

Media Release

Ms Mary-Anne Thomas MP
Minister for Regional Development
Minister for Agriculture



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NEW REHOMING GRANTS TO HELP MORE VICTORIAN PETS

The Victorian Government is encouraging Victorians to adopt animals in need, launching new animal welfare grants to help more dogs and cats find their forever home.

Minister for Agriculture Mary-Anne Thomas launched the *Individual Pet Rehoming Grants* program today, which will provide \$5 million to organisations providing vital rehoming services.

Round One will offer \$1.25 million to pet rescue organisations to support the rehoming of dogs and cats, recognising the significant role companion animals play in the lives of Victorians.

Eligible organisations may apply to be reimbursed for up to \$500 per dog and \$200 per cat for:

- veterinary treatment, including desexing, microchipping and vaccinations
- the purchase of specific equipment that is supplied to the new owner as part of the adoption process (including crates, bedding and leads)
- services to deliver training or rehabilitation for an animal.

The grants will benefit organisations such as Second Chance Animal Rescue (SCAR) in Craigieburn which welcomed today's announcement. Operating since 2008, SCAR is a not-for-profit organisation that cares for and rehabilitates dogs and cats across Victoria and offers them a second chance at finding a home.

SCAR's Craigieburn facility has already been supported through more than \$95,000 in grants from the Government's Animal Welfare Fund to provide high quality, accessible and affordable pet care for the community.

Round One of the *Individual Pet Rehoming Grants* program is now open. For more information and to apply, visit animalwelfare.vic.gov.au.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Agriculture Mary-Anne Thomas

"During the past year the demand for pets has skyrocketed – these new grants will be important to help improve companion animal welfare and responsible pet ownership across the state."

"Animal welfare is important to the community and we will continue to back the organisations that provide crucial rehoming services."

Quote attributable to Member for Yuroke Ros Spence

"Second Chance Animal Rescue is one of many pet rescue and rehoming organisations working tirelessly in my community – it's fantastic that we can provide this support so they can do their important work."

Quote attributable to SCAR chief executive Marisa Debattista

"Our team faced a 50 per cent increase in demand from people wanting to adopt a new pet – support from the Government has allowed us to help hundreds of disadvantaged pet owners in our community."

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