and principal place of business of the company is:
Geelong Animal Welfare Society
325 Portarlington Road
MOOLAP VIC 3221

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT
TO THE MEMBERS OF GEELONG ANIMAL WELFARE SOCIETY

Opinion

We have audited the financial report of Geelong Animal Welfare Society (the Company), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2024, the statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of material accounting policies, and the declaration by those charged with governance.

In our opinion the financial report of Geelong Animal Welfare Society has been prepared in accordance with Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 (ACNC Act), including:

(a) giving a true and fair view of the Company's financial position as at 30 June 2024 and of its financial performance for the year then ended; and
(b) complying with Australian Accounting Standards – Simplified Disclosure Standard and Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report* section of our report. We are independent of the Company in accordance with the ACNC Act, the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We confirm that the independence declaration required by the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012, which has been given to the directors of the Company, would be in the same terms if given to the directors as at the time of this auditor's report.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Other Information

Those charged with governance are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Company's annual report for the year ended 30 June 2024, but does not include the financial report and our auditor's report thereon.

Our opinion on the financial report does not cover the other information and accordingly we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial report, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial report or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Report

Management is responsible for the preparation of the financial report in accordance with the ACNC Act, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, management is responsible for assessing the Company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Company or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Company's financial reporting process.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial report.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial report is located at the Auditing and Assurance Standards Board website at: http://www.auasb.gov.au/Home.aspx. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Stephen Kirtley
Director

Dated this 21st day of November, 2024

Davidsons Assurance Services Pty Ltd
101 West Fyans Street
Geelong, Victoria 3220

"AN ANIMAL'S EYES HAVE THE POWER TO SPEAK A GREAT LANGUAGE."

-Martin Buber

GAWS

geelong animal welfare society

"because every life is precious"