

# Media Release

**The Hon Ros Spence MP**  
Minister for Agriculture  
Minister for Community Sport  
Minister for Carers and Volunteers



Tuesday, 25 February 2025

## PUTTING VICTORIA'S PETS AT THE PAW-FRONT

The Allan Labor Government is helping more Victorian families access cheaper veterinary care and giving more pets the chance to find their forever families.

Minister for Agriculture Ros Spence opened Round 12 of the Animal Welfare Fund Grants Program today at Second Chance Animal Rescue (SCAR) in Craigieburn, offering over \$1.6 million in funding to eligible organisations.

The grants will help community veterinary hospitals and animal rehoming organisations upgrade facilities, purchase medical equipment, provide low cost veterinary services and support rehoming.

SCAR has rescued over 10,000 animals since opening in 2008 and has been supported with over \$560,000 of investment from the Labor Government to help fit out its animal hospital and provide veterinary and rehoming services.

The not-for-profit organisation has hundreds of foster carers and volunteers in its network, operating as a community animal hospital, shelter, education hub and cat boarding facility.

The Labor Government has invested more than \$11.4 million across 214 shelters, carers and animal welfare organisations to improve the care of Victoria's companion animals.

The *Victorian Budget 2023/24* invested an additional \$5 million to support pet rescue and rehoming, including \$2 million to support access to veterinary care.

Applications for Round 12 Animal Welfare Fund Grants are open until 25 March. To apply, visit [animalwelfare.vic.gov.au](https://animalwelfare.vic.gov.au).

### Quotes attributable to Minister for Agriculture Ros Spence

*"Pets hold a special place in our hearts - these grants will help Victorians feeling the pinch of cost-of-living keep their furry companions happy and healthy for less."*

*"We're making sure services like Second Chance Animal Rescue can continue to make a real difference, helping animals find their forever homes."*

### Quotes attributable to Second Chance Animal Rescue CEO and Founder Marisa Debattista

*"Second Chance Animal Rescue not only rescues, rehabilitates and rehomes homeless companion animals, but we also support vulnerable pet owners through tough times."*

*"This funding will assist organisations such as ours to improve our equipment and facilities which will help us to continue to provide the best and most-affordable care for Victoria's much-loved furry friends."*

### Quotes attributable to Member for Greenvale Iwan Walters

*"We are backing wonderful local organisations like Second Chance Animal Rescue and supporting residents in our communities who need access to affordable healthcare for their pets."*

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