The RSPCA began in 1821, when England became the first nation to enforce a law which protected animals from cruelty, such as horses, cows, donkeys and sheep.

In 1840, the committee which helped to enforce this law was given official support from the Queen of England. The group then became known as the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA).

The first Australian involvement with the RSPCA, occurred in 1871 in Victoria. This group was known as the Victorian Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (VSPCA).

It was in 1954 that the society received permission to officially changed its name to the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA).
Today, the work of the RSPCA covers all eight Australian states and territories, helping sick and injured animals, finding new homes for animals and investigating complaints of animal cruelty and suffering. Although farm animals were the original focus; pets and wildlife now make up a great deal of the RSPCA’s work.

Another important role of the RSPCA is to educate owners about caring for animals, as well as encouraging the Australian government to make changes to laws which protect animals.

**Amazing RSPCA Victoria Data**

- 20 Victorian RSPCA Inspectors investigate more than 14,000 complaints of animal cruelty each year.
- In 10 shelters across Victoria, the RSPCA cares for around 40,000 animals per year.
- It costs RSPCA Victoria around $28,000,000 to run for one year with only 3% government funding.
- Over 2,200 volunteers help the RSPCA each year.
- Each year, around 15,000 companion animals, such as dogs and cats, are reunited or re-homed across Victoria.

**Five Freedoms for Animals**

The RSPCA believes that all animals deserve to have all of their needs met to be healthy and happy. We call these: **Five Freedoms for Animals**

- Freedom from Hunger and Thirst
- Freedom from Discomfort
- Freedom to Express Normal Behaviour
- Freedom from Fear and Distress
- Freedom from Pain, Injury and Disease
RSPCA Victoria looks after around forty thousand pets, farm animals and wildlife each year. As an independent, not-for-profit organisation, it costs about twenty-eight million dollars to run the RSPCA in Victoria for just one year. The Australian government contributes around 3% toward this amount, with the rest of the support coming from our community.

You can help the RSPCA Victoria by:

- Becoming a member - click here.
- Attending an RSPCA School Holiday Program - click here.
- Participating in RSPCA events, such as Million Paws Walk and Cupcake Day - click here.
- Adopting a pet from the RSPCA instead of a pet shop or breeder - click here.
- Ask your teachers about an RSPCA Education visit - click here.

Why donate to the RSPCA?

Donations made to RSPCA Victoria will assist the operation of animal shelters, support the work of the inspectors, provide community education on animal welfare issues and help the RSPCA to bring about improvements in animal welfare laws. Most importantly donations help us look after the daily needs of the animals in our care.
Want to get started?

Click here for our fundraising kits (link)