

Standing for Animals

Your Humane
World for Animals
newsletter

JULY 2026



- Supporting wildlife carers
- The fight against animal testing
- A milestone for our Wildlife Land Trust
- Protections for rivers and wildlife



**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
Beagles don't belong in testing labs. We're working to set them free.

Image: Bryan Mitchell/AP Images for Humane World for Animals

Back cover
The spotted-tailed quoll: under-appreciated residents of the Australian bush.

Image: Catherine Grenwell/iNaturalist

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Message from our Executive Director

If you are anything like me, I'm sure you're wondering how the year is flying by so fast! It is hard to believe it is already July. But happily, your support has already secured some big wins for animals this year.

I am excited to report that just prior to this issue going to print, the New South Wales parliament announced an inquiry into the way dingoes are 'managed' in national parks. As the only native animal exempt from protection under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act*, dingoes can be shot or poisoned, despite their cultural and ecological significance. This sanctioned cruelty needs to end and is being examined now thanks to your backing for our *Licence to Kill* report.

We are also getting ever-closer to seeing an end to the exploitation and suffering of greyhounds at race tracks in Australia as well as the cruel confinement of chickens in battery cages.

And after years of advocacy, the Lower Murray and Macquarie Marshes—critical breeding grounds for waterbirds—finally received additional protection with a Critically Endangered listing under Australia's federal environment law.

Perhaps the most heartwarming story in these pages features the tigers you helped to rescue thriving in their new home. I cannot help but smile when I see these gorgeous animals basking in sunlight and playing in water after a lifetime in a dark concrete cage. Thank you for changing their lives!

You will also notice that along with your newsletter, you have received our supporter survey. By sharing what matters most to you and why you chose us, you will help shape the work we do to protect animals.

We know your time is precious, so we really appreciate you taking the time to share your thoughts with us and I am looking forward to getting your feedback.

Thank you so much for always standing with us for animals.

Warmest regards

Erica Martin, Executive Director
Humane World for Animals | Australia



Rheanon Nichols, Disaster Response Specialist, worked closely with kangaroos and wombats in support of wildlife carers.

With your help Supporting wildlife carers

As bushfires and extreme heat swept across Victoria earlier this year, local wildlife carers were pushed beyond breaking point. Thanks to your support, we were able to step in quickly to help both animals in crisis and the carers working tirelessly to save them.

Victoria's State of Emergency came amid an already dire situation for wildlife. Prolonged heatwaves triggered major flying fox heat stress events, with bats collapsing and falling from trees across the state. At the same time, bushfires tore through landscapes already weakened by drought and food shortages, leaving countless animals injured, burned or dehydrated.

In response, Humane World for Animals deployed a disaster response team to central Victoria to support overwhelmed local shelters, including Red Box Wildlife Shelter in Elphinstone and Animal Abbey in Faraday. These carers were inundated with animals needing urgent help. Many were already operating well beyond their capacity.

On the ground, our team assisted with the daily, hands on work that makes survival possible: bottle feeding orphaned wildlife, cleaning and preparing enclosures, caring for flying foxes suffering from heat stress, transporting

wombats and helping rescue kangaroos with burned paws and severe dehydration. As fires threatened nearby areas, our team also helped relocate animals and reduce immediate fire risks around shelters.

"Wildlife carers across Victoria have made a heroic effort, many working around the clock under immense pressure," said our Programs Director Evan Quartermain, who joined the response. "They've put their lives on hold to give their all for animals suffering burns, smoke inhalation and heat stress—on top of thousands of flying foxes impacted by extreme temperatures. We're so proud to have stood alongside them."

This is what your support makes possible: rapid, practical assistance when animals and carers need it most. We respond to disasters in Australia and around the world, while also investing in preparedness and recovery to help communities better withstand future crises. As climate-fueled disasters become more frequent and severe, this work has never been more critical.

Thank you for being there for wildlife, for carers, and for communities facing their toughest moments. Your compassion is helping to save countless lives.

OPPOSITE: CLEAR LIGHT PHOTOGRAPHY FOR HUMANE WORLD FOR ANIMALS; ABOVE: PAUL JEFFERS/AP IMAGES FOR HUMANE WORLD FOR ANIMALS

Progress is being made in the fight to end animal testing

Every year, around **192 million animals** across the globe, including dogs, monkeys, rabbits, baboons and mice, are forced to endure invasive and painful experiments. Deprived of natural behaviours, they can suffer chronic stress, severe physical pain and isolation.



Despite this suffering, animal tests often fail to predict what will happen in people. A staggering 90% of candidate medicines that have been tested on animals ultimately fail in human trials.

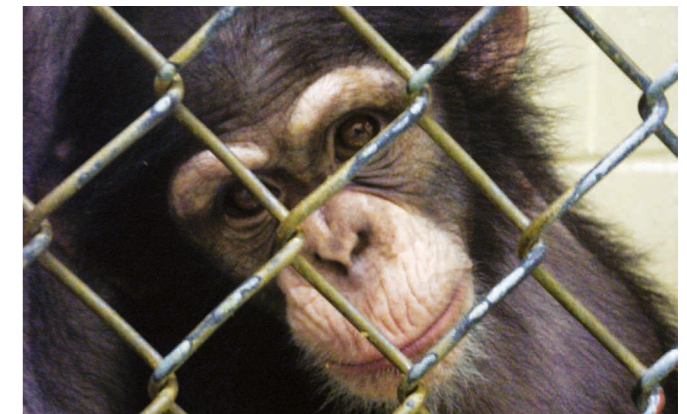
Animals may show similar symptoms on the surface, but key differences in genetics, physiology and biochemistry can lead to very different reactions to both the illness and potential treatments. Because of these limitations, researchers believe that in some areas an overreliance on animal models may have delayed medical progress rather than advanced it.

The good news is that better, human-relevant tools are already here. Non-animal methods like cell-based studies, organ-on-a-chip technology and advanced computer modelling can deliver faster, more accurate answers to medical and chemical safety questions, protecting both human health and animal welfare.

This has coincided with a shift away from animal testing that can be seen around the world. Humane World for Animals has already helped secure legislation that bans or limits animal testing for cosmetics in 45 countries. Now, a number of governments, including the US, the UK and the European Union, are adopting policies to move away from animal testing more broadly.

Animal testing in Australia

In Australia, the total number of animals used in research is largely unknown as there are no requirements to report them. However, we do know that more than 1,450,000 animals were tested for science, research and teaching in Victoria in 2024, and more than 2,380,000 animals were used in New South Wales in the



Rabbits and primates (like this chimpanzee) are commonly used in animal testing in Australia.

2022 reporting year, including 188 primates. In fact, Australia is home to three government-funded primate breeding facilities that supply macaques, marmosets and baboons for experiments, and Australia has no ban on the importation of primates for research.

Humane World for Animals will be working with the Australian Government to help put the right policy settings in place so non-animal technologies are invested in and prioritised, bringing Australia closer to an animal-testing-free future as rapidly as possible.

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Opposite: Harvey, a beagle photographed at Charles River Laboratories in the United States.

Partner update

Rescued Thailand tigers are thriving



We are thrilled to report that the tigers you helped to rescue in Thailand in 2024 continue to thrive in their new sanctuary home at Wildlife Friends Foundation Thailand.

Every rescued tiger receives regular enrichment activities to keep them stimulated and engaged, such as old tyres stuffed with treats and wrapped tightly with rope or banana leaves, as well as their tiger-proof balls and toys.

Each tiger has a different personality (as well as stripes), with some more playful than others. Cherry and Yod Yha, for example, despite being very old at about 22, are regularly seen having

fun in the water which has become something they really love. What unites them is an incredible resilience and zest for life as they put their pasts behind them and enjoy their new surroundings.

Sri Suk and Hai Chok live together in a huge enclosure and prefer to spend their days just relaxing and hiding under one of the many bushes that fill their new home.

Thank you once again for giving these beautiful animals a new lease on life, free at last from the small, dark concrete cages which was the only other home they had known until now.



Yod-Yha having a playful swim—an activity that they were unable to enjoy before arriving at the sanctuary.

LEFT: WILDLIFE FRIENDS FOUNDATION THAILAND; OPPOSITE TOP: LORIAN SHIBISH AND COLIN INGRAM; ANDREW BROWNE



Red flowering gums at Esperance Wildlife Sanctuary Inc. (left); forty-spotted pardalote at Inala sanctuary (right).



Wildlife Land Trust

Celebrating a powerful milestone

Earlier this year, our Wildlife Land Trust program reached a remarkable milestone: 1,000 member-owned sanctuaries across Australia have joined throughout the life of the program, with their owners committing their land to a better future for wildlife.

In a country home to some of the most unique and diverse species on Earth, this milestone comes at a critical time. Habitat loss remains one of the biggest threats facing native wildlife and the Wildlife Land Trust program exists to turn private land into part of the solution—by conserving, restoring and enhancing the habitats that wildlife call home.

The Wildlife Land Trust is a national network of privately owned wildlife sanctuaries, made up of farmers, conservationists, eco-accommodation owners and everyday landholders.

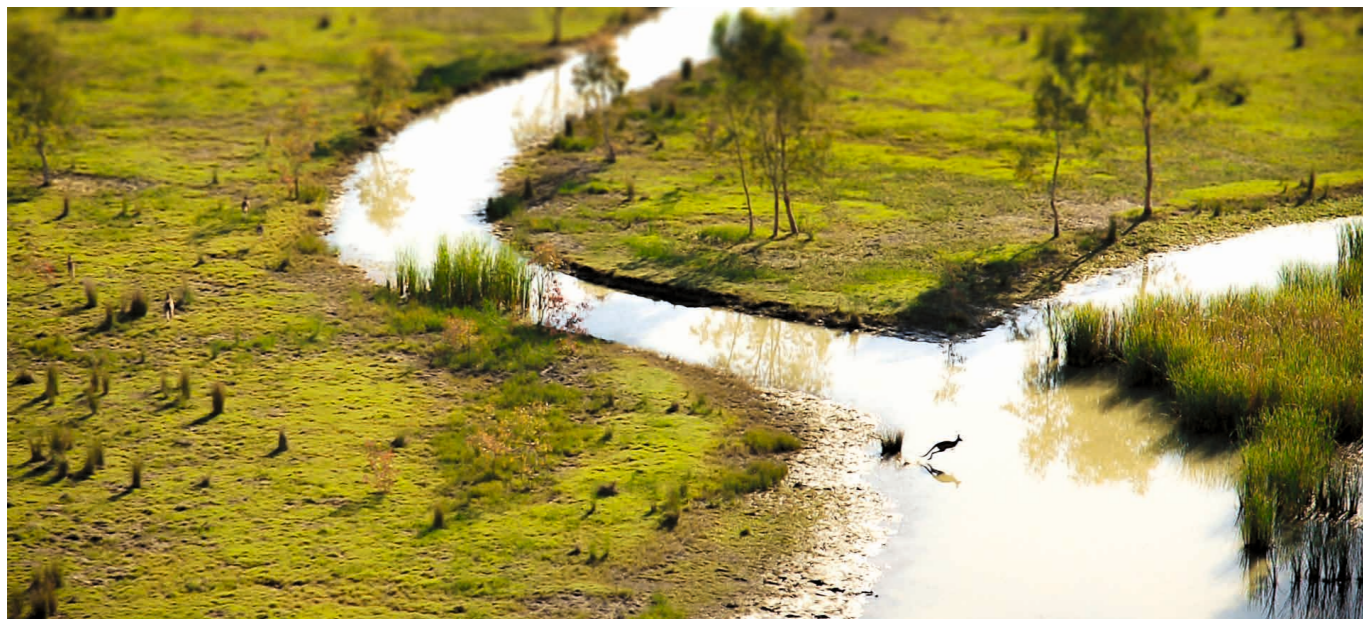
Across the country, sanctuaries are protecting wildlife in inspiring and diverse ways. In Victoria, Red Box Wildlife Shelter combines land conservation with hands-on wildlife care, rehabilitating eastern grey kangaroos and hosting regular veterinary clinic days for local carers.

Over in Western Australia, Esperance Wildlife Sanctuary sits alongside the RAMSAR listed Lake Warden wetland, caring for seabirds, regenerating banksia woodland and having a newly established wildlife hospital.

In Queensland, Sheoak Ridge Nature Refuge hosts university groups to complete educational programs on the property using outdoor classrooms in natural landscapes settings. Even small properties make a big difference—like Lomandra, also in Queensland, where habitat plantings and community creek restoration all take place on just 0.2 hectares.

And in Tasmania, the 607 hectare Inala—home to one of the largest known colonies of the forty-spotted pardalote—has been protected in perpetuity by a conservation covenant.

This celebration belongs to every landholder who has said “yes” to protecting their land for wildlife—and to supporters like you who make this program possible. Together, these 1,000 sanctuaries form a growing lifeline for native animals, now and into the future.



LEFT: TOM RAVNER; OPPOSITE TOP: ROBERT MCLEAN/ALAMY

The Lower Murray and Macquarie Marshes are critical animal habitat.

Habitat protection

A major win for Australia's rivers and wildlife

Thanks to your support, two of Australia's most important wetland ecosystems now have long overdue protection under national environment laws.

Following tireless efforts and the ongoing support of our generous donors to fund a significant campaign, we're proud to have secured Critically Endangered listings for an 830km stretch of the Lower Murray (including the Coorong) as well as the Macquarie Marshes under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act*—Australia's primary nature protection law.

These new protections were formally announced in January by the Federal Environment Minister and represent a significant step forward for river health and communities across the Murray–Darling Basin and most importantly; the abundance of unique and precious animals that call it home.

This outcome was achieved through rigorous scientific nominations prepared by Humane World

in collaboration with Professor Richard Kingsford of the University of New South Wales, drawing on decades of ecological research and on-ground evidence. It's a powerful reminder that sustained advocacy, backed by science—and made possible by supporter funding—can deliver real change.

Together, the Lower Murray flowing from New South Wales, along the Victoria border and through South Australia and the Macquarie Marshes in New South Wales form what our Campaign Director Nicola Beynon calls a "Noah's Ark for wildlife."

"When the Macquarie Marshes are thriving, the sky is filled with internationally important waterbirds," Nicola explains. "Downstream of the Darling River, the Lower Murray is a one of a kind ecosystem, supporting extraordinary biodiversity. Decades of excessive water extraction and catchment degradation saw these ecosystems briefly listed as Critically Endangered in 2013, only to have that protection stripped away by a change of government soon after."

Supporter spotlight

Ann (Westbury, TAS)

In this month's Supporter spotlight, we meet Ann, whose lifelong love of animals has grown into a deep connection with Australia's wildlife. From treasured childhood memories to unforgettable moments in Tasmania, Ann shares what inspires her compassion and why she supports protecting animals for future generations.

"Growing up in England in the 1950s, I always loved animals—from my childhood pets to the ponies my friend and I dreamed of riding.

But it wasn't until I moved to Tasmania in 1990 that I truly understood my connection to wildlife. I am still delighted to see so many native animals and birds on my property. Bandicoots galore, a small wallaby with joey feeding at dusk and dawn and birds too numerous to mention.

But a moment in 2025 when I watched a small platypus bobbing about on a local river, unafraid and in his natural habitat, made me truly understand how much wildlife really meant to me.

My support for Humane World for Animals (Humane Society International as it was then) began with a chance sighting of a TV commercial showing appalling cruelty. I remember feeling shocked and saddened and wanted to do what I could to support their work.



A platypus image chosen by Ann as her favourite animal

Over the years, I've watched Humane World for Animals campaign tirelessly for the welfare of all animals and supporting them has always felt like the best way I could contribute to a kinder world for animals.

Now in my eighties, I've been thinking about what I want to leave behind. Leaving a gift in my Will is my way of helping ensure that future generations grow up understanding how to care for our fragile world and all the creatures we share it with."

“Leaving a gift in my Will is my way of helping ensure that future generations grow up understanding how to care for our fragile world and all the creatures we share it with.”

A future free from animal cruelty

If you would like to receive information about leaving a gift in your will or arrange a confidential conversation about our Gift in Wills program, please contact us:

Phone: 1800 333 737

Email: supporterau@humaneworld.org

You can also visit our website for further information: humaneworld.org.au/leave-a-gift-in-your-will





Wombats are one of many native species legally killed in New South Wales under controversial 'Licence to Harm' permits.

Impact updates

Global petition to end the Indonesia dog meat trade

Humane World for Animals joined animal campaigners across five continents to submit a 700,000-signature petition to the Indonesian Consulate, demanding an end to Indonesia's brutal dog and cat meat trade.

The trade sees more than a million dogs and countless cats stolen, trafficked and brutally slaughtered for human consumption every year,



Humane World for Animals Australia and Four Paws present a petition to the Indonesian consulate in Maroubra, NSW.

yet 93% of Indonesians support a ban on the trade, with just 5.4% having ever consumed dog meat and less than 1% cat meat.

The campaign takes place alongside efforts to pass the Animal Protection and Welfare Bill currently being debated in Indonesia. If passed into law, Indonesia would become the sixth nation or territory in Asia to explicitly ban the cruel practice.

Standing for animals at NSW parliamentary inquiry

Earlier this year, politicians in New South Wales met for a hearing on controversial 'Licence to Harm' permits, thanks to campaigning by Humane World for Animals Australia.

The number of native animals approved to be harmed or killed in NSW under the licence program has almost doubled in the last two years from 243,078 in 2023 to more than 485,000 in 2025. That means one native Australian animal is legally killed every minute in New South Wales.

We presented our findings to the inquiry, stating that new, strict and enforceable safeguards including incentivising humane and non-lethal control measures are critical.

Thanks to you, our work to halt the shooting, trapping and poisoning of Australian animals doesn't stop with NSW. We're also protesting the overturning of a phase out of flying fox shooting in QLD and are pressuring for wildlife legislation in all states to be amended to stop licences being handed out so freely.

An end in sight for battery cages

Thanks to your efforts, Australia is now firmly on a national pathway to joining the EU, the UK, India, New Zealand, Norway and Bhutan in ending battery cage egg production.

In 2023, Australia's Agriculture Ministers agreed to a phase out date for battery cages. Since then, the Western Australia government has moved towards a cage phase out by 2032 and following our advocacy backed by your support, New South Wales formally confirmed in Parliament in September 2025 that battery cages will be phased out by 2036.



A battery cage hen (right); Australia has the largest greyhound racing industry in the world (left).

Victoria and Queensland are also progressing legislation to bring cage-free transitions into law.

These changes signal Australia's move beyond battery cages, and mark a major step toward ending extreme confinement of more than 5 million layer hens currently caged in Australian egg farms.

Tasmania greyhound racing ban update

Legislation to ban greyhound racing in Tasmania has been further delayed after Premier Rockliff requested a parliamentary committee inquire into the plan for a second time.

New Zealand, Wales and Scotland recently announced bans which will leave Australia, the United States, Ireland and the United Kingdom as the only countries that still allow commercial greyhound racing.

If the bill fails, the Tasmanian government remains committed to phasing out greyhound racing by ending their support and public funding of the sport by 2029. Your support will help us see an end to greyhound racing in Australia, for good.



THE FARM TRANSPARENCY PROJECT; FRANCOIS LOUBSER/SHUTTERSTOCK; OPPOSITE TOP: RAYMOND BARLOW/FLEICKR



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

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