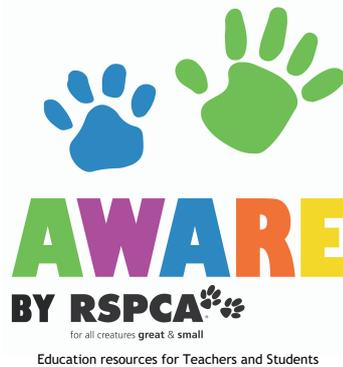




RSPCA EDUCATION NEWS

ANIMAL NEWS FOR KIDS FROM RSPCA

TERM 4 2023



WHAT'S INSIDE

A bucket full of kittens

Hot weather care for dogs and cats

Have you considered?

Working at RSPCA
Community highlight

Fishing. With kittens?!



Two Adelaide fishermen were packing up their gear after a day trying their luck in a river near RSPCA South Australian's shelter at Lonsdale. Hearing some weird squeaking noises, they were very surprised to find a cold, wet and tiny litter of kittens!

With no sign of the mama cat, they decided to take the kittens to our RSPCA shelter. Our volunteer completing her jobs at the end of the day was very surprised when she looked into the bucket that the men were carrying. Five furry little faces were looking back at her!

The kittens were very cold, so were rushed inside to get dry and warmed up before heading out to a loving foster home later that night.

The generosity of the men who saved these tiny

kitties didn't end there, they came back to the shelter the day after and made a large donation to assist with their care which was much appreciated by RSPCA.

After some loving care under the watchful eye of their cat foster dad Fluxx for a few weeks, the little babies were old enough and healthy enough to come back to the vet team at our shelter to be desexed.

All five kittens have now been adopted out to loving forever homes and are doing well with their new families.

The rescue of these babies is a good reminder that if you see an animal in distress (or 5!), RSPCA is able to help. We thank the kind fishermen who saved these kittens and are so pleased that all five of them are now living their best lives in their forever homes.



Visit our kids website: www.kids.rspca.org.au

Hot weather care



With temperatures forecast to be above average across Australia in the coming Summer months, most households will be starting to plan to the heat.

It's at this time of year we should also be planning for how we are going to keep our furry family members cool too. Dehydration, heat stress and sunstroke can happen quicker than you think.

DOGS

Water- your dog should have access to cool, clean water at all times. Make sure the water bowl stays in the shade as the sun moves across the day and rinse the bowl out daily to avoid your dog accidentally swallowing bugs who have used the bowl as a swimming pool. Consider having more than one water bowl for hot days.

Hot surfaces- if the footpath or sand at the beach is too hot for humans to stand on with bare feet for more than a few minutes, its too hot for your dog's paws too. Get walks and beach runs done early in the morning before everything heats up.

Cars- NEVER leave your dog in the car over Summer. Even if not in direct sun and with the windows part way open, temperatures inside a car can rise to deadly levels very quickly.

Indoors- on very hot days, it is kindest to bring your dog inside where possible. A cool spot near a fan or air-conditioner in a well ventilated space will keep your doggo chilling out despite the melting heat outside.

CATS

Ice cold- try dropping a few ice cubes in your cat's water bowl every few hours. This will ensure their water is cold all day.

Ice packs- try wrapping an ice pack or frozen bottle of water in a towel and placing it in their favourite bed or hiding spot. If they are feeling warm, they can lay down on their cold pack and lower their temperature.

Indoors- cats should be kept inside on hot days, in a part of the house that won't heat up as the day goes on. A well ventilated space, preferably with a fan or air conditioner, will be best.

RABBITS AND GUINEA PIGS

Ice packs- offer frozen bottles of water wrapped in a towel for your bunny or piggy to lay on.

Indoors- where possible, bring your piggy or bun inside into an enclosure. If that isn't possible, make sure their hutch is in an area on grass (not concrete or tiles, as they will heat up) and will be in shade all day. The hot sun can make them very sick, very quickly.

WILDLIFE

Wildlife will mostly avoid contact with people, but like our pets, these animals can also be affected by extreme heat. There are some ways that you can help;

- leave out bowls of fresh, clean water in shady locations in your garden. Shallow dishes are better as smaller animals can also drink from them
- turn a sprinkler on for a short time to give birds a way to cool off
- watch out for signs of distress. Native animals can appear wobbly, be found on the ground when they are normally nocturnal or tree dwelling

If you see a native animal that appears to be in distress, ask an adult to call RSPCA or a specialist wildlife rescue group.



HAVE YOU CONSIDERED: A Rabbit?

Who doesn't love a bunny?! These fluffy, smart little animals can make excellent additions to your family. They will provide hours of fun and companionship, but it is important that you know how much care is involved before adding one or a pair to your home.

There are about 30 breeds of rabbits, ranging in colours, shapes, and sizes. The most popular breeds are the Dwarf Lop and Mini Lop, but mixed breed rabbits are very common. Pet rabbits in Australia usually weigh anywhere between 1-8kg. Although all rabbits have similar requirements for care and attention, each breed has different characteristics, grooming needs, and care requirements.

Rabbits can be inexpensive to buy, but they are not cheap as pets. A rabbit can live for 12 years (making them a long-term commitment), they need to be desexed/neutered, and ideally live with another bunny friend.

They need yearly vaccinations and full checks from a rabbit-friendly veterinarian. Veterinary care, when needed, can cost as much as it does for a cat or a small dog.

Rabbits are most active mornings and evenings. This means they can be excellent pets for families who are out at work and school, as your bunnies are active in the mornings when you get up, and always happy to see you when you come home after school and work.



Rabbits can be housed indoors, outdoors, or a combination of both. They will need a hutch, which is an enclosed area for them to sleep, hide and eat, and an exercise run attached to the hutch so they can run, do binkies (excited bounces into the air) and play with toys.

Rabbits can be trained to use a litter tray (like a cat) so can be free roaming in your home, with a few rabbit-proof safety measures of course. You will need extra doors and to be careful of electrical cords and cables. Training is fantastic for bunnies as they are smart and can be taught voice commands, learn to ask for treats and use harnesses to go for a walk.

Did you know rabbit's teeth keep growing for their whole lives? If a rabbit's teeth get too long they will have trouble eating and drinking, so dental care is important for pet rabbits.

The easiest way to take care of rabbit teeth is to ensure that they have the correct diet that will encourage chewing and gnawing. Rabbits are herbivores, so they need a constant supply of fresh grass and grass hay, making up about 80% of their total diet. They should also eat fresh leafy greens and vegetables each day. You can add a small amount (no more than 5% of their diet) of special pellets designed just for rabbits.

As a lot of their diet is dry grass, rabbits need access to lots of clean, fresh water that is changed daily. Placing the water in a shallow dish will encourage them to drink more than from a sippy bottle.

Finally, it is important to remember that rabbits are very social animals and in the wild live in family groups of up to 30 animals.

Pet rabbits are happiest with a compatible rabbit friend to live with and if you get your rabbit from a shelter like RSPCA or an experienced rabbit breeder, they will probably suggest a 'bonded pair' for you. These are rabbits who are already friends and can live together straight away. Newer rabbit friends can be carefully introduced to ensure a safe and happy relationship.



Working at RSPCA



Name: Simon

Job: Legal Counsel, RSPCA South Australia

How long have you worked at RSPCA?: One and a half years

What is your favourite part of your job?: I love that my job shows the community that we take animal abuse, neglect and cruelty seriously.

I wish that there was no animal mistreatment so RSPCA didn't have to take anyone to court, but I am proud that the work I do defends animals in the community who need help and also hopefully deters other people from letting animals in their care suffer.

Favourite animal: I have two dogs called Pongal and Luna who I love and spoil a lot. My favourite animals are bears- they take lots of naps, eat fish and just chill out. Sounds perfect to me!

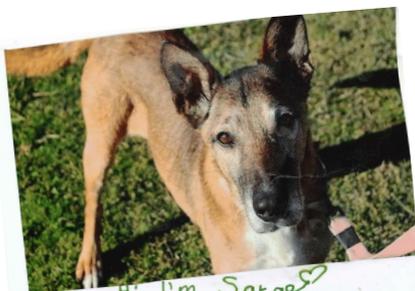
Why do you love working at RSPCA?: I love being part of a team that passionately loves animals and devotes their time to making sure they are living their best lives.

We sometimes have animals in the office and you never know what might come in! We had an injured Galah in our care who stayed with us while his wings healed from an injury. He took a liking to me and so he used to sit on a perch in my office and chat while I did my work. Cutest (and noisiest) workmate ever.

Community Highlight

How cute are these adoption profiles?

After participating in RSPCA ACT's school holiday program, some of the children decided that the animals they had met might need a helping hand with their adoption information for prospective families. We love the extra helping hand they have given to help find forever homes for animals in our care.



Hi I'm Sarge
I am a senior and I would like no child just a teen or no child please. my breed is a Kelpie / Labrador I am a boy my colour is tan
and last but not least I would love for you to adopt me it would make my day and the rest of my days (love Sarge)



Breed: Domestic short hair
Gender: Male
Age: 5 yrs and 8 months
Colour: Tabby
ID: 129432
Indoor only
Pablo
Pablo is a beautiful Domestic short hair, found as a stray and is looking for a forever home. He loves to play and loves people too. He had been micro-chipped and they found he originated from the N.S.W. Unfortunately they were unsuccessful in finding his family. He will happily come over for some pats and scratches if you call Kimmie has been in the RSPCA cattery for a couple of weeks and has lovely patterns.



Hi I'm Mila I am a dog and a girl I am 2 years and four months old I would like kids 12 years and older Please adopt me I would love it and it would make my day and the rest of my days