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Amanda Melvaine is studying Animal Veterinary Bioscience at the University of Sydney and is enrolled in her final honours year. She is passionate about animal welfare and has enjoyed volunteering at the RSPCA and has also completed placement at the Animal Welfare League. She loves all animals and wishes to dedicate her life to helping them in any way she can. Her ultimate goal is to own a sanctuary for special needs and rescued animals.

Abstract

The impact of a targeted, subsidised desexing and identification program on reclaim and euthanasia rates

Euthanasia and wastage of healthy dogs is a serious issue in Australia. The proportion of dogs that become unwanted and end up in pounds and shelters is greater than the demand for these dogs, leading to the destruction of thousands of dogs. Targeted, subsidised desexing and identification programs such as the RSPCA NSW's Community Animal Welfare Scheme (CAWS) are one means of reducing the unwanted dog population and the destruction of healthy dogs in shelters. These programs aim to decrease the proportion of reproducing dogs that are potentially contributing to the unwanted dog population. Currently there very little evidence to demonstrate that desexing programs are successful at decreasing shelter intake and euthanasia. The impact of programs incorporating microchipping and the effect on reclaim rates has also not been investigated.

We examined the impact of a bi-annual, subsidised desexing and identification program (CAWS) on euthanasia and reclaim rates in the Bathurst region. We will present the findings and discuss future directions for research in this talk.