



MEDIA ALERT

Tribute To Animals In War

The Minister for Veterans' Affairs, the Hon Alan Griffin, will tomorrow unveil the *Animals in war memorial*, a joint project between the Australian War Memorial and the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA).

The *Animals in war memorial* honours those animals that served alongside Australians in all conflicts: horses, dogs, donkeys, camels and pigeons performed many essential duties, such as transport, tracking and carrying messages. Some also lived with the Australians as mascots or companions.

Created by sculptor Steven Holland, the memorial's main feature is a large bronze horse head, an Australian War Memorial collection item, and the only remaining fragment from the original *Desert Mounted Corps memorial*, destroyed during the Suez Crisis of 1956.

The unveiling coincides with the Memorial's *A is for Animals* exhibition, which offers an A to Z of animals in war. The exhibition has been developed with a young audience in mind, but visitors of all ages will enjoy its fascinating and moving stories. The *A is for Animals* exhibition is on display until Wednesday 22 July.

What:	Plaque unveiling for <i>Animals in war memorial</i>
Where:	Sculpture Garden Australian War Memorial Treloar Crescent Campbell ACT
When:	10.45am, Thursday 21 May 2009
Photo ops:	Plaque unveiling by the Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Alan Griffin Explosive Detection Dogs, horses, pigeon release

Further information:

Leigh Harris (02) 6243 4575 0409 600 038 media@awm.gov.au

20 May 2009