



## Dr Megan Hemy

Veterinary Intern  
Animal Accident and Emergency

Megan graduated from the University of Queensland at the end of 2015 where she was awarded the UQ Shelter Medicine Prize for her final year research project.

In 2016 she worked within a mixed practice in Launceston for 12 months, where she provided veterinary care for private clients, rescue organisations and wildlife carers.

Megan is currently undertaking a 12 month Emergency and Critical Care internship in Melbourne's Animal Accident and Emergency. Her interests include emergency medicine and behaviour.

## Abstract

### **Characteristics and outcomes of dogs admitted into Queensland RSPCA shelters**

An excess of stray and surrendered dogs in Australia has resulted in thousands being euthanased, leading to a considerable financial burden on shelters. Contemporary, comprehensive data on the characteristics and outcomes of dogs entering Queensland shelters is required to reduce shelter admissions and euthanasia. However, there are currently limited up-to-date data published on dog admission into shelters.

This presentation will discuss a retrospective single cohort study which was conducted to describe the characteristics and outcomes of the dog population entering Royal Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, Queensland shelters in 2014. It was found that the majority of dog admissions were strays or from municipal councils. Just over a quarter of admissions were puppies, just 18% of adults were desexed, and the majority of admissions were crossbred dogs. The majority of owner surrenders were due to human related reasons. Most dogs were reclaimed or adopted, and aggression was the most common reason for euthanasia of adult dogs.

Based on this data, strategies to reduce dog shelter admissions and euthanasia are discussed.