

MID WEST CAT SHELTER Inc

ANNUAL REPORT 2014 – 2015



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Vision Statement

“ that cats are regarded as a welcome and valued part of Australian society and cared for by their community”.

Mission Statement

“Our mission is to rescue and re-home, lost, abandoned and mistreated cats in the region, to ensure the humane treatment and wellbeing of cats and to promote community education and responsible cat management.”

Values Statement

Cats are part of a group of animals known in Australia as Companion Animals and play an important role in Australian society.

There are known and documented health benefits to individuals and the community, from owning a companion animal.

Cats have the right to be treated humanely, and have their health and welfare needs met by their ‘owners’.

Lost and abandoned cats deserve to be cared for by the community at large and re-homed to a caring and responsible guardian.

Controlled cat populations in public places or ‘community cats,’ have a role to play in the management of pests such as mice and rats, therefore reducing the threat to public health.

Sterilisation is essential for all adult cats, for the welfare of the cat itself, disease control and the management of cat populations.

Homelessness is not a good enough reason to be put to death.

Year in Review – Letter from the Chair

It's hard to believe it's been a year since our first AGM. Jodie told us last year about building the foundation, becoming incorporated, achieving charity status and finally, getting started with saving cats. Without a physical shelter building, the decision was made to have foster carers. I admit, I was among the sceptics....come on we are dealing with cats. You know, the independent, finicky, touch me when I say and look out when you cross the line, attitudes of cats....they are not dogs who adore the ones which provide food, water and a comfy bed. We all know, Cats demand slaves and adoration. A cat would be terrified from the ordeal of being in the animal facility, feeling let down by the people they had trusted to keep them safe and possibly sick and/or injured. How far would people be willing to go to help them feel safe and secure in order to show us the real personality we were dealing with??? I am happy to admit, I was wrong! Our foster carers have been exactly what these lost cats have needed. You have not hesitated when asked to take in this cat or that litter, giving your all to help them get back on their feet and ready for a new forever home. Your children have been involved making power point presentations of cats in care to post on the web pages and never hesitating to walk around with the donation tin to 'squeeze that little bit more' out of the public when at information stalls.

We were offered (and accepted) the use of the Davies Rd facility from the council. After being in use by MWCS for 6 or 7 months, the dog pound had an outbreak of Parvovirus and we were asked (ordered) to vacate the premises within 4 hours. I wasn't sure this would be possible as we had 15 cats there at this point. I owe Fiona Paech a debt of gratitude for taking control of the situation. It was an arduous task, however she organised carers to take in the cats, other volunteers to help clear our cages & equipment out and completed the task well within the four hour deadline with extreme organisation and efficiency. We have been back to the original system ever since, and I believe (now), it is extremely better for the cats to be in the loving homes of the foster carers than in the 'pound environment' they were tolerating at Davies Rd. At least the experience has shown us a few things we do not want to incorporate when we do finally get a facility, and has given us some fantastic ideas we would like to run with.

We have been building a positive relationship with the Rangers. I have quarterly meetings with Darren Cole where we discuss any problems that have arisen or suggestions either of us may have to implement. We are always striving to streamline the system of rescue so the routine can be as smooth as possible. A monthly report is sent to Darren so the rangers can follow up on desexing of the male kittens adopted through us, as well as registration with the council of all cats adopted. We also have a good working relationship with the RSPCA Inspector. We have been able to help Maureen out with several of her cases and I look forward to nourishing our affiliation with her in the coming year.

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Nicole McMichan does an amazing job organising the flow of cats after intake to where they will be cared for until adopted. Some stay in the same home for the duration, while others are shifted for one reason or another, and Nicole is on top of that whole system.

The termination of the 'shelter' at Davies Rd eliminated the need for the Volunteer Portfolio, as the volunteers are now our foster carers. I restructured the Volunteer Portfolio and initiated our 'After Adoption Support' Person. This is Angela Verdenius, who does a fantastic job. She sends out emails at the end of the month to new owners making sure the cat has settled in and that there are no problems. She also reminds them of second vax that are due and if it happened to be a male kitten, when his sterilisation is due.

Our Rehome volunteers were using an older donated phone with a prepaid plan, which would sometimes decide it was not going to receive calls or drop out in the middle of a call - or our time would run out and we were missing calls. It was embarrassing as a company for these things to be happening, so we invested in a new phone on a plan with unlimited calls and texts. No more dropped calls.

We have also implemented the use of an EFTPOS machine which works off the Bluetooth of the phone. It has been very convenient in processing the adoption fee and for the marketing team to have on hand when setting up at market stalls – “no cash? No worries, we have EFTPOS”.

Our data base of information was being stored in *Dropbox*, which was great in the beginning when we were dealing with all of the formal paperwork and forms. However, as the number of cats in care grew, it became more and more confusing and unreliable. I asked Casey Fiorenza to have a look to see if she could find a data base that would be more suitable to our needs. Within a very short period of time, Casey had a comparison for the Board of two programs. It didn't take long for us to see that *Shelter Manager* was exactly what we needed as it would grow as we did. It offers many resources which we will benefit. Casey has spent many hours (I think it's really been around 10 months!!) transferring information from *Dropbox* to *Shelter Manager* and teaching the rest of us how to use it. (I still have questions now and then) One advantage of this program is that it has cut down on cats 'missing' their second vaccination by reminding us that it is due, saving us money by not having to start over when too long of a gap has occurred. It generates monthly reports of adoptions to be sent to people such as Darren and Angela and we can find any information we may need with a few clicks of the keyboard. *Shelter Manager* is THE best find MWCS is taking advantage of and at @ \$300 per year it is also very economical! My homage to Casey!!

With the new cat laws coming into effect, Bree Sharp (Manager of Place Rd Pets) contacted us concerning the possibility of having some of our cats/kittens in the shop for adoption, as they would not be taking cats from the public. After some discussion and a proposal presented and accepted, we entered into a trial program with Place Road Pets just prior to the AGM last year. This has been an amazing benefit for MWCS with many cats and kittens being rehomed through Place Rd Pets.

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Bree is open to ideas to help with the rehoming and has also offered our Foster Carers a discount off products in store. I look forward to strengthening our affiliation with them in the coming year.

Suellen Kelly has taken over the Rescue Co-ordinator position and is doing a fantastic job. She has been able to incorporate this with her Durack classes for Vet Nursing, so the students get experience with the rescue part of the process, and also entering information into Shelter Manager for the animals taken out of the pound. They give a check over of the cats and then on to Sanford for tests and other medical work. Without this support from Durack, Suellen would not be able to fit the Rescue work into her schedule and we are very appreciative of their continuing support. Samantha Brumpton fills in when Suellen is away and does a great job. Sam also is our 'on call' nurse when emergencies arise with our foster babies.

We have had 'Desexin the Kitty' subsidy available for concession card holders and full time students. It was possible to get \$100 off a female and \$50 off a male desexing at any of the vets in town or Dongara Vet. I am very happy to say that out of the \$30,000 we received January 2014, as of today, all of these monies have been used! That is a lot of desexed cats - 220 females and 160 males to be exact!

It goes without saying, we would not be able to do the rescuing and rehoming we do without the massive support we receive from Sanford Vet Clinic. The whole team offers the best of care and advice. We would be lost without the professional guidance they give.

Aussie Pastries graciously had MWCS as the 'Charity of the Month' for July and August! Which means they had one of our donation tins on the counter and an 'Awareness Day' where they supplied a cake for our volunteers to serve the public and Rebecca was able to set up a display table and sell items to help support MWCS.

If you were here last year, I'm sure you've noticed a few changes within the Board. As the Marketing person, Fiona Paech organised a 'garage sale' held at Woorree Hall, which was very successful, but then sadly resigned. Karen Brosnan was next, who scheduled two successful sausage sizzles at Bunnings. After deciding to put more energy into her personal business, she also resigned. Then Mark Cox came on board and sent out many emails informing the community of the Desexin the Kitty subsidy. However, with deciding to relocate to Perth, he too resigned. (I was beginning to believe that the position was jinxed at this point). But, alas, Rebecca Mapleson came on Board as our Marketing person, with Rae Woodhouse assisting and Tania Gibson helping with embroidering they have gone hog wild the last three months!!!! They have designed blankets, tea towels and beanies available for purchase. Rae redesigned our logo for merchandise and came up with a very cute 'cat design', then approached Wicked Prints about having coffee tumblers printed and along with the embroidered items – this team have been very busy and successful!

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Next, Kate Herbert resigned as secretary as her life took a different path and led her to Sydney. I approached Casey Fiorenza asking her to please consider changing from 'Volunteer Support' to the secretarial role, as I knew she would be devoted and totally focused. I don't recall how long she considered before accepting, but I was thrilled. She has completely redone our web page, found a fantastic email program that is reasonable and does everything we could ever need, found Shelter Manager and keeps everything organised and running smoothly - she has done an awesome job.

And finally, our lovely Peggy Nelson, has shifted to Derby, resigning as treasurer – hence the vacancy on the Board.

The number of rescued cats/kittens for this year is astonishing. What we, the board and all of you volunteers, have accomplished is impressive..... 234 lives saved this year, because you were willing to put your hand up and say, I'll help. And remember, this was only our second year of operation.

It has been an amazing year. Many changes, many lessons. I have stumbled and flailed.....lost my confidence, only to find it again when faced with making one of the 'hard decisions' no one likes to think about, but have to be considered. I feel I have grown in this role, personally and as the Chair. I would like to thank each of you for your honesty and support this past year. I would like to facilitate relationships between the MWCS team and myself. Please know, if you have anything you would like to discuss with me, I am always available....anywhere, any time.

We have a fantastic team working toward the same goal – saving cats in our community, giving them a second chance at forever homes where they will be pampered and adored. We dream of an actual shelter building in the future, I would love to incorporate the idea of a 'Cat Café' within the structure. I admit, a Café may have to wait for a while, but I can dream! I graciously look forward to helping Mid West Cat Shelter grow in the coming year.

Thank you!

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Organisation Structure

The Association is made up of the Board of Management, The Values Trust, Volunteers and Financial Members.

The Board of Management consists of eight members, including Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer and four other members, two of which must be Animal Welfare Specialists.

The positions of Treasurer and the Grant Writing Portfolio were declared vacant on Sunday August 23 during the Annual General Meeting. One nomination was received by Annette McMichan for the Treasurer position. No other nominations were received for either position. Annette McMichan was voted in on a unanimous YES VOTE for the Treasurer position. Annette is to be added onto the bank accounts as an authorised representative, with full access and as a signatory. As no other nominations were received, Jodie Leigh will continue to hold the Grant Writing Portfolio. Peggy Nelson, our outgoing Treasurer, has been inducted into our Values Trust. We thank Peggy for her time as Treasurer, foster carer and for bringing her vibrant, can-do attitude to our team.

Association membership is open to anyone prepared to uphold the Vision, Values and Mission of MWCS and interested in supporting animal welfare in the Mid West. Member volunteers are involved in all aspects of the organisation, including coordinating rescue and re-home, foster carers, marketing & fundraising, and are entitled to nominate as office holders, attend and vote at Special General and Annual General Meetings

Volunteers from Durack’s Veterinary Nursing and Animal Care courses join us under the auspice of another organisation therefore do not have membership rights unless they choose to become financial members.

Human Resources

We have 60 members and 31 of those are active volunteers. 23 of these are foster carers and 8 are non-foster volunteers. We have a handful of volunteers that have been unable to continue fostering due to moving away or a change in personal circumstance.

For those people departing, as well as our continuing members, we are incredibly grateful for all of the effort and hard work our volunteers have put in over the past year. Our volunteers are foster carers, coordinators, donation tin collectors, social media and website managers, market stall and merchandise fundraisers and board members. The dedication, passion and spirit in our volunteers is unmatched and we couldn’t achieve anything without these selfless people donating their time.

The Durack Vet Nursing class are a group of 9 students, with 1 student being a financial member. The remaining 8 students do not count towards membership numbers as they are not financial members.

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Rescue and Rehome Outcomes

	Rescued	Rehomed
July - 2014	13	30
August - 2014	13	14
September - 2014	27	18
October - 2014	15	13
November - 2014	34	25
December - 2014	10	18
January - 2015	16	24
February - 2015	24	19
March - 2015	20	21
April - 2015	12	20
May - 2015	17	19
June - 2015	13	13
Sub Totals	214	234
Cats still in Care as at 30/06/2015		36
Euthanized / Deceased		26

***please note the number of cats in care 30 June 2014 was 68

Reasons for Euthanasia

- 9 tested positive to FeLV/FIV.
- 2 were deemed not safe for rehoming with aggression issues
- 3 passed away due to accidents during foster care
- The final 12 were generally unwell with varying medical issues.

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Marketing Strategy

Our marketing team have been, and will continue to attend various community events like the Platform Markets and the Mullewa Show. The team are selling items such as tea towels, beanies, calico bags and custom pet blankets embroidered by our volunteers. We also have an ongoing order with local business Wicked Prints for our MWCS Coffee Tumblers. The marketing team have a separate bank account with a base fund of \$500. All purchases (excluding our ongoing Coffee Tumbler order and tea towels) must get approval by two board members prior to spending.

Financial Resources

Financial report 2014/2015 attached along with projected budget for the coming year.

As noted on page 11, we sadly lost \$3350 cash in the month of May as one of our founding volunteers was mugged. The police report number is 27051511356421.

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Figures for FY 2014-2015

	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	YTD
	2014	2014	2014	2014	2014	2014	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2014/15
	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
c/fwd	10,876.29	11,382.27	9,722.15	6,868.47	7,420.06	8,824.07	10,909.78	8,693.34	10,334.03	10,607.67	7,535.77	5,472.27	10,876.29
Membership	85.00	0.00	0.00	325.00	150.00	0.00	65.00	0.00	195.00	50.00	0.00	95.00	965.00
Donations	2,112.30	20.00	70.00	20.00	20.00	1,030.00	20.00	30.00	40.00	71.25	20.00	20.00	3,473.55
Adoptions	2,797.00	2,200.00	1,400.00	3,235.00	2,505.00	4,082.10	900.00	1,225.00	1,840.00	220.00	0.00	3,700.00	24,104.10
Grant	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Bank	8.75	8.99	8.68	6.26	5.95	6.76	6.62	7.99	7.60	14.59	0.00	5.04	87.23
Subsidies	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Fund Raising - Income						1,653.00		1,630.75	0.00	0.00	0.00	848.75	4,132.50
Total Income	5,003.05	2,228.99	1,478.68	3,586.26	2,680.95	6,771.86	991.62	2,893.74	2,082.60	355.84	20.00	4,668.79	32,762.38
	2,712.78	1,812.78	156,622.76	156,607.42	165,514.18	174,995.64							
	2,290.27	416.21	155,144.08	153,021.16	162,833.23	168,223.78							
Veterinary	1,661.00	2,622.10	1,642.75	1,372.20	794.00	2,011.20	1,701.80	1,178.05	1,242.50	2,821.05	1,918.50	1,044.25	20,009.40
Administration	2,836.07	1,267.01	2,689.61	1,662.47	482.94	2,674.95	1,206.26	75.00	566.46	606.69	165.00	1,203.70	15,436.16
Veteriary Subsidy	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Fund Raising Expenses							300.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	300.00
Total Expenses	4,497.07	3,889.11	4,332.36	3,034.67	1,276.94	4,686.15	3,208.06	1,253.05	1,808.96	3,427.74	2,083.50	2,247.95	35,745.56

Bank Balance	\$ 11,382.27	\$ 9,722.15	\$ 6,868.47	\$ 7,420.06	\$ 8,824.07	\$ 10,909.78	\$ 8,693.34	\$ 10,334.03	\$ 10,607.67	\$ 7,535.77	\$ 5,472.27	\$ 7,893.11	\$ 7,893.11

***loss of \$3350 due to a volunteer being mugged. Geraldton Police case #27051511356421

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Budget for FY 2015-2016

	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	YTD
	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	2015/16
	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	budget
c/fwd	\$ 7,893.11	\$ 8,323.11	\$ 8,253.11	\$ 8,683.11	\$ 8,613.11	\$ 9,043.11	\$ 8,973.11	\$ 9,403.11	\$ 9,333.11	\$ 9,763.11	\$ 10,193.11	\$ 10,123.11	\$ 7,893.11
Membership	150.00	150.00	150.00	150.00	150.00	150.00	150.00	150.00	150.00	150.00	150.00	150.00	1,800.00
Donations	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	240.00
Adoptions	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	24,000.00
Bank	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	120.00
Fund Raising - Income													0.00
Total Income	2,180.00	2,180.00	2,180.00	2,180.00	2,180.00	2,180.00	2,180.00	2,180.00	2,180.00	2,180.00	2,180.00	2,180.00	26,160.00
Veterinary	1,500.00	2,000.00	1,500.00	2,000.00	1,500.00	2,000.00	1,500.00	2,000.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	2,000.00	1,500.00	20,500.00
Administration	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	3,000.00
Fund Raising Expenses													0.00
Total Expenses	1,750.00	2,250.00	1,750.00	2,250.00	1,750.00	2,250.00	1,750.00	2,250.00	1,750.00	1,750.00	2,250.00	1,750.00	23,500.00
Bank Balance	\$ 8,323.11	\$ 8,253.11	\$ 8,683.11	\$ 8,613.11	\$ 9,043.11	\$ 8,973.11	\$ 9,403.11	\$ 9,333.11	\$ 9,763.11	\$ 10,193.11	\$ 10,123.11	\$ 10,553.11	\$ 10,553.11

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