

# BCSPCA 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

**Dear Friends,** We are honoured to present the 2020 Annual Report of The British Columbia Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (BC SPCA). This past year, thanks to your incredible generosity and ongoing support during the COVID-19 pandemic, the BC SPCA was able to assist more than 97,000 animals, either through the direct provision of services or through community support programs such as the pet food bank initiatives we ramped up in response to urgent public need. We also celebrated our 125-year anniversary, which provided an opportunity to reflect on how far animal welfare has progressed in the past few decades and to renew our commitment to ensuring a world where all animals can enjoy the Five Freedoms.

On behalf of all of us at the BC SPCA, thank you for being such a valued partner in this journey to improve the lives of our province's most vulnerable animals.

MELISSA BARCELLOS  
President, Board of Directors,  
BC SPCA

CRAIG DANIELL  
Chief Executive Officer,  
BC SPCA

# inspire

**CREATING A BETTER WORLD** for animals through advocacy and education is at the heart of the BC SPCA's mission. Last year, with the help of our supporters, we empowered animal lovers of all ages to take action in their communities through our youth programs, website resources, social media campaigns and advocacy with all levels of government. In 2020, our work included advocating for barn fire safety, pet-friendly housing, inclusion of animals in emergency planning, an end to the use of rodenticides, the call for a moratorium on mink farming and input into the Codes of Practice for the Care and Handling of Pigs and of Farmed Salmonids. □



## Keeping pets and their families together

**I**n 2020, the BC SPCA significantly expanded its community outreach programs to help more than 33,000 animals whose guardians were facing financial hardships as a result of the pandemic. For Nick and his dog, Cloudy, access to these services came at just the right time.

“We first met Cloudy and Nick when we dropped off pet food and supplies for the remote community where they live,” says Krista Unser, manager of the Sea to Sky SPCA. “Cloudy was pregnant and we assured Nick we would be able to provide support through our low-income spay/neuter program once the puppies were born.” Not long after that first meeting, Nick’s water tank exploded, flooding his house. He reached out to the SPCA for help with Cloudy, and through the Society’s emergency animal boarding program the

BC SPCA was able to provide a foster home for Cloudy during the repairs.

Shortly into her stay, Cloudy gave birth to 10 beautiful pups. “Cloudy and the puppies stayed in their foster home until the puppies were old enough to be adopted, and Nick was able to get his house ready,” says Unser. “Once the puppies found homes, Cloudy was spayed through our program and Nick and Cloudy were back home together.”

Cloudy and Nick’s story truly illustrates the importance of keeping pets and their families together. “One of the positive things that has come out of the pandemic is the opportunity for the SPCA to build stronger relationships with smaller, remote communities right across B.C.,” Unser explains. “As a result, more people know that the SPCA is here to help in any way we can.” □

**12,116**

KIDS ENGAGED IN OUR SUMMER CAMPS, WORKSHOPS, KIDS CLUB, SCHOOL PRESENTATIONS AND CLUBS

**278,658**

VISITS TO OUR “TAKE ACTION” ADVOCACY WEBPAGE

**32** ADVOCACY CAMPAIGNS LAUNCHED TO IMPROVE THE LIVES OF ANIMALS

**206,079**

SOCIAL MEDIA FOLLOWERS HELPING US TO SPREAD THE WORD

**8,168,371**

WEBSITE VISITS FOR NEWS AND EDUCATION ON ANIMAL ISSUES

## Boy on a mission

**D**ylan, an 11-year-old BC SPCA Kids Club member from Vancouver, knows the importance of the human-animal bond, a bond he shares with his own two cats, Merlin and Picasso (both BC SPCA alumni!). After hearing about Charlie's Food Bank, an SPCA program which provides free and low-cost pet services for vulnerable

guardians living in B.C.'s Downtown Eastside, Dylan wanted to see if he could help.

In the fall, after learning which pet supplies were most needed by the food bank, Dylan set out to raise awareness of Charlie's and organize a donation drive. With the support of his Scouting community, family and friends, Dylan collected a mountain of provisions,



including food, treats, toys, towels, litter and litter boxes, hay, dishes and more.

In addition to the incredible success he achieved through his supply drive, Dylan also collected more than

\$100 in cash donations.

There is no doubt that having a pet during this difficult time – no matter what your social circumstance – lifts the spirits. Charlie's Food Bank, which relies on support from inspiring people like Dylan, is needed more than ever and we are grateful to this young man for stepping up to make a difference in his community. □

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## Youth education goes viral

**I**f there was one word to sum up the experience of the BC SPCA's Humane Education team in 2020, it would be "pivot." "Like so many others in the education sector, we had to quickly shift from in-person learning to virtual programming during COVID," says Paula Neuman, manager of humane education.

Within a month of the lockdown, the SPCA education team initiated a "Learn at Home" Facebook group, where activities and resources were shared freely with members seeking content for their animal-loving children and students. Next they transformed their hugely popular summer program by creating a seven-week virtual camp for kids from all over British Columbia and even from other parts of Canada that included a hybrid of live sessions with educators, campers and guest speakers as well as a



host of offline and online activities and content.

After the summer camp season wrapped up, it was time to focus on reconceiving the SPCA's in-person humane education visits for classrooms into an online option for the hundreds of teachers who book presentations every year. The presentations were updated and rebuilt into interactive virtual ones.

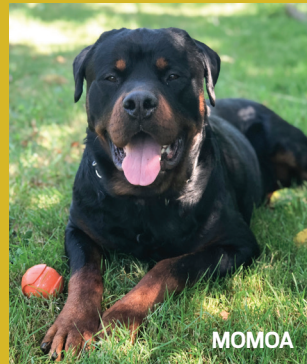
The team continued the

momentum by creating and delivering 15 virtual workshops in the fall of 2020, for youth aged seven to 14. And while the switch to virtual delivery had its challenges, Neuman says, the silver lining is "the ability to engage youth in parts of the province we have never been able to reach before."

To learn more about BC SPCA programs for kids and teens, visit [sPCA.bc.ca/youth](https://sPCA.bc.ca/youth). ■

# care

**LAST YEAR**, staff and volunteers in our 36 animal care facilities provided emergency care and shelter for more than 18,000 companion, farm and wild animals. Together, we also administered spay/neuter surgeries for thousands of homeless and community animals to reduce the suffering of surplus animals and assisted more than 33,000 vulnerable pet guardians through charitable veterinary services, pet food banks and other outreach programs. As an evidence-based organization, the BC SPCA maintains close partnerships with academic institutions to ensure our veterinary, sheltering and rehabilitation services are based on leading-edge animal science knowledge and research. □



## Donors rally for dog abandoned at landfill

**M**omoa, a two-year-old Rottweiler, was injured, frightened and alone when he was found at a Vancouver Island landfill last July. A Good Samaritan who noticed the pup wandering the Campbell River Waste Management Centre contacted authorities and Momoa was taken to the Comox Valley SPCA. “We believe he had been left alone there for a few weeks before being discovered,” says SPCA manager Emily Priestley. “As soon as Momoa arrived at the shelter, it

was obvious to staff that something was wrong with his right hind leg.” An exam revealed he had a full tear in his ACL, a crucial ligament in the knee. The veterinarian estimated that he had been suffering from the injury for at least six months. “Despite the intense pain he must have been in, he was the sweetest boy, giving kisses to everyone he could,” says Priestley. Momoa was immediately given medication for pain management, and thanks to the kindness of SPCA donors and

matching funds from Petsecure, he soon received the intricate surgery required to relieve his suffering. Momoa was put on cage rest and was carefully monitored by SPCA staff and volunteers during his lengthy recovery to verify that the incision site healed properly before being allowed short walks to help strengthen his muscles. Today, Momoa is an energetic and happy boy who loves being the centre of attention in his new home. Thank you for ensuring that the thousands of animals like Momoa who enter our care each year get the life-changing help they need. □

## Adoptions move online

**W**hen the pandemic hit, the BC SPCA quickly adapted its adoption procedures to connect homeless animals and their forever families online. After viewing animals on the Society’s website and filling out an online application, adopters did virtual “meet and greet” sessions and visited the shelter by appointment, with social distancing and biosecurity protocols observed. Despite the challenges of COVID, more than 10,000 animals found new loving homes last year. ■

**97,109**

ANIMALS ASSISTED  
ACROSS B.C.

**18,037**

HOMELESS ANIMALS  
PROVIDED WITH  
EMERGENCY CARE  
AND SHELTER

**33,290**

ANIMALS HELPED  
THROUGH BC SPCA PET  
FOOD BANK AND FREE  
VETERINARY SERVICES

**13,698**

ANIMALS TREATED  
THROUGH BC SPCA  
VETERINARY SERVICES

**10,146**

ANIMALS ADOPTED INTO  
NEW LOVING HOMES

**2,140**

LOST ANIMALS  
REUNITED WITH THEIR  
GUARDIANS

**3,323**

INJURED AND  
ORPHANED WILDLIFE  
TREATED

**4,138**

ANIMALS TRANSPORTED  
THROUGH THE *DRIVE  
FOR LIVES* PROGRAM

**10,183**

SPAY/NEUTER  
SURGERIES FOR  
HOMELESS AND  
COMMUNITY ANIMALS

**128,000**

REGISTRANTS IN THE  
BC PET REGISTRY TO  
REUNITE LOST ANIMALS  
WITH GUARDIANS

**23**

DOG TRAINERS AND  
**2** PEST CONTROL  
COMPANIES  
ACCREDITED THROUGH  
THE BC SPCA  
ANIMALKIND PROGRAM

**IN 2020**, BC SPCA special constables rescued thousands of animals from cruel, dangerous and neglectful situations. From starving farm animals, puppy mills and large-scale hoarding cases to animals at risk from natural disasters, your support means that our constables are there to protect animals and to document evidence and prepare reports required for court cases. □



# protect

## BC SPCA rescues 97 animals in Princeton

**B**C SPCA animal protection officers are in the field 365 days a year, responding to complaints of neglect and abuse and helping people provide the best possible care for their animals. Thanks to your support, this work did not stop during COVID, including numerous large-scale seizures. One such case involved 97 badly neglected animals seized from a Princeton property on September 23. SPCA officers removed 43 puppies, 24 adult dogs, 27 horses and three cats.

“The animals were living in an extremely poor environment, with lack of shelter, unsanitary living conditions, overcrowding, poor ventilation and exposure to injurious objects,”



says Marcie Moriarty, chief prevention and enforcement officer for the BC SPCA.

The animals received extensive medical care and behavioural rehabilitation in SPCA facilities and foster homes before being adopted. “These large-scale intakes require a significant amount of resources, from the financial costs of medical care and sheltering to the

**7,423**

ANIMAL CRUELTY  
INVESTIGATIONS

**27,259**

ANIMALS ASSISTED BY  
ANIMAL PROTECTION OFFICERS

**1,740**

ANIMALS REMOVED FROM  
DANGEROUS OR NEGLECTFUL  
OWNERS

**34,990**

CALLS TO THE BC SPCA  
PROVINCIAL CALL CENTRE  
HELPLINE

hundreds of hours put in by our constables, shelter staff, veterinarians, animal behaviourists and volunteers,” says Moriarty. “This work would not be possible without our dedicated teams, the generous donors who support us and the adopters who open their homes and hearts to these animals.” ■

**FINANCIAL STRENGTH**, effective governance, a culture of innovation, leading-edge training and state-of-the-art facilities are key to fulfilling our mission to end animal suffering. The BC SPCA was once again among the top 10 in *MoneySense* magazine’s survey that rates 100 Canadian charities for overall efficiency, transparency and donor stewardship. The BC SPCA also received four stars – the highest rating possible – in Charity Intelligence Canada’s annual list of top charities. Consistent with its Strategic Plan, the Society continued to evaluate the effectiveness of its governance systems to ensure they embody best practices. After almost two years of consultations, the Society approved a new set of Bylaws, which involve switching to a one-member, one-vote governance structure, while also strengthening the ability of the Board to oversee management of the Society’s affairs. These new Bylaws also envisage the strengthening of the Regional Council structure. □



The BC SPCA continues to make progress on its eight-year Facilities & Services Plan to replace or refurbish aging SPCA facilities in 12 B.C. communities. In 2020, Seasted Stables for Farm Animal Recovery and Adoption, a 3,600-square-foot barn and paddocks, was constructed at the SPCA in Nanaimo. □

# grow **Turning tragedy into HOPE**

**595**

SKILLED AND CARING STAFF

**4,077**

DEDICATED VOLUNTEERS WHO HELP US EXPAND OUR SERVICES TO ANIMALS

**152,882**

VOLUNTEER HOURS PROVIDED

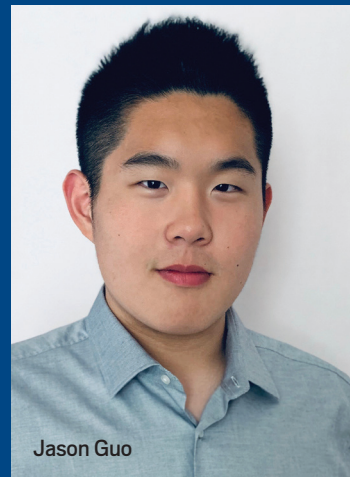
**44**

BC SPCA FACILITIES DEDICATED TO THE CARE AND PROTECTION OF ANIMALS

**I**nspired by his own experience of losing a pet, Jason Guo founded the Dora Animal Protection Foundation – named in honour of his late poodle, Dora.

When the pandemic struck, the high school student and his team knew they wanted to continue being there for abused, neglected and abandoned animals. Through his network, Jason was able to acquire 4,000 surgical masks, which he donated to the BC SPCA’s frontline staff.

Recently, Jason and the Foundation’s Board came together in support of a critically injured



Jason Guo

dog and her nine puppies. \$2,900 was raised to provide vital medical care to nurse the dog back to health, bringing the Foundation’s total amount donated to the BC SPCA since 2019 to \$27,000!



Longtime BC SPCA volunteer Carol Liggett.

## Our volunteer heroes!

Carol Liggett first began volunteering with the BC SPCA in Victoria in 2007 as a dog walker. Since then, she's donated her time in a number of other ways, including playing a key role in the shelter's Cat Wellness program. However, when that program was put on pause as a result of the pandemic, Liggett jumped in to help out at the shelter's pet food bank, coming in every other Wednesday to collect food, litter and other items for pets in the community, in addition to preparing hampers for low-income families.

"Volunteering at the pet food bank has been so rewarding," says Liggett. "I really enjoy connecting with the public and helping them to feed their pets."

Liggett is just one of the many hardworking BC SPCA volunteers who helped the organization reach out to

more than 33,000 pet guardians through pet food banks in 2020.

Liggett's devotion to animals and her commitment to volunteer work has made a huge difference, says Larissa Johnston, assistant manager at the Victoria SPCA.

"Carol is such a help around our shelter – we and the animals are so lucky to have her. She goes beyond the call of duty and she's a friendly face for those who come in to collect food and other goodies for their pets."

For her part, Liggett says it's been a privilege to offer her time to the animals.

"I'm grateful to come into the shelter, as I enjoy working with the lovely staff," she explains. "I feel very fortunate to volunteer with this organization."

Thank you to all of our incredible volunteers who made a life-changing difference in 2020! ■



## Leadership Team

### BC SPCA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- **Melissa Barcellos**  
*President*
- **Emmy Blouin**
- **Roselyn Boarman**
- **Kurtis Bosecke**
- **Victoria Brydon**
- **Lindsay Curry**
- **Louise Egan**
- **Shawn Ireland**
- **Rosolynn Kalb**
- **Sheila Kullar**
- **Sabrina Qureshi**
- **Catherine Ruby**
- **Jason Scultety**
- **Mary Lou Troman**

### SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM

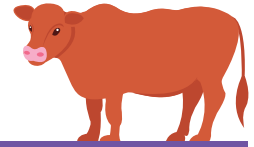
- **Craig Daniell**  
*Chief Executive Officer*
- **John Andrew**  
*Chief Financial Officer*
- **Lorie Chortyk**  
*General Manager, Communications*
- **Shoni Field**  
*Chief Development Officer*
- **Dr. Hatley McMicking**  
*General Manager, Veterinary Services*
- **Marcie Moriarty**  
*Chief Prevention and Enforcement Officer*
- **Craig Naherniak**  
*General Manager, Humane Education*
- **Parm Takhar**  
*Chief Operations Officer*
- **Geoff Urton**  
*General Manager, Strategy and Innovation*
- **Jolie Wist**  
*General Manager, Human Resources*

"To me, supporting the BC SPCA means making a difference in my community and in the lives of animals who cannot speak for themselves," says Guo. "Whenever I visit the shelter, I see and connect with the animals I am helping, which makes my pursuit extremely fulfilling."

We commend Jason and his team for their exceptional dedication to animals in need. They are a testament to how empowered youth can make a positive impact in our communities. A big thank-you to the Dora Animal Protection Foundation, and to all our supporters who give so generously. □

# YOUR GENEROSITY IN ACTION

**FOR EVERY DOLLAR YOU GAVE IN 2020, HERE IS HOW YOU HELPED THE ANIMALS**



**37¢** EMERGENCY SHELTER & COMMUNITY OUTREACH



Provided a temporary home for **14,714** abandoned, injured and abused animals, helped **2,816** injured and orphaned wildlife and assisted **78,362** animals in the community.

**21¢** CHECK-UPS & MEDICAL TREATMENT



Ensured animals get an initial health check and are spayed or neutered. Sick or injured animals receive further treatment.

**10¢** CRUELTY INVESTIGATIONS



Conducted **7,423** new cruelty investigations. The BC SPCA is the only animal welfare organization in B.C. with the authority to enforce laws related to animal cruelty.

**5¢** PREVENTING FUTURE SUFFERING

Helped stop the cycle of violence and made our communities safer for animals through humane education and advocacy.

**11¢** SUPPORTING THE ANIMALS

Provided a team to care for the animals. Nothing fancy, but essential.

**15¢** MAKING FRIENDS FOR THE ANIMALS

Allowed more than 100,000 animals to be helped this year thanks to generous donors. Fundraising truly is friendraising! Thank you!

The BC SPCA changed its fiscal year-end to Sept. 30 starting in 2019. The financial statements for 2019 cover the nine-month period from Jan. 1 to Sept. 30, 2019.

REVENUES (IN \$000s)			EXPENDITURES (IN \$000s)			TOTALS (IN \$000s)		
	Oct. 1, 2019 to Sept. 30, 2020	Jan. 1, 2019 to Sept. 30, 2019		Oct. 1, 2019 to Sept. 30, 2020	Jan. 1, 2019 to Sept. 30, 2019		Oct. 1, 2019 to Sept. 30, 2020	Jan. 1, 2019 to Sept. 30, 2019
Donations & Fundraising	\$21,369	\$11,726	Sheltering, Kenneling, Bylaw Enforcement & Social Enterprise	\$14,435	\$11,425	<b>Operating Surplus Before the Undernoted</b>	<b>\$5,347</b>	<b>\$4,779</b>
Legacy & Life Insurance*	\$5,602	\$8,973	Veterinary Care & Spay/Neuter	\$2,689	\$2,707	Amortization	\$2,361	\$1,487
Kenneling & Bylaw Enforcement	\$1,980	\$1,590	Cruelty Investigations	\$3,873	\$2,902	Bank Charges and Interest	\$587	\$359
Sheltering, Medical, Clinical Services & Social Enterprise Services	\$7,205	\$6,527	Humane Education	\$886	\$878	<b>Net Operating Surplus**</b>	<b>\$2,399</b>	<b>\$2,933</b>
Lotteries & Raffles	\$1,379	\$1,096	Advocacy & Volunteer Development	\$1,183	\$740			
Government Grants & Subsidies	\$3,881		Hospitals & Clinics	\$4,457	\$3,565			
Other Grants	\$834	\$643	Animal Health & Welfare	\$775	\$527			
Endowment Contributions	\$74	\$10	Administration & Program Support	\$4,352	\$3,082			
Investment Income	\$1,552	\$4,028	Revenue Development	\$5,865	\$3,970			
Capital Gains/Losses	(14)	(18)						
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$43,862</b>	<b>\$34,575</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$38,515</b>	<b>\$29,796</b>			

\* A significant portion of Legacy gifts are designated. Designated gifts are not recognized as revenue in our financial statements until the terms of the designation are met, which may be in future years.

\*\* Revenues include government grants and wage subsidies. Reported surplus is primarily designated gifts for future facility development expenditures.

The BC SPCA is proud to be accredited by **Imagine Canada**. This accreditation means we've demonstrated excellence in financial accountability and transparency, board governance, fundraising, staff management and volunteer management.

