



# THE CHERISHED PETS INITIATIVE

**SUPPORT US**



# The challenge

**In our community, vulnerable individuals, including those experiencing homelessness, mental health crises, domestic violence, age-related constraints, or disabilities, face significant barriers in accessing essential veterinary care.**

Pets bring love, joy, and companionship, promote activity and emotional stability, and enrich people's lives. The remarkable benefits pets bring arise from the human-animal bond.

But we see these very bonds between people and their pets preventing those experiencing disadvantage from getting the help they so desperately need for their pets and themselves.

An increasing number of pet owners are not undertaking veterinary services due to financial limitations, or are prioritising the health and wellbeing of their pets over their own. This is exposing them to significant physical, psychological and social risks.

Many people are forced to surrender or watch their pets' health decline and are experiencing stress and isolation.

For example, victim survivors of domestic violence often delay leaving unsafe environments due to a lack of secure options for their pets.

People experiencing homelessness share profound emotional bonds with their pets, so will often delay going into accommodation for fear of having to relinquish their beloved animal companions.

In Australia, most domestic and family violence refuges, homeless shelters, residential care facilities and rental accommodations do not accept pets.

Pets also provide essential support for those living with disabilities or ageing-related constraints, fostering healthier living, greater mobility, social connection, and improved mental health. But there is gap in services for vulnerable people.

All of these situations not only impact individuals and their pets but strain our society as a whole.

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**We urgently need to support all vulnerable people and their cherished pets in our community.**

# Helping our communities thrive

Cherished Pets supports people facing crises and immediate challenges with access to human-animal bond centered veterinary care and social services.

We are responding to the crucial service gap for vulnerable pet owners by offering low-cost or pro bono veterinary care and access to a veterinary social work public health model.

Our services keep pets and people together, reduce surrender rates, enable reuniting with pets after periods of crisis, and alleviate the burden on overwhelmed shelter systems. We provide crucial support to people in need.

Beyond immediate veterinary care, individuals who come to us are connected to essential services in housing, mental health, aged care, and family and domestic violence. This not only helps support immediate needs for their companion animals but also empowers individuals to access a network of support. This is where our transformative impact lies.

**For individuals experiencing homelessness**, our services provide discounted vital veterinary support for their beloved animals who are essential for companionship and give them purpose through life's challenges.

**For people experiencing family and domestic violence**, where companion animals are present in an

estimated 70 per cent of cases, providing accommodation for pets and access to veterinary care ensures that individuals and their families can find refuge, creating a haven of safety and support for both.

**For people navigating a crisis**, and facing challenges that are made more complicated by pet ownership, we offer immediate support. Our priority is to ensure that pets receive essential veterinary care, including access to emergency boarding and respite care, and are reunited with their owners whenever possible. This provides peace of mind for those seeking mental health support or dealing with unforeseen challenges, and helps to prevent delaying seeking the support they need.

**For the elderly**, our veterinary care safeguards the human-animal bond by providing in-home veterinary assistance from our community vet nurse. We provide transportation, volunteer support for dog walking and pet care, and emergency boarding during unexpected illness or hospitalisation. Our specialised pet rehoming service is offered when our clients pass away, ensuring that pets find loving homes, providing great peace of mind.

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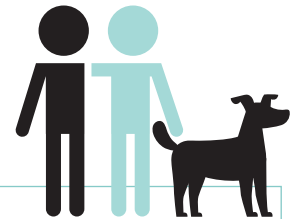
The support we provide for people and their pets is a lifeline.



# Our impact

In 2023, Cherished Pets Community Veterinary Care and Cherished Pets Foundation generated outcomes valued at \$4.39 million. This is a remarkable social and economic value of \$3.85 for every \$1 invested.

All our surveyed pet owners reported experiencing health and wellbeing benefits from their pets, reaffirming the profound value of supporting the human-animal bond.



## SOCIAL VALUE

The total value of the social value expected to be created from Cherished Pets services is

**\$4.39M**

## SROI per \$1

For every \$1 invested, the amount of social and economic value expected to be created is

**\$3.85**

## AGED CARE

**1080**

Elderly people aged 65+ supported

**1200**

Elderly people's pets supported

**\$1.75M**

of total projected social value created through Aged Care services.

## RESPITE CARE

**1970** nights of pet accommodation respite care generating social value of

**\$780,000**

**5000**

volunteer hours

**250+**

Community Vet Nurse Visits



# Help us create a thriving community

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Amidst escalating demand and constrained government funding, our dedication to the Geelong community remains unwavering as we endeavor to deliver essential home pet care assistance and crisis care services to vulnerable individuals and their pets.

However, the stark reality is that the demand for our services far exceeds our current capacity. Currently, requests for support outnumber our available funding packages threefold.

Operating our current veterinary social service requires an annual investment of \$500k, but we face a significant gap between our available resources and the pressing need.

This shortfall not only impacts the wellbeing of those directly affected but also puts the fabric of our society at risk.

**We need to raise \$1.5M funding to ensure that no person or pet in our community is left unsupported in 2024.**



Cherished Pets Foundation is an endorsed charitable institution by the Australian Taxation Office, donations over \$2 are tax deductible.

## Support us

**We invite all in our community who share a love of pets and a vision of a fairer society to support us.**

Your generous contributions will make a meaningful difference.

Donations are received by the Cherished Pets Foundation and are fully tax-deductible. Gifts can be made monthly, as one-off donations, or pledged over a number of years

## Donate online



To discuss making a gift, please contact us.

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[www.cherishedpetcare.com.au/about-us/support](http://www.cherishedpetcare.com.au/about-us/support)