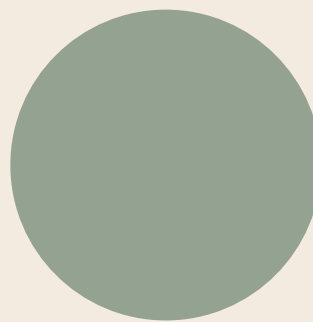
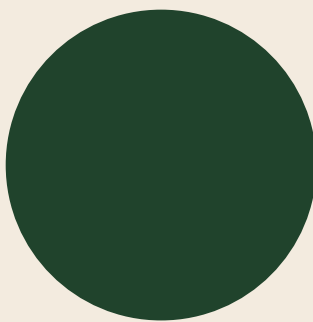
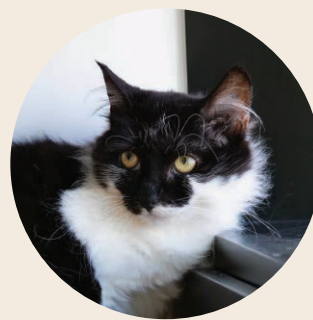
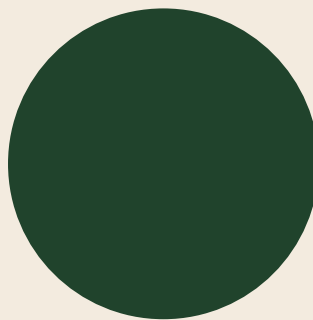
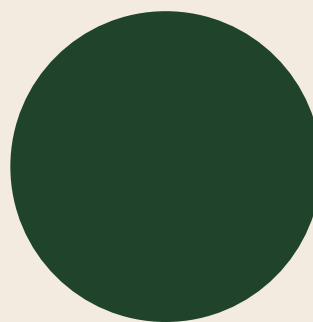


Annual Report

2025-2026

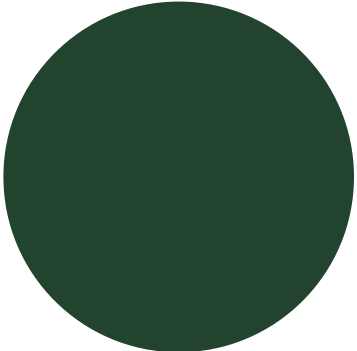
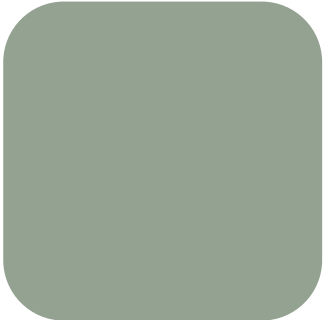


OUT OF THE WOODS RESCUE



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Chairperson's report

Tori Hunt

When Out of the Woods Rescue Melbourne (OOTW) was established in 2025, we began with a simple belief. That every animal deserves safety, compassion and the opportunity for a second chance. That there was a gap in this ecosystem that we could help fill. Looking back on our first year, I am incredibly proud of how far that belief has taken us.

What started as an idea shared by a small group of passionate animal lovers, has grown into a dedicated community. In our first year, we welcomed 335 cats into rescue, supported by 144 foster carers and a wider team of volunteers and organisations who gave their time, skills and hearts to animals who needed them most.

Behind every number in this report is a life changed.

An orphaned neonatal kitten given warmth and specialist care, an adult cat given the time they needed to trust again, a bonded pair kept together, or an animal with complex medical needs given a chance when they may otherwise have been left

behind. These stories are the reason OOTW exists.

Our first year has been one of learning, growth and building strong foundations. Establishing a new charity requires more than passion alone. It requires sustainable processes, strong governance, education, responsible financial management and a commitment to doing things properly. Throughout the year, our Board and volunteers have worked tirelessly to develop and fine tune the policies, partnerships and processes needed to ensure OOTW can continue to have a meaningful impact well into the future.

One of the things I am most proud of is the standard of care we have built into our rescue model. As a Board, we have often said that we want OOTW to operate with the professionalism, accountability and sustainability of a business, while never losing the compassion and heart that defines animal rescue. Looking back on our first year, I believe we have achieved exactly that.

We have remained committed to making thoughtful decisions based on the individual needs of each animal, guided by veterinary advice. Quality of care has remained at the centre of everything we do.

Of course, none of this would have been possible without our community. To our foster carers who open their homes and hearts, our volunteers who work tirelessly behind the scenes, our veterinary partners who share their expertise, our transport team who ensure animals and supplies safely reach their foster homes, the people who donated who helped make lifesaving care possible, and our adopters who choose rescue - thank you. You are the reason animals get their second chance.

The significance of the trust placed in us by our community is never lost on us. Every hour volunteered, every dollar donated, every animal entrusted into our care, every mention of us in passing conversation represents a commitment we take incredibly seriously.

I would also like to acknowledge my fellow Board members for their dedication during such a huge foundation year. Building an organisation from the ground up requires an enormous amount of work behind the scenes. Animal rescue is incredibly rewarding, but it also comes with difficult decisions, emotional challenges and a responsibility that can feel heavy at times.

As a Board, we have carried those moments together, supported one another and lived by our mission. We have learned to lean on each other's strengths, bringing together different skills, perspectives and experiences to build and run an organisation we are incredibly proud of.

What we have achieved together in our first year is something truly special.

The commitment, compassion and determination of this Board has helped shape OOTW into the organisation it is today and has laid the foundation for everything we hope to achieve in the years ahead.

Our first year has shown what is possible when people come together with a shared purpose. I am excited for what comes next and incredibly grateful to everyone who has helped us bring this dream to life.





About

Who we are

Out of the Woods Rescue Melbourne is a Victorian-based animal rescue charity dedicated to creating better outcomes for animals in need.

Established in 2025, we are a volunteer-run, foster-based rescue organisation built on the belief that every animal deserves safety, compassion and the opportunity for a second chance. Without a physical shelter facility, our foster care model allows animals to recover, grow and thrive in loving foster home environments while they wait to find their forever families.

Our work focuses on providing vulnerable animals with the care, support and advocacy they need. This includes rescuing animals from pounds, supporting animals with medical or behavioural needs, promoting responsible adoption practices and working collaboratively with the wider animal welfare community.

As a registered charity with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) and endorsed Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR), we are committed to operating with transparency, accountability and integrity.

At Out of the Woods Rescue, our mission extends beyond simply finding homes. We aim to create meaningful, lasting change by improving animal welfare outcomes, supporting our community and ensuring animals are given the care, compassion and opportunity they deserve.

Our mission

We help animals find their way out of crisis, into safety, with decisions grounded in compassion and long-term impact. We offer sanctuary, compassion and trust while inspiring the community to make informed, kind choices.

We will reduce the number of those who are unwanted by providing trusted care, advocating for responsible ownership, and building a rescue model that ensures long-term impact and viability.

Our vision

A future where every animal is valued, protected and given a chance. Never forgotten or failed by the system.

Our values

We prioritise quality of care

We do what's best for the animals, based on facts, not feelings. Every decision is backed by professional advice from our vets. Safe foster homes and thoughtful rehoming are never compromised.

We show compassion

Whether you're adopting, fostering or following along, you matter. We provide genuine care and dedicated support, offering guidance to all of our foster carers, adopters, and community members.

We educate and advocate

We strive to raise awareness about responsible pet ownership, animal welfare issues and the importance of adoption.

We strive for sustainability

We aim to build a rescue model that is financially, ethically and emotionally sustainable for long-term impact.

Year in numbers →



335

cats rescued



258 Adopted

(Plus 1 reclaimed by owner)

648

Vet visits

202

Spay/castration
surgeries

336

Vaccinations

144 Foster carers

51 Other volunteers



01

Feature story

Every rescue has a first. For Out of the Woods Rescue, that first was Prudence.

Prudence may have been small, but from the very beginning, she had a personality that was impossible to miss.

“As soon as we saw her cheeky smile on her profile picture, we knew she’d have a lot of personality. We were right!”

When Prudence’s adopters first met her, she was still unsure of the world around her. She kept her distance, running around and too nervous to approach the people who had come to meet her.

“I remember seeing her running around and being scared to approach us. I said, ‘Don’t worry, we’ll be best friends before you know it.’ Right again, Prudence does not leave our side now.”

It did not take long for Prudence to realise she was home. She quickly settled into her new life, formed a friendship with her resident cat sibling, and began showing the big personality her adopters knew was there from the start.

“She is a little fireball of energy and love; she loves to play and cuddle to relax. She’s more or less a little person than a kitten, and she fits into our lives perfectly.”

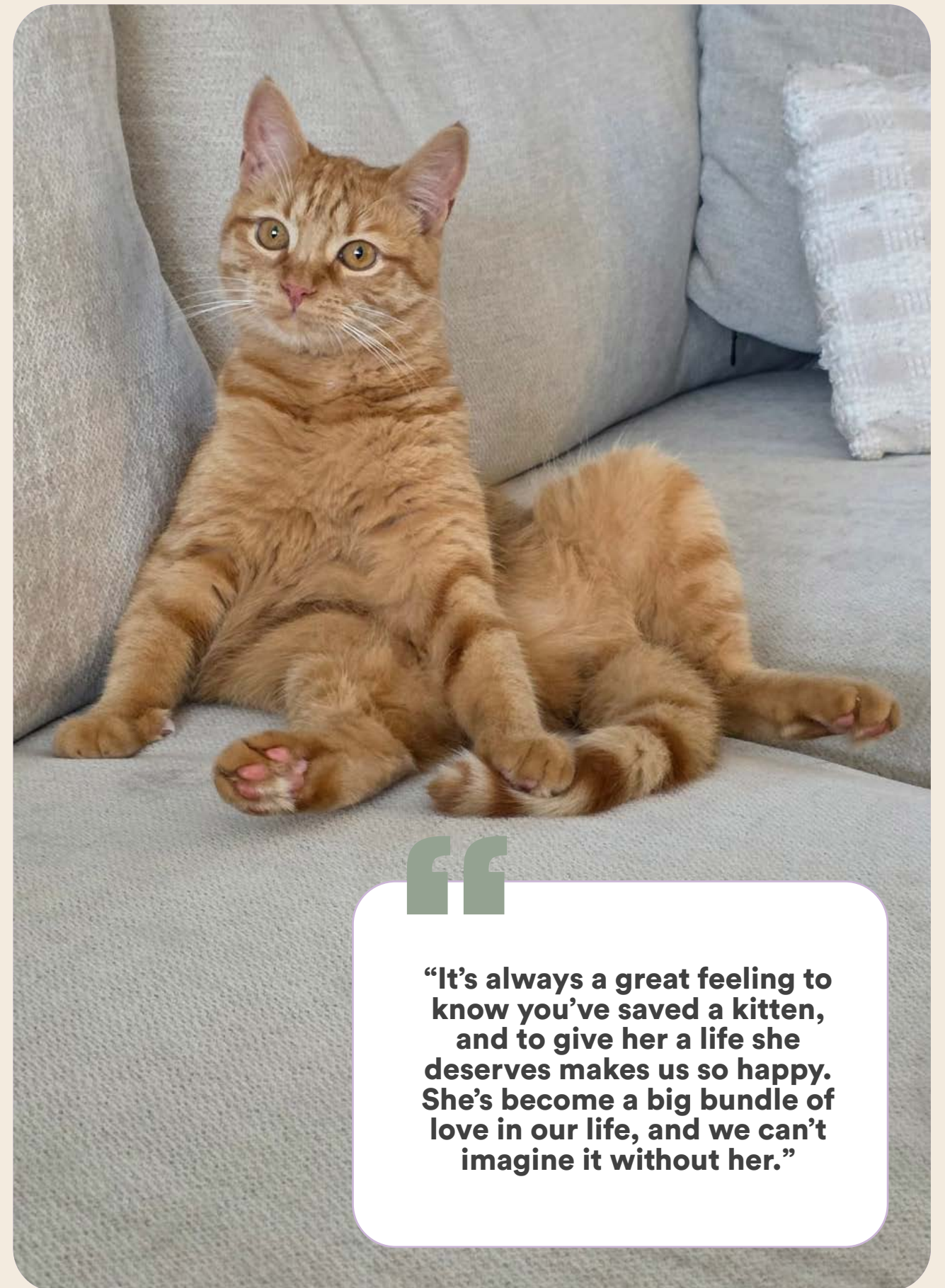
For Prudence’s family, adopting her was about more than welcoming a pet into their home. It was about giving a rescue animal the opportunity to have the life they always deserved.

“It’s always a great feeling to know you’ve saved a kitten, and to give her a life she deserves makes us so happy. She’s become a big bundle of love in our life, and we can’t imagine it without her.”

Prudence’s adoption marked the beginning of Out of the Woods Rescue’s journey. She was the first of many animals who would move from uncertainty into the safety and comfort of a loving home.

Her story is a reminder that every adoption changes a life, not only for the animal being rescued, but for the people lucky enough to love them.

“Prudence and all other rescues deserve a chance. I always recommend the rescue option over anything else.”



“

“It’s always a great feeling to know you’ve saved a kitten, and to give her a life she deserves makes us so happy. She’s become a big bundle of love in our life, and we can’t imagine it without her.”



02 Feature story

When Gary came to us, he was in heartbreaking condition.

He was suffering from severe skin disease caused by a heavy flea burden, had a large infected wound on his neck, was battling a respiratory infection, and required extensive dental treatment. It was clear that life had not been kind to him for some time.

Yet despite everything he had endured, Gary greeted everyone he met with trust.

Investigations revealed several health concerns, including FIV (Feline Immunodeficiency Virus), but Gary never let his circumstances define him. Through blood tests, medications, wound care, dental treatment and countless veterinary visits, he remained gentle, affectionate and endlessly

patient with the people trying to help him.

Cases like Gary's are a powerful reminder of why animal rescue exists. Behind every medical condition is an animal who deserves compassion, comfort and a second chance. Providing the care Gary needed required significant veterinary intervention, made possible by the generosity of our donors, his foster carers and vets.

While many adopters search for young kittens, Gary's adopter was looking for someone exactly like him - an older cat who may have been overlooked.

"I specifically wanted an older cat, one with issues that would make them have a harder time getting adopted... Gary was 7 and has FIV... His listing said he liked belly rubs and that was enough for me."

When Gary first arrived home, he took a little time to settle in - including finding a hiding spot so good that his adopter worried he had somehow lost his new cat inside a one-bedroom apartment. But Gary quickly showed his true colours.

"Eventually he left his hiding spot... and he's been super chill ever since. Just a big cuddly fella."

These days, Gary spends his time exactly as we always hoped he would - loved, comfortable and completely at home. Whether he is curled up on the couch watching movies, entertaining visitors with his unexpected acrobatics, or winning over everyone he meets, Gary has become an irreplaceable part of his adopter's life.

In fact, when his adopter recently travelled overseas and needed someone to look after Gary, there was no shortage of volunteers.

"Everyone who's met him wanted him, people were fighting over who got to babysit him. Everyone's whose come over and met him just loves him"

Gary's story has the happy ending we hoped for from the moment he entered our care. His adopter adores him, and the bond they have formed is so special that he has even had a tattoo of Gary done in his honour.

After everything Gary endured, seeing him so deeply loved is the outcome every rescue hopes for. His journey from neglect and illness to cherished family member is a testament to what can be achieved when a community comes together to help an animal in need. Gary reminds us that every cat deserves a chance, and sometimes the ones who have endured the most hardship have the most love to give.



Programs



Pound and shelter rescue program

Out of the Woods Rescue was founded with the goal of supporting vulnerable animals in Victoria’s pound and shelter system. Our Pound and Shelter Rescue Program provides a pathway for animals who are unclaimed, overlooked, facing medical challenges or needing additional time and support before finding their forever homes.

Every animal who enters our care receives vet treatment, behavioural support, rehabilitation where needed and the opportunity to find a family of their own.

During the 2025-26 reporting period, we welcomed 335 cats into care. The majority (83%) of our intakes came directly from Victorian pounds and shelters.

Our partnerships with these facilities are central to achieving our mission. By working collaboratively, we can provide a safety net for animals who need additional care, resources or time, ensuring they have every opportunity to move out of the system and into safe, loving homes.

Cats taken in to rescue by age and source

	Total	Born in care	Newborn/neonatal	Kitten	Juvenile	Adult	Senior
Base (n=)	335	13	71	120	5	121	5
Melton Pound	47%	-	14%	13%	<1%	19%	1%
wat djerring Animal Facility	29%	-	4%	12%	1%	12%	1%
Rescue transfer	5%	-	-	4%	-	1%	-
Vet surrender	4%	-	3%	1%	-	1%	-
Born in care	4%	4%	-	-	-	-	-
Campaspe Shire Pound	4%	-	-	1%	1%	-	-
Mornington Peninsula Pound	2%	-	1%	1%	-	1%	-
Community stray	2%	-	-	1%	-	1%	-
Private surrender	2%	-	-	2%	-	<1%	-
Animal Aid Coldstream	1%	-	-	1%	-	-	-
Total	100%	4%	21%	36%	1%	36%	1%



Foster care program

As a foster-based rescue, our foster carers are at the heart of everything we do. Without a physical shelter facility, our ability to save lives relies entirely on a dedicated network of volunteers who open their homes to animals in need.

During the 2025-26 reporting period, 144 foster carers welcomed animals into their homes, providing safety, comfort and individualised care while they waited for their forever families.

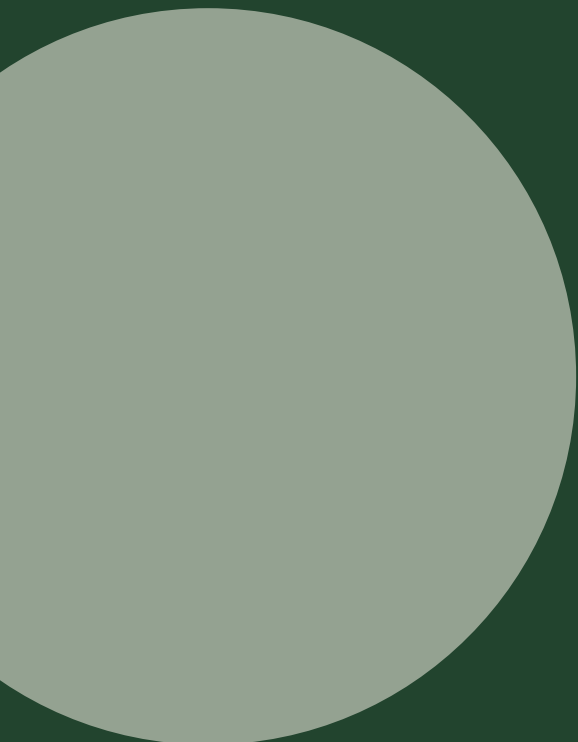
Their compassion and commitment are what make our work possible.



Meet and greet events

Throughout the year, we hosted a number of Meet and Greet Days to help connect our animals with potential adopters and increase awareness of our work within the community.

These events were held in partnership with local pet stores, including Petstock Prahara and Pets Domain Ferntree Gully, as well as a special event hosted by our veterinary partner, Oakleigh Central Vet. Across six events during the reporting period, our volunteers introduced the community to our animals available for adoption, answered questions about responsible pet ownership, and shared the importance of foster-based rescue.



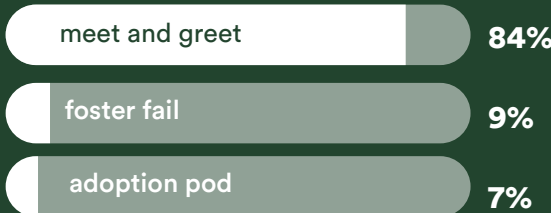
Adoption program

From our very first adoption in June 2025, our adoption program continued to grow throughout the year. During the 2025-26 reporting period, 258 cats found their forever homes. In January 2026, we celebrated our biggest adoption month of the reporting period, with 38 cats beginning their next chapter.

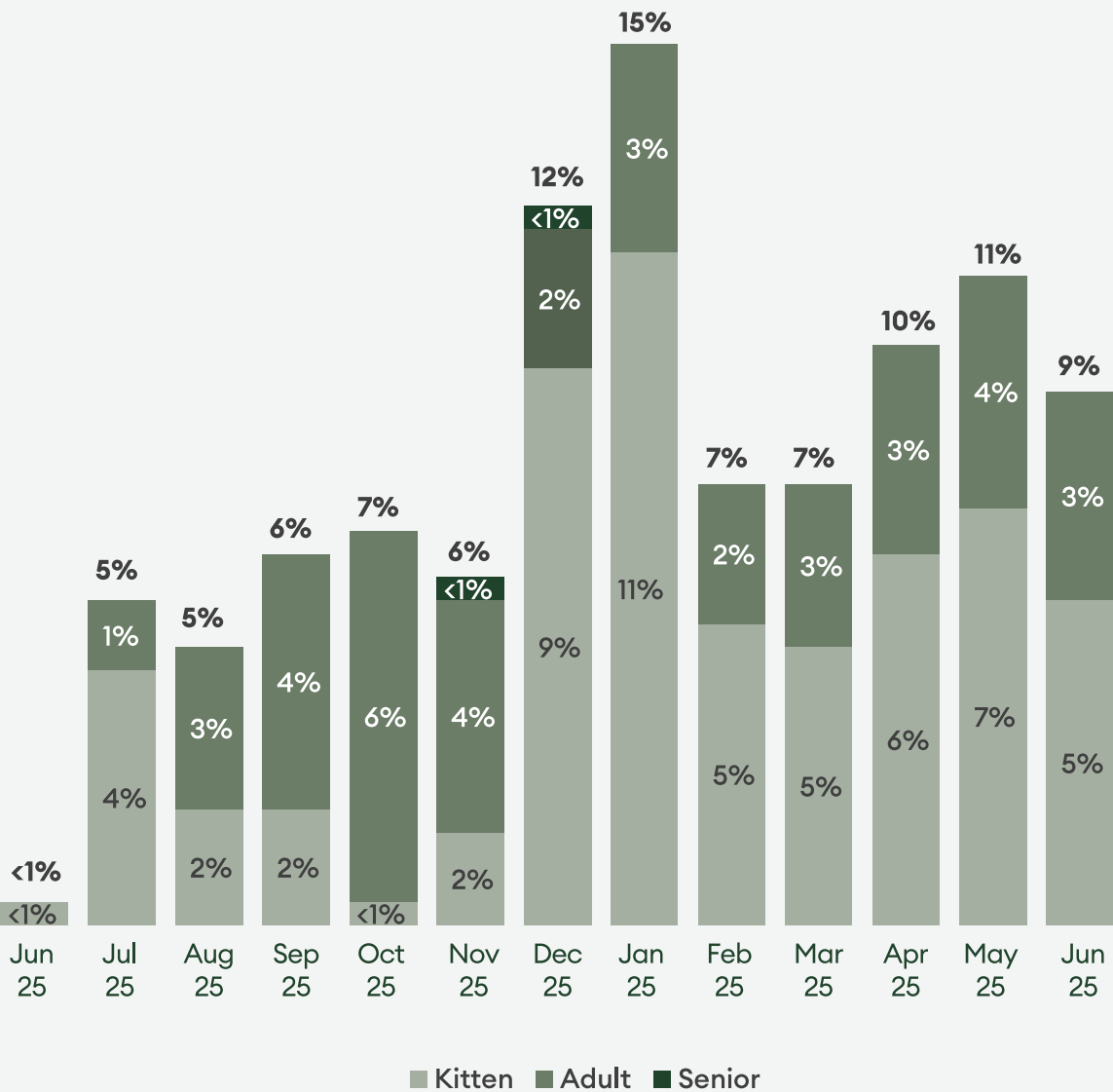
Adoptions are facilitated through three pathways: meet and greets, our adoption pod partnership with Petstock Prahran, and foster carer adoptions (commonly known as “foster fails”).

- the majority of adoptions (84%) occurred through our traditional meet and greet process
- a further one-in-ten (9%) of adoptions were foster fails
- our adoption pod at Petstock Prahran accounted for 7% of adoptions.

Adoption pathways:



Monthly cat adoptions by age group



Base: All animals adopted between 1 June 2025 and 30 June 2026.

Note: One animal was reclaimed by their owner. This has not been included in the figure above.

Neonatal program

Newborn and neonatal kittens are some of the most vulnerable animals entering the rescue system. Without specialised care, many do not survive. During our first year of operation, Out of the Woods Rescue established an emergency neonatal program to provide these fragile kittens with the intensive support they need during their earliest weeks of life.

Our program is supported by a dedicated team of experienced foster carers who have undertaken specialised neonatal training and are equipped to provide around-the-clock care. From bottle feeding, monitoring weight gain and development, providing warmth and hygiene support, and responding quickly when medical concerns arise, our neonatal carers play a critical role in giving these kittens the best possible chance of survival.

To support our most vulnerable animals, the rescue has two specialised neonatal incubators. In 2025, a generous benefactor provided funding specifically for the

purchase of a Curadle 90 incubator, helping us provide specialised care and improve outcomes for neonatal kittens. We were then fortunate to receive an Animal Welfare Victoria Grant with our application for Spaceship Survivors, enabling us to purchase a second Curadle 90 and expand the capacity of our neonatal care program.

During the 2025–26 reporting period, our emergency neonatal program supported:

- 13 kittens born in our care
- 25 newborn/neonatal kittens (who entered care with their mothers)
- 46 orphaned newborn/neonatal kittens.

Every neonatal life saved represents hours of dedication from our foster carers, veterinary partners and volunteers. This program reflects our commitment to giving every animal a chance, no matter how small they are or how uncertain their chances of survival may seem.



Emergency bushfire relief

In response to the devastating Victorian bushfires, Out of the Woods Rescue launched an emergency relief initiative to support affected communities and their animals from 9 January to 25 January.

With the generosity of our community and support from local organisations, we collected essential pet supplies including food, bedding, carriers, crates, litter and other animal care items for families and animals impacted by the fires.

This response would not have been possible without the incredible support of Luna Event Space, who provided a dedicated space to store, sort and coordinate donations, as well as access to their vans to transport supplies directly to communities in need.

Thanks to the efforts of our volunteers, supporters and partner organisations, donations were delivered to affected areas including Alexandra, Longwood and Bendigo, supporting local communities and animal welfare organisations working on the ground.

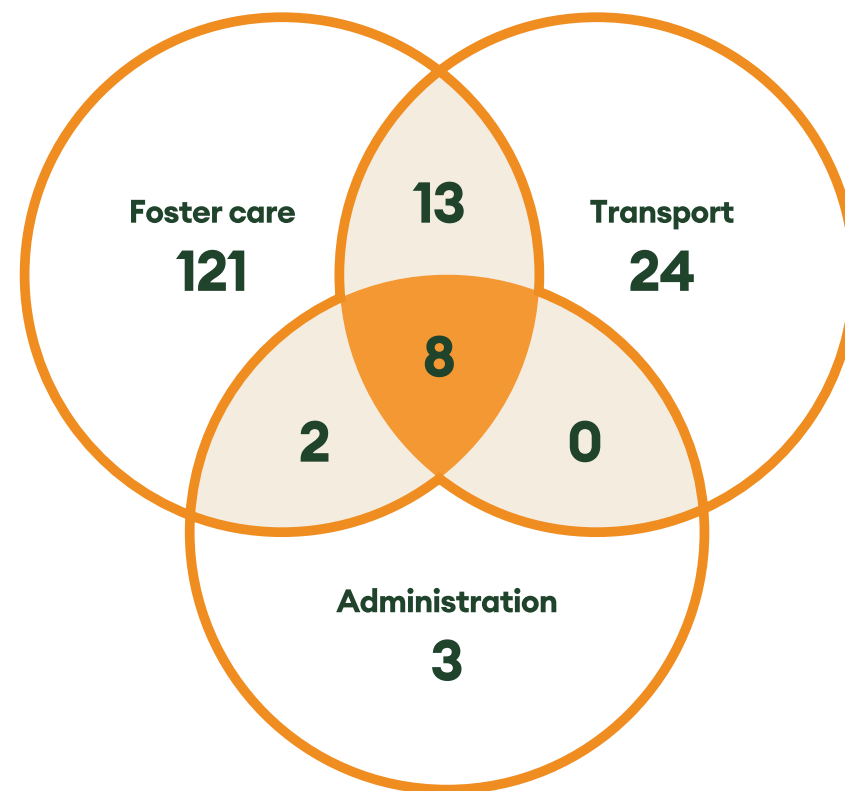
The success of this initiative highlighted the power of community collaboration and demonstrated what can be achieved when people come together to support animals and their families during times of crisis.



Volunteers

Out of the Woods Rescue is run entirely by volunteers. Our volunteer network is made up of foster carers who open their homes to animals in care, transport volunteers who ensure animals safely reach veterinary appointments and foster homes, and administrative volunteers who work behind the scenes to coordinate our operations, support foster carers, manage adoptions and keep the organisation running smoothly.

Together, these volunteers form the heart of Out of the Woods Rescue. Their commitment enables us to deliver high standards of animal welfare while remaining a sustainable, community-driven organisation. The venn diagram below provides a visual representation of how our 171 volunteers contributed across the 2025-26 period.



In memoriam

Earlier this year we were saddened to learn of the passing of one of our wonderful foster carers Marjolein. We are deeply grateful for the compassion and care she showed to the cats she welcomed into her home. Her kindness will be remembered and her legacy will live on through the lives she helped change.

Training and development

At Out of the Woods Rescue, we recognise that ongoing learning and development is essential to maintaining high standards of animal welfare, governance and organisational effectiveness.

Throughout our first year of operation, we invested in training opportunities that strengthened both our animal care capabilities and leadership capacity.

This included:

- **Neonatal kitten care training (October 2025):**
Specialised neonatal kitten care training delivered by Happy Dot Pet Services focusing on the unique challenges associated with caring for orphaned and vulnerable neonatal kittens, including feeding, hygiene, health monitoring and emergency intervention.
- **Treasurer development (January 2026):**
Treasurer, Alison Whiting successfully completed a Certificate IV in Bookkeeping & Accounting, and commenced a Bachelor of Commerce (Accounting).
- **Not-for-profit finance training (June 2026):**
Treasurer, Alison Whiting completed a training course with Non-Profit Training on Not-For-Profit Finance.
- **Board chair training (July 2025):**
Chairperson, Tori Hunt completed a training course with Non-Profit Training that provided practical guidance on governance responsibilities, board leadership, strategic planning, risk management and organisational oversight.

Building capacity for the future

As Out of the Woods Rescue continues to grow, we remain committed to investing in training and development opportunities that enhance animal welfare outcomes, support our volunteers and strengthen the long-term sustainability of the organisation.

Volunteer spotlight

Karen, Aspendale

For this busy family of four, fostering has become much more than opening their home to cats in need - it's become something they do together.

With two working parents, children in late primary and early secondary school, and a household already home to a dog, cat, lizard and fish, there was plenty of love for animals but not the capacity to commit to another permanent pet.

"Fostering has given us the opportunity to welcome more animals into our lives without the long-term commitment of pet ownership. We love knowing we're helping to save lives while preparing happy, healthy and well-socialised cats for their forever families."

The experience has also had a lasting impact on their children. Through fostering, they've learnt responsibility, commitment, organisation and the importance of giving back to others.

While saying goodbye to each foster has never been easy, those farewells have become valuable lessons in resilience.

"It's always hard when they're adopted, but we love meeting the new families and knowing just how much love and happiness our foster animals are going to bring into their forever homes."

For this family, fostering has been far more than caring for cats - it's been an opportunity to create lifelong memories together while helping animals out of crisis and into safety.



Volunteer spotlight

Mat, Hastings

One of the biggest misconceptions about fostering cats is that you can't do it if you already have a dog.

For this foster carer, that's simply not the case. In fact, having a dog at home can actually give foster cats an advantage.

"One of the benefits is that it helps make your foster cats more adoptable. They've already been exposed to living with a dog, which gives confidence to adopters who have dogs of their own or are worried about how a cat might adjust."

As for his own dog, the constant rotation of foster cats has become just another part of everyday life.

"He's pretty indifferent, to be honest! Every dog is different, but mine has always taken it in his stride."

His advice to other dog owners considering fostering?

"Think about your dog's temperament, but don't assume they're 'too playful' or that it won't work. Cats are often much more adaptable than we give them credit for."

For anyone worried about taking the leap, he says the support from Out of the Woods Rescue makes all the difference.

"You'll never be left to figure things out on your own. The team is always there with advice and support whenever you need it."

His story is proof that, with the right temperament and a little patience, dogs and foster cats can happily share a home - and help even more cats find families of their own.



Volunteer spotlight

Bec, Middle Park

When Bec first joined Out of the Woods Rescue, she didn't expect to become the person who welcomed the shyest cats into her home.

"While I'd owned lots of cats with different personalities, I wasn't specifically drawn to scared cats. I just knew that many cats arriving into foster care would be frightened at first, and I wanted to be part of helping them find their forever home."

For Bec, helping scared cats isn't about forcing interaction - it's about creating an environment where trust can grow at the cat's own pace.

"I like to set up my foster room with plenty of hiding places where they can still watch what's happening. For the first few days, I simply let them settle in while I go about my normal routine. I'll read a book, work on my laptop or play a board game with my partner. They learn that nothing bad is going to happen."

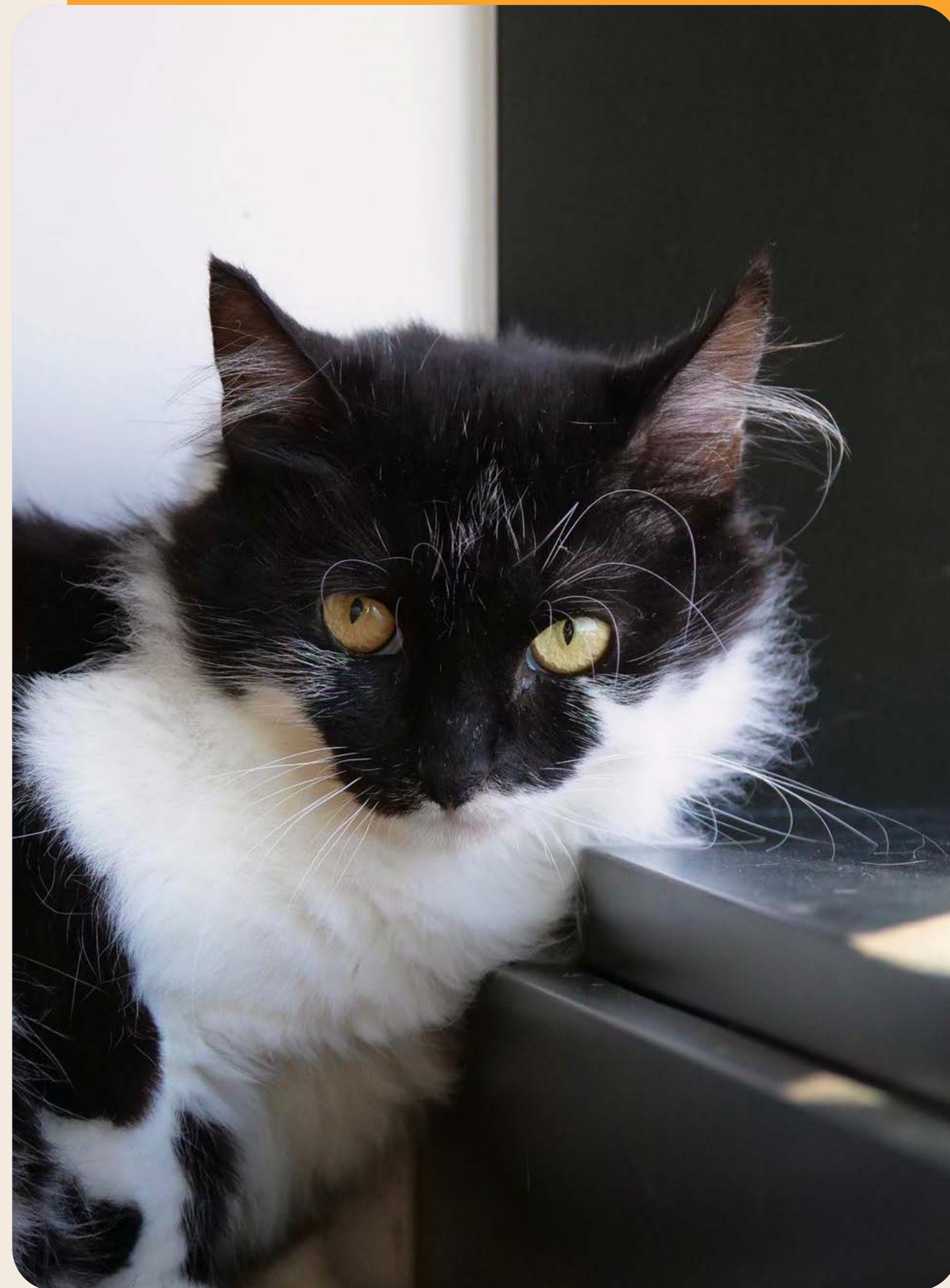
Over time, fostering has changed the way Bec thinks about trust.

"Some of the most special bonds take time to build, but they're completely worth it. Trust has to be earned with scared cats, and I think that's something that applies when interacting with any cat - and even any person."

For anyone wondering if they could foster a scared cat, Bec's advice is simple:

"You don't need to be a cat expert. All you need is a safe space, patience and a willingness to move at the cat's pace. Out of the Woods Rescue and our foster community are always there to support you, so you're never on the journey alone."

Sometimes the biggest transformations aren't the loudest ones. They're the quiet moments - a first meal, a tentative play session, a cat choosing to stay instead of hide - that remind us every small step matters.



Partnerships



Vet partnerships

Providing quality veterinary care is one of the most important aspects of our rescue work. We rely heavily on the expertise, generosity and support of our vet partners to ensure every cat in our care receives the medical attention they need.

Throughout 2025-26, our veterinary partners supported hundreds of consultations, vaccinations, desexing procedures and ongoing treatment. Their willingness to work alongside us has enabled us to provide high standards of care possible.



Oakleigh Central Vet

Out of the Woods Rescue is proud to have a semi-exclusive partnership with Oakleigh Central Veterinary Clinic, supporting our animals across Melbourne's south-east.

Their team has performed some truly miraculous work on some of the most complex medical cases we have presented to them, and we are incredibly grateful for their expertise, compassion and ongoing support.



Lower Plenty Veterinary Clinic



Vetcare Woodlea



Dr Paws (Altona North) Veterinary Clinic



Heidelberg Veterinary Clinic



East Bentleigh Animal Care (EBAC)



Seville Veterinary Clinic



Bannockburn Veterinary Clinic



Petstock Vet Clyde North



CARE Veterinary Hospital



Ready Vet Go



Our Vet Mornington



Petstock Vet Essendon



Wallan Vet Hospital



Casey Pet Emergency (CPE)



Catlovers Veterinary Clinic



Rosebud Pet Vet



The Kitten Clinic



Mornington Veterinary Clinic



Petstock Vet Altona North



Veterinary Referral Hospital (VRH) Dandenong



Western Animal Care



Belmont Veterinary Centre



Niddrie Veterinary Clinic



Wyndham Community Vet



The Vet Project



Petstock Geelong

Corporate supporters

The support of local businesses and corporate partners has played an important role in our first year of operation. Through donations, fundraising opportunities, venue support and in-kind contributions, these organisations have helped us direct more resources towards the animals in our care. Partnerships like these allow us to maximise the impact of every dollar donated and continue expanding our rescue efforts.

We are incredibly grateful to the businesses that have chosen to support our mission and stand alongside us in creating brighter futures for animals in need.

We look forward to continuing these valued partnerships and building new relationships that will help us rescue, rehabilitate and rehome even more animals in the years ahead.

- | | |
|--|---|
|  Brighton Security Centre |  SavourLife |
|  Escargot Bakery |  Vetoquinol |
|  Luna Event Space |  ZooZoo Printing |
|  Pets Domain |  Sarah's Cat Grooming Service |
|  Petstock |  Rocky Roads Rescue |
|  Royal Canin |  The Lavender Deck Design & Branding |



Community partners

Collaboration is at the heart of animal rescue. Out of the Woods Rescue is proud to work alongside pounds, shelters, rescue organisations and community groups that share our commitment to improving outcomes for vulnerable animals.

These partnerships have enabled us to rescue animals from across Victoria, access essential resources for animals in care and build a strong support network during our first year of operation.

We thank all of our community partners for their trust, collaboration and commitment to making a difference.



Animal Rescue Cooperative (ARC)

The Animal Rescue Cooperative (ARC) has provided invaluable support through their food donation programs. Access to donated food helps reduce costs and ensures more of our resources can be directed towards veterinary care and other critical welfare needs.

We're incredibly grateful to ARC for helping keep us organised with food support. These kinds of partnerships make it possible for us to keep saying 'yes' to the animals that need us.

We would also like to take a moment to say thank-you to Faye and her sewing helper Elmer, going above and beyond by teaching us how to sew mats for our incubators. Kind gestures like these genuinely make such a difference to a small rescue.

Animal welfare is a collective effort, and the achievements of Out of the Woods Rescue would not have been possible without the support of our community partners. By working together, we are able to create more rescue pathways, strengthen animal welfare outcomes and ultimately help more animals find safe, loving homes.

Pound and shelter partnerships

A significant proportion of the cats entering our care come from Victorian pounds and animal facilities. We are grateful for the trust these organisations place in us to provide a pathway to safety and a second chance for animals who may otherwise face uncertain futures. During 2025-26, we worked with:



Animal Aid



Campaspe Shire Pound



Melton Pound



Mornington Peninsula Pound



wat djerring Animal Facility

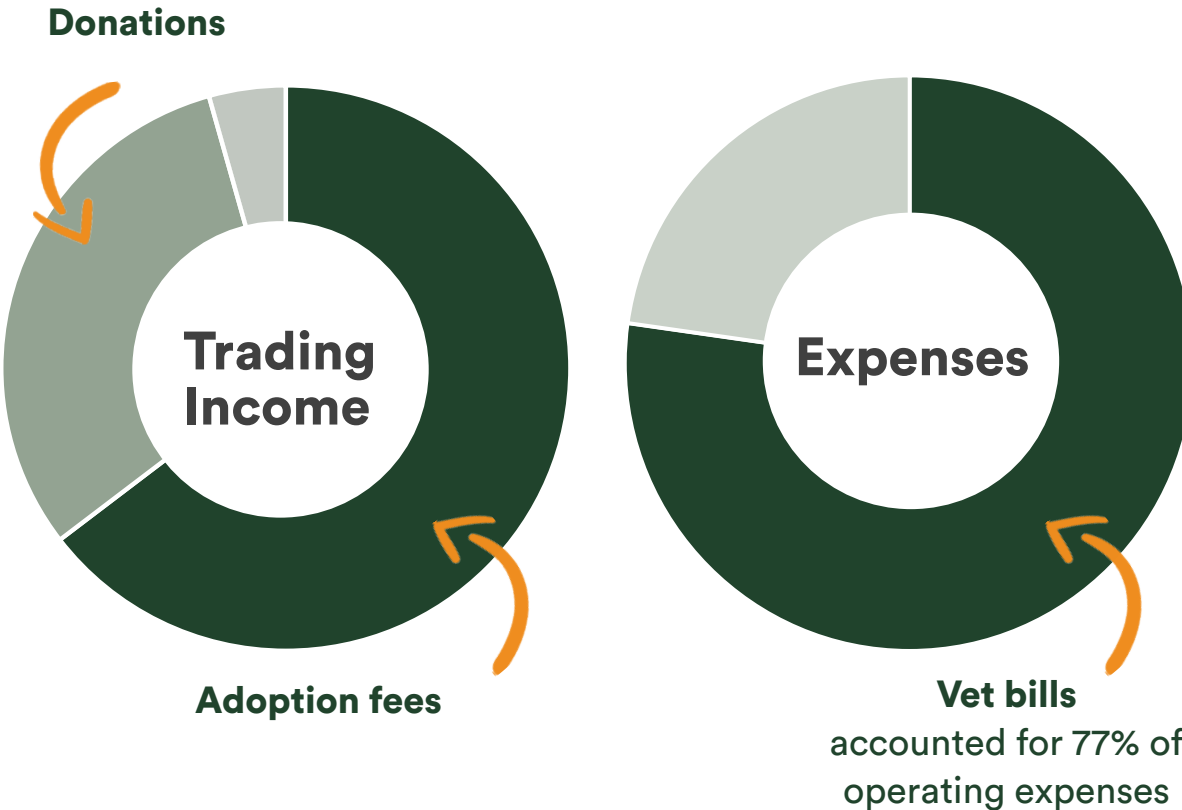
These partnerships have enabled us to provide rescue pathways for vulnerable animals in need, ensuring they have the opportunity to receive appropriate care, rehabilitation and support before finding safe and loving homes.

Financial overview

In addition to our ongoing fundraising and adoption income, the rescue was fortunate to receive three valuable grant and community funding opportunities during the 2025-26 financial year.

We successfully secured an Animal Welfare Victoria grant (Grants: State) to purchase an incubator to support the care of neonatal kittens, and were awarded a SavourLife social media grant (Grants: Other) following strong community engagement. We were also grateful to be named runner-up in Grill'd Malvern's May Local Matters community fundraising program, receiving additional funding through the generous support of local customers. These contributions have strengthened the rescue's capacity to provide essential care for animals while reducing pressure on our general operating funds.

As the rescue has continued to grow, we have recorded close to \$140,000 in income during our first full financial year of operation, excluding grants. For this reason, Out of the Woods has elected to register for GST for the 2027 financial year.



Profit and loss

For the year ended 30 June, 2026

Trading income	2026
Adoption fees	88,001.00
Donations - Food/Supplies Purchases	\$8129.37
Donations - Merchandise Purchases	738.00
Donations Received	10,331.97
Donations Received - Fundraising Activities	4,878.98
Donations Received - Merchandise Orders	4,060.13
Donations Received - Passive Online Platforms	577.89
Donations Received - Paypal	12,595.90
Donations Received - Recurring Donations	967.28
Other/Sundry Income	5,939.80
Total trading income	\$136,220.32
Other income	2026
Grants - Other	2,500.00
Grants (State) - Capital	1,600.20
Total other income	4,100.20
Operating expenses	2026
Animal Support - Consumables	64.07
Bank Charges	7.96
Chip Registration Fees	133.61
Computer Expenses	1,222.07
Fees & Permits	74.55
Insurance	1,235.12
Merchandise Orders	1,631.30
MV Fuel and Oil	252.15
PayPal Fees	233.18
Postage, Freight and Courier	102.63
Purchases	20,358.83
Training	200.00
Vet Bills	86,581.35
Total operating expenses	112,096.82
Net profit	28,208.07

Statement of financial position

As at 30 June, 2026

Assets	
Bank	
Australian Dollar	5,086.99
Business Trans Acct	15,772.58
Total Bank	20,859.57
Current Assets	
Accounts Receiveable	(400.00)
Total Current Assets	(400.00)
Total assets	20,459.57
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Director Loan Account	535.00
GST	(11,136.30)
Rounding	(0.07)
Total Current Liabilities	(10,601.37)
Total liabilities	(10,601.37)
Net Assets	31,060.94
Equity	
Current Year Earnings	28,208.07
Retained Earnings	2,852.87
Total equity	31,060.94

Statement of cash flows

For the year ended 30 June, 2026

Operating activities	
Receipts from customers	136,743.41
Payments to suppliers and employees	(123,306.58)
Cash receipts from other operating activities	4,100.20
Net cash flows from operating activities	17,537.03
Financing activities	
Other cash items from financing activities	(0.07)
Net cash flows from financing activities	(0.07)
Net cash flows	17,536.96
Cash and cash equivalents	
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period	3,322.61
Net change in cash for period	17,536.96
Cash and cash equivalents at end of period	20,859.57

Governance

Board of Directors

Strong governance is essential to ensuring that Out of the Woods Rescue remains accountable, sustainable and focused on achieving its mission. We are committed to maintaining high standards of governance, financial stewardship and regulatory compliance while ensuring the welfare of the animals entrusted to our care remains at the centre of every decision we make. The Board meets regularly throughout the year to review operational performance, financial outcomes, compliance obligations and strategic priorities.

Organisational structure

Out of the Woods Rescue operates as a not-for-profit company limited by guarantee and is a registered charity with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC).

The organisation is governed by an un-paid volunteer Board of Directors responsible for setting strategic direction, overseeing risk management, ensuring financial accountability and supporting the long-term sustainability of the organisation, while ensuring our work remains aligned with our mission and continues to advance our vision.



Chairperson

Tori Hunt



Vice-Chairperson

Eliisa Simmons



Treasurer

Alison Whiting



Director of Operations

Cassie Pearce



Secretary (Non-voting)

Lisa Weaver

The Board would like to recognise Tiahn Larter, Sabrina Curtain, Kael Whiting, Lee Kolbe, Tyler Napper-Martinus, Phoebe Leeming, Kayla Russell and Luke Carlino for their significant contribution to the establishment of Out of the Woods Rescue.

Through their guidance, ideas and support, they helped shape the organisation's mission, vision and values, laying the foundations for a rescue that is driven by compassion, collaboration and a commitment to improving outcomes for animals in need.

We are not only grateful for the role they played in helping bring this organisation into existence, but also for their ongoing encouragement and support as we continue to grow.

Compliance

Out of the Woods Rescue is committed to meeting its legal, regulatory and ethical obligations as a registered charity and animal welfare organisation.

During the 2025-26 reporting period, the organisation maintained:

- Registration as a charity with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC)
- Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) endorsement
- Registration as a Company Limited by Guarantee under the Corporations Act 2001 (Cth)
- A valid Pet Exchange Register Source Number in accordance with Domestic Animals Act 1994 (Vic) and associated Victorian animal welfare requirements.

The organisation is underpinned by policies and procedures relating to governance, privacy, volunteer management, foster care, animal welfare and operational decision-making. These frameworks support consistency, accountability and compliance across all areas of the organisation's activities.

No compliance breaches or regulatory actions were recorded during the reporting period.

Looking ahead to 2026-27



After a successful first year of operation, the Board's focus for 2026-27 is to continue to build a strong foundation for the future of Out of the Woods Rescue. A key priority will be the development of our first three-year strategic plan, establishing clear goals and priorities to guide our growth while ensuring our decisions remain sustainable and aligned with our mission, vision and values.

As we move into our second year, we aim to increase the number of animals we are able to support through our rescue programs. Building on the systems, partnerships and processes established during our first year, we hope to expand our capacity and provide a pathway to safety for even more cats and kittens in need.

Central to this growth will be continuing to strengthen and expand our foster carer network. As a foster-based organisation, every additional foster carer home represents another opportunity to save a life. Increasing the number of foster carers will allow us to respond to more requests for help and provide specialised care for animals with different needs.

With the addition of our new incubator, made possible through funding received from Animal Welfare Victoria (AWV), we aim to further strengthen our Emergency Neonatal Program and improve outcomes for orphaned neonatal kittens. Alongside additional specialised training for our foster carers, this equipment will increase our capacity to provide intensive, evidence-based care for some of the most vulnerable animals.

Looking ahead, we are also excited to begin expanding our rescue efforts to include dogs. This next step represents an important milestone for Out of the Woods Rescue and will allow us to broaden our impact while continuing to apply the same commitment to individualised care, responsible rehoming and positive outcomes for every animal that enters our care.





RESCUE



ADOPT