GAWS



Annual Report 2025

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

ANIMAL ATTENDANT

RENEE, BUDDY & POPPY



Geelong Animal Welfare Society is a not-for-profit animal welfare organisation providing best practice care, community education and re-homing programs.





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Year in Review



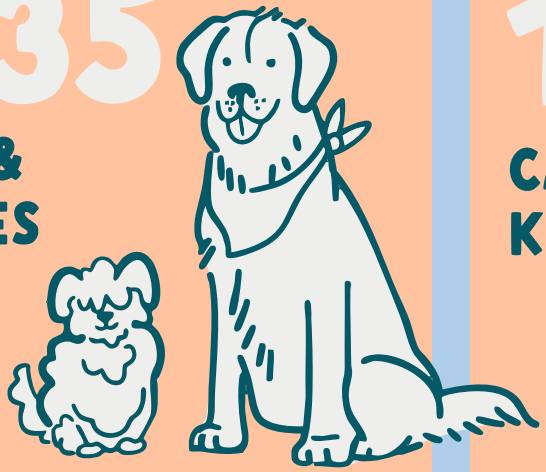
3170

ANIMALS CAME INTO OUR CARE



1235

DOGS & PUPPIES



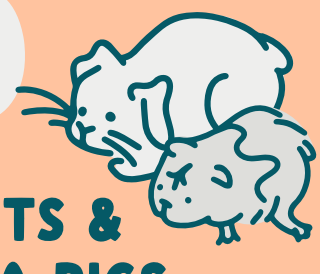
1915

CATS & KITTENS



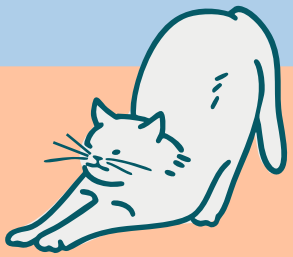
20

RABBITS & GUINEA PIGS



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

1976



ANIMALS WERE ADOPTED

481
DOGS & PUPPIES

1477
CATS & KITTENS

12
RABBITS & GUINEA PIGS

ADOPTED, RECLAIMED OR TRANSFERRED TO A RESCUE GROUP

85%
of Dogs & Puppies

86%
of Cats & Kittens

120%
of Rabbits & Guinea Pigs

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.

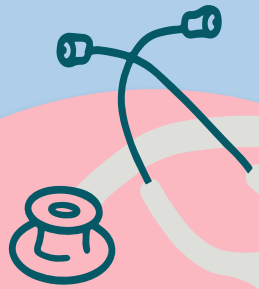
VOLUNTEERS

450
People who donated their time to our cause, including foster carers

FOSTER CARE

1315 Foster Care Admissions

277 Volunteer Foster Carers



VET CLINIC

7982 Veterinary Consultations

3400 Animals Vaccinated

2192 Animals Desexed

Vision & Values

Geelong Animal Welfare Society (GAWS) has been providing animal welfare services in the Geelong region for almost 70 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*.'

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.

VISION

"Because every life is precious."





GAWS cares for thousands of animals each year reuniting them with their owners or finding new forever homes.


MARIA
& SCOUT

Our President

The past year has been one of reflection and forward movement for GAWS.

As an organisation built on compassion, integrity and community spirit, we continue to adapt to the ever-changing landscape of animal welfare; finding new ways to strengthen our impact and deepen our connection to the people and animals who depend on us.

Our staff and volunteers once again demonstrated extraordinary resilience and care. Every adoption, every reunion and every moment of healing reflects the collective heart that defines GAWS.

Strategic planning has been a key focus this year, laying the groundwork for a sustainable future. Facility upgrades, operational refinements and staff development initiatives ensure GAWS is positioned to meet the growing needs of our region.

Collaboration across departments and with external partners has reinforced that our strength lies not only in what we do, but in how we do it – with transparency, teamwork and respect.

To our incredible supporters, donors, partners and volunteers – thank you. Your support helps to give every animal the chance they deserve.

And to our dedicated staff and leadership team – your commitment is shaping the future of GAWS.

It is a privilege to serve as President and to witness the compassion, courage and care that drive GAWS forward every day. We will continue to build a shelter and community that truly embody our vision – *because every life is precious.*

Maria Mercurio

President, Geelong Animal Welfare Society

Our staff remain committed, engaged and ready to contribute to creative problem solving.

Our CEO

I am deeply proud of what we have achieved and grateful to everyone who has played a role in another remarkable year for GAWS.

This year has been defined by collaboration, innovation, and an unwavering commitment to the welfare of animals in our care.

Over the past twelve months, we have provided shelter, care, and compassion to more than 3,100 animals. Thanks to the dedication of our staff and volunteers, 659 animals were reunited with their owners, while nearly over 2,000 found loving, permanent homes through adoption. Every reunion and adoption is a testament to the dedication and heart of our community.

In line with our commitment to transparency, we are once again proud to have our Animal Fate Data published in our annual report and on the State Government website. This enables our community to see the real impact of our work and reinforces our accountability as a trusted animal welfare organisation.

We also made several successful funding submissions that have allowed us to improve the level of care we provide and invest in high-quality, modern equipment to support our veterinary and shelter operations. These investments directly enhance the comfort, safety, and wellbeing of the animals we serve.

One of the most exciting initiatives of the year was our "Fix a Feline Friend for Free" grant program - an innovative community support initiative designed to assist individuals and families who might otherwise be unable to afford to desex their cats. This program not only helps prevent unwanted litters but also promotes responsible pet ownership and reduces pressure on our shelter services.

Our partnership with local government also strengthened this year, with the extension of our pound contract with the City of Greater Geelong, ensuring continuity of service and care for stray and lost animals in our region.

In a milestone for collaboration, we joined forces with other shelters across the state in the formation of the Animal Welfare Network, a collective dedicated to sharing knowledge, resources, and advocacy to raise the standard of animal care statewide.

Together, we are building a stronger, more unified animal welfare community.

None of these achievements would have been possible without our incredible staff, volunteers, donors, partners, and the wider community. To our volunteers - your compassion, time, and energy make an immeasurable difference.

To our staff - thank you for your professionalism and devotion in often challenging circumstances. To our donors, sponsors, and grant partners - your generosity empowers us to continue this life-saving work. And to the families who choose adoption - you are changing lives and creating happy endings every single day.

As we move into the year ahead, we remain committed to excellence, transparency, and compassion in every aspect of our work. Together, we are not just saving lives—we are creating a community where every animal is respected, protected, and loved " because every life is precious".

Helen Cocks

Chief Executive Officer, Geelong Animal Welfare Society



FILBERT
& HELEN

Together, we are building a stronger, more unified animal welfare community.

VOLUNTEER

TEGAN & PIZZA



450

VOLUNTEERS

dedicated their valuable time helping GAWS.

Volunteer Program

This past year has been one of dynamic change and unwavering dedication within our volunteer program.

While volunteer turnover remains high – particularly among younger individuals seeking short-term opportunities for experience – many committed volunteers continue to stand by GAWS, giving generously of their time and energy. Whether supporting our animal sections, assisting with laundry, gardening or helping at our GAWS Op Shop, each volunteer plays a vital role in helping us deliver on our mission. Their efforts form the heartbeat of our organisation and we are endlessly grateful for their support.

In October, our Op Shop successfully relocated from Hamlyn Heights to a more spacious and accessible location in Newcomb. The move was made possible by our dedicated team of volunteers who ensured a smooth transition with minimal disruption. The new shop has been warmly received by the community and is now located closer to the shelter, improving communication and support between the shop and our broader operations.

Our annual PAWS for GAWS charity dog walk in March was a great success, thanks in large part to the 30 volunteers who helped on the day. From running stalls to guiding attendees along the walking track, their enthusiasm and professionalism contributed to a welcoming and well-organised event that truly showcased the spirit of GAWS.

During National Volunteer Week in May, we celebrated the incredible contributions of our volunteers with daily morning teas and gifted each one a GAWS branded drink bottle as a small token of our immense appreciation.

We have established a Volunteer Coordinator Committee in partnership with other animal welfare organisations. This group meets regularly to share insights, address challenges and exchange best practices to improve volunteer engagement across the sector.

Looking ahead, we are excited to develop an online volunteer induction program to streamline our onboarding process. This will help fast-track new applications and make it easier for passionate individuals to get involved with GAWS more efficiently.

We will roll out new GAWS branded vests for volunteers, replacing our current polo shirts. The vests are more cost-effective and practical, allowing volunteers to wear them over their own clothing and helping them feel both comfortable and proud to represent GAWS.

As of this year, 450 active volunteers (including foster carers) are registered with GAWS and we continue to receive new applications each week.

This growing interest is a testament to the power of community and the ongoing appeal of our mission.





VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

EVA & KYLIN

Student Placement Volunteers

This year, GAWS welcomed two outstanding student placement volunteers, Kylin Chow and Eva Heidacher, both studying Zoology and Animal Science at Deakin University.

As part of their 80-hour university placement, Kylin and Eva have been caring for cats in the lost and adoptions areas. From cleaning and feeding to enrichment and cuddles, both students have been hands-on and will soon extend their experience into the canine section.

GAWS is proud to offer placement opportunities to students over 18 studying animal-related courses and grateful for future animal care professionals like Kylin and Eva.

Both Kylin and Eva have a genuine passion for animal welfare and have chosen to continue volunteering beyond their required hours.

"Kylin and Eva show a genuine interest in animal welfare, always performing their tasks with enthusiasm and an eagerness to learn." – Volunteer Coordinator Kim.

"GAWS has provided me with hands on animal handling experience that will no doubt follow my work in the future. I'm incredibly impressed with all the care that goes into operating and working in each area. Each of my supervisors has been more than willing to share what they know and spend time explaining their process. In the future, I hope to continue contributing to the care of all animals, be it in a zoo or shelter. GAWS has set a high standard for my future animal husbandry work!" – Eva.

"I really enjoy volunteering at GAWS because all the staff and volunteers are so kind and supportive. I also understand that GAWS is a nonprofit organisation that relies heavily on donations and volunteers, and I feel happy to be able to contribute to its work. It has been a pleasure to spend time helping the cats, most of them are so cute and well behaved. Overall, volunteering at GAWS is a very meaningful way to spend my free time, and I find it both rewarding and fulfilling." – Kylin.







Matt is a happy-go-lucky individual who always brings a smile and is a pleasure to have as a volunteer."

- VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR KIM.

MATTHEW

Building Better Days for GAWS

Since joining GAWS in March 2025, Matthew Nyhof has become an invaluable part of the team. Volunteering up to three days a week as a dog walker and maintenance helper, Matt brings dedication, positivity and a passion for animal welfare that shines through in everything he does.

After retiring from careers in emergency services and the fitness industry, Matt turned to GAWS – a place where he adopted many dogs from – to give back.



Matt's biggest contribution has been transforming an empty space into a thriving dog agility area. Using his own tools and materials, and securing donations from local businesses, he designed and built equipment that brings joy and enrichment to the dogs in our care. He is also helping plan a sensory garden and sheltered meet-and-greet space to further support GAWS.

Always smiling and ready to lend a hand, Matt's efforts have brought lasting value to GAWS and brighter days for the dogs in our care.

Thank you, Matt!

"The staff at GAWS are amazing. They do such a remarkable job with extremely limited resources. They really do care about the animals in their care, and it is so much more than a job to them. What I like about volunteering at GAWS is, in fact, working with the animals. In most cases, they end up there through no fault of their own." – Matthew.



FOSTER TEAM

ASH, NICOLE, MAGGIE & FELICITY

Our foster carers give animals a safe place to heal until they find their forever homes.

Foster Care Program

This year once again demonstrated the vital role of our foster carers, particularly during kitten season, which brought a predictable rise in animals needing temporary care.

Our dedicated carers rose to the challenge, ensuring timely care, socialisation and support for hundreds of incoming kittens. Their ongoing commitment remains the backbone of this life-saving program.

In a bid to improve adoption outcomes – particularly for long-term feline residents – we launched our 'Finishing School' initiative. This program pairs experienced carers with cats that require extra support to transition from foster care to adoptive homes. These carers help with socialisation, assess readiness and better prepare the animals for adoption. Initial results have been very encouraging and we look forward to refining and expanding this initiative in the coming year.

Additionally, we trialled a new approach: mid-journey carer changes for foster cats. When carer availability allows, this strategy helps prevent cats from becoming overly attached to a single environment, which can delay their readiness for adoption. Early observations suggest this may be a useful tool for reducing length of stay and improving long-term outcomes.

A major milestone this year was the relocation of our Foster Care department to the new Foster Hub.

This dedicated space has significantly improved day-to-day operations, provided a more supportive environment for animals and carers and increased our visibility within the broader community.

From the Foster Hub, we have facilitated direct adoptions for our more reserved foster cats, especially those completing Finishing School. Many of these cats, who may struggle in the traditional shelter environment, have benefited from this calm, transitional space. Unexpected foot traffic has led to spontaneous inquiries about fostering with several walk-ins signing up to become new carers.

Looking forward, we aim to expand recruitment by targeting lifestyle villages across the Geelong region. These communities are home to many retirees and semi-retirees; individuals who may have the time, interest and home environment to become exceptional foster carers. We see strong potential to grow our carer base through this focused outreach.

Over the past financial year, our Foster Care Program supported 1008 animals with 1315 foster care instances.

We received 98 new foster carer applications this year, with 78 carers successfully onboarded and retained – a strong indicator of our supportive approach to volunteer engagement. As of June 30, we are proudly supported by a network of 187 active cat carers and 90 active dog carers. Their dedication is essential to providing safe, loving and temporary homes for animals in need.

Our vision is to strengthen and expand the Foster Care Program so that one day, no animal will need to spend time in a shelter environment at all.



Our Foster Care Program supported

1,008

ANIMALS



461 DAYS TO FOSTER DAD

BRUCE'S JOURNEY

On 4 August 2023, a stray cat we named Bruce arrived at GAWS after surviving life on the streets. From the moment he arrived, Bruce showed nothing but love and hope, despite all he had endured. What he didn't know then was that he was about to embark on a 461-day journey filled with healing, heart, and ultimately, home.

Shortly after his arrival, Bruce was diagnosed with Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV) and treated for cat flu, alongside a persistent skin condition that required long-term management. His road to recovery was far from easy, but thanks to the dedication of the GAWS veterinary care team and the patience of our foster carers, Bruce slowly began to heal, both physically and emotionally.

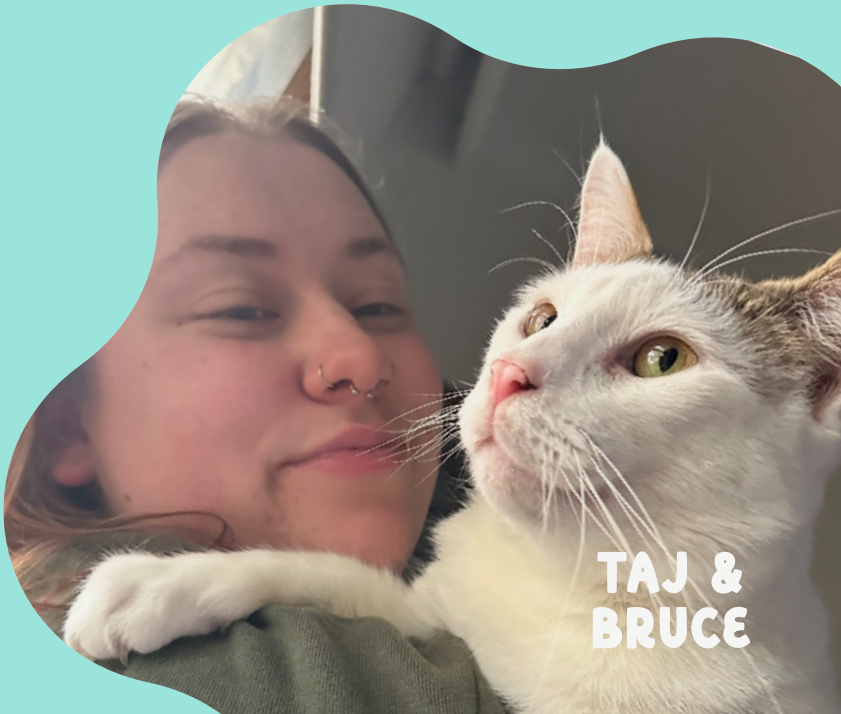
After trying different medications and care routines, a treatment plan was finally found that worked for him. Once stable, Bruce began his foster care journey, moving between two incredibly nurturing foster homes. It was during this time that Bruce's personality began to blossom. He revealed himself to be affectionate, curious and quietly confident; a cat just waiting for the right person to see him for who he truly was.

On 7 May 2025, Bruce's journey came full circle when he was officially adopted by his loving foster carer, Taj.

Bruce spends his days enjoying snuggles with his feline friends and has even become a gentle and caring foster dad to young kittens, guiding them through the same transition he once faced.

Bruce's story is a powerful reminder of what's possible when care, compassion and commitment come together. He is not only a survivor, but a shining example of the transformational impact of foster care.





TAJ & BRUCE



Thank you to the staff and the hundreds of volunteers who support GAWS.

ANIMAL ATTENDANT AND VOLUNTEER

CELINE & APOLLO



In every dog's eyes, we see the difference our work makes.

Dogs

It was a year of adaptation and refinement for the GAWS dog department.

Faced with ongoing capacity pressures and a steady stream of dogs entering our care, our team rose to the challenge – thinking creatively and acting quickly to provide the best possible outcomes for every dog.

Our "Last Litter Program" made a meaningful impact this year, with many mum dogs desexed free of charge to stop the cycle of unwanted litters. Their puppies were also desexed before being adopted, offering long-term solutions while giving each dog a chance at a brighter future.

Throughout the chaos and urgency, there were countless moments of joy, laughter and heartwarming connections. But there were also moments that brought tears and reflection; reminding us why our work is so vital and inspiring us to continue striving for the best animal welfare outcomes.

Four hundred and eighty-one dogs found their forever homes in 2025; some after waiting more than two years for their perfect match.

Every adoption represents a life transformed and we are proud of the persistence and care that made these outcomes possible.

The canine team participated in professional development sessions with Dave Mckelson from Pro Dog Training, gaining valuable insight into engagement techniques and breed-specific enrichment. These strategies have already made a difference, especially for breeds that typically struggle in a shelter setting. Our dogs are more settled, engaged and ready to connect with future adopters.

One of the most exciting developments this year came from a generous donation by Bunnings Leopold, who provided materials for a brand-new agility course. One of our incredible volunteers brought the vision to life, building equipment that has been enthusiastically embraced by staff, volunteers and the dogs.

This new enrichment tool provides a healthy outlet for excess energy, encourages skill-building, and strengthens the bond between our dogs and their handlers.

Space remains our biggest challenge. As the Geelong area grows, surrender numbers increase and adoption rates slow, our facility is struggling to keep up. To ease pressure, we're prioritising support for pet owners through advice and desexing programs.

Long stays are also a concern. To help, we've introduced enrichment initiatives such as staff office time and "Dog's Day Out" adventures, giving long-term residents a break from shelter life and boosting their wellbeing while they await adoption.

Looking to 2025, we're excited about plans for a new sensory yard – a peaceful, purpose-designed space where dogs can decompress. This area will include dog-safe plants, sensory zones, a sandpit and shelter from the elements. It will offer dogs a retreat from the shelter environment, supporting their mental health and overall wellbeing.

We are also refining our behaviour assessment process. GAWS is proud to deliver a thorough behaviour evaluation and we are committed to continuously improving our approach to ensure safe and successful adoptions for every dog.



481

DOGS & PUPPIES

found their forever homes



Second Chances

Behind every adoption lies a unique journey – often filled with challenges, small victories and the unwavering commitment of staff, volunteers and foster carers. In 2024, two special dogs stood out for the way they touched hearts and reminded us why we do what we do.



TONY

FROM SHUTDOWN TO SHINING

Tony, a shy and shutdown Maremma, arrived at GAWS as a stray, unsure of his surroundings and wary of people. Like many livestock guardian breeds, the busy shelter environment was particularly overwhelming for him. But day by day, Tony slowly began to trust. He started attending Social Club, built bonds with staff and began to show glimpses of his gentle and curious nature.

Just as Tony was beginning to come into his own, he fell seriously ill. Rushed to our clinic, he was diagnosed with pancreatitis and required urgent, intensive care. Thanks to the swift action of our veterinary team and the quiet resilience that had become part of who he was, Tony pulled through.

Today, Tony is thriving in his forever home with an owner who continues to nurture his growth and confidence.

His transformation is a beautiful reminder of how far love and proper care can take an animal once lost and afraid.



SVETLANA

PUPPYHOOD SPENT IN SHELTER

After 542 days in GAWS' care, numerous meet and greets, an unsuccessful adoption venture and a short stint in foster care, smart and sassy American Staffy Svetlana finally made it to her forever home.

Found wandering the streets back in October 2023 as a puppy, Svetlana spent most of her young life at GAWS, where she kept busy perfecting her manners and tricks. The high-energy dynamo received daily walks, food, water, care and loads of pats from GAWS staff and volunteers, and they were dedicated to finding her an owner who would love her.

There was one dog volunteer who had a special place in Svetlana's heart. Over six months, Verity and Svetlana developed a special bond at GAWS. Svetlana found her forever person with Verity and she was adopted in March 2025.

A long-time resident, Svetlana's story captured the attention of our community, many of whom followed her journey with deep empathy and hope. When her adoption was announced, the outpouring of joy and support was truly heartwarming – proof that the bond between shelter animals and the wider community can be just as strong as any adoption connection.

Svetlana's new life is filled with love, patience and the understanding she always deserved.



NEW LIFE WITH VERITY.

We decided to adopt Svetlana after losing our dog last year, and after volunteering at GAWS I knew she was the one. She's a ball of energy but also loves cuddles and following us around. She's settled in beautifully, has her own routine, and wins everyone over with her expressive personality. At home she shreds cardboard boxes with delight, and a few days a week joins me at doggy daycare where she's practicing her manners and social skills.



542

DAYS TO FOREVER HOME

Cats

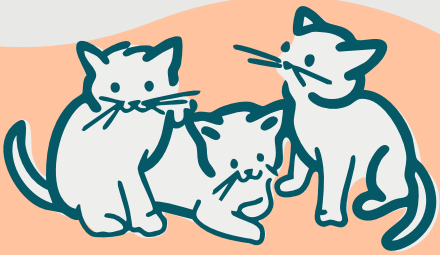
This was a year of intense demand and unwavering dedication for the GAWS Cats department.

With 1,915 cats and kittens entering the shelter – one of our highest intake years to date – our team was faced with the ongoing challenges of overcrowding, resource strain and increased risk of illness.

Despite these difficulties, there were many wins to celebrate. Our team achieved strong adoption outcomes, worked tirelessly to maintain a high standard of care and welcomed new, passionate staff who have quickly become an essential part of the team.

Excessively high numbers of cats in care created significant hurdles, particularly in managing infection control and parasite outbreaks like Giardia. Yet through it all, the resilience, skill, compassion and professionalism of our staff and volunteers shone through.

Our cat enrichment efforts remained a priority, ensuring that even during the busiest periods, cats had access to stimulation and socialisation opportunities.



This year we cared for almost

2,000

CATS & KITTENS

Significant groundwork began on a new feline behavioural program, laying the foundation for tailored care plans and behavioural support for cats needing extra time and patience. For the year ahead, we are excited to continue developing this program, with plans to introduce dedicated behavioural staff. This initiative will allow us to better support cats with complex behavioural needs and provide clearer behavioural profiles for animals entering foster or adoptive homes.

A key milestone was the installation of new isolation and ringworm room enclosures, providing improved containment and care for cats with infectious conditions. These new spaces have improved our ability to manage outbreaks and support recovery in a cleaner, more purpose-built environment. We aim to implement new shelter movement plans to help separate cats based on health, behaviour and recovery status to help with better infection control and overall welfare.

The ageing and outdated facilities remain a challenge. As the population of our catchment areas continues to grow, so too does the number of animals needing our services. Infrastructure planning for future upgrades and expansion will deliver the animals and community a better shelter that will meet the growing needs of the community.

Despite the challenges, almost 1,500 cats and kittens found loving homes this year. Every adoption is a testament to the perseverance and compassion of our team.

Every second chance begins with someone who chooses to care.



ANIMAL ATTENDANT

SOPHIE & SNOWY



Raggs is doing really well. Settled in beautifully. She talks a lot, sleeps on my chest and purrs like a machine. She acts like she owns the place... and I love that she does.

- RAGGS' OWNER



A QUEEN FINDS HER KINGDOM

RAGGS' JOURNEY

Some cats walk into our lives quietly. Others arrive with sass, swagger and the unshakable belief that they're already royalty. Raggs, a tenacious 11-year-old tortoiseshell, was firmly in the latter camp.

When she arrived at GAWS, Raggs had already experienced a lifetime of change. Originally rehomed through a "free to good home" ad, she found herself once again without stability. Picked up as a stray, she came into our care on a mission – to make it clear that shelter life was not her idea of retirement.

From day one, Raggs was unapologetically herself. Vocal, independent and full of attitude, she didn't hesitate to let staff know how she felt about her new environment – often with a grumble, a dramatic side-eye or the occasional warning swipe. But beneath that fiery tortoiseshell exterior was a cat simply asking for respect, boundaries and love – on her terms.

Despite being a senior, Raggs was remarkably healthy. After recovering from an early bout of cat flu, she ruled Pen 12 in our adoption area for 486 days. That pen became her castle, and she, its queen. Staff and volunteers became loyal subjects, carefully navigating her moods, earning her trust and celebrating every small breakthrough.

Then, on day 486, everything changed.

A gentleman walked into GAWS with one goal: to meet Raggs. She greeted him with her trademark sass – a few choice words and a signature level-two swipe. Most might have backed away. But this man smiled, looked into the eyes of a battle-hardened queen and made the momentous decision to take her home.

From that moment on, Raggs' story transformed into a love story.

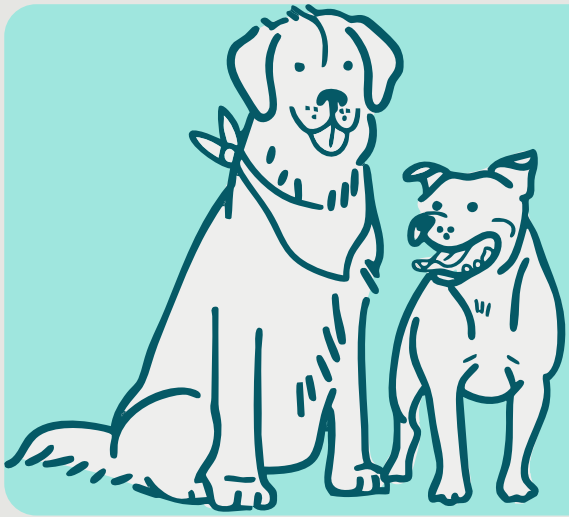
It took a few days for Raggs to fully settle into her new home, but once she did, it was clear she'd found where she belonged. She watches birds from the window, cuddles on the couch, sleeps in her new favourite spots and greets her person at the door when he grabs his shoes – ready for another day together.

Raggs' journey is a reminder that every animal, no matter their age or attitude, deserves a second chance and that sometimes, love arrives wrapped in fur, fierce independence and a whole lot of personality.

To Raggs and her wonderful adopter – thank you for reminding us that every cat deserves their kingdom, and that the right person will always see the beauty behind the bravado.



Our Shelter

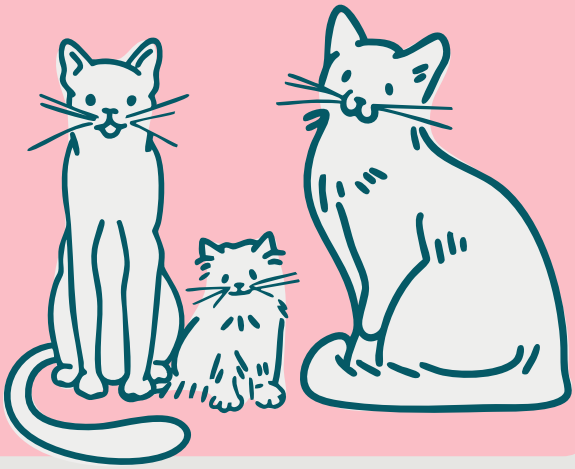


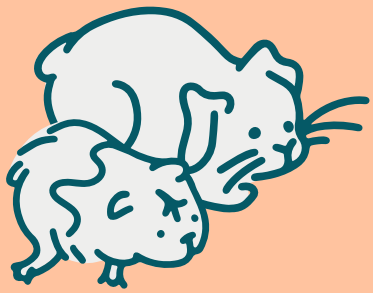
85%

of all dogs were reunited with their ownears, adopted into new homes or transferred to a rescue group.

86%

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





120%

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

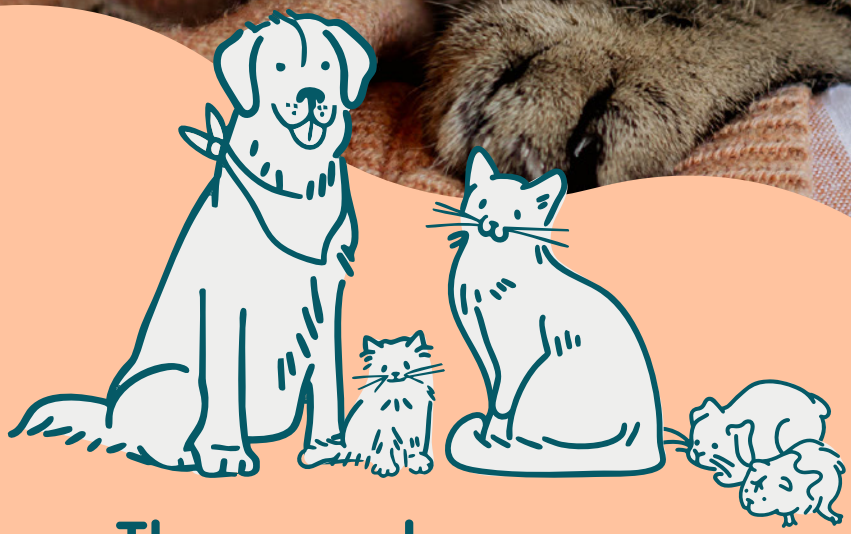
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ANIMAL SUPERVISOR – CANINE

DANIELLE & ZARLEIGH



A total of 3170 animals came into our care at GAWS.



These numbers are more than statistics – they represent lives changed, suffering eased and futures protected.

Animal Stats



DOGS & PUPPIES

	2023/24	%	2024/25	%
Dogs Admitted	**1263**		**1235**	
Reclaimed	619	49%	518	42%
Adopted	441	35%	481	39%
Euthanised	101	8%	133	11%
Other (inc transfer)	91	7%	58	5%

CATS & KITTENS

	2023/24	%	2024/25	%
Cats Admitted	**1943**		**1915**	
Reclaimed	208	11%	139	7%
Adopted	1565	81%	1477	77%
Euthanised	217	11%	249	13%
Other (inc transfer)	59	3%	35	2%

RABBITS & GUINEA PIGS

	2023/24	%	2024/25	%
Rabbits/Guinea Pigs Admitted	**80**		**20**	
Reclaimed	5	6%	2	10%
Adopted	51	64%	12	60%
Euthanised	3	4%	1	5%
Other (inc transfer)	23	29%	10	50%

LIVE RELEASE

Live Release	Number	% of Admitted
Cats/Kittens	1638	86%
Dogs/Puppies	1051	85%
Guinea Pigs/Rabbits	24	120%

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.

Community Vet Clinic

Upon reflection of the year and with the numbers in front of us, it is clear just how much the GAWS Community Vet Clinic has achieved, although through challenging moments.

Behind every procedure and consultation is a team of vets, vet nurses and reception staff who show up every day with determination, professionalism and heart. The pressure has been constant but the commitment has not wavered. We've handled thousands of cases, balanced the needs of shelter animals and private patients and continued to serve as a critical frontline service for the Geelong community.

The clinic may not always be visible, but its impact is immense and we are proud of our team's "let's do this and do it well" attitude.

Thanks to a grant from Animal Welfare Victoria, we successfully desexed 150 cats at no cost for local community members with healthcare or pension cards. This program achieved improved cat overall health and wellbeing, reduced unwanted litters and enhanced community education and awareness about the many benefits of having your cat desexed and microchipped.

After facing a national vaccine shortage in the previous year, we secured a reliable supply of Nobivac cat and dog vaccines, supported by a rebate program for high-volume purchasers. We've reviewed and updated vaccination protocols to follow World Small Animal Veterinary Association (WSAVA) guidelines, resulting in kittens and puppies receiving earlier and more effective protection against preventable diseases.

As a clinic uniquely positioned at the intersection of community and shelter, we see firsthand the effects of pet overpopulation and we are in a powerful position to make change.

Looking ahead, we aim to:

- Expand our public-facing desexing services and promote this as our clinic's specialty.
- Implement an online booking system to streamline client access and reduce administrative workload.
- Continue to educate the public on desexing, vaccination and preventative care.

Staff resources remain our biggest limitation. With Geelong's growing population and a steady increase in both shelter intake and private clients, the demand on vet and vet nurse time continues to outpace capacity.

The clinic currently operates with two separate software systems; one for shelter records and one for general practice. This duplication significantly increases the time needed for data entry, reducing clinical efficiency; something we are looking at changing.

As shelter space is limited – risking overcrowding especially in cat housing – we continue to see increased illness, particularly cat flu and gastrointestinal infections, driven by stress and poor housing conditions. In an ideal future, double pens with portals would allow cats to separate their sleeping, eating and toileting areas, dramatically improving welfare and reducing disease transmission.

Thanks to the generous support of donors, we have been able to purchase several vital pieces of clinical equipment, significantly enhancing the safety and efficiency of our veterinary care: new anaesthetic machine, infusion pump, hand-held anaesthetic monitor, centrifuge and a surgical table.

These additions are already improving the standard of care we are able to provide to both shelter and community animals.

Caring for pets, protecting futures.

VET NURSE

OLIVIA & JACK



7,982
Consultations

2,192
Animals desexed

3,400
Animals vaccinated



A FIGHTER WITH ONE EYE & A BIG HEART

TAS' JOURNEY

BEFORE



AFTER



When Tas, a tiny grey tabby kitten, was found alone in a drain in April, his outlook was uncertain. Soaked, shivering and dangerously underweight, he was brought to GAWS in urgent need of veterinary care.

Tas was suffering from severe cat flu, with crusted nostrils and eyes, making breathing and eating difficult. He was immediately placed on antibiotics and our veterinary team began the delicate process of warming and hydrating him. With round-the-clock care, including syringe feeding and frequent eye cleaning, Tas slowly began to turn a corner.

Despite his progress, one of Tas' eyes had suffered irreversible scarring due to ulceration from the flu virus.

The eye would eventually need to be removed, but not until he was stronger.

After a month of care, Tas was desexed and moved into foster care where he spent six weeks continuing to grow, play and recover in a loving home. Once he was healthy and big enough, Tas returned to GAWS for surgery and Dr Yujin successfully performed his eye removal.

Now fully recovered, Tas is a happy, affectionate kitten who has not only survived immense hardship but has won the hearts of everyone at GAWS. His journey from a drain to a warm bed, with one less eye but a world full of love, is a powerful example of the life-saving care delivered every day by our Vet Clinic team.



Thousands of lives changed through expert veterinary care.

Fundraising & Community Engagement

Together with our community, we turned compassion into action – raising funds, sharing stories, inspiring change and rehoming hundreds of animals.

At GAWS, every campaign, event and message we share is about more than raising funds – it's about creating connections. Through marketing, fundraising and community engagement, we tell the stories of resilience, hope and second chances that inspire our community to act.

The 2024–25 financial year has been a year of advancement and record community support. Through creative campaigns, powerful storytelling and strong local partnerships, GAWS raised critical funds, strengthened the brand and deepened connections with supporters.

These efforts delivered record financial support, heightened awareness and inspired action across the Geelong region. Most importantly, they gave hundreds of animals a second chance.

FUNDRAISING

Our 2024 Winter Tax Appeal and Christmas Appeal set new records, raising more than $120,000 combined. The most successful in GAWS' history, our Christmas Appeal raised more than $60,000 thanks to 262 generous supporters. For the first time, supporters could contribute to items on our wishlist, creating a tangible link between their donations and the animals in our care. The addition of wishlist items proved popular, with dog water misters, an outdoor cat enclosure and anti-anxiety beds fully funded; helping animals live more comfortably while in shelter.

Legacy giving also grew this year, with our Safewill partnership and free Wills campaigns securing estimated future income valued at more than $2.5 million, ensuring GAWS can continue its mission for years to come.

Over the 12 months, GAWS raised hundreds of thousands of dollars through these campaigns, the bequests, partnerships, our penpal program, donations, donation boxes, community events and 2024 Graduates Calendar sales. These efforts directly funded animal care, veterinary services and shelter improvements, while adoption promotions ensured hundreds of cats and dogs found loving homes.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

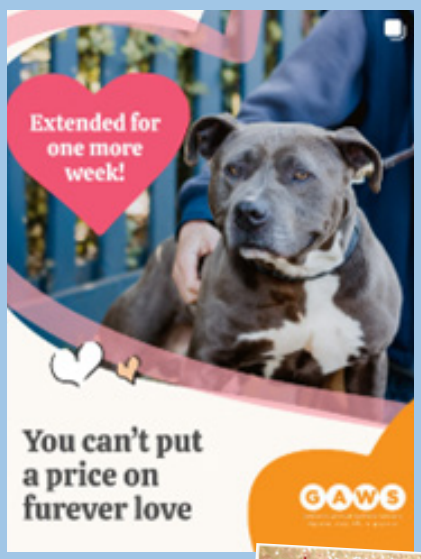
Community remained at the centre of everything we did. Our annual charity dog walk, PAWS for GAWS, grew stronger than ever. The relocation and celebration of our GAWS Op Shop created a vibrant new hub for fundraising and awareness. Students from local schools contributed through creative projects, while local cafés and businesses rallied and raised funds and awareness.

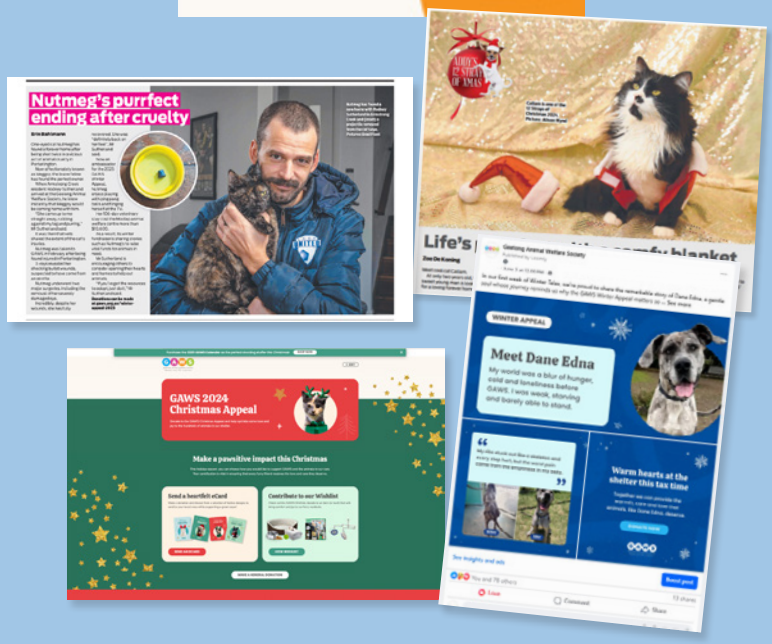
ADOPTION DRIVES

To help with ongoing capacity challenges, we ran adoption drives throughout the year to encourage adoptions.

Campaigns like the Winter Fee Freeze, Black Fur-Friday and the innovative Feel Good Fee inspired hundreds of families to open their homes. In total, more than 700 cats and dogs were adopted through these initiatives.

Throughout the year, animals available for adoption were highlighted through our social channels and e-newsletters, creating engagement and interest, and in turn, helping more animals find their forever homes.







Our community turned compassion into action, helping us to achieve record results.

CORPORATE & COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

As we continue to expand our reach and impact, one of our key aspirations is to develop our corporate and community partnerships program. We hope like-minded businesses in Geelong and the surrounding areas will see the value in supporting our cause and join us in mutually beneficial partnerships.

MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS

We invested in how we tell our story. From new shelter signage and a refreshed Animal Ambulance to expanded social media reach and stronger media partnerships, GAWS' message of compassion is reaching more people.

- **Media Coverage:** GAWS secured consistent features across Geelong Advertiser, Geelong Times Group, Geelong Independent, Herald Sun and K Rock.
- **Branding:** Major updates included a refreshed Animal Ambulance and large-scale outdoor signage at the shelter



DIGITAL GROWTH

Facebook grew from:

38K > 39K

Instagram grew from:

6K > 6.5K

Website:

1.1M page views

176K active users

2024-25 HIGHLIGHTS

$120,000+
raised through Winter and Christmas Appeals

700+
animals adopted through special adoption promotions

NEW
GAWS Op Shop launched, becoming a community hub and fundraiser

$2.5 MILLION+
in future gifts pledged through Safewill partnership and free Wills campaigns

450+
calendars sold in our GAWS 2025 Graduates Calendar fundraiser

MAJOR
branding upgrades including Animal Ambulance and shelter signage

PAWS FOR GAWS EVENT
56% increase in registrations compared to the previous year



PAWS FOR GAWS 2025

Our annual PAWS for GAWS charity dog walk once again brought the community together in celebration of animals and compassion. In March 2025, more than 260 participants and their four-legged companions joined us for a 4km walk along the Geelong Waterfront.

The event raised a remarkable $31,412, surpassing last year's results and helping fund vital shelter services. Sponsorship support was outstanding, with partners including Hills Nutrition, APCO, PetStock, Prestige Jayco, Lifestyle Communities, GAWK, Shojun Concrete, and K-rock contributing a combined $20,000 in support.

Community spirit was at the heart of the day. Families, local businesses and animal lovers from across the region took part, joined by special guests including Deputy Mayor Ron Nelson and local ambassadors. After the walk, participants enjoyed music, food and kids' activities, with the ever-popular Pooch Parade crowning winners for Best Dressed, Waggiest Tail and Best Trick.

The event also gained strong local media coverage, with Geelong Advertiser photographer Alan Barber capturing participants alongside GAWS' adoptable dog Svetlana, the face of the event.

Feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with ratings of "Very Good" to "Excellent" praising the welcoming atmosphere, family focus and well-organised route.

PAWS for GAWS 2025 not only raised funds — it raised awareness, built connections and celebrated the special bond we share with animals.

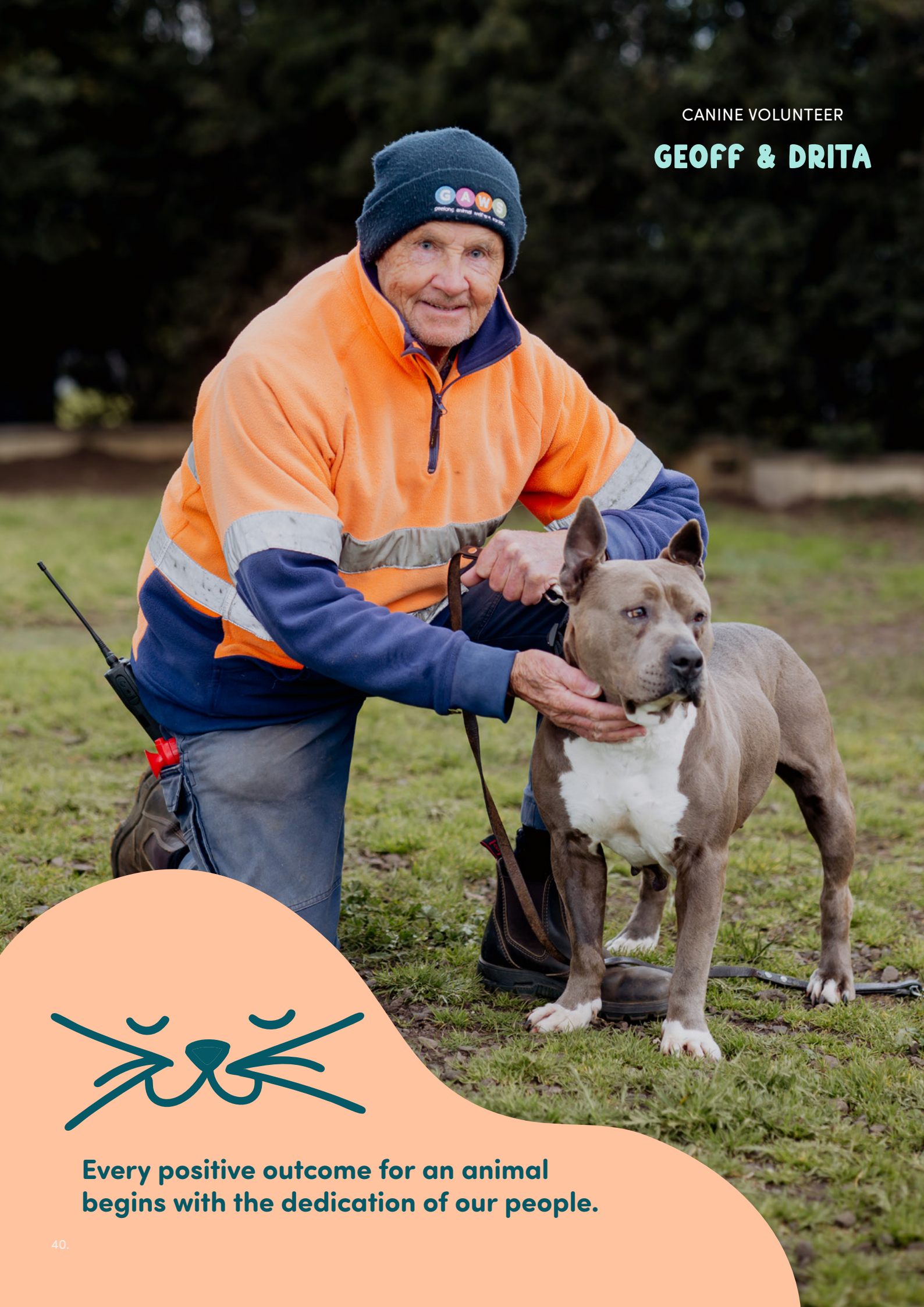




$31,412

WAS RAISED

surpassing last year's results and helped fund vital shelter services.



CANINE VOLUNTEER

GEOFF & DRITA

Every positive outcome for an animal begins with the dedication of our people.

Operations & People



This year has been one of transformation, growth and renewed direction at GAWS.

As we reflect on the past 12 months, it is clear that laying strong foundations — for both our people and our processes — has been at the heart of our operational focus.

STRENGTHENING OUR PEOPLE & CULTURE

A key priority has been creating an environment where our staff feel supported, empowered and confident in their roles. Through mentoring, professional development and refining responsibilities, we have encouraged collaborative leadership and strengthened communication at every level. Challenges were met openly and proactively, using each as an opportunity to clarify expectations, uphold values and grow as a team. While some decisions – such as role restructuring and staff changes – were difficult, they have resulted in stronger teams, a clearer culture and a more resilient workforce.

FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS, CHANGES & FUTURE PLANNING

This year we made significant strides in upgrading our facilities to ensure the highest standards of animal care:

- **Cat Care:** New stainless-steel banks were installed in our isolation and ringworm section, improving hygiene and workflow.
- **Lost Cats Building:** Plans are underway to reconfigure and expand capacity from 57 to 99 units. This project, currently in the grant submission phase, would ultimately allow the safe decommissioning of the older Lost Cats B building.
- **Canine Spaces:** A weatherproof shelter is proposed for our dog assessment yards, ensuring year-round safety and comfort for both animals and staff.
- **Infrastructure Upgrades:** Flooring improvements and minor construction works have begun, with future projects designed to further enhance capacity and efficiency across the shelter.
- **Pocket Pets:** Pocket pets have unique and specific care requirements that our current facilities are not equipped to fully support. To ensure the best outcomes for these animals, we work closely with several specialised rescue organisations and continue to serve as a short-term transitional care point while awaiting placement with one of these organisations.

These projects represent more than bricks and mortar; they are investments in creating safer, more uplifting environments for animals, staff and volunteers alike.

COLLABORATION & TRAINING

Collaboration has been central to our operational growth. Cross-team walkthroughs, leadership workshops and site visits to larger shelters broadened our perspective and fostered innovation. Partnerships with behaviour experts and external trainers have enhanced our knowledge base, ensuring safety, compassion and best practice across all areas of care.

While much of this work happens behind the scenes, it underpins everything GAWS achieves. This year, our teams have emerged with greater clarity, cohesion and care — not just for the animals we shelter, but for one another.

With a stronger team, improved processes and a renewed culture of accountability and compassion, GAWS is ready to meet the future with confidence and ensure a shelter that is resilient, ethical and prepared for the challenges and opportunities ahead.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this journey — your belief in what we do inspires every step forward.

Our Partners & Supporters

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



MAJOR SUPPORTERS

- Hill's Pet Nutrition
- Petstock

SUPPORTERS

- Alex Selway McGrath Estate Agents
- Always There Automotive
- APCO
- Aussiewide Financial Services
- Babel Surfboards
- Boehringer Ingelheim
- Bunnings Leopold
- City of Greater Geelong
- Davidsons
- Easy Waste
- Electica on Pako
- GAWK
- Geelong Advertiser
- Geelong Connected Communities
- Geelong Street Rodders
- Geelong Times
- genU
- GMHBA
- JMZ Security Doors & Screens
- KJ Contractors
- K-Rock
- Lifestyle Communities
- Lions Club Leopold
- Paul Kelly Creative
- Prestige Jayco
- Rockin' Donuts
- Rolling Pin Leopold
- Rosewood Farm
- SC Technology Group
- Shojun Concrete
- The Lin Huddleston Charitable Foundation
- The Salty Dog Café
- Wade Veterinary Services & Geelong Canine Fitness

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

REGULAR DONORS

GAWS is very lucky to have so many generous people donate 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

In addition to the above, we are thankful to have received a large amount of donations from businesses and individuals including Catherine Gray who has been a regular major donor of GAWS for many years. We have received constant support from local organisations hosting a GAWS donation collection box. The Community Fundraising program has continued to grow with the continued 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. We continued our partnership with online will writing platform, Safewill, to offer our community an opportunity to complete a will for free or at a discount while having the option to leave GAWS a legacy gift.

GRANTS

Thank you to the organisations who have supported us through giving grants including Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action – Animal Welfare Victoria and Bendigo Bank.

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.

PEN PALS

Corporate Pen Pal Sponsors:

- AYS
- Blue Moon
- Casual Cruzers Geelong
- Davidsons
- Garren Development
- Geelong Jukebox Rockers
- genU
- Hill's Pet Nutrition
- Maud Care
- Mindful Innovative Actions
- Nelson Park School
- Nutrition Warehouse
- Pistol Club Inc Geelong
- SC Technology
- Standby Security
- The Design Distinctive
- WL Chivers Plumbing

Individual Pen Pal Sponsors:

- Alison Bird
- Aravinda Vemulapalli
- Banks Kleehammer
- Barbara Twentyman
- Bellevue Dry Cleaners
- Bunnings
- Charley Lanning
- Christine & Mateusz Zemietro
- Colin White
- Ebony Brooks
- Eliahn, Matt & their cat Clover
- Emma O'Dwyer
- Erina Higgins
- Georgina Fuller
- Eve Gu
- The Guiseppe Family
- Helen Cocks & Filbert
- Hilary Lovibond
- Jane Meier
- Joe Thurrowgood
- Joel Karpin
- John McOuat
- In loving memory of John Tonkin
- Julie Sleeth
- Julie & Terrence Sleeth
- Kaye Drew
- Kira Harris
- Lauren Solomonson
- Leah Palmer
- In memory of Leesy Caldwell
- Lesa Herring
- The Lewna Benevolent Society
- Maria Mercurio
- Melissa Young
- Michelle Teoh
- Orion Lane, his family and community
- Sema and Can Tuncer
- Sheryn Stephenson
- Siti Samat
- Solveig Ober
- Sue Blair
- Tayla Winiecki & Mia Wilde
- In memory of Violet Riordan
- Thomas, Elena & Maudie
- Thomas Scott

We thank everyone for their generosity and continued support.

Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2025



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For the Year Ended 30 June 2025

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Directors Report
30 June 2025

The Directors of Geelong Animal Welfare Society present their report for the year ended 30 June 2025.

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 (resigned January 2025)
- Joanne D'Andrea
- Norman Douglas (resigned March 2025)

Operating Result

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

Year ended 30 June 2025	Year ended 30 June 2024
$	$
216,854	2,344,898

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.

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.

Directors Report
30 June 2025

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.

Directors Report
30 June 2025

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 - 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 (retired January 2025)

Joanne D'Andrea
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 Pacific Hydro 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 (retired March 2025)

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 2025.

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 17th day of November 2025

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 2025, 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 17th day of November, 2025

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

Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income

For the Year Ended 30 June 2025

	Note	2025 $	2024 $
Revenue	4	**4,550,797**	6,189,589
Total Income From Operations		**4,550,797**	6,189,589
Administration Expenses	5	**(4,251,133)**	(3,777,892)
Computer expenses		**(27,641)**	(22,290)
Marketing		**(30,712)**	(17,486)
Lease expenses		**(24,457)**	(27,023)
Operating profit (loss) before income tax		**216,854**	2,344,898
Income tax expense		**-**	-
Operating profit (loss) after income tax		**216,854**	2,344,898
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		**216,854**	2,544,898

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Statement of Financial Position

For the Year Ended 30 June 2025

	Note	2025 $	2024 $
ASSETS			
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents		**3,651,992**	3,559,025
Trade and other receivables		**451,588**	418,691
Inventories		**59,879**	59,407
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		**4,163,459**	4,037,123
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Financial assets		**9,680**	7,240
Property, plant and equipment	6	**1,439,561**	1,399,227
Intangibles		**35,589**	43,433
Right-of-use assets		**72,765**	8,352
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS		**1,557,595**	1,458,252
TOTAL ASSETS		**5,721,054**	5,495,375
LIABILITIES			
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Trade and other payables	7	**362,707**	361,609
Provisions	8	**231,791**	188,919
Lease Liabilities		**30,421**	8,393
Deferred income - grants		**-**	101,338
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		**624,919**	660,259
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Lease liabilities		**44,029**	-
Provisions	8	**49,214**	49,078
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		**93,243**	49,078
TOTAL LIABILITIES		**718,162**	709,337
NET ASSETS		**5,002,892**	4,786,038
EQUITY			
Capital fund reserve		**3,991,161**	3,774,307
Asset revaluation reserve		**540,744**	540,744
Retained earnings		**470,987**	470,987
TOTAL EQUITY		**5,002,892**	4,786,038

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Statement of Changes in Equity

	Retained Earnings $	Asset Revaluation Reserve $	Capital Profits Reserve $	Total $
2025				
Balance at 1 July 2024	**470,987**	**540,744**	**3,774,307**	**4,786,038**
Total comprehensive income for the year	**216,854**	**-**	**-**	**216,854**
Transfers between reserves	**(216,854)**	**-**	**216,854**	**-**
Balance at 30 June 2025	**470,987**	**540,744**	**3,991,161**	**5,002,892**
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	-	-	2,344,898
Transfers between reserves	(2,344,898)	-	2,344,898	-
Gain on revaluation of assets	-	200,000	-	200,000
Balance at 30 June 2024	470,987	540,744	3,774,307	4,786,038

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Statement of Cash Flows

For the Year Ended 30 June 2025

	2025 $	2024 $
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:		
Receipts from customers, donors and grants	**4,732,365**	6,786,564
Payments to suppliers and employees	**(4,593,045)**	(4,305,885)
Dividends received	**516**	487
Interest paid	**115,918**	33,369
Finance costs	**(12,035)**	(8,620)
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	**243,719**	2,505,915
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:		
Purchase of intangibles	**-**	(39,220)
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	**(123,255)**	(61,975)
Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities	**(123,255)**	(101,195)
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES:		
Payment of finance lease liabilities	**(27,497)**	(22,910)
Net cash provided by/(used in) financing activities	**(27,497)**	(22,910)
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents held	**92,967**	2,381,810
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year	**3,559,025**	1,177,215
Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year	**3,651,992**	3,559,025

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Notes to the Financial Statements

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.

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 held at fair value. During the previous 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.

3 Critical Accounting Estimates and Judgements

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

4 Revenue

	2025	2024
	$	$
Interest Revenue	**115,918**	33,369
Dividend Revenue	**516**	487
Shelter	**365,027**	346,746
Council	**2,277,652**	2,177,335
Donation / Fundraising	**881,820**	2,852,835
Rebates	**35,115**	19,950
Other Income	**148,164**	91,381
Vet Clinic and Op Shop Revenue	**726,585**	667,486
Total revenue	**4,550,797**	6,189,589

5 Administration expenses

Accountancy	**94,215**	76,641
Bank fees and charges	**12,035**	10,765
Cleaning/rubbish removal	**79,233**	73,591
Consulting and professional fees	**4,430**	19,771
Depreciation expense	**115,443**	94,752
Fundraising Expenses	**119,988**	96,979
General expenses	**12,990**	11,881
Insurance	**20,553**	21,145
Interest expense	**2,285**	(2,145)
Legal Fees	**-**	(26,850)
Light & power	**23,043**	25,198
Loss on Disposal of Fixed Asset	**3,842**	-
M/V car - other	**931**	1,097
Postage, printing & stationery	**14,205**	12,782
Rates & land taxes	**16,737**	14,134
Repairs and maintenance	**26,461**	20,502
Security	**6,712**	3,086
Shelter Expenses	**62,705**	61,741
Staff amenities	**21,471**	12,088
Subscriptions	**46,986**	39,686
Superannuation	**273,397**	235,445
Telephone	**13,608**	12,622
Vet fees/supplies	**801,044**	726,960
Wages	**2,440,968**	2,186,029
Workers compensation	**37,851**	49,992
Total administration expenses	**4,251,133**	3,777,892

6 Property, plant and equipment

	2025 $	2024 $
Land		
At valuation	**1,000,000**	1,000,000
Total Land	**1,000,000**	1,000,000
Plant and equipment		
At cost	**519,747**	426,971
Accumulated depreciation	**(337,025)**	(298,919)
Total plant and equipment	**182,722**	128,052
Motor vehicles		
At cost	**47,715**	47,715
Accumulated depreciation	**(47,338)**	(47,228)
Total motor vehicles	**377**	487
Leasehold Improvement		
At cost	**1,297,882**	1,274,775
Accumulated amortisation	**(1,041,420)**	(1,004,087)
Total leasehold improvements	**256,462**	270,688
Total property, plant and equipment	**1,439,561**	1,399,227

(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 2025					
Balance at the beginning of year	**1,000,000**	**128,052**	**487**	**270,688**	**1,399,227**
Additions	**-**	**98,683**	**-**	**24,572**	**123,255**
Disposals	**-**	**(3,185)**	**-**	**(1,278)**	**(4,463)**
Depreciation expense	**-**	**(40,828)**	**(110)**	**(37,520)**	**(78,458)**
Balance at the end of the year	**1,000,000**	**182,722**	**377**	**256,462**	**1,439,561**

7 Trade and Other Payables

	2025 $	2024 $
CURRENT		
Trade payables	**115,606**	125,756
Other payables	**247,101**	235,853
Total trade and other payables	**362,707**	361,609

Notes to the Financial Statements

8 Provisions

	2025 $	2024 $
Current liabilities		
Employee Entitlements		
Annual leave	**129,789**	126,647
Long service leave	**102,002**	56,471
Make Good Provisions		
Vines Road	**-**	5,801
Total current provisions	**231,791**	188,919
Non-current liabilities		
Employee Entitlements		
Long service leave	**49,214**	49,078
Total non-current provisions	**49,214**	49,078

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 $ 470,839 (2024: $ 377,437).

10 Auditors' Remuneration

	2025 $	2024 $
Remuneration of the auditor Davidsons Assurance Services Pty Ltd, for:		
- auditing the financial statements	**12,100**	11,600
- other services	**2,600**	2,500
Services provided by an associated firm, Davidsons Pty Ltd, for:		
- accounting fees	**61,905**	56,736
- bookkeeping fees	**14,610**	9,705
Total	**91,215**	80,541

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

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

Directors Declaration

In the opinion of the Directors of Geelong Animal Welfare Society:

a) The financial statements and notes comply with accounting standards

b) The financial statements and notes give a true and fair view of the financial position andperformance of the company.

c) The financial statements and notes are in accordance with the requirements of the AustralianCharities and Not-for-profits Act 2012.

d) At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that Geelong AnimalWelfare Society will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Board of Management made pursuant with subsection 60.15 (2) of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulations 2013.

On behalf of the directors:



Director - president: Maria Mercurio

Dated 17th November 2025

Davidsons

EST.1905

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 2025, 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 2025 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 2025, 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 17th day of November, 2025

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



GAWS

geelong animal welfare society

"because every life is precious"