



# Media Release

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Friday 13 September 2019

## Council's Pet Awareness and Safety Program crowned PAW-fect

Camden Council's Pet Awareness and Safety Program (PAWS) was named Community Education and Outreach Program of the year, at last night's Jetpets Companion Animal Rescue Awards ceremony.

The program, which launched in 2014, had five main goals:

1. Educate pet owners, and children, on being responsible pet owners;
2. Decrease the amount of companion animals entering our animal care facility;
3. Reduce the rate of euthanasia;
4. Increase the adoption of kittens, cats and dogs at our animal care facility; and
5. Reduce the number of companion animals sent to rescue organisations.

Mayor of Camden, Cr Theresa Fedeli, said in 2013, Camden had officially become the fastest growing local government area in the state, and was well on the way to becoming the fastest in the country.

"Council was busy upgrading our roads, opening new community facilities and making other adjustments to accommodate this expansion, but we knew it was important to concentrate on the wellbeing of new companion animals too," Cr Fedeli said.

"Our PAWS Program focused on community education; increasing adoption rates; reducing euthanasia rates and decreasing incidence of lost companion animals. In just four short years the results were incredible.

"I'm so proud to report **companion animal seizures are down by 42 per cent and euthanasia down by almost 80 per cent, while adoptions were up 13 per cent, among others.**

"This result, and this award win, is a big credit to the hard-working members of our Companion Animals Advisory Committee and Ranger Services team.

"We're an organisation that constantly improves, so I'm excited to see this program expand and go from strength to strength."

For information on how to be a responsible pet owner, visit [camden.nsw.gov.au/pets](http://camden.nsw.gov.au/pets)

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