



animalaid
ANNUAL REPORT
2014-15



MISSION

Animal Aid exists to unite people and pets for life.

We are committed to acting in the best interests of each and every animal that comes through our doors.

Through the promotion of responsible pet ownership and the provision of the highest standard of care, Animal Aid is dedicated to improving the welfare of companion pets in our society.

We are passionate about advocating the adoption of companion pets, working to address the issues associated with animal overpopulation and abolishing sub-standard animal breeding practices.

Animal Aid is an organisation that chooses to be great, not big!

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- Animal Aid believes that all pets deserve the safety and comfort of a loving home.
- Animal Aid is an open-door shelter that never refuses an animal in need.
- Our staff and volunteers treat all animals in our care with respect and dignity.
- Animal Aid works diligently to reunite lost pets with their owners.
- Animal Aid is committed to finding loving homes for ALL temperamentally sound and healthy animals. Animal Aid supports pets to become healthy, adoptable animals regardless of space, time or financial pressures.

VALUES

- Compassion
- Integrity
- Professionalism
- Respect

Our values underpin all that we do to support Victorian animals in need. These values apply to the way we interact with both animals and people on a daily basis that need our support to care for their pet or have made the difficult decision to surrender a pet.

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THE WORK WE DO

Animal Aid cares for around 6,000 deserving animals each year with dedication and determination to give them the opportunity for a second chance.

Animal health and welfare at a glance

These interesting statistics demonstrate the enormity of the work we do each year and this year was no exception:

- 5723 lost and abandoned animals were received
- 2411 pets were reclaimed by their owners
- 1799 pets were adopted into loving new homes; on average 151 each month
- 22% increase on adult cat reclaim rates
- 23,984 days of foster care
- 55 individual animals received corrective procedures at our vet clinic thanks to the Special Surgery Fund
- 990 days of emergency accommodation were provided for reasons including family violence, mental health, drug related issues and homelessness

- 1194 welfare veterinary surgeries
- 641 private veterinary surgeries
- 5438 veterinary consults
- 4044 veterinary health checks/vaccinations
- 1296 microchips were implanted for both welfare animals and pets
- 808 spays on female dogs, cats, rabbits and guineas pigs for both welfare and pets
- 795 castrations on male dogs, cats, rabbits, guinea pigs and goats for both welfare and pets
- 30,364 pet boarding days
- 2226 pets were pampered as part of our grooming services

The income Animal Aid receives from its vet clinic, pet boarding and grooming services helps to support our work in caring for animals in need.



CHAIR REPORT

In reviewing the past year, I'm reminded of what Nelson Mandela once said, "It always seems impossible until it's done."

Our "Open Door" policy of accepting all animals in need of care that are brought to us means that our staff and volunteers are often "under the pump". However, their dedication and commitment ensures that we have continued to provide the highest standard of care, for which Animal Aid is increasingly recognised.

As well as continuing to improve our range of core services we have extended services in our veterinary, grooming, fostering, retail and training services and in spite of rising costs, we maintain our strong policy of living within our means.

Over the past twelve months, we have made a number of improvements to our organisation with new and upgraded IT that has enhanced the overall management of both staff and volunteers. The new outdoor multi-purpose Wellington training centre, named in honour of one of our long serving volunteers, Margaret Wellington has already proved its value. I'm sure that no-one could fail to be impressed with the improved maintenance of our property once entering through the front gates.

Our determination to improve the experience of all who enter our property has paid dividends.

Our Board, together with our CEO Mark Menze, is realistic to the challenges we still face in terms of the limitations of our aging infrastructure. Sound financial management and the generosity of our supporters' means that the first stage of our redevelopment is on track to commence early next year. The completion of this will enable us not only to provide a higher standard of accommodation with much improved facilities but enable us to grow our business to generate much needed funds for further staged redevelopment.

I personally acknowledge the many special people who thoughtfully have left a Gift in their Will to Animal Aid. Such gifts go toward enhancing the infrastructure and buildings of Animal Aid to support our work and services into the future.

I would like to offer our grateful thanks to all those who have supported us by making a donation. We simply couldn't continue to provide the level of care to so many animals without your support.



My thanks to our CEO Mark Menze for his tireless and multi-skilled support and to our Board who so generously volunteer their time and expertise.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I have pleasure in presenting their report on Victorian Animal Aid Trust for the financial year ended 30 June 2015.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Fran Bailey". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

The Hon Fran Bailey
Animal Aid Chairman

CEO REPORT

“We don’t want to be big, we want to be great” is a phrase often used within our leadership team. It very simply describes our positioning in the greater animal welfare community. We are not a small organisation, nor are we the biggest. Animal Aid is an organisation perfectly positioned to deliver a caring and highly effective animal welfare mission.

Reflecting on the past year’s achievements is a highly emotional task for me. I am very proud of our team and thankful to our supporters for the exceptional outcomes we have together accomplished.

Rehoming a long term animal such as Ariel or Lacey is always a joyous occasion at Animal Aid. We do this time and time again; with every adoption creating jubilation for our dedicated team of staff and volunteers. We celebrate when one of our special surgery cats or dogs comes through a difficult procedure performed by our skilled veterinary team; and we shine when an animal, through no fault of its own, finds itself abandoned and no longer wanted.

What make these achievements even more remarkable is our ability to deliver in an under resourced and financially challenging business.

Looking to the future, perhaps the most exciting advance since we moved to Coldstream in 2000 is the commencement of much needed infrastructure improvements. Stage 1 of our boarding kennels redevelopment will commence early 2016, with a build time of around 10 months. This development includes the establishment of a new state of the art indoor kennels facility with 54 pens and a services hub with staff and animal amenities. Further stages include the renovation of the existing Boarding Cattery, Welfare Cattery and Veterinary Clinic.

The speed at which we progress our build is dependent on our ability to raise significant funds. We hope our generous community will identify with our vision and partner with us to create the environment our animals so desperately need.

I look forward to the day we start to build; a welcome change to the continual frustration of maintaining old and inadequate infrastructure.

My heartfelt thanks to everyone for making Animal Aid the respected organisation we are. We could not do great things without YOU, our dedicated volunteers, staff, community and financial supporters.



I also extend my thanks to our Board of Trustees and to our Chairman Hon Fran Bailey.

You are all valued!

Regards

Mark Menze
Chief Executive Officer

CASE STUDY

MESSI BY NAME, MESSY BY NATURE!

AKA 'TRODGE'



Tiny Trodge was surrendered to Animal Aid along with three siblings at only six weeks old. Trodge weighed only 300grams, but should have weighed 600grams plus.

His siblings gained weight rapidly and within weeks were adopted, meanwhile Trodge continued to struggle.

Kittens generally gain 100grams or more per week, so once they get to 600grams they can be vaccinated. On reaching 800grams, they can be desexed and put up for adoption. Trodge struggled to gain 20grams per week and sometimes lost weight. But we didn't give up!

Luckily for Trodge he was placed in very good hands. Helen, one of our valuable volunteers, fostered him and slowly but surely he started to gain weight, until he was gaining between 150-200grams per week!

Soon he was ruling the roost at Helen's place including their beloved greyhound Rex. This made it difficult for them to return him but we knew Trodge needed a special kind of home, one with love, a best friend, and lots of fun things to destroy!

Trodge spent a few weeks at the shelter waiting for the right family to come along. To pass the time he tormented the staff, volunteers, his other kitten peers and Animal Aid mascot Bruce, the Kelpie, with his antics. He would often be found in the office either curled up in bed with Bruce, or somehow attached to him via his sharp little claws! Bruce didn't mind, although sometimes he retreated from this Ginger Ninja!

On January 2015 Suzanne, Morris and young Darcy visited us seeking a special furry feline to join their family. We knew in an instant this would be Trodge's new family.

From the moment Darcy held Trodge, they could tell that this crazy little ball of ginger fluff was the one! Trodge's purrs were so loud as he snuggled in to Darcy for a cuddle, how could Suzanne and Morris say no?

Sure enough, Trodge left our shelter that day with his new loving family.

We were warmed to hear that Trodge, now Messi, has enriched their lives and they couldn't be happier.

CASE STUDY

STEFFI IS FINALLY HOME

This year Animal Aid has worked with several long term cases.

Such cases require all the skills and creativity our team can muster to ensure a happy ending. These animals often have special needs that require ongoing support and care following adoptions.

Steffi came into the care of Animal Aid at 18 months of age and it didn't take long for our team to realise we had a special dog on our hands. She was incredibly people orientated, loved heaps of cuddles and just wanted to be with someone. Steffi didn't have the same affection for other dogs. In trying to address this common issue it was pretty clear that there was a bit of a communication problem. Steffi was deaf and this was going to be a much bigger hurdle than her antisocial behaviour.

Owning a deaf dog that also had a dislike for other dogs discouraged many prospective adopters. Addressing behavioural issues in any dog can be tough, but when they are deaf it adds a whole other dimension.

Steffi undertook intense training with Animal Aid dog trainer Michelle around learning nonverbal communication. But Steffi made the greatest progress when vibration techniques were introduced. After many months and countless hours of controlled socialisation she demonstrated positive social responses to other dogs. She was ready for adoption!

Yet it would be another three months before anyone was prepared to take Steffi home. Many came but none were convinced they were up to the task.

So after eight months of waiting Steffi was given her chance to make it work at home thanks to the determination and a whole lot of love from dedicated volunteer Sue and her family.

We send our heartfelt thanks to Sue and family for giving Steffi the opportunity she deserved.



THE YEAR IN REVIEW

Animal Aid does not receive government funding to operate so we rely on the generosity of our supporters and the broader community to enable us to provide ongoing care of animals in need.

Many animals that arrive at Animal Aid are in poor condition. Regardless, we provide whatever is required to give them every opportunity for a second chance to be adopted into a loving and safe home. Whether it is a special diet, broken spirit, complex surgery, extensive medical treatment, training and or rehabilitation our staff and volunteers will go above and beyond to support an animal on its journey to be ready for adoption.

The money Animal Aid receives to support its many charges falls far short from what is needed.

Animal Aid raises income through:

- Adoption services
- Vet Clinic
- Grooming services
- Four opportunity shops run by our wonderful volunteers
- Events, including community events, expos and forums
- Community Education
- Various fundraising activities

Our volunteers at work



Dr Adele with Poppet

This year Animal Aid honoured its past and present long-term volunteers with the unveiling of the Alexander and Stella Grierson Honour Board. Now exhibiting the names of 57 volunteers additional names will be added as length of service milestones are achieved.

Animal Aid continues to offer a diverse range of volunteering programs. Acknowledging the important role of Animal Aid in shaping the future direction of our sector, we supported over 70 volunteer student and work experience placements throughout the year.

In the 2014 - 2015 financial year we had over 500 individuals contribute almost 60,000 hours of service.



Honour Board unveiling with Chair Fran Bailey, the Hon Tony Smith and young supporter

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

Additionally, 137 foster parents provided almost 24,000 days of foster care for 800 animals.

We also initiated the 'Take a Bite' program — a half day program targeted at parents and children aged 10 – 14. The program provides a bite-sized experience of volunteering. It is also designed to be a family volunteering program in which children volunteer side by side with a parent or guardian.

Animal Aid also supported various community based volunteering partnership initiatives this year with Rotary, St John of God, Knoxbrooke, Discovery Community Services, Sarina Russo, Corrections Victoria to name a few.

Animal Aid acknowledges the support of corporate volunteer teams including Royal Canin, ANZ, Lend Lease, Hewlett Packard and Yarra Valley Water. The different teams completed a variety of grounds and facility maintenance projects including a large landscaping project surrounding the new Wellington Centre – named after long-term Welfare Kennels volunteer Margaret Wellington.

Annual Trivia Night



Annual Ride for the Animals



Annual Pet Picnic



Linda in grooming

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

BALANCE SHEET

Assets	2015 (\$)	2014 (\$)
Cash and cash equivalents	2,309,297	1,352,396
Trade & other receivables	65,764	70,542
Inventories	61,032	49,141
Property, plant and equipment	2,280,834	2,239,837
Total Assets	4,716,927	3,711,916
Liabilities		
Trade and other payables	267,449	274,457
Short and long term borrowings	9,196	215,152
Current and non-current provisions	252,626	244,608
	529,271	734,217
Net assets	4,187,656	2,977,699
Equity		
Reserves	407,922	407,922
Retained Earnings	3,779,734	2,569,777
Total Equity	4,187,656	2,977,699

PROFIT AND LOSS

	2015	2014
Operational Revenue	2,963,573	2,809,640
Bequests, Donations & Other Income	1,877,278	1,521,755
Operational Costs	(3,630,895)	(3,617,877)
Revaluation of buildings	0	0
Revaluation of investments	0	0
Comprehensive Profit/(Loss) for the year	1,209,956	713,518

The above financials were taken from the 2014–2015 audited financial accounts of the Victorian Animal Aid Trust. The financials were independently audited by Seward Dawson Chartered Accountants (ABN: 15 698 364 348) in accordance with section 60.40 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012, for the year ended 30 June 2015.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Animal Aid is a Company limited by Guarantee and is governed by a Board of Directors that is responsible for the strategic direction of the organisation to achieve its mission and goals.

The Board work closely with the Chief Executive Officer and monitors the performance of Animal Aid to achieve its strategic goals within budget and to build long term sustainability of the organisation.

The Board meets with the Chief Executive Officer to review the previous financial year and to set the goals and targets for the year ahead.

Current Board Members

The Hon Fran Bailey
Chairman
Appointed December 2012

Glenda Walker
Vice Chairman and Treasurer
Appointed March 2013

Kirsty Watts
Secretary
Appointed April 2014

Paul Dargie
Appointed 2004

Alison Wilson
Appointed March 2015

Catherine Sim
Appointed June 2015

Past Directors

Kathryn Schooneveldt
Resigned June 2015

Alexandra Levine
Resigned Oct 2014

Acknowledgment of supporters and donors

The Animal Aid Board acknowledges the support of staff, volunteers, the community, supporters, donors, businesses, schools and corporations enabling us to achieve our goal of uniting pets and people for life. Without your support we simply wouldn't exist.

Animal Aid is also grateful for the wonderful ongoing support given by:

Bendigo Bank, Claws n Paws, Royal Canin, ANZ, Yarra Ranges Council, Maroondah City Council, Professionals, Gippsland Veterinary Hospital, Wellington Shire Council, East Gippsland Shire, Westfield Knox, Black Dog Wear, Ritchies IGA, Weatherbeeta, Jet Pets, Yarra Valley Toyota, Therian, Ritchies IGA, Hills Pet Food, Petstock Assist, Petplan, Prime, MegaPet Warehouse, Main Street Vet Clinic, Saward Dawson Chartered Accountants, Lend Lease, Yarra Valley Water, Hewlett Packard, Rotary, St John of God, Knoxbrooke, Discovery Community Services, Sarina Russo and Corrections Victoria.

GET INVOLVED

As an animal welfare charity that receives no Government funding to operate, Animal Aid depends on the generosity and support of the broader community so we can continue our work with the thousands of lost and surrendered pets that come through our doors each year.

We greatly appreciate all donations whether big or small - they all make a difference.

You can assist Animal Aid to care for animals in need by:

- Making a donation
- Donating goods or services
- Community Fundraising
- Monthly Giving
- Workplace Giving
- Leaving a Gift in Will
- Sponsoring a welfare or adoption pen
- Corporate sponsorship
- Volunteering
- Participate in Animal Aid events
- Adopting or fostering a rescue animal
- Spreading the word and following us on social media

Please remember to use the following Animal Aid services as all proceeds go towards supporting our work of caring for animals in need:

- *Veterinary Clinic: visit the highly skilled team for your pet health needs*
- *Dog and Cat Boarding: available all year round with great packages to suit your budget*
- *Grooming: a great way to pamper the special pet in your life*
- *Dog Training: teaching pets better skills*
- *Animal Aid opportunity shops: please donate quality unwanted items or purchase goods*

Head Office

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