



dlg

New South Wales  
Department of Local Government



# The Companion Animals Act 1998

## Microchipping

A reliable method of animal  
identification or a waste of time?

# Does it work?

- The introduction of compulsory microchipping has:
  - increased the rate of desexing,
  - Increased the rate of return to owners
  - Increased rehoming rates
  - contributed to a downward trend in the euthanasia rate across NSW
  - Improved enforcement functions across then state.

# Microchipping and lifetime registration

- Two step process – identification first
- Lifetime registration by six months of age
- Microchipping creates a unique link between animal and owner, making identification and return almost foolproof
- Councils and animal welfare organisations able to return animals quickly and easily and take action against those owners whose animals have attacked or caused a nuisance

# Microchipping continued...

## Microchipping:

- Has significantly improved the chances of a lost pet being reunited with its owner
- Decreased the euthanasia rate as well as increased opportunities for councils and,
- Assisted breed and animal rescue organisations to re-home unclaimed dogs and cats



# NSW Companion Animals Register

- records all dogs and cats microchipped in NSW
- provides a mechanism to record and track:
  - companion animal information and owner details
  - the activities of Authorised Identifiers, breed and temperament assessors, nuisance dogs and cats, and importantly, dangerous dogs



# Senior officer or council manager – main menu

The screenshot shows a web browser window titled "Main Menu - Microsoft Internet Explorer provided by -- DLG --". The page has a yellow header with the "Chip In" logo and the slogan "So your pet can dial home." Below the header, there are navigation links: "Main Menu", "User Manual", "Change Password", and "Logout". The main content area is dark green and contains three sections of links:

- Identification and Registration**
  - Animal Identification and Registration
  - Animal Registration Only
  - Change Details
  - Death of Animal
  - Pound / Shelter Animal
  - Animal Identification Only
  - Certificate - Reprint
  - Correct Registration Details
  - Missing Animal
- Other Council Functions**
  - Animal Search
  - Authorised User Search
  - Dangerous Dog Order
  - Nuisance Order
  - Suppressed Record
  - Authorised Identifier Search
  - Breed/Temperament Enter Assessment
  - Notice to Declare Restricted
  - Remove Animal Record
- Reports**
  - Animal Count
  - Correct Registration Details Report
  - Death of Animal Report
  - Missing Animal Report
  - Pound / Shelter Animal Report
  - Registrations by LGA, by Registration Type List
  - Restricted Dog Report
  - Username Listing Report
  - Animal Identification and Registration Report
  - Dangerous Dog Order Report
  - Financial Report List
  - Nuisance Order Report
  - Registration Count
  - Remove Animal Report
  - Suppressed Record Report

The Windows taskbar at the bottom shows the Start button, several open application icons, and the system tray with the time 9:36 AM.



# Pound data entry

Lookup Animal - Microsoft Internet Explorer provided by -- DLG --

**Animal Search**  
Main Menu | Site Manual | Change Password | Logout

**Search Details**

**Animal Details**

Animal Status: Home  
Name: Leroy  
Microchip Number: 7777777777777777  
Authorized Identifier number: V0003056  
Date of Implantation: 02 May 2006  
Identification Date: 29 June 2006  
Species: Dog  
Breed: American Staffordshire Terrier / Australian Bulldog cross  
Date of birth: 01 April 2006  
Gender: Male  
Deceased: No  
Colour: Brown  
Identifying marks: Big and Bad  
Additional Comments:  
Out of Date?: No

**Address Usually kept**

Address: 1 Test st  
Suburb/Town: TEST TOWN  
State: NSW

**Nuisance Animal Details**

Order Date	Expiry Date
03 July 2006	03 January 2007

**Pound Shelter Details**

Arrival Date	Held By	Departure Date	Action
01 July 2006	Blacktown City Council	02 July 2006	Returned to Owner

**Owner Details**

Title: Rabbi  
Family Name: Cohan  
Given names: Brian  
Home Phone: 44794156164  
Work Phone: 8484646456456  
Mobile Phone:  
Email:  
**Residential address**

Address: 1 Test st  
Suburb/Town: TEST TOWN  
State: NSW

# challenges

- The Register is only as good as the information that is on it
- Users of the Register do not utilise all the available functions
- Out of date information
- Not an issue that is unique to the NSW experience



# Register enhancements

- Breed and Temperament Assessment Details
- Reports
- Mobile Access to the Register via WAP phones and PDAs
  - Trial now complete!

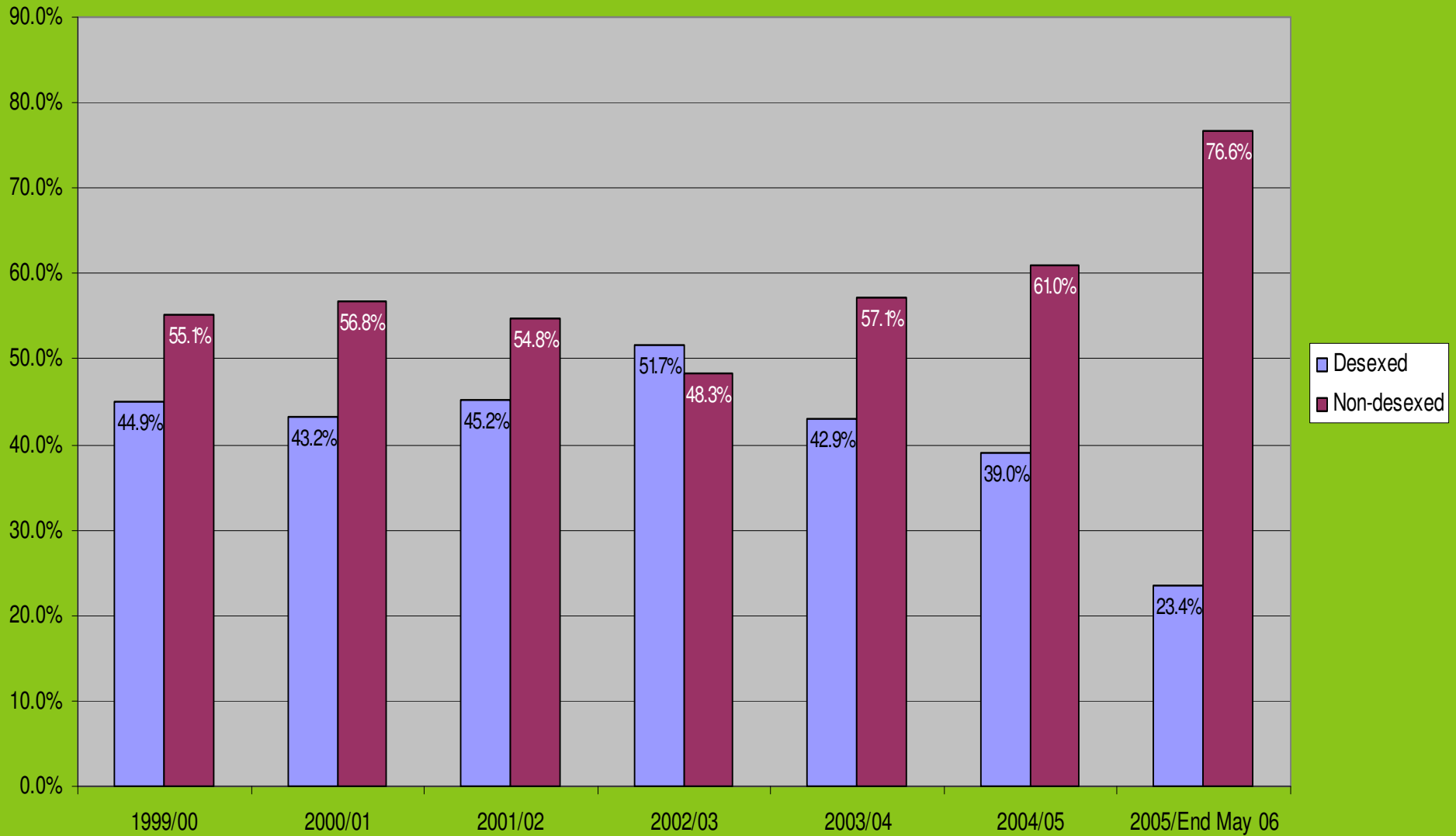


# Newly listed animals per year on NSW Register



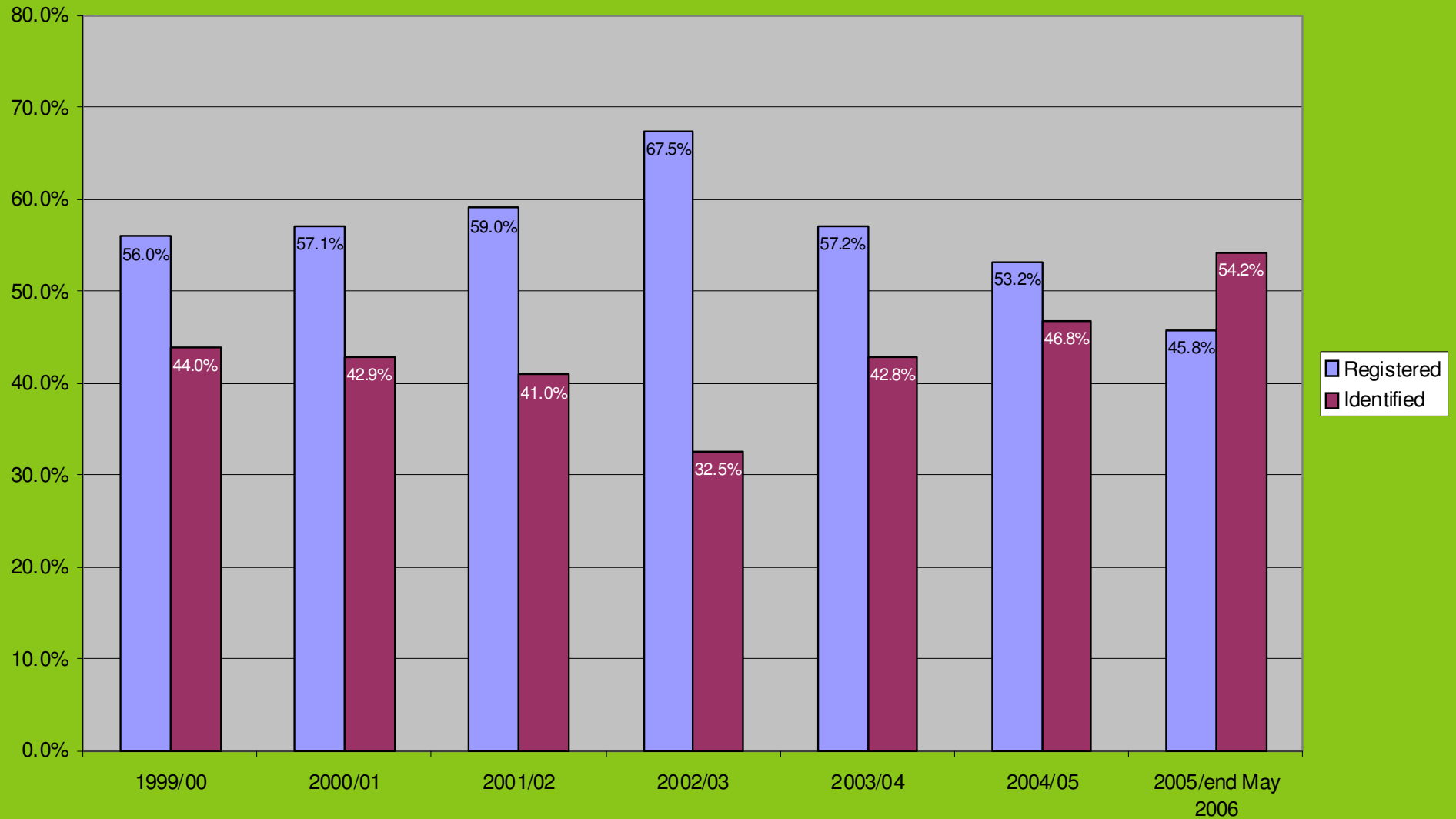


# Desexed animals





# Identified and lifetime registered



# Lifetime registration fees

Effective 13 January 2006

- Desexed \$40 (up from \$35)
- Non-desexed \$150 (up from \$100)
- Recognised Breeder \$40 (up from \$35)
- There is no change for a desexed animal owned by an eligible pensioner (\$15)



# Statistics

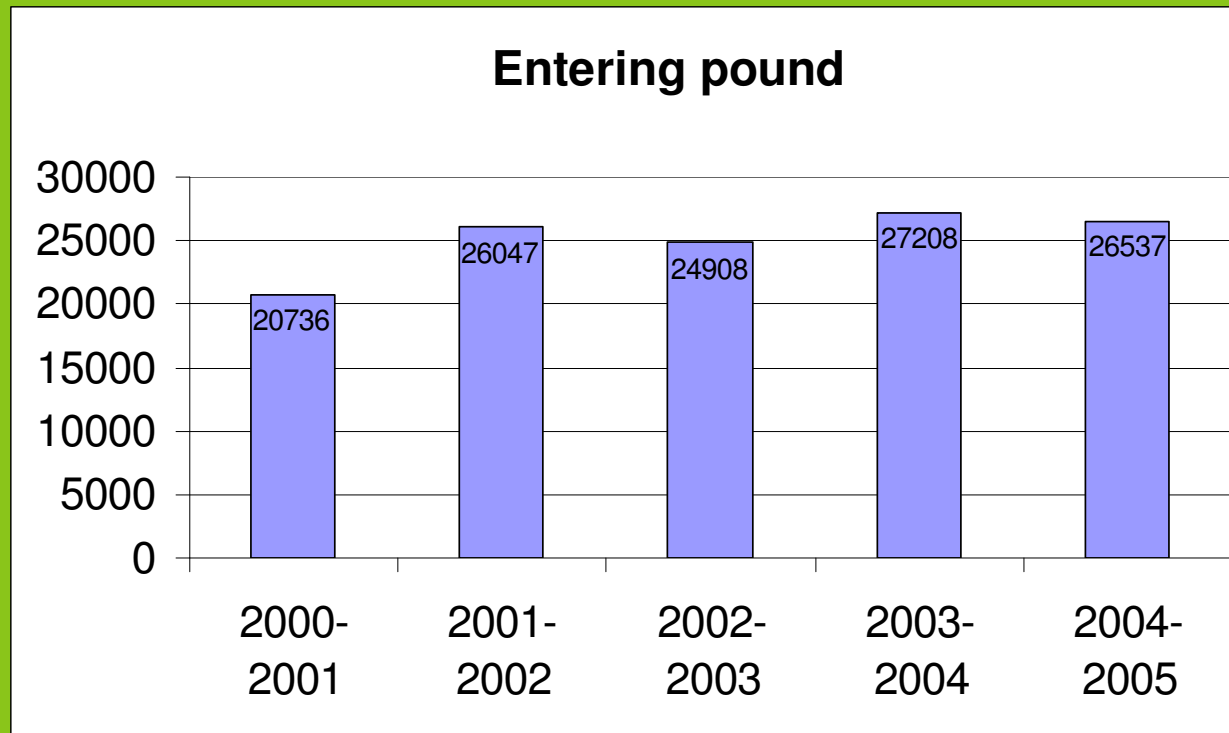
- Dog attack data
- Pound Data
- Poor reporting
- New requirement to report pound data as part of recent Act amendments

# Pound data

- Difficult to compare data due to a reduction in the number of councils
- The following data is drawn from 31 councils who have reported consistently from 2000 to 2005

# Incoming animals

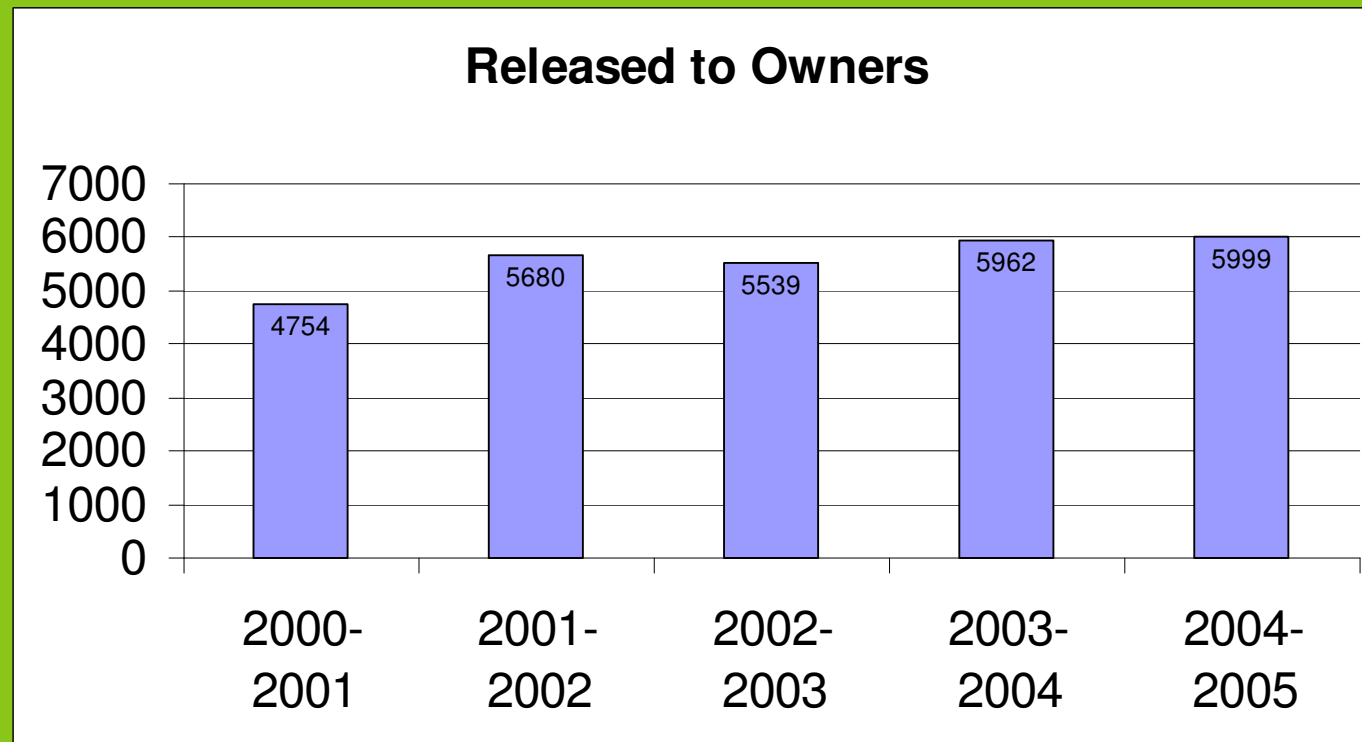
for 31 NSW Councils





# Released/returned to owners from pound

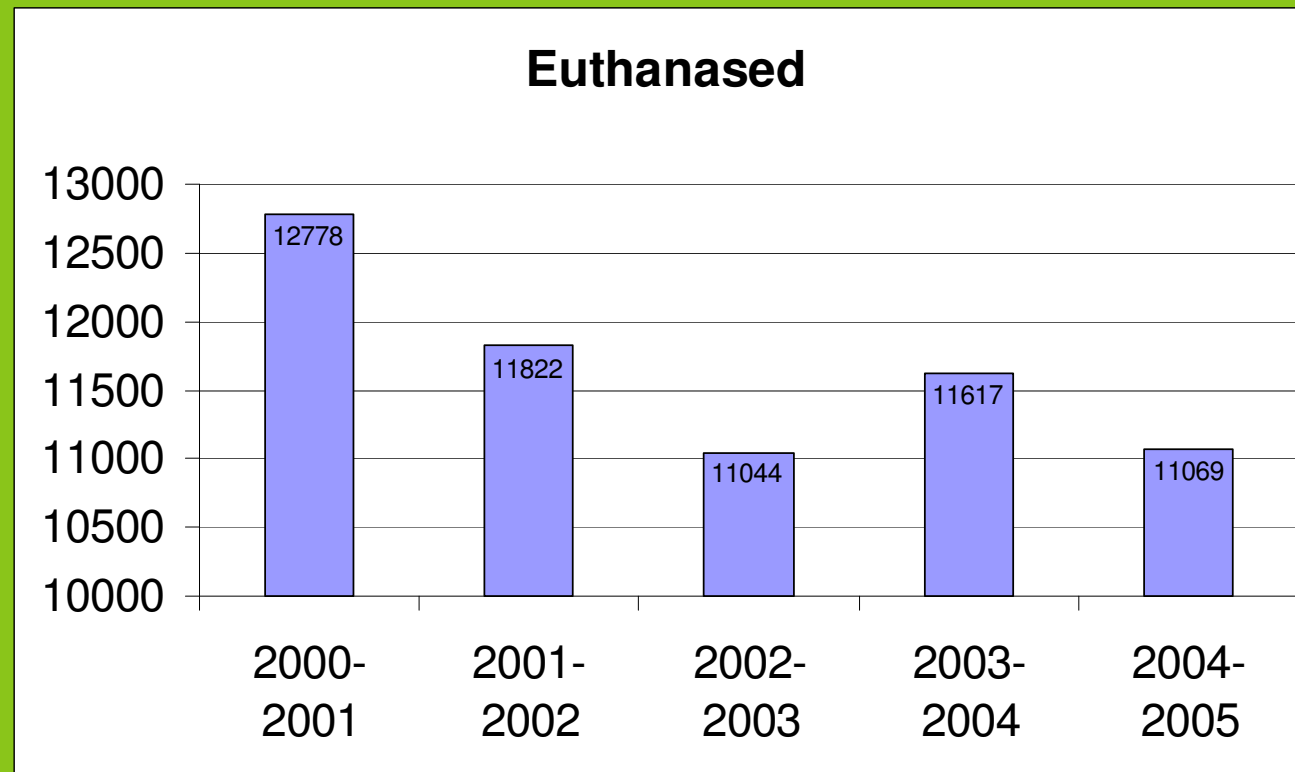
for 31 NSW Councils





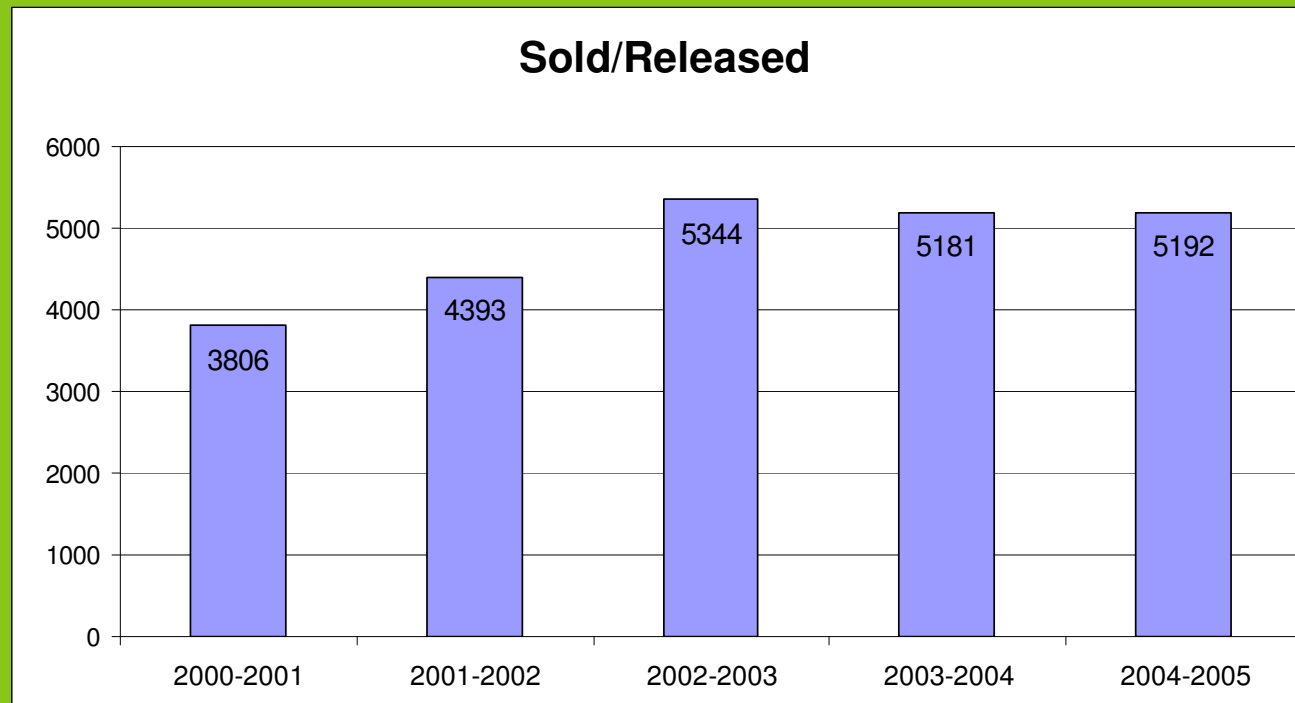
# Euthanased

for 31 NSW Councils



# Sold/released for re-homing

for 31 NSW Councils





# The future for NSW?

- Promote the positive aspects of the Act
- Increase education
- Assist councils to be proactive in their communities
- Continue to support breed and animal rescue organisations and,
- Continue to strive for legislative changes that improves the lives of our pets and the community