

Overview of Inspectorate activities 2011-2016

Between 2011 and 2015, RSPCA Victoria’s Inspectorate has employed around 20 staff¹, including both Inspectors and support personnel. Once leave and attrition are taken into account, the number of operational Inspectors averages about 10 per weekday across the state, and one on weekends.

Over the last four years, cruelty reports received from the Victorian community via our 24-hour animal cruelty reporting system have significantly increased year-on-year. The number of offences involved in each report has also increased.

Key statistics

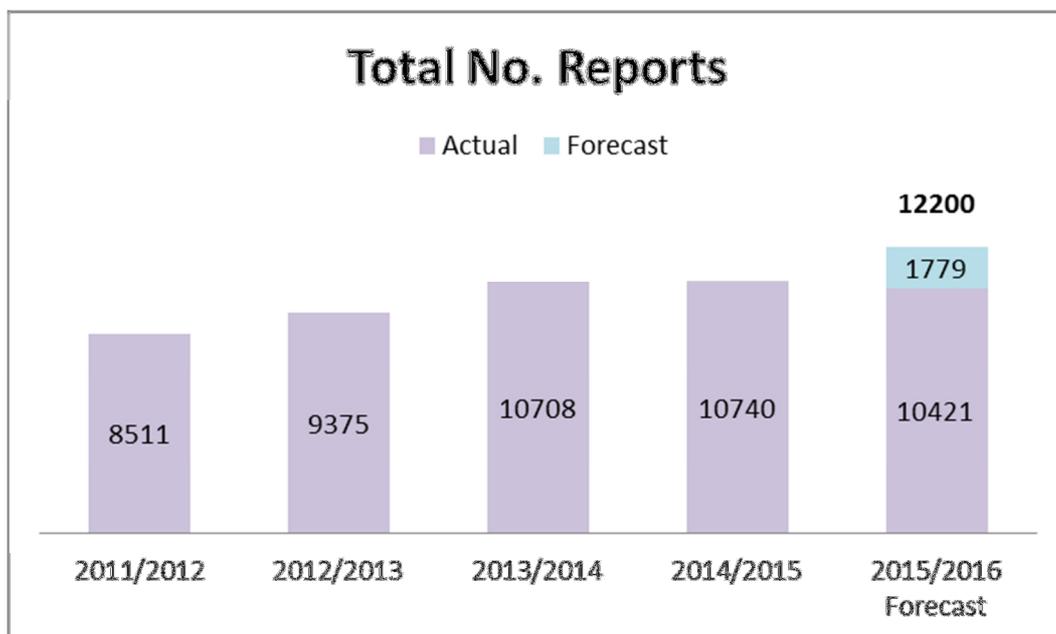
In 2014/2015 financial year, the RSPCA Victoria Inspectorate

- received 10,740 cruelty reports relating to 19,461 individual offence allegations
- cared directly for 942 seized and surrendered animals (45% increase since 2011-12)
- provided 88,000 days of care to Inspectorate animals and
- finalised 69 prosecutions, with 96% resulting in a guilty finding.

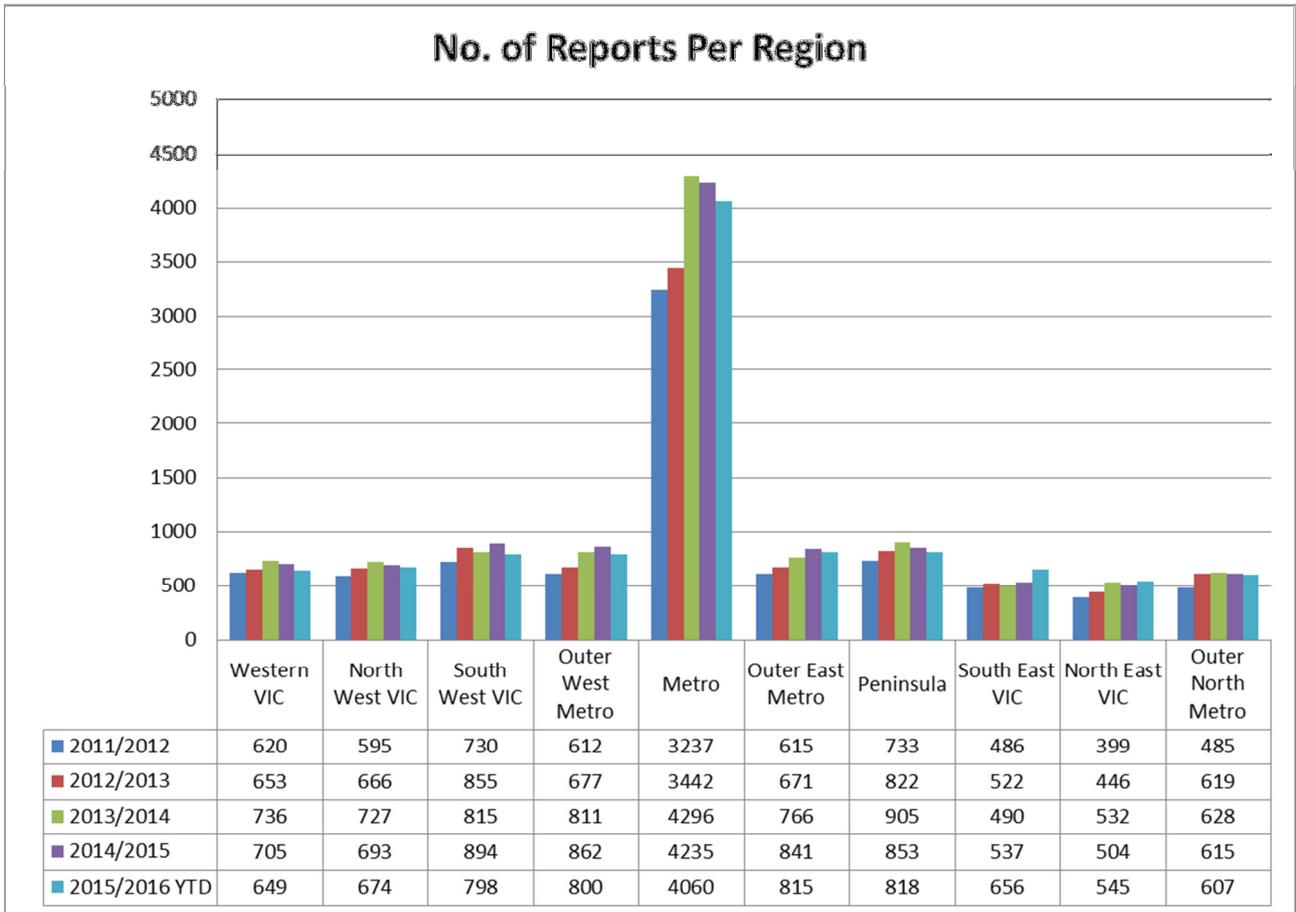
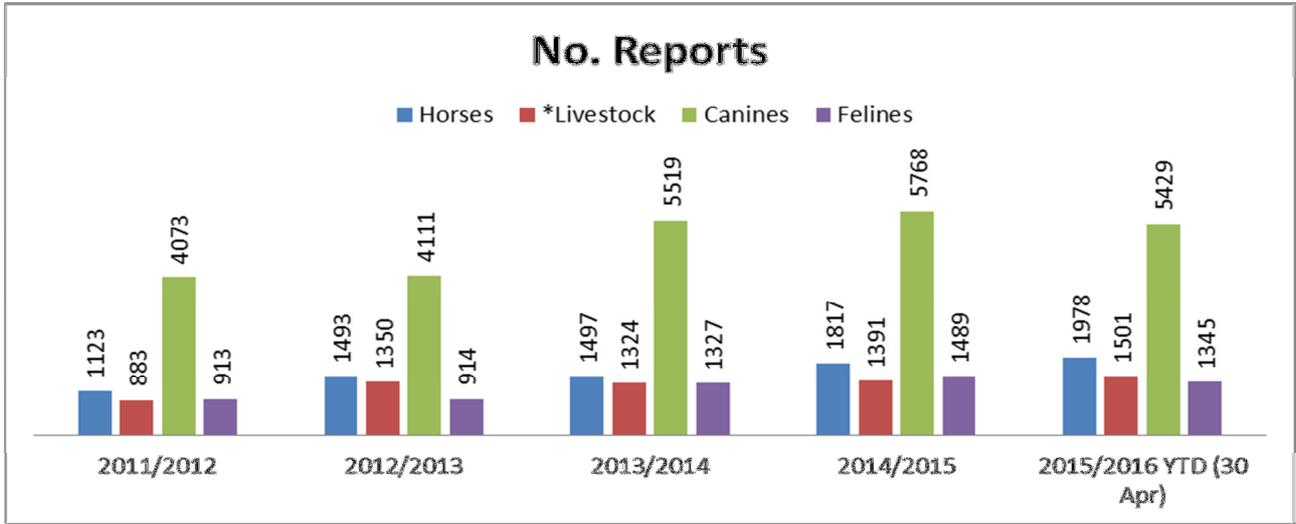
Reports received by the RSPCA Victoria Inspectorate between 1 July 2015 and 30 April this year are more than 13% higher than at this time last year. Report numbers are expected to exceed 12,000 this year.

In fact, the number of reports received so far this year has already exceeded the total for the whole 2013/2014 financial year.

The most commonly reported animals are dogs and horses, with marked increases in reports received about both species since 2011.



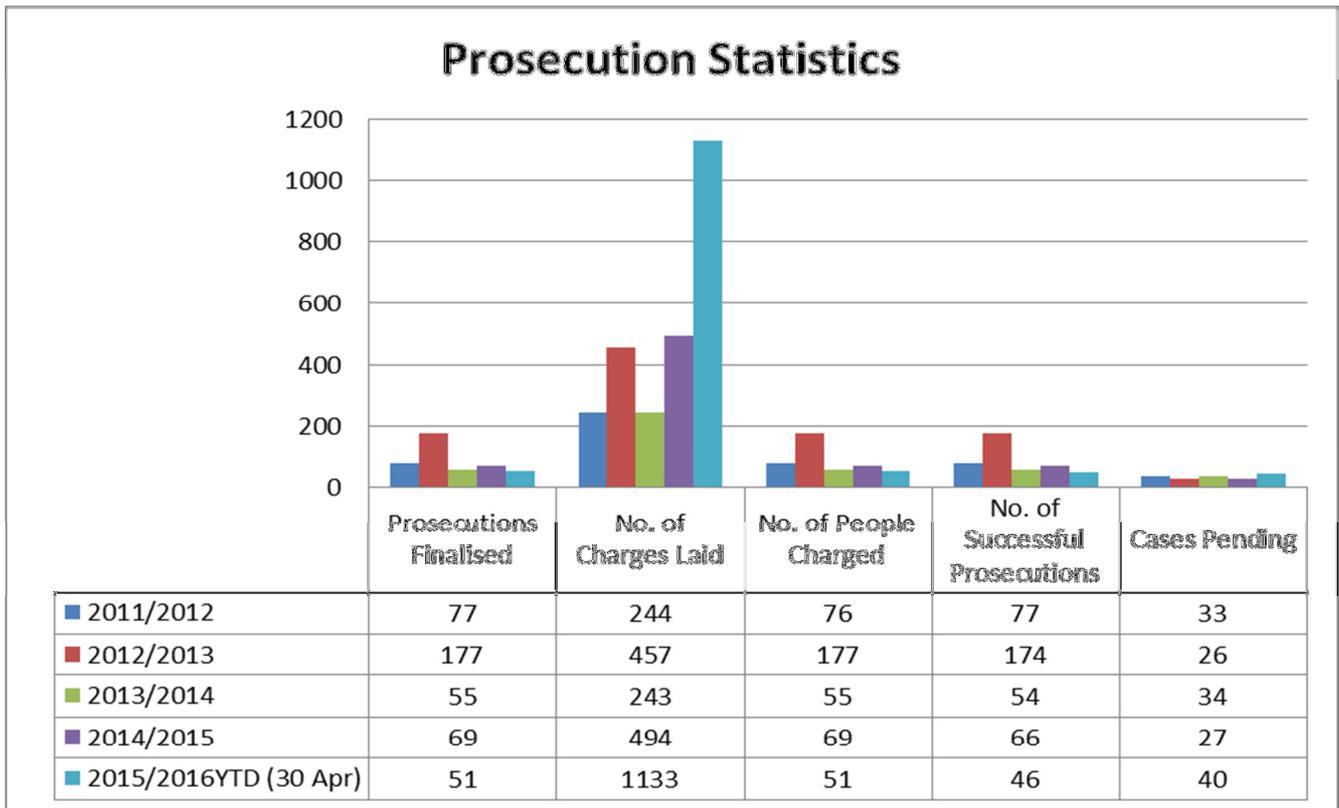
¹ Full-time employee equivalent



Investigations and prosecutions

The vast majority of the Inspectorate’s work involves educating animal owners about how to take better care of their animals. However, in some cases, Inspectors were obliged to issue Notices to Comply, seize animals and/or prosecute owners.

In 2014-15, RSPCA Victoria finalised 69 prosecutions (excluding those that were withdrawn before their appearance at court) – a 25% increase on the 55 prosecutions finalised in 2013-14. Of these, 66 resulted in a finding of guilt, and three were withdrawn at court. The Inspectorate also successfully achieved 28 disqualification orders in 2014-15 – more than 42% were 10-year disqualifications.



Animals in RSPCA Victoria’s care

Inspectorate operations often result in the seizure of animals at great risk.

In 2014-15, the Inspectorate brought 942 animals into RSPCA Victoria’s care through seizure or owner surrender. This is a significant increase on the 650 animals seized by or surrendered to the Inspectorate the previous year – many of which still remain in our care.