

# SPCA<sup>®</sup>

## FIJI ISLANDS

NEWSLETTER  
JULY/AUGUST 2019



*Dear SPCA Members and Supporters. It's been a busy couple of months with a few ups and quite a few downs at Suva's only animal shelter.*

*We hosted a highly successful open day during which we adopted out many of our long term residents, held the Annual General Meeting, and (finally) revamped our website. We built a much-needed cat play and adoption area and our barking shelter residents continue to get regular exercise in their play areas. We got involved in the protracted dog trapping programme, helping to ensure humane treatment of trapped animals and desexing and rehoming as many as possible. We have conducted some public education work and continue to seek ways to do this within our budget.*

*The "downs" have put a bit of a dent in our resilience but we are hopeful this is temporary! Our van was totaled in a daylight accident on a routine run and both our vets left within weeks of each other. More on all this within the newsletter. We invite you to get in touch if you have questions or want to help out. Or just drop in to the shelter and cuddle some of our babies!*

*Team SPCA*



## Update on the Stray Dog Trapping Campaign

Following the announcement by government of an 8-week dog trapping campaign in mid-June, SPCA and other animal welfare organisations across the country mobilised to offer the Ministry of Agriculture our oversight (at the very least) through to assisting with desexing and euthanising of trapped dogs, and housing and homing those we could.



The primary purpose of SPCA's involvement was to ensure that the trapped animals would be treated humanely throughout the process and suffer as little distress as possible. In effect, the engagement of SPCA and others ensured that a great number of dogs survived the campaign, instead being desexed and either rehomed or released back to the area at which they had been trapped ("trap, neuter, return").



Huge numbers of dogs were trapped daily, many of which were owned but roaming, with no owner license. Others were in awful condition, having lived most of their lives as starving and ill strays. SPCA was saddened to see some of our very own ex-shelter babies in the traps—an unfortunate testament to the irresponsibility of many pet owners.

SPCA staff were kept busy assessing dogs for rehoming and carrying out desexing at Koronivia.

We were fortunate to have two volunteer vets at the time, who perhaps had not expected this experience when planning their short stint in Suva. We are grateful to doctors Chelsea and ?? who stepped in without complaint to assist our clinic team during this traumatic and very emotionally challenging time.

This is the first time government has trialled the Trap Neuter and Return (TNR) system, which SPCA has been advocating for many years. We will be working with the Ministry to help ensure that the lessons from this campaign can be built on and that appropriate backstops are in place to humanely trap and treat animals and enable their safe return to their exact geographic locations afterward.

Our clinic staff have also identified a number of areas for improvement during the trapping and holding process and we will be providing the Ministry with our feedback to help ensure that adequate training is provided to trappers and handlers. We will provide more details as this progresses.

### We are in this together!

The SPCA commends our staff, volunteers and members of the public who helped in different ways during this time—including providing donations of food and fostering or adopting animals so we could clear the shelter to make room for the trapped strays.

# Annual General Meeting



## **The SPCA 2018 AGM was held at The Suva Business Centre on 13th July**

We owe huge thanks to the Suva Business Centre for the kind donation of their excellent venue!

28 people attended, getting us over the line for the 10% quorum by just two! We request our 260 members to please try and attend future AGM's (and any extraordinary meetings), which are an essential part of the Society's governance. Despite early notifications, this year we came dangerously close to not being able to proceed. Current members will be emailed detailed information on the outcomes of the AGM.

### *Executive Committee 2019/20*

Only five nominations were received for the Executive Committee and the AGM appointed all five candidates. The new committee is charged with filling the four vacancies in accordance with the SPCA Constitution. Rahul Chand resigned within a month of the AGM and the current EC membership is:

Seema Deo (Co Chair)      Amanda Millar (Co Chair)      Shivani Mudliar (Treasurer)

Chelsey Singh (Secretary)      Jone Tuipelehaki (joined 29 August)

Historically, very few of the elected nine members have been known to complete their term, and each committee has been forced to recruit new members during the year. Being on the EC is enormously rewarding and for those still interested in developing or sharing a broad skill set, it can be the perfect proving ground.

*So. Is it your time?* If you have ever thought about becoming involved, please contact us for more information. The SPCA really does need you!

### *We farewell our outgoing EC members but know they won't be too far away!*

We thank the 2018/19 committee members who have completed their stint on the EC but decided to pursue other commitments this year.

**Vivien Counsell-Mitchell** will continue her work on Legislation and Education as the devoted Trustee we all know her to be.

**Cindy Butcher** worked tirelessly as treasurer through the past 12 months on the financial aspects of the Society, putting in place and tightening procedures so that new committees can step in without needing too much guidance. We cannot thank her enough for her efforts.

**Andrew Powell** has vowed to continue to support our PR and Media work. This promise has already been put to the test! We acknowledge all of Andrew's efforts on the website, Facebook, the Calendar, the food drive and the ROC Markets.

**Ravikash Chand** (who stepped in to fill an empty seat) provided significant support in the financial arena but he has now stepped away so as to devote his energies to Rotary. We look forward to building our ties with Rotary through his support.



## Our van is dead.

It was written off in an accident a few months back. Fortunately nobody was seriously hurt but the accident has left us without our own transport. Big shout out to Mr Tim and Suva City Council for helping us out so often whilst we are still in search of a new (old) vehicle. We have had some donations towards a new vehicle and we are very grateful to Dr Robin Yarrow for his generous donation towards the purchase of a new vehicle. We will collect about \$3,950 in insurance money but have not been able to locate something that is also within our budget.

*Emergency Services are on hold* until we acquire a vehicle. If you want to volunteer your time and transport to help our staff attend to emergencies, please let us know!

*If you can help with locating an appropriate vehicle for us we would love to hear from you.* We would be more than happy to enter into a sponsorship type arrangement and can offer advertising opportunities and naming rights of our 'Animal Rescue Service' so if you are interested or have any ideas please contact us.

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## An Apology is Owed

It was stated in the draft 2018 Annual Report presented at the July AGM that Dr Kevin Sanada resigned without notice back in July 2018. In fact, Dr Sanada resigned on the day of the 2017 AGM, held on 20 July 2018. Under the terms of his contract with the 2017 Executive Committee, Dr Sanada was not required to give more than one day's notice.



We apologise for any misrepresentation of the facts and to Dr Sanada for this error. No slight of character either personally or professionally was intended.

It is also noted that Dr Sanada had previously asked that his contact details not be advertised at the gate of the SPCA for animal emergencies. We have now rectified this situation and apologise again to Dr Sanada for this oversight.

**Please note** that currently the SPCA cannot provide emergency services due to lack of a vehicle and staff. We hope that we will be able to offer such services in the future and we will keep you posted on this. Note also that the clinic is closed on Sundays at this stage while we are reliant on volunteer/short term vets.



One of our wonderful volunteer vets, Dr Angus Brown from Adelaide. Volunteer veterinarians help keep the shelter and clinic running and sometimes we are lucky enough to have skilled surgeons who can help some of our more needy clients. Dr Angus worked some miracles during his visit!

### *Interesting aside:*

Dr Angus questioned an invoice being generated by one of the vet nurses. He then commented that the total amount being charged was around 10% of what would be charged in a private clinic in Australia.

Guess we are still managing to keep costs 'close to the bone' for our SPCA clients!

# Financial Summary

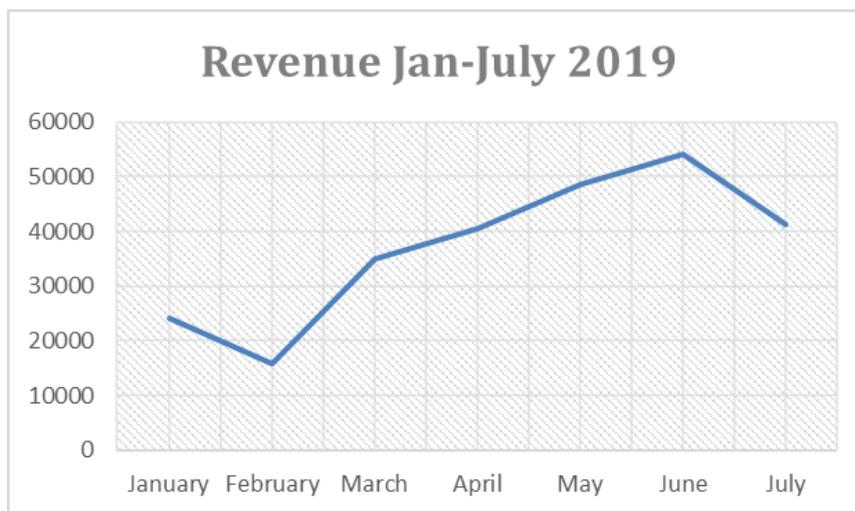
As at 31 July 2019

	FJD
Income	259,504
Expenses	186,348
Net Surplus	73,156



With our full-time vets on board for most of the 7 months, SPCA recorded 259k income as at 31 July 2019. Hats off to the staff, lovely humans and the previous EC for their hard work – SPCA operations and donation income resulted in a surplus of 73k.

Income improved steadily from March and peaked at June (53k for the month), before its decline in July – coincides with the full-time vets leaving us.



Wages, Drugs, and Pet Food were the major costs for SPCA’s operations and accounted for 59% of total expenses for the 7 months. Donated food and consumables aren’t included in this figure. Staff have delegated duties to manage the drugs and food stock and they report in to the Shelter and Clinic Manager.

The current finance officer—Ms Raksha Singh—has been with us since April – her continuity helps a great deal to keep the financials updated. SPCA continues to use the Vision and MYOB systems for invoicing/stocking and recording all transactions on a daily basis.

## ***A very sad tail***



Our vets have left. After spending nearly 8 months acquiring our two vets from Europe, neither has lasted a full 3 months. This has been a huge blow given all the efforts that went into getting Dr Vesna and Dr Claire here. The committee has since decided that if and when vets are to be recruited from overseas they will be required to come and spend some time here first so that they know what is involved. Despite all efforts being made to provide a realistic picture to our prospective vets both appeared to arrive with quite different expectations.

Both vets cited (as one of their reasons for resigning) the recent trapping programme and the number of animals they were required to euthanise. Another major reason seems to have been the fact that their spouses could not work to supplement their incomes. We want you to know that we offered both vets everything within our power to get them to change their minds but to no avail. Dr Vesna had already taken up a past offer in Shanghai and Dr Claire has gone to Australia to do locum work. We wish them well but cannot hide our disappointment at their early departures. We have commenced the process of securing vets once again and will keep you updated.

*Volunteer vets are amongst the very best people in the world.*

*We have been extremely fortunate to have these wonderful people spend some time with us over the past couple of months.*

Dr Angus

Dr Naoya

Dr Mathew



Dr Cassie Fransica

Dr Iain David



Dr Chelsea Fowler

## The Shelter

At the end of July, SPCA's shelter population was 100 animals:

12 adult cats	14 kittens
41 adult dogs	33 puppies

During the month of July 42 animals were adopted:

10 adult cats	9 kittens
10 adult dogs	13 puppies



### *Feeding our shelter babies*

Caged animals need to be fed adequately with the right mix of nutrients to allow them to grow and develop properly. SPCA feeds our shelter pets a mixed diet of commercially prepared and home cooked meals. The estimated average cost of feeding one grown dog for a month is around \$100. The amount varies a little for cats and puppies. With a shelter capacity of 120, that means around 12,000 a month in food alone! We are in great debt to all of you who have been dropping off food for the shelter.

### *Foster care*

We are grateful to the kind souls who helped foster 40 animals in July! 1 cat, 13 kittens, 9 dogs and 22 pups were fostered.

Foster carers are a cornerstone for animal shelters—by fostering an animal, you help provide space at the shelter for us to take in and look after more strays. Fostered animals also often have a better chance at being adopted as they have the benefit of knowing how to behave with humans!



Thank you Mrs Karan for this gift of specially cooked food for the shelter pets!



It all adds up - everything you donate takes us one step closer to feeding and rehoming another animal

# July Open Day

Discounted adoptions, shelter tours, cup cakes, healthy ice pops, home cooked meals and the official opening of the cat adoption area were just a few of the features of SPCA's Open Day held on 6 July. We are grateful to Mrs Sofia Dean for her donation for the cattery and to the Karan Family and Nikita and Andrew for their contributions at the event.



# a few more happenings at SPCA



From left: Vivien Counsell-Mitchell, Dr Claire Halohan and Shaneel Narayan (Clinic and Shelter Manager), attended the Catholic church convention. They spoke to 1000 plus kids on how to deal with stray dogs and take care of pets

Below: Sweta Singh (Veterinary Nurse) and Grace Naleba (Reception Officer) attended the University of South Pacific Open Day and provided information to students about the SPCA and requirements for working in veterinary medicine.



*Love these guys!* Since our two vets left the SPCA high and dry, Dr Ryan Johnstone and Dr Jo Olver have been amazingly generous with their support to our shelter animals and pet owners. We can't thank them enough! How many times have these two wonderful humans saved us so we can continue to save animals?

**Have you checked out our website lately?**

**[www.spcafiji.com](http://www.spcafiji.com)**

***Our site has had a bit of a make over and is looking great. Let us know if you can help us with managing it.***

**Fiji National University (FNU) Interns and MOU:** An updated Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been signed with FNU establishing the basis for a working partnership for the next 5 years. We have ensured that this MOU establishes some rules around the sharing of resources and reimbursement for student expenditures when needed. Having said that FNU and SPCA have always had an honest arrangement but we are hopeful that in the future our partnership may extend to a 'rural setting' shelter and therefore an MOU that articulates this kind of sharing is most welcome.

## CLAW Clinic – November: “Communities Compliant in Legislation and Animal Welfare”



Remember the highly successful 500 animal desexing clinic in March? Well Dr Kimberley (USA) and a new bunch of her volunteers, including possibly a team of vets from Australia, are scheduled to visit again in November (3rd –15th). They will do some desexing work at the clinic before they venture out to some of the settlements in and around Suva. They will also return to Beqa Island where, in March, they began a trial to try and eradicate heart worm amongst the domestic animals on the island. The CLAW team will work with another three villages (desexing and vaccinating) and revisit the three villages already 'done' this time, leaving the final three for a return visit in early 2020.



*You can assist by offering to billet a couple of the vets during their visit.*

Dr Kimberley has been hard at work whilst back in the USA and has secured a substantial SPCA International (SPCAi) sponsorship for our CLAW Clinic Outreach work. This is a substantial sponsorship and a test shipment is about to leave for Fiji.

## *Don't complain. Take action!*

*Imagine what things could be like if we all just took responsibility for our local environment*

**Neighborhood Clinics:** We have mentioned this concept a number of times but once again, if you would like SPCA to come and conduct a clinic in a nearby neighborhood, or business, then here is what you can do. Estimate the number of animals you would like to have de-sexed. Run some fundraising. For example: one small business owner has a tips jar for this purpose. She has already collected enough money to pay for the materials for 4 animals to be de sexed. The SPCA will provide the staff and on a nominated day will visit her neighborhood and run an outreach clinic.



Preparatory work will be done ahead of time to vaccinate animals and de worm them so that they might be in the best possible health to undergo surgery. A plan will be worked out with the neighborhood and before you know it there will be no more poor neglected and unwanted litters of pups or kittens. The dogs will improve in health and wander and fight less because there will be fewer pesky hormones driving their behavior and depleting their health.

*"The time is always right, to do what is right" –Martin Luther King Jnr.*



**Fundraising:** There is not a lot planned in the area of fundraising with a Committee of only four (now five) currently and still with no Business Manager the members of the EC don't have enough time to undertake much needed fundraising. We have some ideas so if you are interested in running an event and/or have some ideas of your own we would love to hear from you.

### UPCOMING HAPPENINGS:

**SPCA Inspectors:** The 'Protection of Animals Act Fiji' makes provision for sanctioned (through MOA) SPCA inspectors. We are lucky enough to have amongst our fold an ex-RSPCA inspector who has offered to train up some of our staff to attend to emergencies and reported cases of cruelty and neglect. We are hoping to offer this training to other Animal Welfare organizations also. We are still in the planning stage but there will be more on this initiative in the near future.



**Microchipping is coming to SPCA:** This will mean that all Veterinary Clinics in Fiji will offer a coordinated Microchipping service. SPCA aims to offer this service at the most competitive price possible to members in a promotion shortly.



## WHY TAKE THE RISK? GET YOUR PET MICROCHIPPED



A microchip is a permanent method of electronic identification. The chip itself is very small – about the size of a grain of rice – and is implanted just under the skin, between the shoulder blades at the back of your pet's neck. Each chip has a unique number that is detected using a microchip scanner. The microchip number is recorded on a database registry with details about the animal and owner. Should your pet stray or become lost, vets, animal shelters and local councils can scan your pet for a microchip and contact you via the database.

## WANT TO HELP? HERE ARE SOME IDEAS!

You can donate:

- |   |                                      |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| Blankets  | Towels                               |
| Toys  | Disused (or new) leashes and collars |
| Dry food (cat and dog biscuits),                | Tinned food                          |
| Cleaning fluids and equipment                   | Steel cages                          |
| Maintenance items (paint, cement/blocks, tools) |                                      |

Or you could...

- |                                     |                                |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Run a fundraiser                    | Organise a neighborhood clinic |
| Attend and support a fundraiser     | Make a cash donation           |
| Help walk and socialise our animals | Feed a stray animal            |

Got special skills?

We need graphic artists, photographers, illustrators and cartoonists to help us with our public education material.

*If you can help contact us at [spca@connect.com.fj](mailto:spca@connect.com.fj) or message us on facebook.*

## A very special thank you...

UK-based Anne Gleeson and her team have pledged to support the SPCA with regular gifts. This was arranged by Dr Vesna during her short time here. Anne and her hard working team are also supporting another shelter in Romania. Her Facebook page is '[Friends of Sadies Haven and FijiSPCA](#)'. Please do "like" her page and say thanks from us here in Fiji.

*We need a business manager!!*

*We are prepared to consider part time or other flexible arrangements for the right person. Please help by sharing this ad.*



**We need YOU!**

**Vacancy  
Business Manager**

SPCA seeks an individual with excellent financial management skills and experience in modern business systems and procedures, including human resource management. The position will work closely with the Shelter and Clinic Manager and oversee the Finance and Administration team to ensure the financial procedures, procurement, payroll, staffing and all records of the organisation are properly managed.

You will be expected to nurture strategic partnerships and assist the Executive Committee with pursuing development opportunities for the betterment of the society, including developing the annual work programme and budget. Please contact the SPCA ([spca@connect.com.fj](mailto:spca@connect.com.fj)) with a detailed CV outlining qualifications and work experience if you think you might be the right person for the job. Remuneration (between \$22,000 and \$30,000) will be negotiated according to experience and qualifications.

SPCA is a not-for-profit charity established under the Charitable Trusts Act.