

# Keeping our furry friends safe

**Project:** RSPCA Animal Shelter

**Location:** Yagoona, NSW

**Master Precaster:** Alpha Precast

**Client:** RSPCA

**Builder:** Lahey Constructions

**Engineer:** Trevor Valaire & Associates and RGH Consulting Group

**Architect:** RSPCA Design Team

Located in Sydney's South-West, the recently completed Yagoona NSW RSPCA Animal Shelter has become a new home to hundreds of abandoned, injured and neglected animals. Now the state's largest animal rescue and emergency hospital, the new facility expands RSPCA's capability in response to an increasing demand to provide animal care, shelter and veterinary treatment.

As well as providing its core service to care for animals in need, RSPCA is also known for providing additional public services and education opportunities. Run by RSPCA workers and volunteers, some of the additional services include puppy preschool, animal foster programs, barking consultations, student placements, volunteer opportunities and an in-house retail store.

The design solution for the new structure site was developed by the RSPCA Design Team and provides living, exercise and rehabilitation spaces for a range of animals, sizes and temperaments.

Traditional insitu fabrication was initially chosen by



the Team before National Precast Master Precaster Alpha Precast was introduced to the project. The precast solution proposed by Alpha replicated the joint design and structural plan whilst significantly reducing construction cost for the client.

With the precast concrete solution offering a streamlined process and reducing costs, it was welcomed by the client. A secondary cladding layer was able to be eliminated, which also improved fire safety for the animals in the potential event of a fire.

As well, the RSPCA Design Team knew that using

precast concrete would also ease of cleaning, reduce the structure's upkeep requirements and improve longevity.

260 precast elements were manufactured and installed by the precaster for the Yagoona Shelter which spanned a total floor area of approximately 2600m<sup>2</sup>. Precast concrete floors, slabs and external surfaces were manufactured by Alpha Precast with an off-form Class 2 finish.

Erection of the 260 elements took only 8 days, easily meeting the client's programme requirements. The quick precast installation also benefited RSPCA's neighbours, by reducing site noise and the quantity of trades on site at any given time.

According to National Precast CEO Sarah Bachmann, total precast structures like this one has massive benefits to everyone.

"A higher quality end result comes into play faster and safer, with reduced costs," Bachmann states.

"And durability is guaranteed. These are robust structures which will stand the test of time for our furry friends."

The new RSPCA Animal Shelter is open to the public, treating, housing and rehabilitating animals daily.

