

VETERINARY UPDATE

Veterinarians Save Lives Through Community Cat Spay/Neuter Programs



Spaying and neutering intact cats has a profound positive impact on public health and safety, environmental sustainability and cat welfare.

Veterinarians across British Columbia are actively supporting the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association's position statement on free-roaming, abandoned and feral cats, which outlines that well-managed Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) programs are crucial in increasing outdoor cat health by reducing injury and disease. TNR programs also have the benefit of decreasing roaming and noise and lowering the negative impacts on wildlife species.

Some of the leading veterinarians and organizations working in this area have created resources and suggested protocols to refer to when caring for outdoor free-roaming cats.

Pediatric Spay/Neuter: Early age spaying and neutering is crucial

to address cat overpopulation. Research during the past two decades has demonstrated little to no adverse physiologic effects of sterilization before sexual maturity. Practitioners performing early age surgeries find them easier, faster, and see quicker recoveries than with adult animals.



Safe Handling: Cat bites and scratches can become infected; safe handling is crucial! Feral cats should remain in their traps at all times prior to and after recovery from the surgery. You can easily sedate a cat while in her trap by using an Isolator (pictured) to move the cat into a smaller space within the trap.

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Win \$200 towards a staff party! We're gathering data to serve you better. Participate in our short (10 minute) survey at www.sPCA.bc.ca/2015veterinaryfeedback. For any questions, please contact amorris@sPCA.bc.ca.

The British Columbia Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (BC SPCA) is a not-for-profit organization reliant on donations from the public.

Eartipping: An effective and universally accepted method used to identify feral cats who have already been



spayed/neutered and vaccinated. The veterinarian removes one quarter of the cat's left ear, roughly one centimetre in an adult feline. The procedure is performed immediately following the surgery while the cat is

still sedated.

For more information on surgery preparation, anesthesia protocols, spaying and neutering feral cats, etc., visit the Feral Cat Spay/Neuter Project and Alley Cat Allies' websites. Also search the web for "Alley Cat Allies' Feral Cat Clinic Procedure Video," an informational video produced exclusively for veterinarians.

Do you want to be part of the solution and save the lives of unwanted cats in your community?

The most important thing you can do is provide affordable low-cost spay/neuter surgeries to low-income cat owners and feral cat caretakers. As an added bonus, this approach can be a successful marketing tool to draw new clients to your practice who are only experiencing situational poverty.

To learn more, contact Megan Munroe, BC SPCA Outreach Coordinator at mmunroe@sPCA.bc.ca

Wildlife and Veterinary Medicine



On occasion, the public may bring injured wildlife (i.e., non-domestic, non-exotic animals) in to veterinary clinics for treatment. It is important to note that all wildlife in B.C. is the property of the Crown, whether federal or provincial species, and not the property of the public. Therefore, in general, the public cannot provide direction or consent to a veterinarian for treatment, including euthanasia, of wildlife. The only exception to this is when a member of the public or an organization has an authorized permit for the possession of wildlife (e.g., a falconer, rehabilitator, zoo facility).

In cases where injured wildlife is in critical distress, veterinarians may euthanize these animals without the direction of a special constable of the BC SPCA. Further, common and non-native species do not

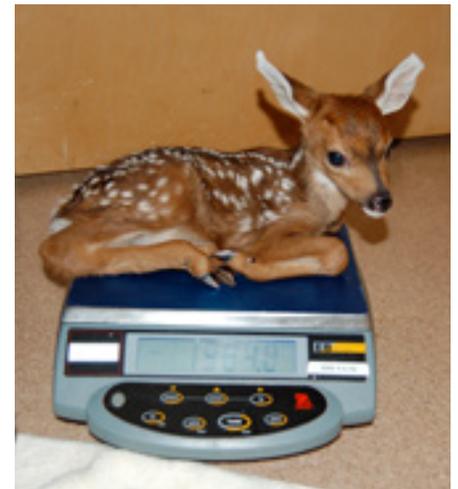
require notification of a government authority; however euthanasia of species "of concern" or "at risk" requires approval from a Regional Biologist at the closest regional office of the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations (MFLNRO) or the provincial Wildlife Veterinarian. Questions regarding specific wild animal cases, species identification and disposition can also be directed to these contacts.

Injured wildlife "of concern" or "at risk" or non-critical wildlife may require transfer to a permitted rehabilitation facility that may contract veterinary care. In respect of fees for service, informed consent is required from the permit holder. As these facilities are often charitable non-profit organizations, payment for euthanasia services of wildlife in critical distress may not be feasible, and it is at the discretion of the veterinarian to provide such service out of benevolence.

Further information on wildlife treatment is available in the following two articles updated to March 19, 2013 that can be accessed from the CVBC website: <https://www.cvbc.ca>

1. 'Wild Animal Euthanasia by Veterinarians'. Specifically, the article contains contact information for the regional office of the Ministry of Forests Lands and Natural Resource Operations (FLNRO) or to the Wildlife Veterinarian in response to questions regarding specific wild animal cases, species and their disposition.

2. 'Ministry of Environment - Wildlife and Controlled Alien Species (CAS) Regulations. What BCVMA Members Need to Know' (note: reference to BCVMA means the CVBC).



Bark! Up the Right Tree

Did you know the complimentary copies of *Bark!*, the BC SPCA youth magazine your clinic receives four times a year, is at the heart of the BC SPCA Kids Club? The BC SPCA Kids Club is all about encouraging a love of animals in kids ages 13 and under. For just \$15.00 a year, Kids Club members enjoy *Bark!*, as well as a fun welcome package, monthly e-Kids

Mews!letters and special discounts on BC SPCA youth workshops and summer camps.

For more information on *Bark!* and the Kids Club, visit spca.bc.ca/kids or email kids@spca.bc.ca.



BC Pet Registry is Looking to Partner with You!

On April 1, the BC SPCA unveiled British Columbia's first provincial pet identification database, accepting microchips, tattoos and licences.

Microchipping and registration in the BC Pet Registry is mandatory for all canine and feline adoptions from BC SPCA facilities. This summer the BC

Pet Registry is launching an industry portal for veterinarians to search the registry for lost and stray animals and also to register client's pets. If you would like more information on the registry and how you can access and search it to help lost animals get home faster, please contact Aidan Miller, BC SPCA Social Enterprise

Coordinator, at 778.327.6823 or bcpetregistry@spca.bc.ca.



The Call to End Critical Distress

A new piece of legislation will allow veterinarians to euthanize distressed, domesticated animals without having to obtain permission from the BC SPCA first.

The new ruling by the provincial government will provide a faster way to relieve animals in dire circumstances.

Currently, veterinarians cannot make the judgment call without permission from one of the BC SPCA's 28 special provincial constables. This can lead to delays trying to get hold of one of the officers, especially in remote places or during off-hours.

"This will be useful in cases when

an animal appears without an owner or if an owner cannot be identified," says Marcie Moriarty, chief prevention and enforcement officer for the BC SPCA.

"For example, if a cat is hit by a car and is not able to be treated, and there's no ID, or way to locate an animal owner – instead of the vet having to call around the province at 4 a.m. to see if one of the 28 special constables is available – they can perform euthanasia."

"Clearly, you don't want to have an animal that is in need of humane euthanasia to suffer for hours while you wait for the BC SPCA to give that authority."

Veterinarians always have the best interest of the animals at heart. With these changes, it will permit veterinarians – if they are unable to locate a special provincial constable – to euthanize an animal if it is in critical distress. And of course, the veterinarians are the experts!





What will your act of animal kindness be this year?

This year we are asking British Columbians to commit acts of animal kindness. As a veterinarian you are kind to animals every day; consider asking your clients to do the same by joining our campaign!

By the end of 2015 we want to log a million acts of animal kindness from British Columbians. We are currently

at over 220,000 acts, but your help could push us towards our one million acts goal!

To learn more about our campaign and to sign up, visit www.millionacts.ca.

Volunteers Needed

The Canadian Animal Assistance Team is looking for volunteer veterinary technicians, assistants and veterinarians to help spay, neuter, vaccinate and ID animals in remote First Nations communities across British Columbia. To learn more, visit caat-canada.org and click 'Get Involved.'

Thanks!

This year, the following veterinary clinics will provide low-cost spay/neuter surgeries for over 700 unowned community cats and 400 dogs living in First Nations communities, or will assist one of our 43 locations by offering discounted spay/neuter and other veterinary services for shelter and low-income owned animals. Thank you for taking action to help the most vulnerable cats in our province through the BC SPCA Community Animal Spay/Neuter Grant Program. If you are interested in partnering with the BC SPCA, please contact Amy Morris, Policy and Outreach Officer, at amorris@spca.bc.ca.

Alouette Animal Hospital
 Animal Care Hospital
 Applecross Veterinary Hospital
 Asher Road Animal Hospital
 Benson View Veterinary Hospital
 Bellevue Veterinary Hospital
 Bowen Veterinary Services
 Burns Lake Veterinary Clinic
 Bute Street Veterinary Clinic
 Campbell River Veterinary Hospital
 Canadian Animal Assistance Team
 Cariboo Mobile Veterinary Clinic
 Carrington Animal Hospital
 Central Island Veterinary Emergency Hospital
 Central Saanich Animal Hospital
 Chase River Veterinary Hospital
 Cheam View Veterinary Hospital
 Clinic for Cats
 College Heights Veterinary Clinic Ltd.
 Columbia Veterinary Services Inc.
 Comox Valley Animal Hospital
 Coombs Veterinary Hospital
 Cottonwood Veterinary Clinic
 Dr. Atkinson
 Dr. Barker
 Dr. Kennedy
 Deep Creek Veterinary Services
 Departure Bay Veterinary Hospital
 Dewdney Animal Hospital
 Dogwood Veterinary Hospital

Eastridge Animal Hospital
 Elk Lake Veterinary Hospital
 Gold River Veterinary Clinic
 Gulf Island Veterinary Clinic
 Haney Animal Hospital
 Island Veterinary Hospital
 Invermere Veterinary Hospital
 Island Veterinary Hospital
 J Jahren Veterinary Services
 Kitimat Veterinary Hospital
 Lakeland Veterinary Clinic
 Lakeshore Animal Hospital
 Lighthouse Veterinary Hospital
 Little Mountain Veterinary Clinic
 Mayne Island Veterinary Clinic
 Manzini Animal Hospital
 Maple Ridge Veterinary Hospital
 Marshall Veterinary Hospital
 Menzies Pet Hospital
 Merecroft Veterinary Hospital
 McKenzie Veterinary Services
 Mid-Isle Veterinary Hospital
 Mill Bay Veterinary Hospital
 Mission Creek Animal Hospital
 Murdoch Veterinary Clinic
 Nanaimo Veterinary Hospital
 Nelson Animal Hospital
 Norgate Animal Hospital
 North Kootenay Veterinary Services
 Oceanside Animal Hospital
 Okanagan Veterinary Hospital

Ospika Animal Hospital
 Pacific Cat Clinic
 Pacific Rim Veterinary Hospital
 Pacific Veterinary Hospital
 Panorama Veterinary Services
 Parksville Animal Hospital
 Petroglyph Veterinary Hospital
 Powell River Veterinary Hospital
 Prevost Veterinary Clinic
 Qualicum Animal Hospital
 Queen Charlotte Islands Animal Hospital
 Quesnel Veterinary Clinic
 Riverside Small Animal Hospital
 Saanichton Village Veterinary Hospital
 Salt Spring Veterinary Services
 Sardis Animal Hospital Ltd
 Shaughnessy Veterinary Hospital
 Sidney Animal Hospital
 Sooke Veterinary Hospital
 South Peace Animal Hospital
 Tranquille Road Animal Hospital
 Twin Rivers Animal Hospital
 Twin Cedars Veterinary Hospital
 Valley Veterinary Services
 Vancouver Animal Hospital
 Vedder Mountain Veterinary Clinic
 Westview Veterinary Hospital
 Williams Lake Veterinary Clinic
 Woodgrove Veterinary Hospital