

Standing for Animals

Your Humane
World for Animals
newsletter

FEBRUARY 2025

**Welcome to
Humane World
for Animals!**

- The true cost of shark control
- Whales still need us
- Helping young wildlife recover
- An artist's love of animals



**Humane
World for
Animals™**

Formerly called Humane Society International Australia



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We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of this land. We recognise and respect the enduring relationship they have with their lands and waters, and we pay our respects to Elders past and present.

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Share your stories of creating a more humane world by using the hashtag **#standingforanimals** on social media.

Front cover
The loss of natural habitat continues to threaten koala populations.
Image: Rebecca Tregear/Pixabay

Back cover
Tackling the root cause of animal cruelty everywhere.
Image: Humane World for Animals

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CEO Message

Happy 2025!

I am excited to bring you this edition of *Standing for Animals* under our new logo and name: **Humane World for Animals**.

We are the same organisation that you know and love, just with a fresh new look and continued enthusiasm to reduce suffering of animals and improve protection of our beloved wildlife and the places they call home.

You know that we have been a part of the Humane Society International family of organisations for more than 30 years, but with the launch of the new brand globally we have formalised our relationship.

I hope you enjoy reading about the reasons for the change in this edition, and I encourage you to get in touch with me if you have any questions.

In this edition you will also meet Dexter the wombat, who is back on his feet again thanks to you. He is also an example of why we desperately need changes to regimes that allow the licenced killing of wildlife.

The new year also brings renewed commitment to getting rid of shark nets, and we are already hard at work to ensure that councils in NSW let the state government know they want the nets out now. We are also engaging with the new Queensland Government, and you will read about our new marine life 'shark culling counter' in these pages.

There have already been several severe fires this summer, and as always, we are ready to assist with the rescue and care for the wildlife victims of the fires. I hope you enjoy meeting our new disaster rescue expert, Rheanon, in this edition, and if you know anyone who is caring for wildlife injured in bush fires, please do ask them to contact her.

As always, I want to thank you for making such a tremendous difference to the lives of animals. We are so grateful for your support, and we will continue to stand with you for animals under our brand-new name in 2025.

Warmest regards

Erica Martin
Chief Executive Officer



With your support Standing for..Dexter

If one story epitomises why we produced *Licence to Kill*—our report into the licensed killing of native wildlife in Australia—it would be Dexter, the wombat. Dexter was found with a fever and taken to an emergency veterinary clinic in Canberra. But Dexter was suffering from something much more sinister: he had four .22-calibre bullets lodged in his face, jaw and shoulder.

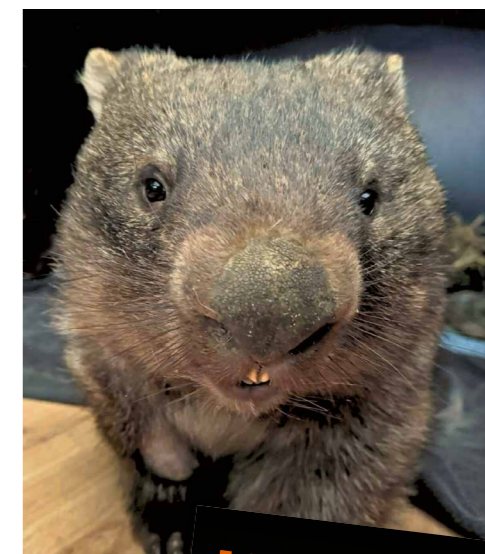
Sadly, what happened to Dexter may well have been legal. As a native species, wombats are protected, but Australia's state and territory governments still issue licences to kill wombats—3,558 of them just in 2023—and many other native species. One of those licences may have been for Dexter. Then again, maybe not. With such poor recordkeeping and accountability surrounding the licences, it's impossible to know.

Dexter's story tragically highlights another point: the methods used to kill our native animals—mostly shooting, trapping, and poisoning—often lead to prolonged suffering. Inaccurate shooting, and the slow and painful time it takes poison to work or for a trapped animal to be found, are difficult to think about—but it's the reality. And it's why we value your support so much.

Because of you, we produced *Licence to Kill*—a report that's garnered significant media exposure and raised the debate about coexisting with wildlife. The report has been mentioned in two state parliaments and continues to generate interest and concern over the treatment of native animals. That's all because of you. Thank you!

Despite being shot four times, Dexter was one of the lucky ones. The bullets were removed, and Dexter was rehabilitated and released back into the wild.

We'll keep fighting to protect native animals like Dexter. Your support enables us to do that. Thank you for standing up for animals.



Top: Dexter on his way to recovery. Above: Our Licence to Kill report.

Images: Yolandi Vermaak/Wombat Rescue (top right)

Animals are our heart and soul



**Humane
World for
Animals™**

This edition of *Standing for Animals* introduces you to our bold new brand, which we hope you will love!



Images: Marcus Westberg (top middle), Gary Meredith (top right)



Many of you know that HSI Australia has shared the Humane Society International brand for more than 30 years. But we've always been a little independent.

Recently, Humane Society International and the Humane Society of the United States announced we will unite efforts under the name Humane World for Animals. Our reach and expertise are vast, but we found that not everyone understood the extent and scope of our work.

So, a new name was important to help to clarify who we are and to be clear that caring for animals everywhere is what we're all about.

The decision meant it was time to bring everyone together more formally as one global organisation while still retaining the autonomy to stand for animals within our own countries.

It means that Humane World for Animals Australia, as we are now known, can better draw upon the resources and expertise of the global organisation, while maintaining a strong focus on Australian wildlife protection. It also means we can better support international wildlife conservation efforts.

We're the same organisation that you know, love and support—and that will not change. We are the same people, with the same expertise, and the same love of animals and desire to conserve and protect them. To stand for them.

We hope you're as excited about this new arrangement as much as we are. These decisions are never taken lightly, and our decision to remain within the global brand, yet with much stronger ties, was made knowing that we can better serve you, and better steward your support for animals.

Yes, our name has changed, our logo has changed, but the animals we stand for won't mind a bit. We hope you will love it! Do call or email to tell us your thoughts.

Whaling update

Why whales still need us

In 2025, Japan, Norway and Iceland continue to harpoon fin and minke whales for the profit of just a few individuals. And with the average lifespan of a Northern right whale now being only 22 years—well short of its natural lifespan of more than 100—the need to keep fighting for whales remains high against the many threats they face in the ocean.

Thankfully, things are better closer to home. Southern right whales in oceans around Australia are living for an average of 73 years, with 10 per cent of animals reaching 130, and some even living to 150 years.

We must ensure it stays this way, and thanks to you, we were proud to join in efforts to tackle the threats to whales and dolphins at the 69th meeting of the International Whaling Commission in Peru in September.

It was great to see countries pulling together to work on habitat loss, fishing entanglements, plastic and noise pollution.

As whales migrate over vast distances, from one country's waters to another's, through whale sanctuaries, and across international waters, there needs to be global coordination to protect them.



We will keep working until our campaign against commercial whaling is won.

Fin and minke whales continue to be hunted.

Images: Aqalu Rosing-Asvid/Wikipedia (left); Paula Paananen/Treetops Wildlife NSW (top right); Aline Sheahan (bottom right)

Wildlife rescue

Giving injured young wildlife the best chance of recovery

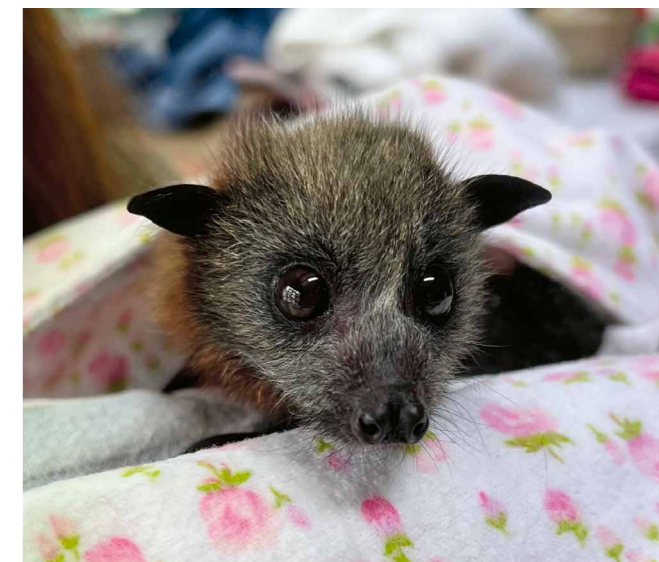
Wildlife rescuers are always bracing for the next bushfire, cyclone or flood. And they still need to cater for the endless flow of injured and orphaned animals who come into their care.

Keeping focus on today is difficult when something big is looming. Which is why Humane World for Animals Australia supports wildlife carers for everyday operations as well as for times of crisis.

We have recently seen an increased need for portable incubators and intensive care units. These vital machines give wildlife who are too young to survive on their own the best chance at recovery by providing the safe conditions their families no longer can.

Thanks to the generosity of supporters like you, the urgent need has been met through the provision of several ICUs that are now looking after everything from birds and reptiles in Far North Queensland all the way through to microbats and swamp wallabies in Victoria.

Incubators and intensive care units are making a world of difference for animals—and that's all because of you.



Top: Poppy the grey-headed flying fox being cared for in Southern NSW. Bottom: A nestling plover is the first resident of a new incubator.

Inside story

Rheanon Nichols

Disaster Response Program Officer

Rheanon joined the Humane World for Animals Australia team in 2024 after working across a diverse range of Australian-based NGOs, NFPs and disaster response programs. She has lived in some of the most disaster-prevalent regions of NSW and is passionate about grassroots advocacy and improving disaster response preparedness and education.



What is it that motivates you each day?

Humane World for Animals Australia supports emergency responses all over the world. So, my motivation comes from the hope that I can help animals and their carers far beyond my immediate reach. I think that hope is why we're all part of Humane World for Animals Australia: that what we do can be seen in the backyards and national parks of this beautiful country, and all around the world.

What do you think is the most impactful thing about Humane World for Animals Australia campaigning?

Humane World for Animals Australia has a stamina comparable to a red kangaroo! Our campaigns team will sometimes work for years at a time to improve legislation. That amount of effort and resilience is incredible, and I am inspired by our campaigners every day.

Do you have a favourite animal?

Anyone who knows me knows I'm obsessed with the rainbow lorikeet. I grew up surrounded by them and instantly fell in love with each unique personality and plumage. They became my family very quickly and made me realise that every living creature is valuable and worth protecting.



Why did you join Humane World for Animals Australia?

Humane World for Animals Australia offers me the opportunity to innovate every day, challenging the status quo and working amongst incredible communities and individuals to create meaningful, sustainable change. I've never felt more supported and motivated in my work.

“...every living creature is valuable and worth protecting.”

Supporter spotlight

Angela Anderson

Angela Anderson has supported us for nearly 30 years. Her love of animals began at a very early age, and is reflected in her lovely paintings—and by being a regular donor and a member of our Wildlife Land Trust.



The wonders of nature caught my attention when I was a young child growing up in country Victoria. My mother was a wildlife rescuer and instilled in me her deep empathy and respect for all sentient beings.

I never lost my urge to help all creatures, and to this day I support fundraising using the means available to me, be it my artwork for awareness and fundraising, the distribution of information, or through ongoing donations.

I am often haunted by images I have seen: thirsting cattle held stationary on a road train in the hot sun for hours, sheep boarding ships for horror trips to be slaughtered without compassion, a dying crocodile held in a cage so small it could not move, forests burnt and cleared for palm oil production where no birds or creatures could remain, or elephants toiling for the entertainment of tourists.

I learnt very early in life that one voice can cause a reaction, but many voices can create action. I am encouraged every day by the impact that organisations like Humane World for Animals Australia can have. Their work has created better lives for animals all around the world. I am further inspired by their Wildlife Land Trust, which encourages landholders to use their land as sanctuaries for the fauna and flora native to it.

I hope that anyone with an interest in our planet, and its extraordinary inhabitants and flora and fauna, will support Humane World for Animals Australia in their conservation and animal welfare efforts that are so urgently needed in 2025.

“I am encouraged every day by the impact that organisations like Humane World for Animals Australia can have.”



Angela Anderson doing what she loves.



Wisdom's previous mate, Akeakamai, with their chick.

Impact updates

Protecting albatross on two fronts

We are thrilled that Wisdom—the albatross widow on Midway Atoll who is at least 74 years old—has repartnered and should soon mother a new chick!

Humane World for Animals Australia campaigns for albatross on two fronts: to stop albatross dying in tuna fisheries and mitigating the threat to seabirds posed by offshore wind farms.

Seabirds following fishing boats dive on the baited lines as they enter the water. We have funded the development of a new fishing hook—designed by seabird expert Nigel Brothers—that sinks quickly out of reach of seabirds. It is currently being trialed by tuna fishers in New Zealand.

Offshore wind energy infrastructure could pose a new threat to albatross. We tabled a paper on this concern at a meeting of the Agreement for the Conservation of Albatross and Petrels (ACAP) which led to countries agreeing to establish a working group to recommend wind farm design to avoid seabird collisions.

New nature laws needed

Our work to deliver stronger national nature laws took a hit in the last week of Parliament for 2024.

Under pressure from the mining lobby, the Prime Minister appeared to abandon a deal with the Senate cross bench on laws to establish the first national Environment Protection Australia (EPA); a new data

agency, Environment Information Australia; a world-first legislated definition of 'nature positive'; and, reportedly, the introduction of a framework for new National Environmental Standards—important tools needed to address Australia's extinction crisis.

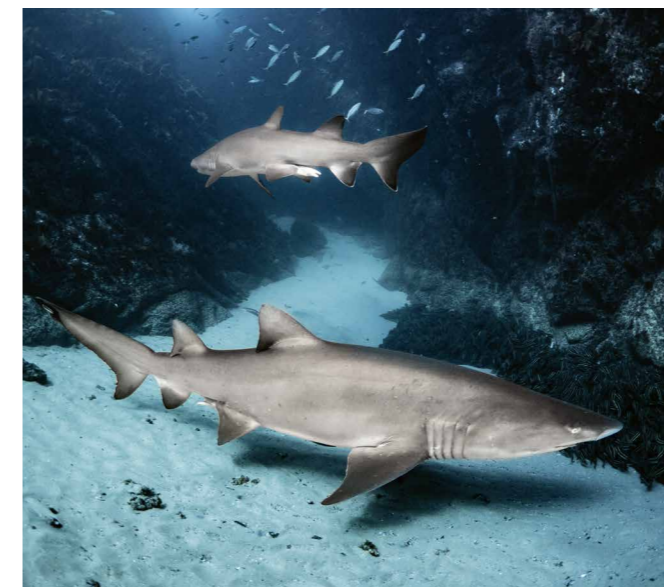
Currently, the Federal Parliament is scheduled to sit for two weeks in February. This will be the Government's last chance in this term of Parliament to pass these important laws for nature. With your support we will be there doing everything in our power to get nature the laws she so desperately needs.

Shark culling counter

Humane World for Animals Australia and Australian Marine Conservation Society (AMCS) have launched a new 'shark culling counter' to track the number of marine animals killed each year by Queensland's Shark Control Program (SCP).

In the past five years, 59 dolphins, 245 turtles, 217 rays and 44 whales have been caught on drumlines and entangled in the shark nets. The counter's aim is to tell the real story of the SCP, to better inform the public about how many animals die just to make us feel safe, and to keep the new Queensland Government accountable for those deaths.

The counter will be regularly updated using the Queensland Government's official catch data and publicly accessible via the Humane World for Animals Australia website and promoted via social media.



Images: Kendell Williams (bottom left); Dreamstime (bottom right); USFWS Pacific Region/Flickr (opposite top)

Broken promise

More than 20 years ago, Australia's wool industry leaders unanimously promised to phase out live lamb cutting (mulesing) by 2010. But it's a promise they broke.

Live lamb cutting is the painful procedure of slicing away sections of the skin from the lamb's rear end, which are prone to flystrike. Scar tissue forms, and the area becomes less attractive to egg-laying flies. Since the 2010 deadline, an estimated 140 million lambs have suffered this procedure.

But it is barbaric and painful, mostly done without any pain relief beforehand. It is also outdated as the breeding of less wrinkly sheep is a more effective, profitable and humane way of dealing with flystrike.

Humane World for Animals Australia, along with FOUR PAWS and the Australian Alliance for Animals, released *The Broken Promise* report in September 2024 to bring to light the failures of Australian wool industry leaders on this issue.

The report garnered significant media attention and discussion within the wool industry. Humane World for Animals Australia will continue calling for the phase out of live lamb cutting and for moving towards more humane methods of flystrike prevention.

Below left: Critically Endangered grey nurse sharks are often caught in shark nets. Below right: Still waiting for a phase out of live lamb cutting.





Together, we tackle the root cause of animal cruelty and suffering to create permanent change. Thank you for standing for animals.

humaneworld.org.au