



## Unwanted & Homeless Dogs:

### Nationwide research on dog admissions to animal shelters and the risk of euthanasia.

### Finding strategies to decrease euthanasia of unwanted and stray dogs

#### THE FACTS

- 🐾 More dogs die from euthanasia each year than disease, accidents or old age.
- 🐾 An estimated 25-40% of dogs that enter shelters are euthanized each year across Australia.
- 🐾 Animal management services, including managing unwanted and homeless pets cost \$250 million per year annually.
- 🐾 Past and current strategies to manage the unwanted dog population have had limited success.
- 🐾 Research has never been conducted to determine the factors contributing to dog admissions to animal shelters. This research is essential to have evidence-based strategies that can be implemented into council animal management plans.

#### RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

- 🐾 To undertake a comprehensive nation-wide study to understand the problem of unwanted and homeless dogs that enter shelters. Specifically determine where dogs entering shelters across Australia are coming from, factors influencing their entry into shelters, and identify strategies which will improve re-homing rates, and reduce surrender.
- 🐾 To provide the information necessary for the development of evidence-based nationwide strategies for shelters and government. This research will form the basis for effecting policy and societal change directed at reducing the number of dogs euthanized after entering a shelter.

#### MAKING A DIFFERENCE TO UNWANTED DOGS

- 🐾 This research aims for a future where healthy dogs are no longer euthanized merely because of behaviour problems or lack of homes.

**To support this research please contact Professor Jacquie Rand or Julia Keith at the Centre for Companion Animal Health on Telephone +61 7 3365 2122 or Email: [ccah@uq.edu.au](mailto:ccah@uq.edu.au)**