

# Standing for **Animals**

Your Humane  
World for Animals  
newsletter

AUGUST 2025



- Ending the dog meat trade
- Preparing for disasters
- Trophy hunting victory
- Support for shark net removal



**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

*A dog soon to be rescued from a dog meat farm in South Korea.*

Image: Jean Chung/For Humane World for Animals

#### Back cover

*Carnaby's black cockatoo.*

Image: Georgina Steytler

#### Newsletter design

Susanne Geppert

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## Message from our Executive Director

**As another year flies by, it is a pleasure to bring you news of some recent victories for animals that have been won thanks to your support.**

We were able to remove 67 dogs from inconceivable suffering on a South Korean dog meat farm. These animals will now get the care and help they need to be rehabilitated and then find loving homes in the USA and Canada.

Our very own Georgie Dolphin was able to visit the farm and meet some of these dogs, and in these pages you will learn how much it meant to her to know that, thanks to you, these animals would never know deprivation again.

With your support, we continued to help the champions of Australian wildlife here at home, getting much-needed assistance to more wildlife carers fighting to protect our native animals on the front lines.

We also heard some good news from our friends at the Zambia Primate Project, who let us know that little orphan Gizmo is not just surviving, but thriving!

It is getting reports like these that makes me reaffirm our commitment to building a kinder world for animals.

With so much of the news in the world these days being bad news—stories of suffering, conflict, hardship, cruelty and crisis—knowing that we are making a difference to the lives of animals gives me hope.

And it is only because of you that we can create this positive change.

You have helped to persuade the government that Australia should slam the door on trophy hunting imports. By raising your voices you let it be known that trophy hunting is unacceptable here—thank you!

While we continue to advocate for longer-term legislative changes that will improve the lives of animals, we know that you are with us.

Thank you, as always, for standing with us for animals.

Warmest regards

Erica Martin  
Executive Director



## With your support Ending the dog meat trade

**Animal Welfare Program Director, Georgie Dolphin, recently returned from South Korea, where she witnessed firsthand the harrowing dog meat trade.**

*'I had seen a lot of footage and photos from dog meat farms before,' she said, 'but I knew that when I saw it in person it would take me to a deeper understanding of just how much suffering the dogs go through.' And she was right.*

*'They were just so confined and neglected—that really hit hard. Dogs are full of energy, but they had no way to release it; they were just trapped in these cages, bouncing around inside them. ...They were so desperate.'*

An estimated 1,500 dog meat farms have been operating across South Korea, and after years of campaigning, our work contributed to a historic ban that will see an end to dog meat farming, slaughtering and sales by 2027.

Humane World for Animals has rescued more than 2,700 dogs from dog farm closures across South Korea, utilising our Models for Change program, where we transition farmers to cruelty-free business and rescue the dogs.

Since the ban passed last year, the government estimates that around 40% of them have now permanently closed and that this will reach 60% by the end of 2025.

*'It broke my heart to see the suffering endured by the dogs and puppies on the Cheongju dog meat farm, but thanks to our generous supporters, we have been able to save them all. No dogs will ever have to live in fear in those tiny cages ever again—all the dogs and puppies are now receiving the care and unconditional love they truly deserve.'*

**We are so grateful for every single contribution to this rescue effort, and you can be rest assured that, thanks to your support, we will continue to campaign to eradicate this cruel trade in Viet Nam, Indonesia, India and China.**



OPPOSITE: CLEAR LIGHT PHOTOGRAPHY/FOR HUMANE WORLD FOR ANIMALS; BOTTOM: JEAN CHUNG/FOR HUMANE WORLD FOR ANIMALS; TOP: HAEWON LEE/HUMANE WORLD FOR ANIMALS



# Victory: A trophy hunting ban is on its way

**In a powerful and positive display of supporter action, your efforts made the government sit up and take notice.**



THIS PAGE: ON KONE/ALA MY, OPPOSITE: VLADIMIR TURKINICH/SHUTTERSTOCK; ABOVE TOP: STUART ABRAHAM/ALAMY, ABOVE BOTTOM: BRITTA JASCHINSKI/HUMANE WORLD FOR ANIMALS

**Thank you to all of you who wrote to former federal environment minister, The Hon Tanya Plibersek, asking her to ban the import of hunting trophies.**

We compiled every one of your messages into a book and presented this collection to the minister. This was a powerful avenue for our continued communication with Plibersek and her team about this issue. Your efforts led to a federal election commitment from the re-elected Albanese government to significantly expand the importation ban of hunting trophies into Australia! Thank you!

Trophy hunting involves the killing of wildlife purely for the purpose of displaying parts of the animals in private homes—often the head or skin. Australian trophy hunters have imported more than 1,000 trophies from the internationally protected species they have killed over the past decade.

Yet our polling shows that few Australians think this is acceptable. And in South Africa—where much of the hunting takes place—polling undertaken in 2020 found that 60% of the population was opposed to trophy hunting.

At the May federal election, because of our advocacy, the Albanese government promised to ban hunting trophies being brought back to Australia for the 20 most imported trophy species. These included giraffes; zebras; baboons; brown, black and polar bears; and hippos.

Those animals will now join lions, rhinos and elephants on Australia's banned trophies list.

**Humane World for Animals is now seeking to work with the new federal Environment Minister, Senator Murray Watt, to ensure the commitment is implemented promptly.**



*Above and right:  
Victims of trophy hunting*





# Zambia Primate Project update

## Gizmo going gangbusters!

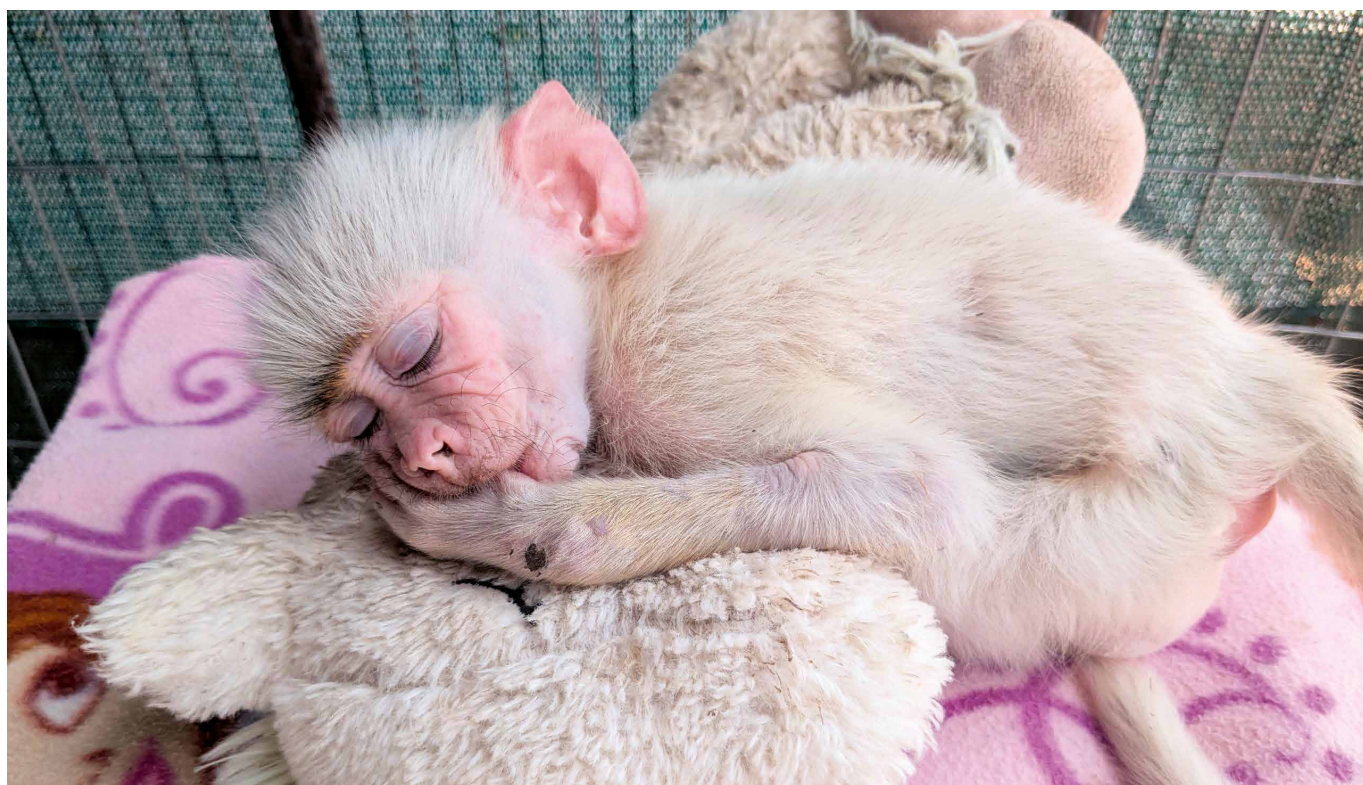


**You may remember Gizmo; you just won't recognise him! Gizmo was a traumatised, fragile and orphaned vervet monkey who, thanks to your support, was taken into care by our partners at the Zambia Primate Project. Thanks to you, Gizmo is now living his best life!**

Gizmo and his baboon friend Nsoni have been growing strong and healthy under the care of the Zambia Primate Project. They've shed their soft, natal coats and are each developing in their own special way—a powerful sign that these young primates are healing both physically and emotionally.

Despite being different species, these young primates have formed a strong, healthy bond. They spend their time tumbling, play fighting and cuddling, but their social play is more than just fun—it's an essential part of their recovery journey that builds their physical strength and emotional intelligence—what they'll need to survive and thrive in the wild.

**Thank you for changing this little orphan's life. Gizmo will soon be wild and free because of your kindness.**



*Above: Nsoni as an infant when he first arrived at the sanctuary. Top: Nsoni and Gizmo pictured together on their recovery journey.*

# Wildlife rescue

## Getting disaster-ready

**As we brace for an increasingly volatile climate and the likelihood of another intense fire season, Humane World for Animals has taken vital steps to ensure wildlife rehabilitators are better prepared to face what's ahead by investing in resilient infrastructure and collaborative care models.**

Two recent grants in Victoria have focused on boosting local capacity in high-risk regions, allowing shelters to pre-position resources and infrastructure to meet rising demand during and after emergency events.

### Expansion of flying-foxes sanctuary

At Bungalook Creek Wildlife Shelter, funding enabled the construction of one of the largest flight aviaries for grey-headed flying-foxes in the state. During the 2023–24 season, Victoria saw more than 600 flying-foxes come into care, and 178 at this shelter alone.

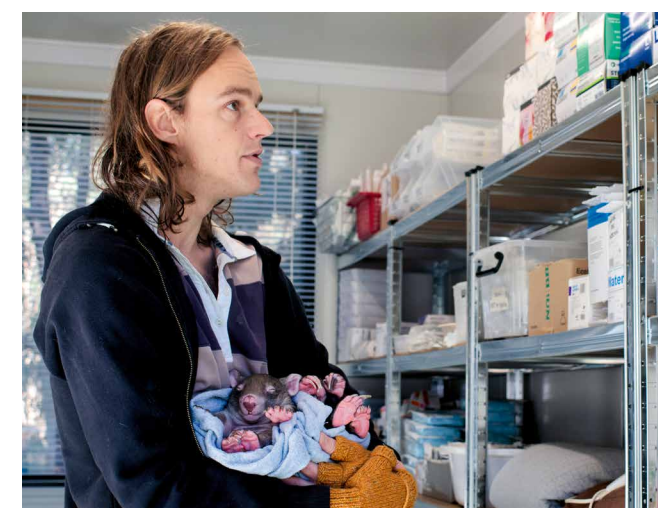
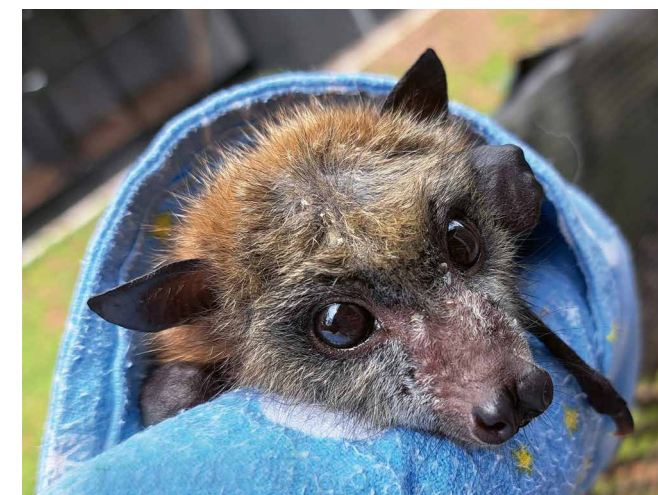
The new aviary allows for extended rehabilitation periods for bats, now having months instead of weeks to build the strength and aerial skills they need for release. Since its construction, the aviary has not seen a single day without a flying-fox in care.

It also assists in relieving pressure on the state's previously overstretched care network by creating a second advanced rehabilitation site to be used year-round.

### Much-needed medical supply pod

Meanwhile, Red Box Wildlife Shelter used grant funding to establish a dedicated medical supply pod for its free wildlife vet service. This initiative not only removed logistical barriers such as shared space interrupting surgeries, but it also significantly scaled up the shelter's capacity to support other wildlife carers and increase their ability to collaborate with other organisations.

The pod services wildlife and carers from all walks of life in Victoria, with a strong focus on kangaroos and other macropods.



*Top: Flying-foxes suffer devastating effects from extreme heat waves. Bottom: A local carer and his patients load up on much-needed supplies from the new pod, strategically positioned at Red Box Wildlife Shelter in Victoria.*

**Together, these grants exemplify the mission of Humane World for Animals: to strengthen local wildlife response networks before disaster strikes. This is only possible with your support.**

THIS PAGE ZIPP; OPPOSITE TOP: SUPPLIED BY BUNGALOOK CREEK WILDLIFE CENTRE; OPPOSITE BOTTOM: SUPPLIED BY RED BOX WILDLIFE SHELTER.



# Inside story

## Dr Renae Charalambous

### Program Manager, Wildlife

Dr Renae Charalambous joined Humane World for Animals in June 2025 as our Program Manager, Wildlife. She recently completed a PhD at the University of Queensland and has vast experience in animal care and rescue.



#### Why did you join Humane World for Animals Australia?

I joined Humane World for Animals because its mission reflects exactly what I believe in: tackling the root causes of animal suffering and pushing for lasting change. Going beyond short-term fixes and working strategically to create a better world for animals is the impact I want to be a part of.

#### Tell us about your PhD?

My PhD brought together conservation physiology and social science to improve rehabilitation outcomes for wild koalas in South-East Queensland. I used noninvasive methods to measure and reduce stress in clinical settings; explored how stress and disease are connected; analysed factors influencing recovery outcomes after vehicle strikes, dog attacks and disease; and looked at what drives people to take conservation action.

#### What do you see as the biggest need for wildlife in Australia, and how will your role help with that?

Australian wildlife faces challenges on every front, from frontline rescue and rehabilitation to the need for strong, evidence-based policy that can drive systemic change. That's what led me to take on a campaigning role: I can help push for the changes needed at the legislative and regulatory levels to better protect wildlife across the country.

#### Do you have a favourite animal?

Without a doubt, birds. Their bodies are so well adapted for flight, they can see colours beyond what we're capable of, and their songs are incredibly varied and complex. They're a fascinating group of animals with huge ecological importance.

# Supporter spotlight

## A special gathering

In April, Humane World for Animals hosted a special morning tea at Sydney's Royal Botanic Garden, bringing together our wonderful supporters to celebrate the profound impact of their contributions.



The event offered an opportunity to share how their support has been instrumental in protecting vulnerable wildlife, restoring natural habitats and delivering urgent aid where it's most needed.

Nicola Beynon, our Campaigns Director, captivated attendees with insights from her extensive 25-year career in animal welfare advocacy.

Evan Quartermain, Programs Director, recounted his experiences in environmental protection and disaster relief efforts, including his work following the earthquakes in Türkiye.

Erica Martin, our Executive Director, spoke about our organisation's recent name change and the positive momentum it has generated.

The beautiful autumn day was further enriched by a guided tour of the gardens, where guests enjoyed behind-the-scenes stories from the knowledgeable staff of the Royal Botanic Garden.

One of our cherished supporters, Rosalind, shared her thoughts:

*'I just wanted to thank you and the whole team for the wonderful, inspiring, and rewarding morning tea day yesterday. It was wonderful being with so many like-minded people concerned with the welfare of animals. I enjoyed hearing about the successes and seeing the videos of the campaigns. Talking to Georgie was a treat. I wish the organisation every success under its new banner of Humane World for Animals and look forward to supporting and hearing about ongoing and future campaigns. You all do such trying yet (hopefully) gratifying work. It is much appreciated.'*

**We are grateful for the opportunity to connect, reflect and reaffirm our shared commitment to making the world a better place for animals. We look forward to hosting more morning teas soon!**



**Humane World for Animals**

## Humane Journeys

### Travel with purpose

Join us to experience the transformative power of travel with Humane Journeys. We're offering once-in-a-lifetime trips where you can be immersed in our global efforts for animal protection.

Humane Journeys offers authentic, cause-driven travel to unique destinations around the world. Each small group trip is guided by top program experts and designed to

provide a tailored experience highlighting our efforts to protect all animals.

Our journeys provide luxurious lodging, integrate low-impact tourism measures and showcase leading-edge animal welfare and conservation programs.

If you enjoy travel, we invite you to consider joining us in the field on one of our upcoming Humane Journeys.

**For more information, visit [humaneworld.org/humanejourneys](https://humaneworld.org/humanejourneys) or email us at [Specialevents@humaneworld.org](mailto:Specialevents@humaneworld.org).**



LEFT: VICKY JAIRON/GETTY IMAGES; RIGHT: MATTHEW SMEA/HUMANE WORLD FOR ANIMALS



*We spent an informative morning sharing the impact made possible by our supporters, followed by a guided tour of the Botanic Gardens.*





# Impact updates

## Victorian government agrees to inquiry

Earlier this year, Australians were very quick to criticise a visiting American influencer who stole a baby wombat from the mother for social media clicks. It was a selfish act and traumatic for the joey and the mother.

However, Humane World for Animals pointed out that Australians themselves are regularly persecuting thousands of wombats a year and that this also deserves a strong outcry.

The *Licence to Kill* report we published last year revealed for the first time the scale of the licenced killing of wombats in Australia. In 2023 the Victorian government allowed landholders to kill 1,902 wombats, South Australia allowed 1,360 to be killed, New South Wales 189 and Tasmania 107 wombats.

Wombats are most often shot, and those not killed outright are left with terrible injuries. The death of mothers leaves behind orphaned joeys. The burden of caring for shotgun-wounded wombats and orphaned joeys falls to Australia's volunteer wildlife

carer community. One wombat carer told us: *'It's incredibly sad and frustrating that people carry out this senseless killing. I don't know why some humans feel they have the right to decimate our native wildlife's right to live'*.

There are humane strategies to resolve landholder conflicts with wombats, so we are hopeful governments will respond to strong community sentiment and stop callously issuing licences for landholders to kill them. So far, with help from Animal Justice Party MP Georgie Purcell, the Victorian government has agreed to an inquiry into wombat killing.

## Support for shark net removal from right across the NSW Parliament

In late March, we held our 'Dispelling the myths of shark nets' event in Parliament House. The event called for an end to the shark culling nets placed at 51 beaches between Newcastle and Wollongong from October to March every summer season.

The event attracted a surprising number of politicians from all parties—and a few journalists from the press gallery—who were keen to hear from our experts and supportive MPs about why the nets should be removed.

With so much support for shark net removal from right across the NSW Parliament—as well as from all the local councils with shark nets, not to mention the beach-going community—we fail to see how the Minns government could continue using the deadly nets next summer.

However, the issue is not confined to NSW waters. In the face of overwhelming opposition to shark nets, the Queensland government made the bizarre announcement that it intends to increase shark culling with nets and drumlines.

We are now exploring options to challenge the Shark Control Program for its impact on threatened species and the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area.

We would like to thank Emma Hurst (Animal Justice Party MLC), Marjorie O'Neill (Labor MP for Coogee), James Griffin (Liberal MP for Manly), Adam Crouch (Liberal MP for Terrigal), Cate Faehrmann (Greens MLC), Jacqui Scruby (Independent MP for Pittwater), and Alex Greenwich (Independent MP for Sydney) for co-sponsoring the 'Dispelling the myths of shark nets' event.



Humane World for Animals staff at the Parliament House shark event.



Young lambs having endured the agony of live lamb cutting.

## A preference for South African wool

At the International Wool Textile Organisation Congress held in May in France, Nanjing Wool Market Director, Jiang Yali, expressed that there was a strong market preference in China for wool sourced from South Africa, and particularly for Responsible Wool Standard-certified wool.

The Responsible Wool Standard requires that wool is sourced from sheep who have not suffered the outdated practice of live lamb cutting (or mulesing).

WoolProducers Australia Chief Executive, Jo Hall, stated to the media: *'We heard numerous times from other production countries during their presentations to promote their own wool that they were proudly non-mulesed—it is the first point of distinction that every other country makes.'*

With your support, we have highlighted how the wool industry's reputation could suffer if it continues to live cut lambs. We continue to work with retailers to help strengthen their animal welfare policies by phasing out live lamb cut wool.

We plan to keep up the mounting pressure to ensure that this cruel practice is relegated to the history books in Australia.





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

**[humaneworld.org.au](http://humaneworld.org.au)**