

Media Release

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



Friday, 3 June 2022

MORE SUPPORT FOR REHOMING OUR PETS

The Andrews Labor Government will reform the pet rehoming sector to ensure even more of Victoria's pets find a loving forever home.

Minister for Agriculture Mary-Anne Thomas visited Lort Smith Animal Hospital in North Melbourne to announce the Government's response to the Taskforce on Rehoming Pets (the Taskforce) report.

The Taskforce made 17 recommendations to improve the rehoming of dogs and cats in Victoria, including those used in medical research. All recommendations are supported by the Victorian Government.

Unlike shelters and pounds, the rehoming sector is not currently required to meet specific standards of care or operation.

The Taskforce recommended regulating the rehoming sector to establish consistent standards of care and operation and improving transparency in the movement of animals between shelters, pounds and rescue groups.

As part of implementation activities, the Labor Government will improve collaboration and information-sharing between shelters, council pounds and rehoming groups.

The Government will also consider better support for rehoming for dogs and cats used in research and undertake a review of the use of euthanasia for animals with treatable or manageable health conditions.

The *Victorian Budget 2022/23* invests a record \$18.6 million in animal welfare initiatives, including for the implementation of Taskforce recommendations. Government will work in partnership with the pet rehoming and animal welfare sectors to deliver this important work.

The Government's response to the Taskforce report can be found online at agriculture.vic.gov.au.

Quote attributable to Minister for Agriculture Mary-Anne Thomas

"I look forward to working in partnership with Victoria's rehoming groups and animal welfare sector to build upon the Taskforce recommendations and improve welfare and rehoming outcomes for Victoria's pets."

Quote attributable to Taskforce on Rehoming Pets Chair Andy Meddick

"Improving animal welfare outcomes for pets in need of a new home and promoting best practice have been paramount to the work of the taskforce."

Quote attributable to Member for Bendigo West Maree Edwards

"The taskforce's recommendations will ensure pets are well cared for on their journey to loving new homes."

Quote attributable to Member for Narre Warren South Gary Maas

"Stakeholders have been at the centre of the decision-making process of this taskforce to ensure our recommendations support their important and valued work to rehome pets."

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