

# Animal Welfare League of Qld Inc



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## Warehouse fire leaves animal charity in desperate position

THE fire that tore through the Animal Welfare League's Labrador Warehouse early Saturday morning (February 27) not only caused more than \$1 million of damage, it also destroyed the charity's logistical hub.

AWL Qld public relations manager Gabrielle Wheaton said the fire's effects would seriously impinge on the shelter's operating capacity for months to come.

"The Warehouse was not just the operational hub of the AWL, as it was our primary depot for processing donated goods for all our Op Shops, but it was also the emotional heart of the charity, which has now lost more than 50 years of archives," Miss Wheaton said.

"Last year marked our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of saving the lives of abandoned and unwanted animals, and it's heartbreaking to think all those years of history are now little more than ash.

"It really was our logistics centre; we've lost all the goods, all the furniture, clothes, pet food, bedding, and about \$50,000 in marketing and educational material.

"Our Op Shops and collection service are vital to daily operations, so without our Warehouse we now also will be missing out on about \$70,000 a month in income.

"This, at a time when the shelter was already struggling due to a downturn in adoptions, has put us in a desperate position.

"As we've also temporarily lost the capacity to manage incoming donations, we urgently need someone to offer us some storage space so we can accept those donations we are sure people are going to want to give.

"While we've lost all our dog food and bedding, both of which are always needed at the two Rehoming Centres, we simply have nowhere to store any donations."

Miss Wheaton said AWL staff were currently establishing a dedicated web page to help co-ordinate the fire appeal, and details of this would be released as soon as possible.

Because the AWL receives no government funding it is calling for financial assistance to restore its fundraising operations as soon as possible.

The charity has also lost all the equipment it needs to hold fundraising events, such as pop-up tents, barbecue kits, and promotional brochures.

Miss Wheaton said she was confident the AWL would survive with the support of the community.

“For the past 50 years the AWL has been caring for Gold Coast animals and it now really needs the Gold Coast community to give back when it’s needed most,” she said.

“The Gold Coast community has helped us become the best shelter in Australia, so I’m sure it will support us in our time of need.”

**For more information, images or an interview, please call AWL PR manager  
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