

Media Release

Ms Mary-Anne Thomas MP
Minister for Regional Development
Minister for Agriculture



Tuesday, 19 April 2022

SUPPORTING OUR MUCH-LOVED COMPANION ANIMALS

The Andrews Labor Government is supporting animal welfare organisations across the state to rehome more cats and dogs as well as upgrading and expanding vet clinics.

Minister for Agriculture Mary-Anne Thomas visited Australian Animal Protection Society (AAPS) in Keysborough today to announce \$100,000 in funding for the organisation to help even more dogs find the loving homes they deserve. AAPS will receive the funding as part of Round 10 of the Labor Government's *Animal Welfare Fund (AWF) Grants*.

The funding will be used to build 'The BIG Kennel' – a meet and greet area where dogs and their prospective new owners can spend quality time getting to know each other, further enhancing the adoption process and reducing return rates.

The area will also serve as a training area for dogs that come into the care of AAPS with behavioral issues.

A total of \$1.5 million will be awarded under Round 10 of the AWF Grants Program for:

- not-for-profit organisations, shelters and foster carers to support the rehoming of dogs and cats
- not-for-profit and community vet clinics to upgrade and expand as well as support new low-cost clinics to be set up in areas of need around Victoria.

The Program delivers grants to eligible not-for profit and community organisations aiming to improve responsible pet ownership and provide better animal welfare services. The grants recognise that companion animals play a significant role in the lives of Victorians.

Since the Labor Government was elected in 2014, \$5.9 million has now been awarded for not-for-profit animal shelters, foster care organisations and community vet clinics to directly improve the welfare of pets and other animals in Victoria.

For more information visit animalwelfare.vic.gov.au

Quote attributable to Minister for Agriculture Mary-Anne Thomas

"We know that pets are an important part of the lives of Victorians. That's why we are investing in animal welfare organisations across the state to improve outcomes for all and rehome more cats and dogs."

Quote attributable to Member for Keysborough Martin Pakula

"These grants recognise the significant role that organisations like AAPS play in improving animal welfare outcomes in our communities."

Quote attributable to Australian Animal Protection General Manager Society Megan Secull

"We are so passionate about giving our dogs the very best chance of finding their second chance home and The BIG Kennel will be instrumental in making the experience truly wonderful for both people and the dogs."

Media contact: Nadia Dimattina 0438 701 306 | nadia.dimattina@minstaff.vic.gov.au