ANIMAL WELFARE IMPROVED

30 January, 2013

The welfare of animals in the Top End has been improved with the construction of new kennels.

Minister for Local Government, Adam Giles, said the six kennels have been built in partnership with the RSPCA will provide temporary shelter for animals which have been seized or surrendered to animal welfare inspectors.

The newly built kennels can accommodate up to twelve animals and were constructed as a result of a partnership between the Northern Territory Government, RSPCA, local companies and community volunteers.

An increase in animal welfare prosecutions has resulted in a need for further housing facilities for animals which have been seized or surrendered while court proceedings take place.

The Animal Welfare Branch previously relied on services provided by the RSPCA, veterinary clinics, local pounds and private individuals to assist in caring for seized animals.

Mr Giles said the new kennels will be used primarily by the Animal Welfare Branch. However, the RSPCA will also have access to the kennels when not in use by the Animal Welfare Branch which will benefit the whole community.

The six kennels can house two animals each, measure 3.2 square metres and are located in an undercover area on a plumbed concrete base.

Mr Giles said cruelty, neglect and mistreatment of animals is taken seriously and will not be tolerated by the NT Government.

“The Animal Welfare Branch will continue to look at ways to expand and improve shelters for animals and providing additional kennels elevates the capability of the NT Government to accommodate animals in need of care,” Mr Giles said.

The NT Government provided $3600 for the kennels. Generous donations of materials and labour from the private sector and volunteers meant the costs for the structure under which the kennels are housed were minimal. This structure will remain the property of the RSPCA.

Those involved in this project were NT Government’s Animal Welfare Branch, the RSPCA, Arnies Fencing, Seat City, Southern Steel and Steeline.

Media Contact:
Bruce Cutler 0457509133
www.nt.gov.au
GPO Box 3146, Darwin NT 0801