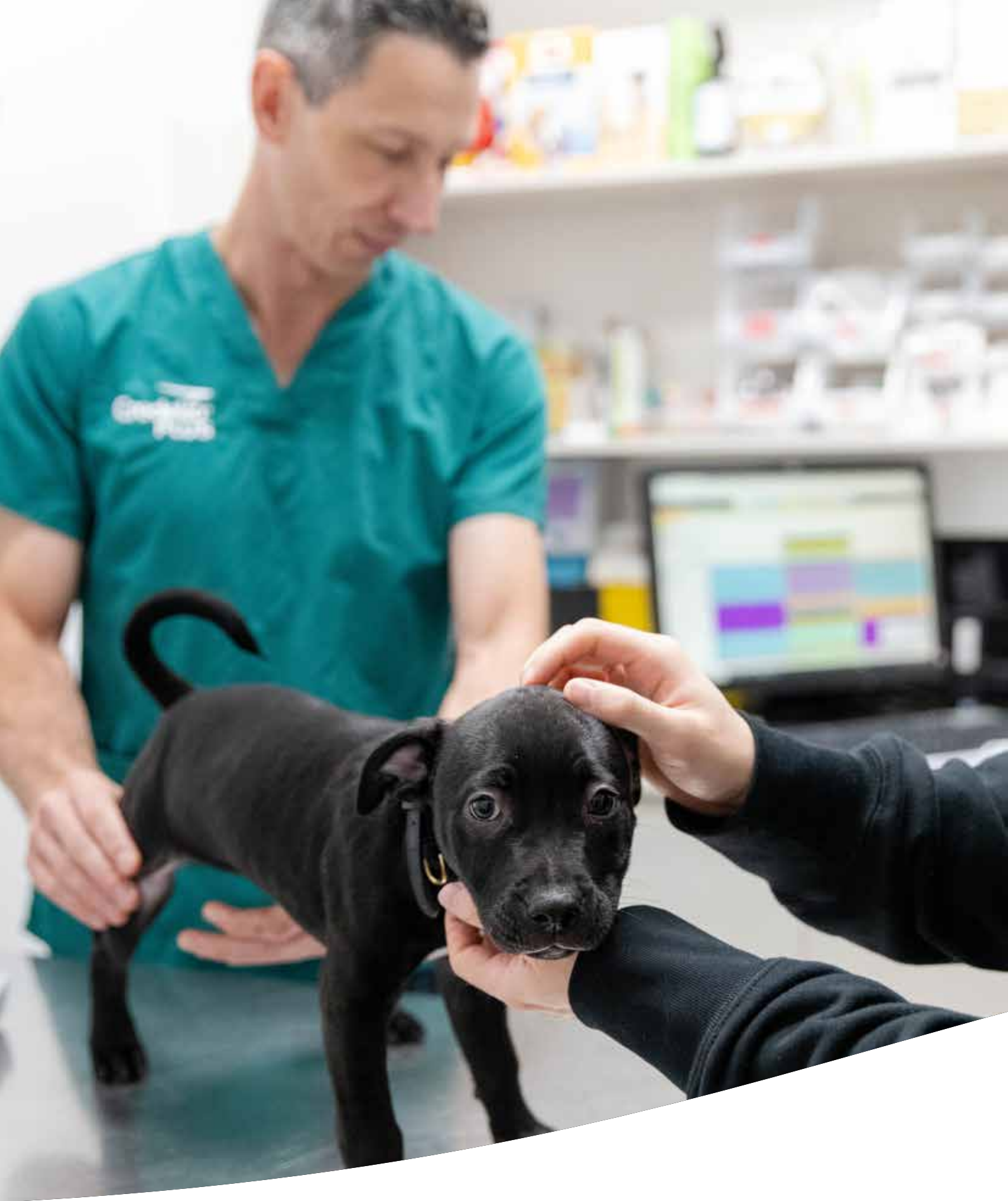


SYDNEY
**DOGS
& CATS**
HOME



**ANNUAL
REPORT
2025**





Acknowledgement of First Australians

Sydney Dogs & Cats Home acknowledges the Wangal and Cabrogal peoples of the Darug nation as the Traditional Owners of the land, skies and waterways where we work. We pay our respects to them and their cultures and to Elders, past, present and emerging.

WELCOME

Sydney Dogs & Cats Home is the Home of Hope

For almost 80 years, we've been saving the lives of lost, abandoned and neglected animals while delivering programs that bring people and pets together.

Each year, we reunite, rehabilitate and rehome over a thousand pets across Sydney. Before they find their forever homes, our vet team and animal care specialists provide urgent medical treatment, behavioural support, and most importantly, safety and love. We never place a time limit on any treatable animal in our care.

Sydney Dogs & Cats Home is a proud member of Companion Animal Network Australia, a collective of six agencies working to make the world better for pets. Together, we promote responsible pet ownership, celebrate the human-animal bond, and advocate for high welfare standards in line with the NSW Companion Animals Act 1998.

While we continue to operate from temporary facilities, our mission has never wavered. Now, with the community's support through our *Make Home Happen Appeal*, we're building a new purpose-built shelter in Kurnell – a permanent home that will allow us to care for more animals, offer greater community services, and ensure every pet who comes to us has the chance to heal and belong.

Sydney Dogs & Cats Home is more than a shelter – it's a community of people who believe every animal deserves love, safety and care.

“

Every week she seems to open up more. She knows this is her home now.”

Fiona – Trixie's mum



Trixie

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Serena







PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Joanne Bermingham
President of Sydney Dogs & Cats Home

In the final months of 2025 and as we edge closer to relocating into our new Home in Kurnell, we are on the precipice of a new era for Sydney Dogs & Cats Home. We look forward to opening the doors of our new shelter later this year!

The SDCH team has worked tirelessly throughout the year and demonstrated exceptional dedication by successfully managing operations at our two temporary locations, whilst also leading fundraising initiatives for our new shelter.

In the role of President, I am committed to ensuring a strategic approach for Sydney Dogs & Cats Home as we navigate ongoing changes, and sector-specific challenges to ensure our financial sustainability. I also remain committed to actively volunteering in the dog kennels, and value the opportunity to work alongside our volunteers and dedicated staff members to deliver expert care, love and hope to animals in need.

As you will see in the Treasurer's Report, we had a strong finish to the financial year. Our operating budget closed with a profit of just under \$300,000 due to Council income, bequests and donations all greater than forecasted. We achieved the most successful end of FY Tax Appeal in the Home's history. Our goal in the year ahead, with the increased size and capacity available to us in our new shelter, is to increase our partnerships with more local Councils across the Sydney region to deliver essential care for Sydney's lost, abandoned and neglected animals. We also expect to support an increase in animal surrenders to the Home due to community challenges including cost of living pressures.

Our challenge in the coming financial year as we seek to manage operating expenses at the two temporary sites, whilst fundraising for our new shelter.

The new Sydney Dogs & Cats Home is a \$21.6 million build made possible through the incredible generosity of our community. The NSW Government provided \$12 million in cornerstone funding, and thanks to the kindness of our supporters, philanthropists, and partners, we've now raised over \$15.7 million in total.

We are continuing our efforts to raise the remaining funds needed to complete the build – which includes additional kennels and catteries, and the relocation of our veterinary clinic from a leased site to our new purpose-built Home in Kurnell.

I would like to express my gratitude for the work of all our staff, volunteers, foster carers and everyone who has supported and donated to our Home. An enormous thank you to Melissa Penn and her team. I am immensely proud to work with such passionate and dedicated team members.

I also want to thank our entire Board, who continue to work diligently with the leadership team to address challenges and chart a sustainable path forward.

The 2025 Annual Report is a snapshot of how together we've made a difference to the vulnerable animals in our care. Thank you for being an integral part of the SDCH journey.

“

Our goal in the year ahead, with the increased size and capacity available to us in our new shelter, is to increase our partnerships with more local Councils across the Sydney region to deliver essential care for Sydney's lost, abandoned and neglected animals."

Joanne Bermingham



MANAGING DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Melissa Penn
Managing Director

As we close out the 2024–25 financial year, I reflect with deep gratitude and immense pride on the journey Sydney Dogs & Cats Home has taken. It has been another defining year, challenging, inspiring, and transformative, anchored by the support of our incredible people and the monumental progress toward our new permanent home in Kurnell.

Building Our Future: The Kurnell Facility

The past year has been a turning point in our 80+ year history, with construction finally underway on our long-awaited Kurnell facility. Following last year's game-changing \$12 million investment commitment from the NSW Government, this year has focused heavily on delivering the early phases of our build.

To date, we've:

- Finalised tender processes and appointed a construction partner
- Completed essential groundwork and slab pours
- Erected permanent kennel buildings and our maintenance shed
- Installed critical demountable buildings for veterinary care, offices, and cat housing
- Progressed with fencing, services installation, and early landscaping works

We are now targeting a late December move-in, with internal fit-outs and compliance phases commencing soon. Our teams are also deep into transition planning to ensure a seamless experience for both animals and people as we move to our new facility.

“

We are eager to expand our Volunteer Program significantly once we move to Kurnell, with dedicated spaces and new opportunities to engage the community.”

Melissa Penn

Financial Sustainability and Innovation

In parallel with our capital works, we've remained focused on operating sustainably during a time of enormous transition. Running dual sites while building our new facility and preparing to centralise operations at Kurnell has placed strain on resources, but has also driven innovation.

Key highlights from FY25:

- Continued growth in fundraising revenue, particularly from bequests
- Strong operational results and surplus generation, despite rising costs
- Expansion of veterinary services, providing accessible care to the community while generating critical income
- Council partnerships – caring for 8 Council areas this year supporting their people and their pets.
- Prudent cost control, particularly in administration and finance functions



Council data FY 24/25	Bayside	Georges River	Inner West	North Sydney	Randwick	Waverley	Parramatta	Strathfield
Cats in	682	31	0	1	0	0	1	2
Dogs in	124	143	75	5	32	7	16	3
Others in	47	14	1	0	0	0	0	1
Total incoming	853	188	76	6	32	7	17	6
Cats reclaimed	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cats adopted	604	26	1	2	0	0	1	0
Cats transferred	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dogs reclaimed	74	93	37	0	12	4	3	1
Dogs adopted	33	36	20	3	20	4	13	0
Dogs transferred	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Others out	46	14	1	0	0	0	0	0
Total outgoing	782	170	59	5	32	8	17	1

Our People: The Heart of the Home

To our incredible staff, I offer my heartfelt thanks. This has been a year of heavy lifting, physically and emotionally, as we prepare for change while continuing to care for vulnerable animals every single day. Your resilience, adaptability, and compassion continue to inspire me.

We've worked hard to invest in your wellbeing, with a continued focus on building a culture of psychological safety, learning and support.

To our Board, thank you for your strategic oversight and steadfast governance through this critical period. Your commitment to our mission has been instrumental in shaping our path forward, and most of all for the support you have extended to me through an exciting yet challenging period.

Volunteers, Foster Carers, and Community Impact

To our **volunteers and foster carers**, we quite literally could not do this without you. This year, more than 100 volunteers gave their time and talent to care for animals, support our admin teams, and represent us at events. Our foster care program continues to grow, providing loving homes for hundreds of animals while reducing pressure on our facilities.

We are eager to expand our **Volunteer Program** significantly once we move to Kurnell, with dedicated spaces and new opportunities to engage the community.

Council Partnerships

We thank our **Council partners** for their collaboration and flexibility throughout another transitional year. We have remained committed to offering the highest quality animal care services and have laid the groundwork for expanded collaboration from 2026 onwards. Many Councils have also engaged with us on preventative outreach programs, which we will grow once operational at Kurnell.

Looking Ahead

The year ahead will be one of transformation. With our facility expected to open in **late December**, we are focused on:

- Finalising Stage 1 construction and fit-out
- Operational readiness: systems, staff training, and animal transition
- Launching the second phase of our Capital Campaign to raise the final funds needed to finish Stage 1 and start preparing for Stage 2.
- Rebuilding and relaunching our community programs and volunteer services
- Continuing to deliver excellence in animal care and community service under increasingly complex circumstances

We know it won't be easy, but we've never been more ready.

To every supporter, whether staff, volunteer, foster carer, donor, councillor, partner, or friend, **thank you**. Your belief in our work and our mission is the reason we've come this far. Together, we are building more than a shelter. We are building a future where every animal is given the love and care they deserve.

With heartfelt thanks,
Melissa Penn
 Managing Director

THE ROAD AHEAD



FIVE YEAR STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

VISION

To be a leading organisation in companion animal welfare, positively impacting our animals and our people.

MISSION

To responsibly reunite, rehome and rehabilitate companion animals in our care, whilst providing the highest level of service to the wider community.

OBJECTIVES

Animal care

Provide companion animals in our care with best practice care

Engagement

Provide engagement programs that benefit companion animals, SDCH & the community

Culture

Attract & retain mission motivated talent

Sustainability

Sustainable financial, systems & resources

STRATEGIES

1. Evidence-based best practice policies and procedures
2. Partnership approach with Councils (existing & new)
3. Reduce length of stay & time in shelter through best practice rehoming & reuniting

1. Education and advocacy promoting welfare awareness & responsible pet ownership.
2. Research Programs to support Getting to Zero
3. Continued focus on Right Match for adoptions and rehoming
4. Surrender Prevention Programs
5. Vet Services and specialist networks to ensure best quality care
6. Community Partnerships and Programs to promote brand awareness, volunteering and donations

1. Promote a mission motivated brand that attracts the right people for the right roles
2. Build a collaborative & united culture of employees, volunteers and low-bono partners
3. Adopt initiatives that support ongoing learning, well-being & overall impact in the workplace & wider community

1. Ensure financial sustainability of services to channel fundraising to community-based initiatives
2. Execute a clear resourcing strategy to support objectives
3. Utilise fit-for-purpose systems and processes to enable operational effectiveness
4. Future proof premises to support strategy (Kurnell & temporary premises)

FOUNDATIONS

Ongoing good governance & compliance practices

OUR VALUES

Compassion

Trust

Collaboration

Impact

Responsibility

Dedication

Growth

A BIG YEAR FOR BIG IMPACT

HOW WE MADE A DIFFERENCE

Thanks to you, in the 2024-25 financial year, Sydney Dogs & Cats Home has achieved:

ANIMALS IN



451
DOGS
33%



842
CATS
62%



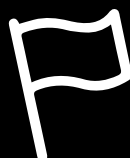
66
OTHER
5%



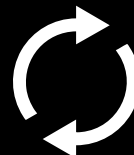
1,359
TOTAL
INCOMING



1,185
FROM COUNCIL
87%



101
SURRENDERS
7%



73
RETURNED
FROM ADOPTION
5%

ANIMALS OUT



383
DOGS
32%



726
CATS
62%



64
OTHER
6%



1,183
TOTAL
OUTGOING

Adoptions/Transfers



870
TOTAL ADOPTIONS
/ TRANSFERS
71% of total incoming

Reclaimed



239
TOTAL RECLAIM
20% of total incoming

Euthanased



118
TOTAL
9% of total incoming

VET CARE



970
SURGERIES
FOR SHELTER
ANIMALS



3,300
VET
CONSULTATIONS
for shelter animals



668
VET
CONSULTATIONS
AND SURGERIES
for private clients

VOLUNTEERS



106
VOLUNTEERS
contributed over
7,299 hours
of their time



88
NEW
VOLUNTEERS
inducted over
the past year



15
STUDENT
PLACEMENTS
supported in
completing their
course requirements
in animal related
studies

FOSTER CARE



1,380
FOSTER CARE
PLACEMENTS
up 36% from the
previous year



BUILDING OUR HOME OF HOPE IN KURNELL

Our dream of a permanent Sydney Dogs & Cats Home is becoming reality. What was once a vacant site in Kurnell is growing into a place filled with purpose, with new kennel blocks, cat housing, and community spaces now taking shape.

Each milestone, mentioned in the Managing Director's report, brings us closer to a purpose-built facility that will double our capacity to care for Sydney's lost, abandoned, and neglected pets, and provide a safe, healing environment designed around their needs. The new Home will also create dedicated spaces for community programs that connect people and animals in meaningful ways.



Sour Cream

The Make Home Happen Appeal, launched in August 2024, has continued to gather momentum, inspiring extraordinary generosity from individuals, philanthropists, and partners who share our belief that every animal deserves safety, care, and love.

Alongside the NSW Government's \$12 million cornerstone commitment, we are deeply grateful to major supporters including **Basil Sellers AM** and the **Gavin Simpson Education Endowment**, whose belief in our mission has helped bring this dream to life. Together with community donations, we have now raised over **\$15.7 million of our \$21.6 million goal** – an incredible achievement that reflects the compassion and commitment of our supporters.

As we move toward completion in late 2025, every donation, partnership, and campaign, from Hope Blooms to our digital appeals and partnership engagement, has helped bring this vision closer to life. While our veterinary team will remain at Strathfield for now, our long-term goal as we raise more funds, is to bring every part of Sydney Dogs & Cats Home together under one roof.

Together, we are not just building a shelter, but creating a lasting Home built on compassion, hope, and second chances.

Scan the QR code to see our new Home come to life in the build animation >



BY THE NUMBERS



Over
\$15.7M
raised of our
\$21.6 million goal



Build on track
for completion
DEC 2025



THOUSANDS
of donors, partners,
and volunteers helping
to Make Home Happen



Meeko, available for adoption



TAILS OF TRANSFORMATION



VET AND ANIMAL CARE TEAM REPORT

Dr Laura Taylor
Head of Animal Care

The past year has been another inspiring chapter for the Sydney Dogs & Cats Home team, as our veterinary, shelter, and foster departments have worked tirelessly to ensure the very best outcomes for the animals in our care and for those in the wider community. Despite the ongoing challenges of high intake numbers, complex medical cases, and a record-breaking kitten season, the dedication of our staff, volunteers, and foster carers has remained unwavering. Together, we continue to embody our mission: to responsibly reunite, rehabilitate, and rehome every treatable animal that comes through our doors.

Veterinary Services

Our veterinary team has continued to deliver exceptional medical care for shelter animals while also expanding our outreach to the community. Over the past year, we provided over 3,300 consultations and 970 surgeries for shelter animals. In addition, we continued to support the community and generate income for the Home by offering private veterinary services which saw us complete 558 consultations and 110 surgeries.

Partnerships with local councils continue to be a major focus of our outreach efforts. We were proud to complete subsidised desexing programs with Randwick, Fairfield, Campbelltown, and Georges River Councils, as well as through the National Desexing Network, RSPCA and Cat Protection Society, ensuring vital services reached pet owners in need. In total, hundreds of animals across Sydney benefitted from these programs, helping to prevent unwanted litters and promote responsible pet ownership.

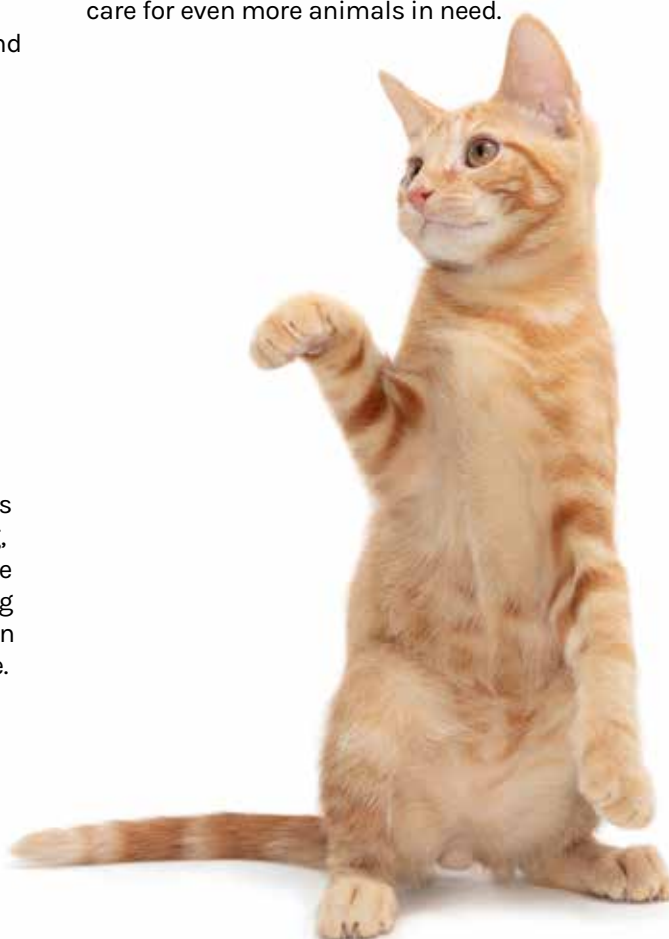
We also continued to provide care for non-profit rescue organisations, including Dogs, Cats and Horses (DCH) and the Cat Protection Society's DIVA (Desexing, Identification, Vaccination Assistance) program. These partnerships highlight our commitment to supporting the broader rescue community and ensuring that even more animals can access high-quality veterinary care.

Foster Care

The foster program has once again proven to be a lifeline for some of our most vulnerable animals. This year, we facilitated over 1,300 foster placements, including 404 cat placements, 712 kitten placements, 227 dog placements, and 37 rabbit placements – each providing a safe and nurturing environment for animals to rest, recover, and prepare for adoption.

With ongoing challenges such as neonatal kittens, large breed dogs, and animals with ringworm or behavioural needs, our foster carers stepped up time and again. Through strong collaboration with our marketing team, we averaged 100 foster sign-ups per month, ensuring a robust network of carers ready to respond to callouts.

The impact of this program cannot be overstated: every foster placement not only improves the welfare of that individual animal but also eases the pressure on our shelter facilities, allowing us to extend our reach and care for even more animals in need.





Strong collaboration between our shelter, vet, and foster teams has allowed us to create faster pathways into care and onto adoption, ensuring that animals spend less time in shelter and more time on their way to loving homes."

Dr Laura Taylor

Shelter Care

Our shelter team remains at the heart of our operations, caring for thousands of animals who arrive lost, abandoned, or surrendered. Our shelter staff continued to provide the highest standards of daily care—feeding, cleaning, enrichment, and behavioural support—ensuring every animal feels safe and supported during their stay.

This year, our shelter operations have focused heavily on streamlining processes to reduce stress and improve outcomes for animals. Strong collaboration between our shelter, vet, and foster teams has allowed us to create faster pathways into care and onto adoption, ensuring that animals spend less time in shelter and more time on their way to loving homes.

The combined achievements of our veterinary, foster, and shelter teams this year are a testament to the dedication, compassion, and professionalism of everyone involved in the care of our animals. From life-saving surgeries to the round-the-clock efforts of foster carers, and from the daily dedication of our shelter staff to the expanded reach of our community desexing programs, together we are building a stronger, more compassionate future for Sydney's pets.

As we look forward to the opening of our new Kurnell facility, we are excited about the opportunities to expand our services, strengthen our community programs, and continue to provide the very best standard of care for every animal who comes through our doors.



Mocha

FOSTERING HOPE – TRIXIE'S STORY

When eight-year-old Akita Trixie arrived at Sydney Dogs & Cats Home, she was in heartbreaking condition. Her fur was matted, her ears raw from fly bites, and her paw swollen from infection. She was in constant pain – suffering from kidney disease, a urinary infection, and a fractured molar.

The veterinary team immediately began her treatment, easing her discomfort and helping her take the first steps toward recovery. But while her physical wounds began to heal, Trixie's emotional scars needed more time – and that's where her foster carer, **April**, came in.

"The shelter team had worked wonders by the time Trixie came to me," April recalls. "They briefed me carefully on her special care needs, her kidney-friendly diet, the gentle approach she needed, and how to help her rebuild trust."

In April's quiet, patient care, Trixie began to rediscover what it meant to feel safe. Each milestone marked a small but profound victory – the first time she wagged her tail at the sound of April's voice, the morning she stepped forward for a pat instead of hiding, the day she picked up a toy to play.

"And then," says April, "she barked with excitement when I came home – a sound I wasn't sure I'd ever hear."

Thanks to this care and compassion, Trixie has now found her forever home – healthy, happy and surrounded by love.

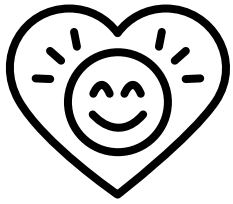
Foster carers like April are an essential part of Sydney Dogs & Cats Home's extended family – providing love, stability, and space for recovery that simply can't be replicated in a shelter environment.

Each foster home is a bridge between rescue and rehoming, giving animals the confidence they need to heal and thrive.

“

In April's quiet, patient care, Trixie began to rediscover what it meant to feel safe."

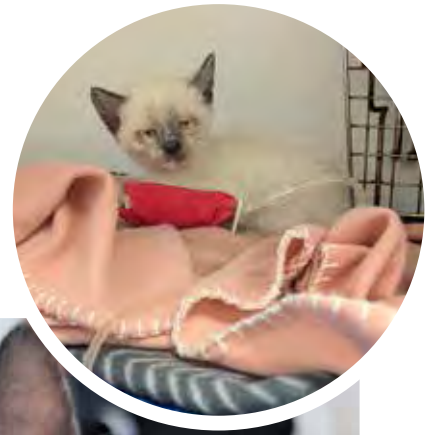




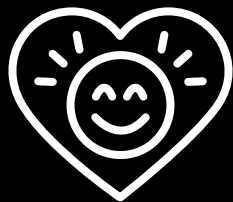
HAPPY TAILS MINTY

Seeing the World Anew

Minty arrived to the shelter as a 4 week old kitten – she had been found as a stray on the street and required urgent vet care. She was unable to eat without assistance, was covered in fleas and dehydrated, but the most pressing issue was her eyes – the lids were swollen and both eyes were sealed shut with pus. Veterinary examination revealed she had granulation tissues on her eyes that resulted in limited vision. Minty received extensive treatment including eye ointments, antibiotics and consultations with eye specialists – though she will never have full vision, she learned to navigate by seeing shadows and memorising the layout of her home. Foster was an imperative part of Minty's healing journey – her carer was able to provide her with all the medication, time and care she needed to recover and thrive. Minty is now a 10 month old kitty enjoying life in her forever home.



Top right: Minty when she first arrived at SDCH.
Above: Minty happy in her forever home.

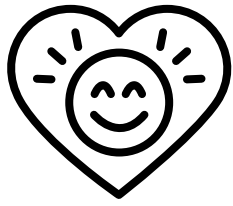


HAPPY TAILS POND

The Power of Care and Second Chances

Pond was found as a one-year-old stray cat and transferred to SDCH. On entry he was immediately friendly and soaking up all the attention, happy to be somewhere safe and warm with plenty of food, though the vets had some medical concerns – they found a large ulcer on his tongue along with moderate dental disease, and he was found to be FIV positive. Pond was placed into foster to settle and his carer was instrumental in his healing journey – she brought him in for multiple vet appointments to check on the progress of his ulcer, administered a daily medication over many months, and supported his healing after a full mouth extraction. It took multiple months of frequent vet visits before Pond's ulcer was fully healed, and his carer then continued to look after him for a total of 9 months before he found his forever home.





HAPPY TAILS BARBARA

A Tale of Labour and Love

Late on a Saturday afternoon, our shelter received an unexpected arrival – a heavily pregnant Cavoodle named Barbara. She appeared to be in the early stages of labour, and was visibly stressed, unsure of her surroundings, and seeking comfort. It quickly became evident that she would not cope well in a kennel environment and needed immediate care.

Barbara quickly formed a strong bond with one of our staff members, who recognised her distress and took her home to provide a safe and calm environment for her to nest. Over the course of an exhausting 40-hour labour, Barbara gave birth to seven healthy puppies. Despite appearing to be a first-time mother, Barbara displayed remarkable maternal instincts, nursing and caring for each puppy attentively from the moment they arrived.

With her newborns thriving, Barbara moved to a foster home where she could focus on raising her puppies in a quiet and supportive environment. Caring for a litter of seven was no small task, and the journey came with its challenges – including one puppy who required critical care and bottle-feeding in the early days. Thanks to the dedication of our foster carers and veterinary team, all seven puppies began to grow and develop into happy, playful young dogs.

Just as the litter became old enough for their first vaccinations, it was discovered that they had contracted ringworm, a common but contagious fungal infection. Treatment began immediately, involving careful management, medication, and frequent cleaning to ensure their continued wellbeing.

Now, several weeks later, Barbara's puppies are thriving. They remain under treatment for ringworm but are happy, active, and well-socialised – ready to take the next step toward finding their forever homes.



Barbara, having completed her role as a devoted mother, is now enjoying a well-earned rest in a loving foster home of her own. No longer caring for her litter around the clock, she is rediscovering the joys of simply being a dog – exploring her surroundings, enjoying daily walks, and receiving the attention and affection she deserves in a safe and stable environment.

Barbara's story is a testament to the power of timely intervention, compassionate care, and the strength of our foster network.



Thanks to the dedication of our foster carers and veterinary team, all seven puppies began to grow and develop into happy, playful young dogs."

MORE THAN A SHELTER

At Sydney Dogs & Cats Home, being more than a shelter means doing everything we can to keep animals safe, healthy and home.

It's lifesaving veterinary care, compassionate foster networks, and community programs that reach far beyond our walls – all working together to create a kinder, stronger future for Sydney's pets.

NALA'S JOURNEY

Fighting for Her Life

When Nala was carried through our doors, she was fighting for her life.

At just eleven months old, the young Staffy had suffered devastating injuries – a fractured jaw, missing teeth and a torn ear that had to be removed. She was frightened, bleeding and barely conscious.

Our veterinary team worked quickly to stabilise her, cleaning and dressing her wounds, managing infection and pain, and sitting by her side as she began to recover.

Once strong enough, Nala went into foster care, where her carers were invaluable in helping her heal physically and emotionally. With their love and patience, her confidence returned – and her tail began to wag again.



Over **3,300**
vet
consultations



970
surgeries



1,300
foster
placements

Watch Nala's Story >



BROADER IMPACT

Fostering Hope

More than 1,300 animals found safety and comfort in foster homes this year. Our foster carers are a lifeline for animals needing extra time or space to recover, such as neonatal kittens, large-breed dogs, or those with complex needs.

With around 100 new foster sign-ups per month, the program not only transforms individual lives but also eases pressure on our shelter, creating room to help even more animals in need.

Healing and Prevention

Our veterinary team delivered over 3,300 consultations and 970 surgeries for shelter animals this year, while expanding outreach through 558 private consultations and 110 surgeries for the wider community.

Through partnerships with Councils and organisations like the National Desexing Network, RSPCA and Cat Protection Society, we provided hundreds of subsidised desexing procedures, helping reduce surrenders and prevent unwanted litters before they happen.

Connection and Companionship

Through our Aged Care Program, we bring the joy and calm of animal companionship to people who can no longer have pets of their own. These visits brighten days, ease loneliness and remind residents that love and connection have no age limits.

"At Bexley Care Centre, we are incredibly grateful for our partnership with Sydney Dogs and Cats Home, which has been bringing joy to our residents for over five years. The wonderful dogs they bring into our facility never fail to brighten our days, filling our home with laughter, warmth, and companionship.

For many of our residents, interacting with these loving animals evokes cherished memories and provides a deep sense of comfort. The happiness in their eyes and the smiles on their faces say it all – these visits are a true highlight in our community." – Tam, Lifestyle Coordinator



We also had the joy of hosting **Ella**, a young cat lover whose *Starlight Wish* was to spend a weekend surrounded by cats. After a weekend of 'cat-ivities', Ella and her family ended their adventure with a VIP visit to Sydney Dogs & Cats Home. She met the cats waiting for their forever homes, learned how they come into our care, and even became a 'vet nurse' for the day – listening to heartbeats, brushing fur, and cuddling tiny kittens.

**This is what being
more than a shelter
truly means – creating
connections that heal,
inspire and bring joy to
both people and animals.**



VOLUNTEER'S REPORT



Wendy Phillips, Volunteer Coordinator July 24 - April 25
Jenny Thomson, Volunteer Coordinator May 25 onwards

As we wrap up our final full year at the temporary Austral site, our incredible volunteers continue to surprise and inspire with their passion and enthusiasm – even in challenging conditions. With the final push toward Kurnell on the horizon, there's a growing sense of excitement in the air and a shared curiosity about what lies ahead.

Over the past twelve months we have continued to see the growth of our volunteer network and the impact on community. A total of 106 volunteers contributed more than 7,299 hours to the ongoing care of our animals, support of our team and widening the engagement and education of the wider communities.

Our event volunteers were out in force, rain, hail or shine across the city from the western suburbs to the heart of our new home in The Shire. They connected with people at various locations including; Doggy Fashion shows, appearing on Sunrise, market stalls, Bunnings pop ups, The Annual Dog & Cat Lovers Festival and our Sydney Dogs and Cats Home inaugural Christmas Market to which they certainly brought much jolly and cheer.

A huge heartfelt thank you goes to those volunteers who use their everyday skills to be our; gardeners, transporters, handy people, photographers, content creators, aged care alumni, foster carers, IT nerds and so much more.

Our volunteers have also played an integral role in shaping the future of our program. Their input has helped strengthen and expand our vision for both our new home and the next generation of recruits still to come.

In September, we hosted a dedicated workshop to connect with our current volunteers – some who've been with us for over a decade, and others just a few months into their adventure. Together, we explored a wide range of topics, including impact, community, compassion, growth, and innovation. The insights shared by attendees will help ensure the volunteer program continues to evolve into a more cohesive, collaborative, and rewarding experience for everyone involved.



Franky

“

With the final push toward Kurnell on the horizon, there's a growing sense of excitement in the air and a shared curiosity about what lies ahead."

Wendy Phillips

A heartfelt thank you also goes to those who couldn't attend the workshop but took the time to complete the online survey. Your voices are equally valued. We remain committed to encouraging feedback and welcoming creative ideas as we continue building and refining our volunteer program into the future.

My favourite thing about volunteering – and what will always stand out the most – is the genuine connections our volunteers form with like-minded people, all while doing something they're truly passionate about. It's incredibly rewarding to see lifelong friendships blossom, and a sense of camaraderie and community grow stronger with each passing year.

Volunteering offers more than just a chance to make a difference – it gives people a way to connect meaningfully with others through impactful work, all while having a bit of fun along the way.

That spirit was on full display at our annual Christmas Party, where we braved the sweltering sun to play bowls, share a meal, and swap stories from our time together. It was equally present at our Volunteer Week Trivia Night – while neither team took home the top prize, what stood out was the diversity within our team, and the powerful reminder that regardless of our backgrounds or experiences, we are united by a shared cause.

The end of this financial year also sees the end of my two years as Volunteer Coordinator. It has been an incredible adventure and one that I am truly blessed to have experienced.



VOLUNTEER'S REPORT

Jenny Thomson
Volunteer Coordinator

The volunteers have shown remarkable commitment over the past year, working together to enrich and grow our community while helping the organisation prepare for transition and transformation.

Although I have only recently joined Sydney Dogs & Cats Home as the Volunteer Coordinator, I have already witnessed the dedication and passion that define our volunteer community.

During this time in our temporary accommodation, volunteers have continued to provide exceptional assistance, compassion, and positivity as we move towards our new home in the Shire.

I am privileged to have joined the team at such an exciting moment and look forward to the year ahead. We will continue developing our volunteering and community programs, drawing from the knowledge and support of the volunteers who have shaped Sydney Dogs & Cats Home into the amazing organisation it is today.

The end of the 2024–2025 financial year places us on the edge of an extraordinary future, and I am excited to see what lies ahead.



FUNDRAISING AND MARKETING REPORT

Karen Kalpage

Head of Fundraising & Marketing

In 2024/25, our fundraising and marketing efforts reached new heights – and it's all thanks to you. Despite a tough economic climate, your generosity has carried us through another challenging year. Together, we've not only kept our doors open for over a thousand lost and abandoned animals in temporary care, but also made extraordinary progress towards building their permanent new home in Kurnell.

Our strategy has been simple: **make every gift count, grow opportunities to support, and strengthen relationships.** From always-on digital campaigns to new community initiatives, we've created more ways for people to give when and how they want. The results speak for themselves:

- **Business-as-usual fundraising:** My small team was responsible for raising \$1.81 million against a budget of \$1.26 million – that's **43% above target**, driven by appeals, partnerships, grants, community fundraising and events, bequests and merchandise through our online shop. Both our Christmas and Tax Appeals broke records, with the EOFY appeal alone raising **\$346,480 at a 5:1 return on investment.**
- **Capital campaign:** Our *Make Home Happen Appeal* in August 2024 has raised more than **\$15.7 million of our \$21.6 million goal - 72% of the way home.** Major gifts of \$1 million from philanthropist Basil Sellers AM and \$500,000 from Gavin Simpson Education Endowment have been joined by thousands of smaller but equally meaningful contributions. Our return on investment across the capital appeal sits at **238%**, which is a good result for a new three-year campaign. You can read more about that in *Building Our Home of Hope in Kurnell.*
- **Community growth:** Over 1,900 new donors joined our family this year, across business-as-usual and capital appeals.
- **Engagement:** Media coverage on Sunrise, in the Daily and Sunday Telegraph and across social platforms, plus support from ambassadors and influencers, have helped amplify our message. Events like the Dog & Cat Lovers Show and Howloween at the Beresford brought more people into our community, while workplace and corporate partners continued to back our mission.

- **Awareness campaigns:** Initiatives such as Softy Staffy, adoption drives and desexing programs challenged misconceptions and provided valuable information to the community, and most importantly, helped more animals find their forever homes.

These results prove that fundraising is more than numbers – it's a community of people standing strong for abandoned and lost pets, even in a cost-of-living crisis.

As we look ahead, the challenge remains: raising the final \$5.9 million to complete our new Home while continuing to fund the daily care of animals who arrive at our doors. We will be launching new campaigns, new ways to engage with us and new events.

If this year has shown us anything, it's that together we can achieve the extraordinary.

On behalf of every animal whose life you've transformed – thank you.







**STEADY HANDS,
STRONG FOUNDATIONS**



TREASURER'S REPORT

Sarah Pyke
Board Treasurer

Whilst the past 12 months has been a trying time for most if not all of us, for Sydney Dogs & Cats Home (SDCH) it has been a huge year of growth fuelled by these challenges, as well as the anticipated new chapter at our Kurnell facility.

As we count down to the official opening of Kurnell, this project has created many challenges, many difficult decisions and conversations, but ultimately led to huge growth in the depth and breadth of the board's roles, responsibilities and mindset, as we navigate previously uncharted waters. However, a more passionate, all female, board you will never see!

Final results for FY2025 are slightly down on last year, with revenue coming in at \$4,217,140, a decrease of \$270,834 on FY2024. However, this can be largely explained by a reduction in bequests of \$185,899 in FY2025 compared to FY2024, something that is not predictable or budgeted. Not surprisingly, our net profit/surplus for the year is also down in FY2025 at \$291,203, compared to \$477,457 FY2024. However, this difference is almost exactly the deficit we saw from the reduction in bequests revenue. Maintaining revenue levels whilst reducing costs throughout FY2025 is highly commendable and shows the organisation is under consistent and solid management.

Whilst 2026 will not be an easier year for SDCH, with consumer spending and economic pressures still relevant and widespread, it is clear that the board are committed to putting 110% into everything they do for the organisation. When one door closes, another door always opens and Managing Director Melissa Penn is doing a fantastic job in finding all and every opportunity she can for the organisation to keep us on track, on budget and on schedule! (with respect to the construction of Kurnell)

As the transition to Kurnell begins towards the end of 2025, SDCH will be operating from two locations as efficiently and seamlessly as possible, as we await the funding required to build the new vet clinic at Kurnell. Whilst the option to close down the SDCH vet clinic at Strathfield is an option, the care and welfare of all the animals that pass through the SDCH doors is non-negotiable. Therefore, whilst many scenarios have been considered, the ideal decision is to retain our own vet clinic, even if that is at a separate location.

The summary of the BAU / Operating result is as follows:

Item	FY25	FY24
Revenue Summary	\$4,217,140	\$4,487,974
Overheads	\$3,925,937	\$4,010,517
Relocation costs (included above)	\$122,665	\$203,995
Net Surplus	\$291,203	\$477,457

Maintaining consistency throughout the profit and loss results has also translated to the balance sheet, with cash reserves closing at \$1,497,891 at 30 June 2025, down from \$1,716,397 as at 30 June 2024, which can be explained by the transfer of some term deposit funds to the capital campaign. The net asset position has actually increased to \$3,024,287 as at 30 June 2025, compared to \$2,615,311 as at 30 June 2024, meaning our assets have outgrown our liabilities compared to the previous year.

They say it takes a village, and to you our village, we say thank you! Thank you for all of your support over the past 12 months, to the incredible staff and board members who show up each and every week or month to ensure this organisation continues to be one of, if not, the best in our state.





FINANCIAL REPORT – CORE OPERATIONS



Melissa Penn
Managing Director

Sydney Dogs & Cats Home (SDCH) delivered a solid and stable financial performance in FY2025, with a **total revenue of \$4,217,140** and a **surplus after tax of \$291,203 for core operations**. This result reflects the organisation's prudent financial management, effective cost control, and continued donor and community support, despite a reduction in grant income and ongoing operational pressures.

Income

Total Revenue: \$4,217,140, a decrease of 6% from the previous year (2024: \$4,487,974).

Major Income Sources:

- **Operational Revenue:** \$2,493,994 (2024: \$2,163,862) represented 59% of total income (2024: 48%), which includes adoption fees, council fees, and grants.
 - **Adoption Fees:** \$252,962 (2024: \$199,382), increased by 27%
 - **Council Fees:** \$1,774,039 (2024: \$1,628,759), increased by 9%
 - **Grants:** \$67,850 (2024: \$335,721), decrease of 80% reflecting reduced government support and unsuccessful grant applications from the previous year.
- **Fundraising Revenue:** \$1,716,963, 16% down from previous year (2024: \$2,052,405) (41% of total income), driven by bequests, donations, and events.
 - **Bequests:** \$622,115 (2024: \$808,014), down 23%.
 - **Donations:** \$1,094,848.32 (2024: \$1,195,976), down 8%.
 - **Sales of Goods & Services:** \$13,590 (2024: \$22,163), primarily from merchandise and product sales 39% reduction from previous year.

We are now targeting a November 2025 move-in, with internal fit-outs and compliance phases commencing soon. Our teams are also deep into transition planning to ensure a seamless experience for both animals and people as we move to our new facility.

Expenditure

Total Expenses: \$3,925,937, 2% decrease from the previous year (2024: \$4,010,517).

The overall reduction in total expenses highlights effective management of operating costs amid inflationary pressures and transition demands.

Major Expenditure Areas:

- **Employment Expenses:** \$2,726,294.02 (2024: \$2,682,880) (69% of total expenses), 2% increase due to increases with Award, CPI and Superannuation entitlements.
- **Fundraising Expenses:** \$314,801 (2024: \$335,498) (8% of total expenses and 6% down from previous year).
- **Occupancy & Relocation Expenses:** \$309,801 (2024: \$413,150) (8% of total expenses and 25% reduction from previous year), reflecting reduced temporary site-related costs as Kurnell preparations advance.
- **Cost of Goods Sold:** \$365,735 (2024: \$384,449) (9% of total expenses and down 9% from previous year).
- **Administration Expenses:** \$209,265 (2024: \$173,400) (5% of total expenses and an increase of 21% due to system and facility maintenance and upgrades).

Surplus and Financial Position

Net Surplus: The surplus after tax amounted to \$291,203, a 39% decrease from the previous year's surplus of \$477,457.

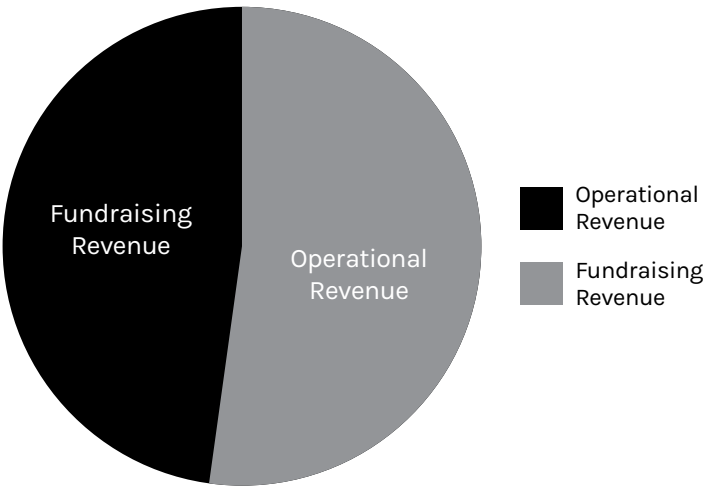
Total Assets: As of 30 June 2025, SDCH reported total assets of \$3,486,868 (2024: \$3,353,914), up 4%.

Net Assets: The net assets stood at \$3,018,104 (2024: \$2,615,311), up by 15% reflecting SDCH's strong balance sheet and capacity to meet its obligations.



Financial Year end June 2025

Income Distribution (2025)



Future Outlook

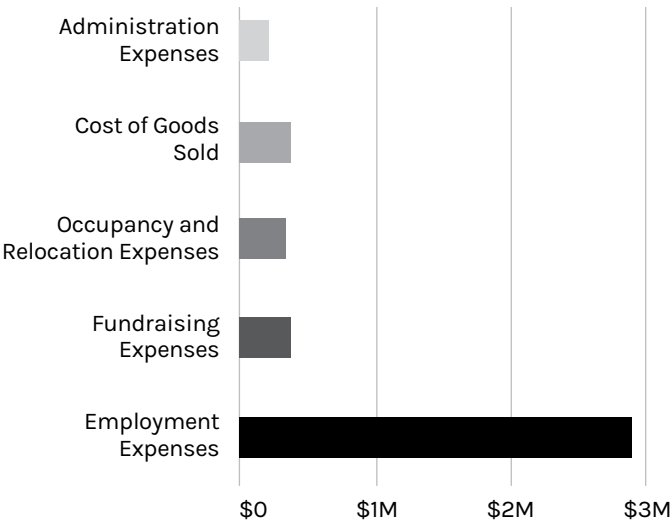
FY2026 will be a pivotal year as SDCH prepares to **transition to the new purpose-built Kurnell facility**.

Key considerations include:

- Managing **dual-site overheads** and relocation costs through the December 2025 move.
- Sustaining **operational liquidity** alongside major **capital investment** in the facility build.
- Continuing to **drive fundraising growth** to support both operational needs and the capital campaign to complete the facility construction.
- Leveraging the new facility to **increase service capacity, improve efficiency, and expand community programs** once operational.

With careful financial stewardship and strong community partnerships, SDCH remains well-positioned for long-term sustainability and growth.

Expenditure Breakdown (2025)





FINANCIAL REPORT – CAPITAL

Melissa Penn
Managing Director

Our Capital Campaign delivered a strong financial position for the 2025 financial year, reflecting substantial fundraising success and the first year of significant capital investment for the new Kurnell Shelter project. The results reflect strong community support and early philanthropic engagement, positioning the campaign for ongoing momentum into FY2026.

Income

Total Income: \$1,990,626.

Major Income Sources:

- **Trusts & Foundations:** \$522,500
- **Individual and corporate Donations:** \$1,458,628
- **Events & Sponsorship:** \$9,499

Expenditure

Total Operating Expenses: \$601,866.

Key Expenditure Categories:

- **Employment Costs:** \$108,031 (18%)
- **Fundraising & Marketing:** \$401,097 (67%) – upfront investment required for a three-year-campaign
- **Relocation & Project Costs:** \$81,051 (13%)
- **Administration & Office Costs:** \$11,687 (< 2%)

Capitalised construction and legal expenses totalling \$1,138,469 are reflected in the balance sheet as assets, representing direct investment into the Kurnell Shelter.

Surplus and Financial Position

Net Surplus (after expenses): \$1,388,761.

Cash and cash equivalents at year end were \$473,997, up from \$1,985 in FY2024, ensuring liquidity for ongoing construction expenses and fundraising activities.

Outlook and Forward Priorities

The Capital Campaign will continue into FY2026 with a focus on:

- Securing the remaining \$6 million in capital funding required to complete the Kurnell Shelter construction
- Expanding major gift and corporate partnership pipelines, leveraging the momentum of FY2025 success.
- Managing cash flow as construction progresses to ensure alignment between pledges, receipts, and expenditure timing.

The financial results confirm that SDCH is in a sound position to continue delivering the Capital Campaign objectives and complete the new Kurnell facility.





GRATITUDE THAT LASTS A LIFETIME

THANKS TO OUR PARTNERS

A PROUD MEMBER OF

Savourlife⁺Petstock
Foundationfibre
cycle
a Kent Family CompanyOptiver Les Néréides
PARISRCPA QAP
The Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia
Quality Assurance ProgramABOUT A
DOG

DOGUE



Centuria

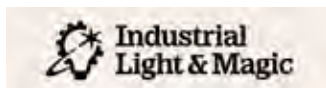


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EthicalJobs

AGENCE DE PARFUM



Insurance Brokers

Bankstown
Terrace Care
Communityemploysure
workplace confidenceTIYCE
LAWYERS

BUNNINGS

THE
BERESFORD

Elanco



TRUSTS AND FOUNDATIONS

- Basil Sellers Group
- Rona Ellis Foundation
- Gavin Simpson Education Endowment
- The Hamilton Charitable Gift Account
- APS Foundation
- Davies Family Foundation

WORKPLACE GIVING

- Hanasoft
- Westpac Group
- K&L Gates
- Ernst & Young
- Macquarie
- Google
- Visa
- ASX
- Australia Post
- Baker McKenzie
- Cuscal
- Deutsche Group Services Pty Ltd
- Diageo Australia
- Brookfield
- Suncorp Group
- Sydney Trains
- Sydney Water
- Tasman Cargo Australia
- The Smith Family



LOVE THAT LIVES ON – GIFTS IN WILLS

Behind every happy adoption story are people whose kindness continues long after they're gone. This year, we were deeply honoured to receive bequests from supporters who chose to let their love for animals live on through Sydney Dogs & Cats Home.

These heartfelt gifts ensure that future generations of lost, abandoned, and neglected pets will find safety, care, and love for years to come. Through our *Love That Lives On* legacy program, we continue to grow awareness of how a simple act of generosity in your Will can change countless lives.

To all who have remembered us in this special way – thank you.

We take a moment to remember:

- Denis Bradley
- Linda Randell
- Catherine Beaton
- Merle Lambourne
- Sophia Stella Bastas
- Rosemary Celia Brown
- Jayati Dutta
- Patricia Baker

Your compassion ensures that Sydney Dogs & Cats Home will always be a place of hope and healing for animals in need.

Leave a legacy of love

By choosing to include Sydney Dogs & Cats Home in your Will, you can help ensure every lost and abandoned animal finds the safety, care, and love they deserve. Legacy gifts – large or small – support lifesaving veterinary treatment, rehabilitation, education, and future capital works.

Our **Legacy Pets Program** also provides peace of mind, ensuring your beloved pets will be cared for and responsibly rehomed should they outlive you.

Find out more or download our Legacy Guide at sydneydogsandcatshome.org/get-involved/your-legacy

or contact us at legacy@sdch.org.au for a confidential conversation.



< Leave a legacy
of love today

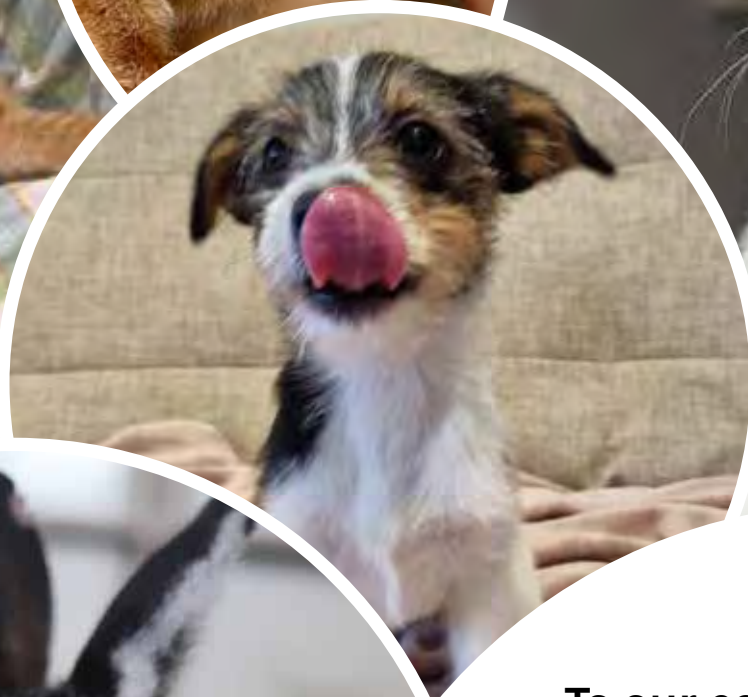


Biscuits



CLOSING THE YEAR WITH HEART





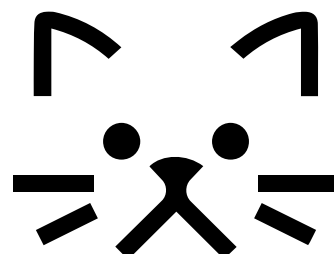
To our community of supporters, volunteers, partners, and staff – thank you. Your generosity gives hope to every animal who comes through our doors and builds a kinder future for pets and people alike.



“

To every supporter, whether staff, volunteer, foster carer, donor, councillor, partner, or friend, thank you. Your belief in our work and our mission is the reason we've come this far. Together, we are building more than a shelter. We are building a future where every animal is given the love and care they deserve."

Melissa Penn,
Managing Director



THE BUSINESS

Business Owner

The Sydney Dogs & Cats Home Incorporated

Trading Name

Sydney Dogs & Cats Home

Business Structure

Incorporated Association

Phone

02 9587 9611

Email

info@sydneydogsandcatshome.org

Operating since

1946

ABN

16 943 464 585

CFN

16738

ASIC

Y3013408

Rehoming Organisation Number

R251000234

Business / Veterinary Services Location

442-446 Liverpool Road,
Strathfield South NSW 2136

Animal Boarding Location

Austral NSW 2179

Products / Services

Independent not for profit council pound
and rehoming facility.

Charity Tax Concession Status

Sydney Dogs & Cats Home Incorporated is a Charity
endorsed to access the following tax concessions:

Tax Concession	From
GST Concession	01 Jul 2005
FBT Rebate	01 Jul 2005
Income Tax Exemption	01 Jul 2000
Stamp Duty Exemption	15 June 2015

Deductible Gift Recipient Status

Sydney Dogs & Cats Home Incorporated is endorsed
as a Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) from 01 Jul 2005.
It is covered by Item 1 of the table in section 30-15 of
the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1*.

OUR BOARD

- Joanne Bermingham – President
- Amanda Stokes – Vice President
- Sarah Pyke – Treasurer
- Alice Kilavuz-West – Secretary
- Sandrina Postorino – Director
- Michele Biruski – Director
- Melissa Penn – Director

LEARN MORE

Domain Name

sydneydogsandcatshome.org
sdch.org.au

Facebook

facebook.com/sydneydogsandcatshome

Instagram

instagram.com/sydneydogsandcatshome

Tik Tok

tiktok.com/@sydneydogsandcatshome

LinkedIn

linkedin.com/company/sydney-dogs-and-cats-home

Trading Hours

- Monday – Friday, 9am – 3.30pm
- Saturday, 9am – 3pm
- Sunday, 9.30am – 1pm
- 24/7 access to council's authorised officers
for impounding.



Evie

SYDNEY DOGS & CATS HOME

CONTACT US

Postal Address

442-446 Liverpool Road
Strathfield South NSW 2136

Phone

02 9587 9611

Website

www.sydneydogsandcatshome.org
www.sdch.org.au

Email

info@sydneydogsandcatshome.org

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@sydneydogsandcatshome



LinkedIn

@sydney-dogs-and-cats-home

Sydney Dogs & Cats Home is owned and operated
by The Sydney Dogs & Cats Home Incorporated.
ABN: 16 943 464 585 | CFN: 16738

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WOOF. MEOW.