



Annual Report

2021/2022

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Animal Welfare League of South Australia Inc.
1-19 Cormack Rd, Wingfield SA 5013

Visit our website awl.org.au

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Our Board

Chair

Mr Steven Weinert BA (Acc) MCom FCPA GAICD

Deputy Chair

Ms Katherine Bartolo FAPI CPV GAICD

Ms Lisa Bielby

LLB (with Hons) and BA (Hons) (Psych)

Ms Kylie Ferguson

BA GDip Rural Urban Planning MSC
(International Devt) MSW FPIA

Ms Cate Gaston BA GDipTour GDipMgt FGLF17

Ms Louise Miller Frost

B App Sc MA MPH MBA FAICD
Resigned 14 June 2022

Dr Jo Powell

BSc DVM BEd (Adult Ed) DipMgt CIVTAE

Dr Rob Rahaley

BVSc MVSc PhD DACVP MANZCVS GAICD

Ms Michelle Williams MBA



Note from our Chair

In this my 6th and final year with this wonderful organisation, I reflect on my time on the Board and in more recent years as the Chair of this critical animal welfare organisation. I have witnessed considerable growth and transformation and I am incredibly proud of what we have achieved together and of the plans we have in place for the future.

I continue to be truly inspired by our passionate team, our ongoing commitment to connecting pets, people and community and the continued growth of our fundraising programs and social enterprises.

One of the highlights of my time has to be the amazing Animal Care Centre at Wingfield. Bringing together passionate animal lovers and philanthropists to provide an amazing legacy for animals in need in South Australia; whilst also raising the bar in animal care standards; not just here at AWL but across the country.

We all know the impact pets can have on our lives. The bond between a human and an animal is something so special - bringing so much joy and love. That is why I am also pleased that this year after extensive consultation with stakeholders we launched our 2021-2024 strategic plan, focused on achieving our vision of a South Australia where every pet has a loving home.

The Board and I are proud of the work that has been achieved in the first year of the strategic plan, and I am confident you will agree that AWL is in good hands and is delivering on its commitment to the community and the pets of South Australia.



I thank all Board members and subcommittee members for their ongoing commitment and focus, expertise and passion for the cause and acknowledge our departing Board member Louise Miller Frost for her 5 years of service.

I also extend congratulations to our Executive team and indeed all AWL staff and volunteers, who have shown particular dedication to the organisation and animals who needed our support over the financial year.

Thank you to our many generous donors, dedicated volunteers and staff, and supporters in the community. AWL could not exist without your kindness and compassion - together, we'll keep connecting pets, people and community.

Thank you all.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Steven Weinert'.

Steven Weinert BA(Acc), MCom, FCPA GAICD
Chair, AWL Board

Note from our CEO



This year more than 100 lost, stray and abandoned pets came through our doors each week. The first full year in the Animal Care Centre has allowed us to rehabilitate even more sick and debilitated pets with 2,894 cats, dogs and rabbits adopted into safe and happy homes.

We didn't rest on our laurels though and were able to launch some incredible new programs during the year to ensure we can continue to deliver on our mission of connecting pets, people and community.

On Thursday 24 March 2022 we held our first AVL Giving Day where everyone that donated on the day had their donation matched by some of our generous donors. There were many beautiful comments throughout the day and we raised a phenomenal \$280,000...

"Donated! The AVL have my vote!" -Nina

"From all the volunteers that work endless hours working with the cats and dogs to those generous people who have donated, a BIG THANK YOU. We have many poor souls in great need." -Carol

In April 2022 we introduced a new cat behaviour program, called HET, for timid cats that are showing signs of socialisation. With the help of our amazing foster care volunteers, we place these cats in a home environment to give them a chance to come out of their shell before making them available for adoption. The program is proving very successful and 36 have graduated so far.

In May 2022 we opened the Edinburgh North shelter for cat adoptions providing a vital additional adoption site with 119 cats and kittens adopted in the first two months.

We were very excited to be showcased in the filming of For the Love of Pets this year - an eight-part docuseries following the stories of the staff, volunteers and animals at AVL and Vets4Pets in Adelaide. From vets performing life changing

surgeries to our shelter team working tirelessly to care for thousands of pets per year - the series which will air on Channel 9, will offer a rare glimpse into the hard work and dedication of those who protect and care for our furry friends.

Throughout the year we continued informing the public about responsible pet ownership as a valuable step on our journey towards a South Australia where every pet has a loving home. Our pet desexing campaign started in June 2022 and has seen a staggeringly positive response from the community so far with a reach of more than 1 million people.

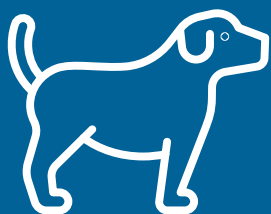
Our Boarding enterprise continued to be affected by COVID-19 uncertainty resulting in a \$90k net deficit from a 62% occupancy for the year. Our Thrift Shop enterprise recorded a \$48k net surplus from \$390k of total sales while our Pet Cremations enterprise revenue increased by 17% and achieved a record number of 10,679 private cremations.

Every day I am inspired by the unwavering commitment of AVL team members to provide care to the lost, stray and abandoned animals of South Australia, and our amazingly dedicated volunteers who consistently go the extra mile to improve the welfare and quality of life for all pets. However, none of this could have been achieved without the South Australian community, and we owe a considerable debt of gratitude to all of our supporters and bequestors who donated so generously to AVL this year.

Finally I would like to extend my thanks to the outgoing Chair, Steven Weinert. Over the last six years, Steven has tirelessly given his time, resources, extensive knowledge and expertise to AVL and has been integral to the success of the organisation. From everyone at AVL, thank you very much.

Dr Julie Bellamy BVMS
Chief Executive Officer, AVL

Here's how we helped pets and people through 2021/2022



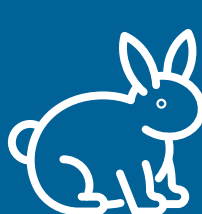
523

dogs/puppies
rehomed



2,305

cats/kittens
rehomed



60

rabbits
rehomed



5

other animals
rehomed

667

dogs/puppies
reunited

148

cats/kittens
reunited

1

rabbit
reunited

1

other animal
reunited

"The team made it so easy when we adopted our new kitten -she's now a massive part of the family and we don't know what we'd do without her!" -Michelle



143,979

animal care days

394

is the average
number of
animals in
care per day



19,581

vet consults

2,579

desexing surgeries

21,060

hours spent in the
vet clinic for the year

"Huge thanks to the team at AWL who went above and beyond to match us with the perfect dog for our family." -Tim



Improved cats and dogs lives in the community

Why desexing your pet is so important

Gertrude is a very sweet, older Maltese that came into the clinic for a HUGE surgery. Gertrude had been found by the council wandering at large and when she came to AWL she had many medical issues including severe dental disease, a left ear infection, a tumour on her tongue, an umbilical hernia and a mammary tumour.

She underwent surgery for her dental disease and needed 7 teeth extractions, an ear flush, an umbilical hernia repair, and both her mammary tumour and tongue tumour were removed. During her desexing surgery she was also found to have a large tumour on her uterus and cysts on her ovaries. All tumours were removed and sent for histopathology and it was an anxious wait by the team for her results. Thankfully all of the tumors came back as non-cancerous and Gertrude recovered amazingly.

Gertrude is yet another great example of why desexing your pets can be so important. If Gertrude was desexed early, she may not have developed these tumours that have put her health at risk.

No matter their age, the vet team will always do their best to provide the utmost care to our animals.

Best practice animal care, opportunities, treatment and rehabilitation

Connor arrived at the Wingfield shelter in a shopping bag

A kind member of the public found Connor, who had been hit by a car and brought him to AWL. Connor couldn't stand up, was unable to use his left front leg, had dried blood caked all over his face and was breathing very rapidly. Dr Bryan and Vet Nurse Jess worked quickly to give him first aid.

Despite the tremendous amount of pain he must have been in on arrival, Connor head bumped and snuggled with everyone he met. Connor responded well to the initial emergency stabilisation and the vet team were able to get x-rays which miraculously showed no fractures of his legs. However Connor had suffered a nasty fracture of his hard palate and his upper canine teeth were also broken. Once he was stabilised Connor was transferred to one of our emergency vet clinic partners for overnight observation.

Connor made gradual improvements every day under the watchful eye of the vet team. He slowly began to regain the function to his left front leg and despite his fractured hard palate he began eating on his own. A week after commencing treatment he was ready to go into foster care to finish his recovery before being adopted by Vet Nurse Jess.

Offering a safe haven for strays in the community



Opal was brought into our Edinburgh North shelter in January as a stray with her four gorgeous three-day-old kittens, all girls. Every year we receive numerous requests to help mums and kittens just like her who need a safe haven to look after their babies and get ready for a new life.

After a couple of days' rest in our shelter and the relevant vet checks, the new mum and kittens were ready to be placed with a foster carer, who would look after Opal and help her raise her kittens in a safe environment, until they were big enough to be adopted.

As mum was named Opal, her kittens were named after gemstones – Ruby, Sapphire, Emerald and Jade. Within a couple of weeks, their eyes opened, their ears opened, they started crawling, then walking and their personalities started to show and before we knew it they were all ready for adoption.

We are so blessed to have amazing volunteers who help foster animals every day – opening their hearts, homes and lives to animals in need.

2.6 million

views of our website
content to learn about
adoption and pet care

1.4 million

engagements via social
media to learn about pet care,
adoptions and AWL services

31,201

foster care
days donated

1,562

animals
fostered



Increased support of AWL's work

AWL relies on community support to fund the animal welfare outcomes we deliver every day

Our Philanthropy Manager Jacqui spends her days talking to people about leaving a Gift in their Will to AWL and the amazing legacy that creates for animals in need for years to come.

Sometimes though we don't get to meet or say thank you to the person before they pass but it is always nice to get to know their story. That is what happened in February when Jacqui met Ester and Georgie.

Ester is the Executor of her late friend Patricia's estate, who was a lifelong, passionate animal lover. Patricia left her Spaniel Georgie to Ester and they came to meet us and present AWL with a gift from Patricia's Estate of over \$250,000.

This amazing legacy helped us look after numerous animals this year that needed to call on our services and support. What an amazingly generous and visionary lady and what a legacy she has provided for those animals!



15,661
boarding pen
days which is an
occupancy of **62%**

"AWL did such a fantastic job of taking care of my two kitties for the week. It was my first time leaving them in boarding so I was quite nervous. Everybody at AWL was super friendly and supportive, allowing me to check in by phone/email during the week. They made the process so easy and I will absolutely go with them again for the next holiday! Thanks AWL!" - Megan



10,679
private pet
cremations

"We lost our beloved Zara 12 days ago, she was almost 14 and we loved her dearly. While the pain is still raw it was eased by the wonderful way in which the AWL looked after her and returned her to us quickly, they even took the ashes from my Beau and put him in a matching urn like Zara's. I deeply miss our beautiful girl and will forever hold her and Beau close in my heart." - Michelle



\$390k
in sales revenue of
second hand goods
at our Thrift Shops

"Donated here, neatly arranged stock, absolutely impressed with the store, and helpful ladies there." - Carol

"Great pre-used clothing, kitchen goods, some furniture, lots of toys, bric a brac, shoes and some stationery." - Anne

19,998 Volunteer hours
donated

"I have always been passionate about animals, but especially dogs" - Margot



Celebrating our volunteers

As part of National Volunteer Week, we celebrated 27 volunteers who had reached key milestones including Margot, who has been volunteering at AWL for 15 years!

Margot used to be a school teacher, and when her last class asked her what she was going to do after retirement, she replied



"I'm going to pat the dogs at AWL."

And now, 15 years later, she has been committed to walking and enriching the lives of our shelter dogs, and more recently, our boarding dogs.

"I have always been passionate about animals, but especially dogs", Margot said about why she wanted to come and volunteer for AWL.

Margot has been an important part of our Volunteer team for so long, and it is a true testament to her passion for animals.

Thank you Margot and the 281 volunteers who give their time across the organisation every day!

Highlighting our people

After working as a dog washer in her teenage years, Julia immediately knew she wanted a career in animal welfare. In her mid-20s she decided to take the next step and gain her qualifications, and she hasn't looked back since.

Julia joined AWL as a casual Animal Attendant in September 2002, since then she has worked across almost all areas of the organisation – always with an animal focus and a passion to improve animal welfare. One of her favourite roles though was Redevelopment Project Coordinator for the Wingfield site – a huge project and one she is very proud of. Now Julia is Manager of our Edinburgh North Shelter.

"I am so passionate about my work – I get to spend my days supporting animals in need and ensuring that each one that comes into our care is matched with a loving family. This is a job I will never grow tired of!"

In her spare time Julia is an avid gardener and enjoys chilling out on the couch with her two dogs Frankie and Bambi and her four cats Kanzah, Starfish, Pogo and Kamali.

Financial Report

Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income

AWL's operational income improved from last year by \$816k predominately due to increases in revenue from Pet Cremations (\$477k) and Pet Boarding (\$85k) and Council Services (\$231k). Legacies and bequests from our generous supporters continued to fund our vital work, with AWL receiving \$3.7 million for the financial year.

There was a net deficit of \$2.71m for the year, however this was primarily due to:

- year end accounting adjustments related to the revaluation of aged buildings
- increased depreciation costs as a result of the construction of the Animal Care Centre
- cessation of the Federal Governments Job Keeper program
- reduced investment value recognised in the profit and loss after the decline of equity markets in Australia and around the world

Our boarding enterprise continued to be affected by COVID-19 uncertainty resulting in \$90k net deficit from a 62% occupancy for the year. Our Thrift Shop enterprise recorded \$48k net surplus from \$390k of total sales while our Pet Cremations enterprise continued to maintain its market share and grow its financial contribution to AWL and recorded a net surplus of \$731k from a record number of 10,679 private cremations.

Statement of Financial Position

AWL's financial position continues to remain stable and sustainable with net assets remaining at \$41m, no debt, and a low level of current liabilities.



Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income

Revenue	2021/22 \$	2020/21 \$
Operational income	7,217,673	6,400,948
Legacies & bequests received	3,749,245	4,720,803
Other income	147,009	1,984,726
Fair value movement in financial assets	-307,923	712,031
Total Income	10,806,004	13,818,508
Expense		
Employee expenses	-6,721,646	-6,533,135
Other expenses from ordinary activities	-6,795,014	-5,536,167
Total Expense	-13,516,660	-12,069,302
Net current year surplus/(deficit)	-2,710,656	1,749,206
Changes to Asset Revaluation Reserve	3,315,000	0
Total comprehensive income for the year	604,344	1,749,206

Statement of Financial Position

Assets		
Current assets	8,554,378	8,194,889
Non-Current assets	34,871,119	34,384,309
Total Assets	43,425,497	42,579,198
Liabilities		
Current liabilities	-1,700,449	-1,487,791
Non-Current liabilities	-87,006	-57,709
Total Liabilities	-1,787,455	-1,545,500
Net Assets	41,638,042	41,033,698
Equity		
Accumulated surplus	33,230,395	35,941,051
Reserves	8,407,647	5,092,647
Total Equity	41,638,042	41,033,698

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 this year, 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:-

- Make a donation
- Buy a lottery ticket
- Fundraise for us
- Donate items to or shop at our Thrift Shops
- Use our social enterprises – AWL Boarding and AWL Cremations
- Volunteer your time

