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MBA

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GAICD

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MBA GAICD

**Animal Welfare League
of South Australia Inc.**

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Wingfield SA 5013

Visit our website at
awl.org.au

Call us on
08 8348 1300

Send an email to
support@awl.org.au

Get social at



AWL Pet Adoptions

“Erica came home today and brought so much joy with her. She’s a beautiful girl with such a loving, gentle nature. Trevor, Erica and I have had such a lovely day together and we’re so very happy to welcome Erica into our family. She has settled in very well -exploring her new home and garden, getting lots and lots of cuddles from mum and dad, and playing with her toys. She is now sound asleep after a very big day. Thank you to everyone at AWL for bringing Erica into our lives and for all you have done to make this day happen. You are all special people and we appreciate you all.”

—Jacqui



Note from our Chair

Katherine Bartolo

I feel privileged to be able to share the Animal Welfare League of South Australia Inc. (AWL) 2024/2025 Impact Report with you. I am immensely proud of what we've achieved together over the past year, and the direction we are heading as we continue to create brighter futures for animals, people, and communities across South Australia.

This year we have seen incredible progress across all areas of our work. From an increase in successful adoptions, the pilot of our community desexing program, more supporters engaging with AWL's services, and strong participation in our education programs — each achievement reflects the dedication of our people and the generosity of our community.

Looking to the future, we remain focused on building capacity, strengthening our services, and expanding our ability to help even more animals and families. Our vision is ambitious yet achievable: a South Australia where more families experience the joys of pet ownership, where vulnerable individuals are supported in keeping their beloved pets, and where every animal is treated with dignity and care.

I want to extend my deepest gratitude to our extraordinary staff and volunteers. Your tireless efforts and compassionate service are the heart of AWL. Your contributions are invaluable, and we could not achieve our mission without you.

A special thank you also goes to our community, whose generosity and unwavering compassion make our work possible. Your support directly transforms the lives of countless animals and families each year.

This year also marks an exciting new chapter in AWL's journey, as we welcomed Jodi Walton into the role of Chief Executive Officer. Jodi has already made a significant impact since joining AWL last year, and her leadership, experience, and



passion for animal welfare will guide us into our next chapter. At the same time, we acknowledge the dedicated service of outgoing CEO Steven Weinert, whose leadership has helped position AWL for the strong future we now step into.

We also extend our heartfelt thanks to Cate Gaston, who has completed her term on the Board after nine years of service. Cate's insight, commitment, and contribution — both on the Board and subcommittees — has been invaluable, and we are deeply grateful for her leadership. I also gratefully recognise Rebecca Baines contribution as a member of the Finance, Audit and Risk Sub-committee from March 2016 – February 2025.

Together, with your continued support, I am confident we can achieve our ambitious and important goals. Every hour given, every dollar donated, and every act of compassion brings us closer to a future where every animal in South Australia knows the warmth of a loving home.

Ms Katherine Bartolo FAPI CPV GAICD
Chair, AWL Board of Directors

Note from our CEO

Jodi Walton



It is an honour to lead an organisation with such passionate staff, volunteers, foster carers, and supporters — each playing a vital role in giving animals the second chance they deserve. I would like to start by thanking the AWL community for being so welcoming during my role as Chief Operating Officer and now CEO.

This past year has seen so many wonderful accomplishments. We celebrated an increase in animals adopted and placed into foster care, as well as a reduction in the average length of stay for our cats. We also launched our Doggy Day Out program, giving dogs the opportunity to spend time away from the shelter, learn new skills, and meet potential adopters. Each of these milestones demonstrates the collective effort of our staff, volunteers, and community, and the real difference we are making for animals every single day.

Our impact has also extended beyond our shelter gates. Through our Community Outreach Programs, we have distributed more than 5,000 meals to vulnerable pets and supported pet owners to be the best carers they can be. We also successfully piloted a targeted desexing program in partnership with Port Adelaide Enfield Council — providing health checks, microchipping, and desexing free of charge to more than 70 residents in Kilburn. These initiatives highlight the importance of prevention, support, and community partnerships in creating long-term change.

Looking ahead, we are preparing to implement a foster-first model, ensuring animals spend less time in shelter and more time in loving homes. We're also continuing to work with government, councils, and stakeholders to build a consistent, evidence-based approach to cat management across South Australia — an area of great need and opportunity.

None of this would be possible without our people. The compassion, dedication, and tireless efforts of our staff, volunteers, and foster carers inspire me every day. To our broader community — your generosity and support ensure we can continue our mission of creating brighter futures for pets and people alike.

I am excited about the path ahead and what we will achieve together. With your support, Animal Welfare League will continue to make a lasting positive impact in the lives of South Australian pets, pet owners and pet lovers.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jodi Walton'.

Jodi Walton MAICD
Chief Executive Officer, AWL



AWL Happy Home Update

"He is a delight, so gentle and caring, we are all in love. We love having Griffin in our family and I think he is loving it too!"



Here's how we helped pets and people through 2024/2025



3,126

happy families created



5,000

meals provided to help
vulnerable pets in our
community



580

rehoming requests fulfilled,
providing peace of mind to
people experiencing hardship



1,253

animals supported
through foster care



578

pets reunited with
their people



2,959

pets had a home away from
home at our Boarding facility



35,058

calls supporting
the community



We celebrated over
550 years
of combined service
from our current team



14,708

pets cremated with care
and dignity



60 years of AWL - Celebrating a legacy of love

This year we celebrated 60 years of AWL. Six decades of compassion, care and community impact for animals in South Australia. Six decades of growth, partnership and a shared vision.

It started on 4 September 1964 when passionate animal advocate Joy Richardson OAM officially founded Animal Welfare League. Her aim was to create a better world for animals, one where every pet has a loving home and no animal is left without care or kindness.

Sixty years on, that same vision continues to guide everything we do. Each year, nearly 4,000 animals come through the doors of AWL - receiving veterinary care, shelter, food, love and a second chance at the life they deserve. None of this would be possible without the unwavering generosity of our supporters, staff, and volunteers. Your love for animals and your commitment to our cause ensures that Joy's legacy lives on every single day.

To mark this milestone, we held special celebrations for our supporters, staff, volunteers and our wider community. These events brought together the

people who make our work possible, celebrating the lives we've changed and the bright future we're building together.

It was especially moving to open our new Wingfield facilities to the community so everyone can see first-hand what your support has made happen.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who helped make the past 60 years possible.

We look towards the future with gratitude, optimism and a renewed understanding of what happens when people come together with a common goal: connecting pets, people and community.



Scan the QR code to watch our 60th Anniversary video and celebrate six decades of impact, legacy and hope.

1964



Joy Richardson OAM, founder of Animal Welfare League.



1964 - 2024

2024



With decades of knowledge and experience behind us, we're ready to support even more pets, people and communities in the next step of our journey.



Fostering the gift of love and care

This year, we took big strides to bolster and grow our foster care program.

We know that for many of our animals, giving them respite from our shelter, even temporarily, can have a really positive impact on their wellbeing.

We've continuously improved our processes to make it easier to place animals with foster carers and provide them with the support they need to love and look after the animals in their care.

Our growing network of generous volunteers has been instrumental in helping many furry friends.

Foster care not only helps our animals, it also gives us valuable insight into their behaviours, helping us match them with the right families and forever homes in the future.

Every foster carer truly transforms lives – both animal and human alike.

The impact that foster care can have is hard to describe but sweet Winnie will give it a go!

"My name is Winnie and I am a beautiful tuxedo girl who has been in foster care.

I came to AWL with my babies – they were so sweet and I was such a good mumma to them that my first foster mum named me Winnie – for Winnie-the-Pooh bear!

Once my babies had grown big enough, we all came back to the AWL shelter and my babies found homes really quickly. But I really stressed at the shelter and to try to cope I started over-grooming and ended up with a bald bottie.

That's when I went to stay with my next foster mum and dad. I spent the first few days in the cupboard but then I started coming out cautiously to say hi to my new foster Mum, who was very impressed with my beautiful golden eyes and the swipe of white that goes from my nose to my chest.

She has also discovered that I loooooove having my head scratched and those looong pets down to the tip of my tail are the best.

Sometimes my foster dad comes in and serenades me with his guitar playing. I haven't got to joining in on the singing, but I think I could with practice."





Doggy Day Out goes viral

In May 2025, we excitedly launched our Doggy Day Out program to roaring success across South Australia. The program gives our shelter dogs the chance to swap their kennels for a few hours of adventure and excitement with a volunteer from the public.

There were 72 Doggy Day Outs and our pups enjoyed everything from a walk in the park to a hike on a new trail.

Every outing provides dogs with a much-needed break from the shelter environment, helping to reduce stress, build confidence and improve their socialisation skills. Not only does it support their wellbeing, these opportunities can also help raise their profile in the community and hopefully increase their chances of being adopted.

Doggy Day Out isn't just a win for the dogs - it's a rewarding experience for the humans too. Many animal lovers, for a variety of reasons, aren't able to have a dog of their own, so this program offers a

way for them to experience the connection without the commitment. We hope it'll also give us more ability to reach potential foster carers, volunteers and supporters for AWL.

The program has been incredibly successful and we're grateful for the time of every participant.

"I had such a wonderful day with this lovely girl. I hope she finds a lovely home soon where she can be spoiled rotten in her senior years & I look forward to another dog day out soon"
-Natalie

By bringing people and pets together beyond our shelter, Doggy Day Out is creating moments of joy and connection. One walk, one wag, and one day out at a time.



Rest peacefully, Salty.

You are home.

After tragically losing his life earlier this year, Salty the sea lion was brought to AWL for cremation.

Our compassionate After Care team were deeply moved by Salty's story and felt he deserved a special farewell to honour his life. The team arranged a dignified send-off, ensuring Salty was returned to the ocean where he belonged.

Salty was carefully placed in one of our biodegradable salt urns, specially designed for water releases. With the kind support of Port River Cruises, who generously donated their time and vessel, Salty was laid to rest in South Australian waters in a simple, heartfelt ceremony. Returning him to the waters he loved.

Moments like these remind us of the deep connection between people, animals, and our shared environment and how, even in loss, compassion can bring a community together.

Salty's story gained much publicity and we're grateful for the support of our community.



Poppy's heartwarming happy tale

Poppy, a sweet little Tibetan Spaniel, was found by AWL staff roaming the streets during a torrential thunderstorm. She was a sorry sight – scared, injured and soaking wet.

Thankfully, the kindness of animal lovers like you saved her life and kept her safe, ensuring she could recover from her injuries and get over her fears in the comfort of a foster home. Her foster carer, Emma, said she couldn't believe the dog she was caring for was the same dog who came to the shelter during that horrible storm.

"Poppy was very shut down at the shelter, she wouldn't really let anyone near her and would give a little warning bark if you got too close," Emma said. "That all changed once I took her home though, and after 30 minutes she had pretty much made herself at home and decided that my lap was hers!"

AWL Aftercare Services

"I appreciate and thank you all for the dedication you give to caring for the animals in need of help. The AWL have in the past attended to the cremation of my two beloved dogs. Their ashes are with me, so [they] are still with me. So thanks again everyone. Keep up the great work."



AWL Giving Day 2025

Saving lives together

For the fourth year in a row, AWL Giving Day broke records and changed lives. Thanks to the generosity of our partners and supporters, we raised \$876,784 to help animals in need.

On March 20 2025, our community came together to make a difference for lost, abandoned, and stray animals who had nowhere else to turn. Each week, more than 80 animals arrive at AWL — scared, alone, and uncertain of their future. Giving Day helped provide the food, shelter, and medical care they needed to begin their journey toward a loving home.

For 24 hours, every donation was matched dollar-for-dollar, doubling the impact of every act of kindness.

Thanks to everyone who took part, countless pets were given the second chance they deserve.

Together, we showed what's possible when a community unites for animals.



Reaching more South Australians

This year, AWL deepened our connection with the community, going beyond our shelter walls to meet people where they are.

Through events, partnerships, education, and hands-on support, we reached more South Australians than ever before, inspiring compassion and helping vulnerable people care for their beloved pets.



Inspiring the next generation

Our Animal Care Pathways Course is designed to give young adults, including Transition and Flexible Learning Pathway students, hands-on experience in animal care and a deeper knowledge of supporting animals. It's been an incredibly rewarding experience to watch their confidence and skills grow.

Participants explored everything from shelter operations and behaviour training, to responsible pet ownership and animal wellbeing.

We also delivered free education sessions for children aged 5–11, teaching them about safe animal interaction and pet care through fun, creative activities. Each child left with their own enrichment toy and activity book, plus a new appreciation for animals.



Opening our doors to community tours

We were proud to welcome more community groups than ever before to experience our Immersion Tours at the Wingfield Animal Care Centre.

Visitors learned about the history of AWL, met animals in our care, and discovered what happens behind the scenes in our veterinary and behaviour teams.

These immersion tours allow us to highlight the work that AWL does every single day. It provides people a real connection to our animals and mission.

From these Immersion Tours, we've been able to develop beautiful relationships with our community with many participants choosing to offer their support or time in volunteering.

One participant even fell in love with, and adopted, a dog they met along the way.

Those special moments of connection are what it's all about.



Supporting people and their companions

Healthy Pets

Our partnership with Foodbank SA through the Healthy Pets pilot program provided free health checks and advice for pet owners experiencing hardship. The mobile clinic gave vulnerable people a chance to connect with our team on the day and receive guidance on keeping their animals healthy and happy. We provided 22 free health checks to dogs to support their wellbeing.

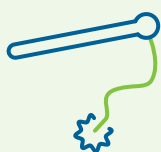
Pet Food Pantry

Understanding the cost-of-living crisis and the strain that South Australians have been feeling financially, in early 2025 we launched the AWL Pet Food Pantry to reduce the number of pets going hungry when their family is struggling.

Through our community partners Foodbank SA, UnitingCare Wesley Bowden and our Admissions and Reclaims teams at Wingfield and Edinburgh North we've distributed:



1,590 kg
of pet food
(around 3,180 meals)



Over 450
pet care items, including
toys, parasite control, leads,
harnesses, blankets, and litter

This initiative was made possible thanks to the generous support of organisations like Drakes, Pet Circle, Hands and Feet Inc. and our compassionate and caring community.
Thank you.

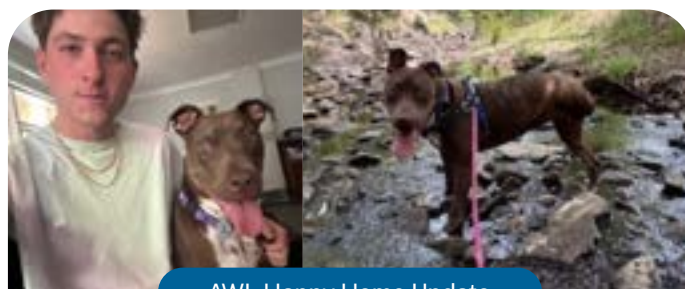


More space to play

This year, we opened another off-leash play area for the dogs in our care. A secure space designed to bring joy, enrichment, and freedom to their days at AWL.

Every element of this pawsome new space has been thoughtfully planned and provides our dogs with a safe and stimulating environment where they can stretch their legs, release their energy, play, explore and just be dogs — helping to reduce stress and support positive behaviour while they wait for their forever homes.

Our team tell us the dogs have loved having more space to roam and we love knowing it's possible thanks to your generous support.



AWL Happy Home Update

"An update on my pooch Pippa! The first day she came back to our home it was like she knew she had been adopted. Full of excitement, made herself comfortable and endless cuddles of what seemed to be appreciation (she just wanted to lay on top of you). She settled so well which was a big relief. I want to say a massive thank you for the time and effort you guys took for her rehabilitation. She is so playful and it doesn't slow her down one bit whatsoever. She has made my life more positive and I'm so glad I took her home. Your organisation is truly amazing and not talked about enough!"



Hattie's Happy Ending

When Hattie first arrived at AWL, she was heavily pregnant and in need of care and safety. Our dedicated team ensured she had everything she needed to bring her puppies into the world — warmth, comfort, and plenty of love.

Before long, Hattie welcomed a beautiful litter of pups, each one healthy, happy, and full of personality. As they grew, our staff and volunteers cared for them around the clock, helping them take their first wobbly steps and experience the world for the very first time.

One by one, Hattie's puppies found their perfect families — and Hattie herself soon met hers too. We still get the warm and fuzzies every time we look back at their adoption photos, each one a joyful reminder of what's possible when compassion and care come together.

Hattie's now a mumma's girl, but likes cuddling up to dad when he's on the recliner with the heated blanket on. Lisa, Hattie's mum, said *"she's settled in very well... a bit too well sometimes haha! In winter, she likes bed too much, sometimes she sleeps in until 11am..."*

Their new lives were only made possible thanks to the generosity of people who believe in giving animals the second chances they deserve. Because of your support, Hattie and her puppies are now living their best lives — loved, safe, and home at last.

Celebrating the heart of AWL

Our volunteers

Our AWL volunteers are at the heart of everything we do. From caring for animals and assisting at our shelters, to supporting our Op Shops, community events, and educational programs, they generously give their time, skills, and compassion to make a real difference every day. Without them, we wouldn't be able to achieve what we do.

In May, we came together for our Volunteer Week Morning Tea to celebrate these incredible people. This year's theme *"Connecting Communities"* perfectly reflects the spirit of AWL. We couldn't wait to celebrate with a dedicated event just for our volunteers.

From their warm smiles and cheerful greetings to the care, friendship, and expertise they bring to every corner of AWL, our volunteers embody connection in its truest form. With their dedication, kindness, and unwavering support we've been able to help thousands of pets and people over six decades.



Thank you to
our **303 active**
volunteers in
2024/25



Supporting South Australian vets and animal specialists

In November we proudly sponsored Happy Hour at the SASH (Small Animal Specialist Hospital) conference supporting the annual education and networking event that connects vets and nurses across our state.

Partnering with SASH gave us the opportunity to network, share our mission and connect.

With many of the vets and nurses in attendance working at clinics serviced by our cremations team, it was also a great way for us to catch up and say thank you for all they do.



Shopping for a cause with AWL Op Shops

Our Op Shops are more than just a place to find a bargain (though we're pretty proud of that part too!).

They're welcoming spaces where community, sustainability, and compassion come together to support animals in need. Every purchase, every donation, and every friendly chat helps fund vital care for thousands of pets across South Australia.

We celebrated a few exciting milestone for our Op Shops this year:

- Our Port Adelaide and Gawler stores both relocated into fresh, bright spaces designed for a better shopping experience.
- We opened the doors of our new Unley store, extending our reach across Adelaide and offering more people the chance to shop with purpose.
- The Tranmere Op Shop continued to surprise and delight our customers with a treasure trove of unique, beautiful, and fun items.

While it's exciting, it's also been a huge amount of work and our amazing team and volunteers make it all possible. From sorting donations to helping customers and creating welcoming spaces where everyone belongs, we couldn't do it without everyone's support.

Thank you to everyone who shops, donates, and volunteers across our 4 stores. Together, we're turning purchases into lasting impact for pets in need.



AWL Op Shops

“Lovely volunteers who create a great, positive atmosphere in the shop in order to help animals.” – Barbara

Financial Report

Statement of Profit and Loss

AWL's financial position continues to remain strong and financially sustainable with net assets of \$45.011m, low level of current liabilities and no debt.

AWL's operational revenue, including Bequests, increased from last year by \$2.381m with a total of \$14.483m reported. The operational revenue included \$5.384m in Legacies from Bequests received from our generous supporters, \$3.737m Pet Cremations, \$904k Pet Boarding and \$431k from OpShops. This inspirational support AWL receives from the community is unwavering in its commitment to helping people and pets in need.

Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income

Revenue	2024/25 \$	2023/24 \$
Operational income	9,099,419	8,605,062
Legacies and bequests received	5,384,186	3,497,741
Other income	576,276	546,039
Fair value movement in financial assets	1,067,701	521,286
Total Income	16,127,582	13,170,128
Expense		
Employee expenses	-9,914,652	-8,818,063
Other expenses from ordinary activities	-11,724,611	-8,244,863
Total Expense	-21,639,263	-17,062,926
Net current year surplus/(deficit)	-5,511,681	-3,892,798
Total comprehensive income for the year	-5,511,681	-3,892,798

Statement of Financial Position

Assets

Current assets	12,497,236	13,236,699
Non-Current assets	35,172,770	32,920,153
Total Assets	47,670,006	46,156,852

Liabilities

Current liabilities	-2,111,200	-1,820,486
Non-Current liabilities	-547,728	-246,407
Total Liabilities	-2,658,928	-2,066,893

Net Assets	45,011,078	44,089,959
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Equity

Accumulated surplus	32,002,841	37,514,522
Reserves	13,008,237	6,575,437
Total Equity	45,011,078	44,089,959

AWL is 100% community funded, meaning we need to raise all of the money required to operate each year. Despite the financial hardship faced by many at this time, our generous donors continued supporting the cats and dogs in our care. We're deeply grateful for the many Gifts in Wills, donations and in-kind contributions that have helped us keep our doors open.

There are many ways to support us:

- Make a donation
- Leave a gift in your Will
- Buy a lottery ticket
- Fundraise for us
- Donate items to or shop at our Op Shops
- Use our social enterprises – AWL Pet Boarding and AWL Pet Cremations
- Volunteer your time
- Become a foster carer



AWL Foster Care program

“You give and you receive - it's win win.”

- Liz G (about being a foster carer)