



Animal Welfare League of Queensland

Presented by Dr Joy Verrinder
Strategic Director, AWLQ

The Animal Welfare League Qld team of over 160 staff and 2000 volunteers has been working to achieve an end to the killing of healthy and treatable cats and dogs in a whole city i.e. the City of Gold Coast (population over 500 000).

Led by CEO Denise Bradley, whose father was the founding President of AWLQ in 1959, the staff manages the pound for Gold Coast and Brisbane City Councils, caring for all stray animals for these cities. The staff accepts surrenders directly from the public and rehomed almost 3000 Gold Coast animals and 4000 animals from other areas in SE Qld in 2015/16. As well as running shelter clinics, veterinary staff also provides full veterinary services to the general public in three busy Community Vet Clinics in Gold Coast, Ipswich and Hobart.

In 2002, the numbers of cats and dogs entering the pound and shelter in the City of Gold Coast was overwhelming with up to 50 cats and kittens handed into the reception area by 10 a.m., as well as pens overflowing with mainly staffies and working dogs. Healthy animals were being killed. By 2009 we managed to save all healthy and sociable cats and dogs in the city. Now, finally, we are saving all healthy and treatable cats and dogs. Thank you to the community and other organisations who have helped with Getting to Zero! Joy Verrinder, Strategic Director, will be presenting on behalf of the AWLQ team.

Abstract

AWLQ - How We Got There!

This year we got there! Achieved zero euthanasia of all healthy and treatable cats and dogs in a whole city of over 500 000 people. This presentation will introduce some of the people who have contributed to Getting to Zero. It will explain that it has not been all smooth-sailing, requiring a continual focus on saving more lives, working with the community, with other organisations, constantly introducing new strategies; plus taking risks, being optimistic, while understanding that on-going daily commitment is needed to achieve and maintain it.