

ANNUAL REPORT 2016-2017



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MID WEST CAT SHELTER Inc

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.

Address from the Chairperson

It's hard to believe that yet another year has passed and we have now been rescuing and rehoming some of the most beautiful domestic cats for over 4 years. As always we have had some ups and downs, a few heartbreaks when we have lost some beautiful cats to ill health and plenty of excitement when favourites get rehomed to wonderful families.

Again and again I find myself in awe of the amazing work and commitment of our many volunteers and foster carers.. We love you to bits.

We said goodbye to two of our beloved Board members, Annette McMichan and Rebecca Mapleson, both of whom have put in enormous numbers of hours of their time and worked passionately to strengthen the organisation in so many ways. We will miss them both greatly and wish them well in all their future endeavours

But we welcome to the fold Ashleigh Wallace, who has bravely stepped up to take on the Treasurer position. Ashleigh is a qualified accountant and has already proved herself invaluable to the Association.

To our corporate supporters Sanford Veterinary Clinic, without whom we would not be able to do the work we do, we again say a huge thank you.

To all our other partners and supporters including Central Regional Tafe, CGG Rangers, Place Road Pets & Aquariums, City Farmers, Midwest Veterinary Clinic, Catopia Boarding Cattery, and all those businesses that have a donation tin on their counter, we say thank you for your ongoing support of our work.

We are averaging 300 cats per year rescued from certain death, sterilised, vaccinated, microchipped and rehomed to loving responsible families, hopefully for the rest of their lives. It's a chance they wouldn't have had without MWCS.

A heartfelt "thank you" from the big cat in the sky.

Jodie Leigh

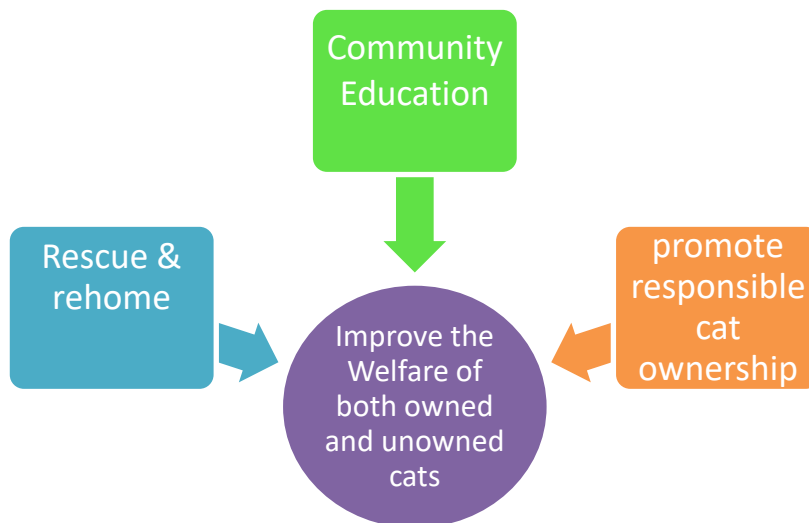
Founder and Chair

Mid West Cat Shelter Inc.

Purpose of the Organisation

Mid West Cat Shelter's main objectives continue to be

- to rescue and re-home lost, abandoned or mistreated cats,
- educate the community,
- support and promote responsible pet ownership and
- increase overall sterilisation rates in the region.



Current state of Cat Welfare –

This hasn't changed significantly since the first annual report but for those who have not read that report it is repeated here:

Domestic pets are known to have a positive effect on people's lives, in particular children, the elderly and people with disabilities. Some 26% of households in Australia own at least one cat. Although they are highly valued and loved as a pet, cats are also predators by nature and if allowed to roam sensitive conservation areas, can hunt and kill endangered wildlife. Territorial animals, they can also be a nuisance to neighbours by spraying, howling during mating season and fighting with other cats.

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In towns and cities, lost, abandoned and homeless cats frequent the garbage of restaurants and fast food outlets in small colonies, as well as other areas where there is a food source. Unsterilised cats, both 'owned' and homeless, continually add to the population by producing litters of unwanted kittens. An adult female cat can produce 150 kittens in her lifetime, while an adult male cat can impregnate hundreds of unsterilized females.

Its not all bad news. These small colonies of cats keep the rat and mice populations in check, a plague of which could pose a health and safety issue for a restaurant operator or cause major health problems for a community.

The solution to the problem is largely found in sterilisation rates of 'owned' and 'partially owned' cats. Current 'best practice' amongst shelters and animal rescue groups world wide, include community education in responsible pet management, in particular sterilisation and containment of owned cats and sterilisation and management of homeless or 'community' cats.

Current Legislation & Regulations that determine our operation

Legislation that relates to the industry includes the

- Animal Welfare Act 2002
- WA Cat Act 2011.

We are also governed by the

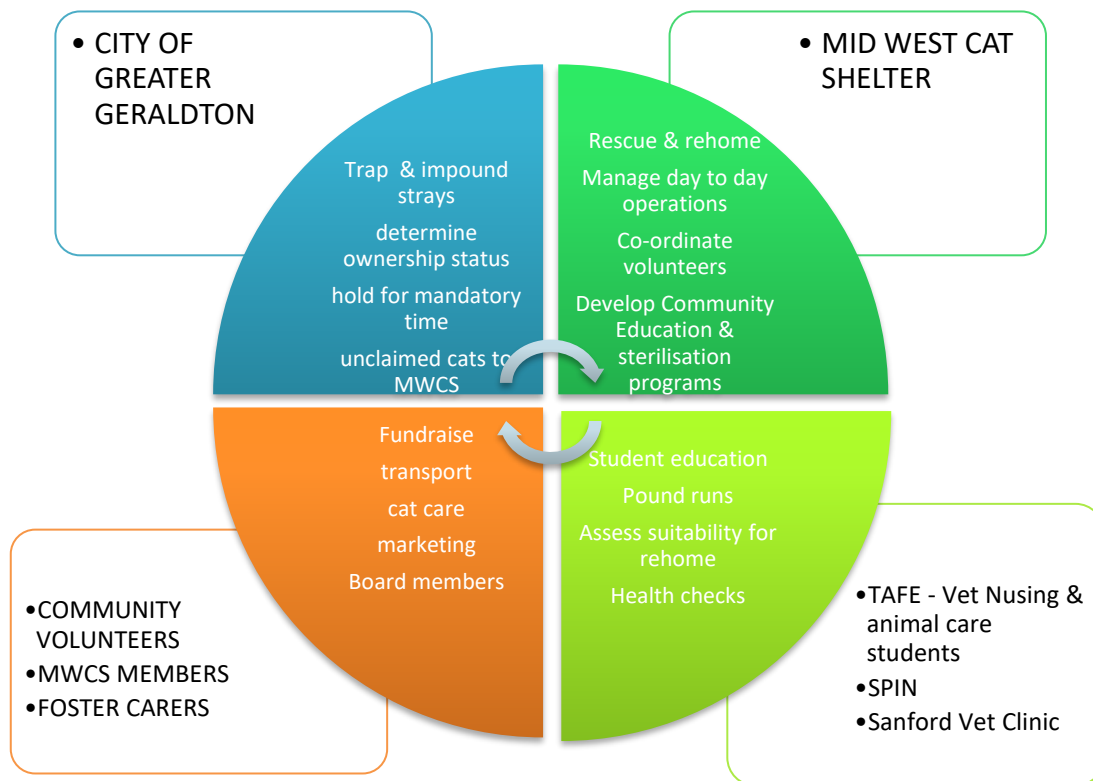
- Charities Act 2013
- Associations Incorporation Act 2016

For guidance we might refer to

- RSPCA have 'Codes of practice' for Shelters and
- International Shelter Vets Association have a code of practice and standards for shelter facilities.

Our Partnership Model

Our model has changed little from its original form, however even with some minor changes the integrity of the model remains and is functioning well and achieving the desired results. We have added S.P.I.N to our model as they take on and bottle feed the youngest kittens prior to CGG handing over to MWCS.



Visibility

We have a public Facebook page and web page, as well as a facebook 'volunteers' page for communication between and for volunteers.

While the web page includes all the association information, membership forms, policies and contact details, the facebook page is used for regular updates and communication.

In 2016/17 we have had various Super Adoption Saturdays at Sanford Vet Clinic and a Super Adoption Sunday at Catopia– which were all very successful.

Community Partnerships

Mid West Cat Shelter has developed successful partnerships with a variety of organisations/services that combined, can help to provide this integrated approach to cat welfare including:

- Local Government Rangers department
- Sanford Veterinary Clinic
- Central Regional TAFE Veterinary Nursing & Animal Care departments
- Place Road Pets
- RSPCA Inspector Maureen
- Geraldton Dog Rescue
- S.P.I.N
- Cat Haven, S.A.F.E , 9 Lives Cat Rescue and other rescue organisations within WA
- community members/volunteers
- many local businesses that allow us to have our donation tins on their front counters

HUMAN RESOURCES – Our People

We currently have 79 financial members many of which are active volunteers.

23 are lifetime members, 7 are honorary lifetime members as part of the original Founding Board and members of our 'Values Trust'.

The **Values Trust** is considered an advisory body for the purpose of keeping the organisation true to its original purpose and intention.

We aim to have 8 board members at all times.

Executive Board positions; Chairperson, Vice Chair, Treasurer and Secretary.

General Board positions; Veterinary Liaison, Tafe Liaison, and two more general positions preferably Volunteer support and Marketing

Of our volunteers, 22 are **foster carers** who do a wonderful job of rearing and in some cases rehabilitating rescued cats and kittens. This can be very rewarding work

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but it also takes a lot of commitment and patience. Thank you all for your tireless hours, dedication and tears.

Our **adoption co-ordinator** does just that, answers phone enquiries, organises adoptions, updates the data base and keeps track of where all the cats are fostered. It is a huge job and we would like to sincerely thank Trudi for your hard work and commitment this past year.

The remainder of our volunteers include people giving their time up to do transportation, collect donation tins, web site and Facebook admins to keep our public pages up to date, market stalls, sausage sizzles and help on super adoption days. There are certain volunteers who just do whatever needs doing and take on many roles simultaneously

All of these wonderful people add up to hundreds of unpaid hours and are highly valued to the organisation without whom we could not continue to operate at all let alone at our current level.

FINANCIAL RESOURCES – our money

Donations

Donation tins are held at various business premises throughout Geraldton and collected monthly. Donations are also made thru paypal online and some regular direct deposits.

Other donations not accounted for in our financials are the public donations of cat food, cat litter, toys, towers, towels and blankets. Foster carers also provide food and litter for their foster cats.

Membership fees

Membership fees are an important part of our income and help to cover our required insurances.

Adoption Fees

Adoption fees vary from \$100 for “Cat of the Week” \$150 for adult cats and \$200 for kittens. Double adoptions are discounted accordingly

Financial report will be presented by our Treasurer Ashleigh Wallace

RESCUE/REHOME OUTCOMES – Our Cats.

CAT RESCUE STATISTICS FY JULY 2016- JUNE 2017

Intake	337
Adopted	269
Returned	12
Deceased	42
Transferred to Cat Haven	32

There were 10 cats euthanised; 5 for serious aggression and 5 with FIV.

32 others (mainly kittens) deceased due to illness.

We had quite a lot of unhealthy and 'weak' kittens over the last year who didn't survive. This can be quite traumatic for the foster carers, but is unfortunately part of life and these kittens would probably not have survived without our involvement anyway.

But when you add the 32 transported to Perth to our 269 adoptions, we are once again responsible for saving over 300 cat lives this year – it's what we are all here for.

Without MWCS, without you - those cats would not be alive today.

FUTURE PLANS

Our strategic direction remains the same;

- To eventually build/have a shelter facility
- To employ a part time coordinator
- To financially support both of the above objectives

Our focus for the next 2 years will be on finding the necessary grant or other funding to pay a part time coordinator, to alleviate some of the responsibility and time pressure on our volunteers. This will also open up opportunities to pursue further corporate sponsorships.

We will be looking again at our strategic plan, researching opportunities and giving further thought to how we might go about progressing our objectives into the future.

Thank you all for a fabulous year and looking forward with excitement, to the next one.

Jodie Leigh

Founder & Chairperson