



BCSPCA  
**2018**  
ANNUAL  
REPORT

“Together, with our dedicated staff and volunteers, and our loyal supporters, we are working to create a world where animals are protected from pain and suffering, and where every animal is treated with respect and compassion.”

MELISSA BARCELLOS  
President, Board of Directors,  
BC SPCA

CRAIG DANIELL  
Chief Executive Officer,  
BC SPCA

# inspire

**ADVOCACY AND EDUCATION** are at the heart of the BC SPCA's mission to create a better world for animals. Last year, with the help of our supporters, we empowered animal lovers of all ages to take action in their communities through our wide-ranging youth programs, website resources, social media campaigns and advocacy with all levels of government. In 2018, our work included written submissions to government on wildlife and habitat and species at risk, improvements to farm animal codes of practice, support for more humane animal bylaws in communities across B.C., a ban on pet store sales, promotion of pet-friendly housing, cruelty-free cosmetics and support for a bill to end the keeping of whales and dolphins in captivity. □



## Young animal lovers lead by example

**W**hen the BC SPCA celebrated the opening of its new community animal centre in West Kootenay in 2018, one of the participants on hand at the ceremony was nine-year-old Jacob Thomas. A devoted animal lover and the guardian of an SPCA-adopted cat, Jacob was also among the first group of kids to sign up to attend an SPCA summer camp at the new centre in Castlegar. But Jacob's connection to his local SPCA doesn't end there. He was also the first donor to make an over-the-counter donation at the new West Kootenay SPCA to help abused and injured animals in

his community, with money he collected in lieu of birthday presents earlier in the year.

"Young people, who participate in our Kids Club, summer camps, school clubs and workshops, are some of the most dedicated, generous and vocal advocates for animals in their communities," says Craig Naherniak, BC SPCA general manager of humane education. "They speak out on animal issues and find innovative ways to support animals in need. Inspiring and educating youth is an important area of our work and we believe it will have a significant impact on animals for generations to come." □

**12,000**

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

**144,646**

VISITS TO OUR "TAKE ACTION" ADVOCACY WEBPAGE

**22**

ADVOCACY CAMPAIGNS LAUNCHED TO IMPROVE THE LIVES OF ANIMALS

**161,714**

SOCIAL MEDIA FOLLOWERS HELPING US TO SPREAD THE WORD

**4,551,835**

WEBSITE VISITS



## Cedric's story

**W**hen Cedric came into the care of the BC SPCA, he was suffering from extreme starvation and was near death. The young boxer had a body condition score of only one out of nine and required surgery to remove a deflated plastic football he had eaten in desperation.

“He was just skin and bones, definitely the most emaciated dog I have ever seen in my 30 years rescuing animals,” recalls Jodi Dunlop, SPCA branch manager. “You could see every single rib

protruding and he shivered constantly to try to keep warm.” Dunlop took Cedric into her own home as a foster pup in a fight to save his life. “He required around-the-clock care. I fed him a tablespoon of food every few hours, monitoring him carefully to make sure he didn’t ingest more than he could handle. It was a very slow process to increase his food intake and to ensure he was getting the nutrients he needed without overwhelming his compromised digestive system.” Without your caring generosity the months of intensive care that Cedric needed wouldn’t have been

possible. Thanks to you, Cedric made a full recovery and was adopted into a devoted family. Cedric’s former guardians pled guilty to animal cruelty following a BC SPCA investigation. □



**8,009**

ANIMAL CRUELTY INVESTIGATIONS

**29,583**

CALLS TO THE PROVINCIAL ANIMAL HELPLINE

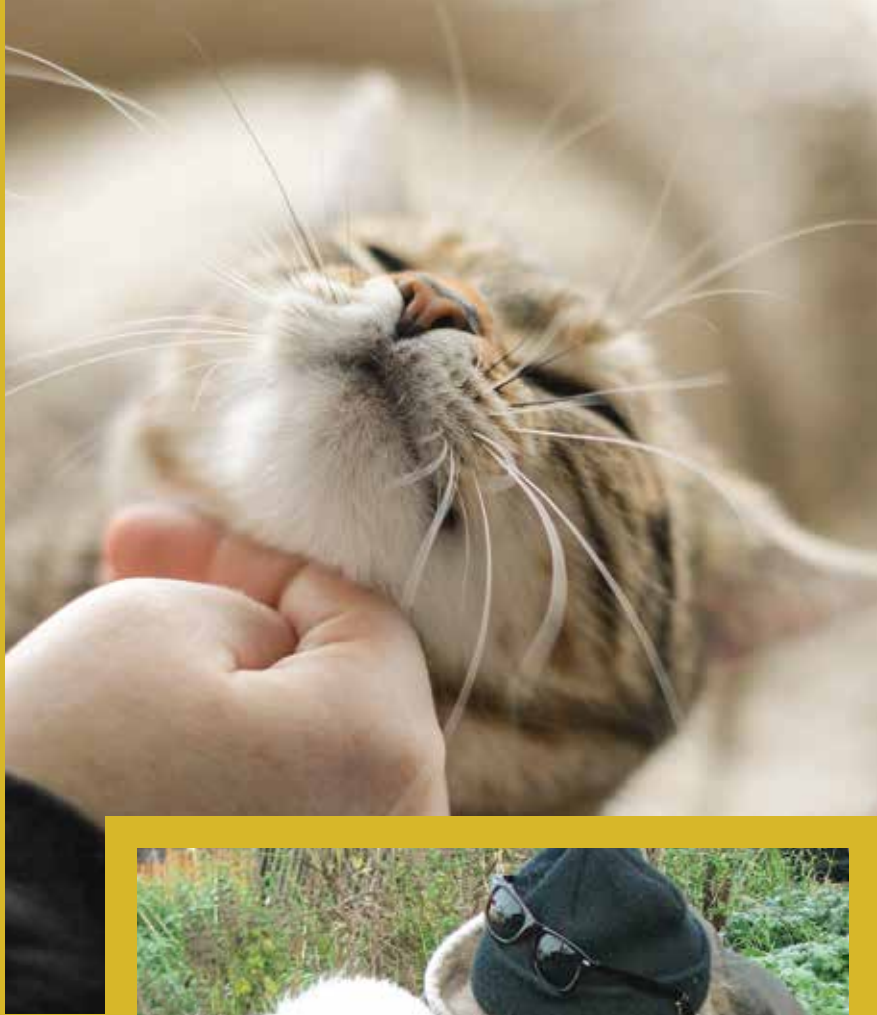
# protect



**IN 2018, BC SPCA constables rescued thousands of animals from cruel and abusive situations. From large animal hoarding cases and puppy mills to starving and neglected farm animals, your support meant that our constables were there to protect and relieve the suffering of at-risk animals and to ensure their abusers were held accountable through our justice system. □**

# Care

**LAST YEAR**, staff and volunteers in our 36 branches provided emergency care and shelter for nearly 22,000 domestic, farm and wild animals. As an evidence-based organization, our veterinary, sheltering and rehabilitation services are based on leading-edge animal science research. Together, we also provided spay/neuter surgeries for thousands of homeless and community animals to reduce the suffering of surplus animals; operated the BC Pet Registry, B.C.'s first centralized database to reunite lost pets with their owners; and assisted vulnerable pet owners through charitable veterinary services and outreach programs. Your loyal support means vulnerable animals get the care they need. □



## Helping people and pets stay together

**W**hen he was homeless, squatting in a makeshift hut in an industrial area of East Vancouver, it was Mark Matthews' golden retriever, Bounder, who gave him a reason to get up every day. A Canadian Armed Forces vet who was injured in an explosion, Matthews had struggled with

post-traumatic stress disorder and addiction. Four years after rescuing Bounder, Matthews fell behind on student loans and couldn't afford a home. "I found out about Charlie's, a program run by the SPCA in the Downtown Eastside that offered pet food and free vet visits for pets of people surviving on a low income," says Matthews. "I don't know what I would have done without Charlie's – Bounder was my soulmate, my therapist and my friend, and having those services meant I could take care of him." For Matthews and Bounder, access

to support meant that their special bond could continue right to the end. Bounder made it to his 12th birthday, but developed cancer that spread throughout his body. Matthews was at his side as veterinarians at the BC SPCA Animal Hospital in Vancouver helped to peacefully end his life. "They were so good about it – the veterinarians even paid for his cremation and the hospital paid for

everything else," says Matthews. "These people go above and beyond. I hope to pay back every penny I can." Matthews says he will always be grateful for the SPCA staff and volunteers who helped him. "Bounder kept me from choosing a negative lifestyle, even when I wanted to. I don't know what I would have done without the people who helped me keep him with me as long as possible." □

## LILY FINDS HER WAY HOME, THANKS TO BC PET REGISTRY

Lily's owners always kept her indoors, but when the young cat escaped through a door accidentally left ajar in her Richmond home last summer, she got more of an adventure than she bargained for. She hid inside the bumper of a neighbour's car, and was unwittingly taken for a joy ride when the neighbour – unaware

of his stowaway – drove to various locations in Vancouver and Burnaby to run errands. At his last stop, he noticed a swishing tail under his bumper and immediately called the Burnaby SPCA for assistance. After coaxing the frightened cat from her hiding place, SPCA staff scanned her microchip and were quickly able to reunite Lily with



her anxious family in Richmond through the BC Pet Registry, the province's first centralized database for lost pets. More than 83,000 animals across B.C. have been registered since it was created in 2015. □



## Orphaned otter trio released back to the wild

Three adorable and rambunctious otters were sent home to the wild in May 2018 after nearly a year in care at the BC SPCA's Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre (Wild ARC) in Metchosin.

Lady (rescued in Ladysmith) was orphaned after her mom was chased by a dog and dropped her, while Cowby (rescued

in Cowichan Bay) was found covered with more than 100 ticks after his mom was scared off; both otters were so young their eyes weren't even open yet. Piers was found alone and calling for his mother on Piers Island near Swartz Bay – but his mother couldn't be located. The trio would have died without intervention, and required extremely specialized care to teach

them the survival skills they would need in the wild while ensuring they didn't become habituated to their caregivers. Keeping the trio busy, fed and clean was no small feat. Marguerite Sans, Wild ARC's senior wildlife rehabilitator, notes: "We knew we had done everything we could to help them grow and to prepare them for reintegration into the wild. Releasing a wild animal in our care back to their natural habitat is one of the happiest days for our staff and volunteers." □

**41,515**  
ANIMALS IN NEED ASSISTED ACROSS B.C.

**21,808**  
HOMELESS ANIMALS PROVIDED WITH EMERGENCY CARE AND SHELTER

**14,379**  
ANIMALS ADOPTED INTO NEW LOVING HOMES

**2,801**  
INJURED AND ORPHANED WILDLIFE REHABILITATED

**5,095**  
ANIMALS TRANSPORTED THROUGH THE DRIVE FOR LIVES PROGRAM

**15,524**  
SPAY/NEUTER SURGERIES FOR HOMELESS AND COMMUNITY ANIMALS



**FINANCIAL STRENGTH**, leading-edge training, effective governance, state-of-the-art facilities and a culture of leadership and innovation are key to strengthening our work for the animals. Since 2013, the BC SPCA has been among the elite group of non-profit organizations accredited by Imagine Canada for proficiency in five key areas: financial accountability and transparency; board governance; fundraising; staff management; and volunteer engagement. The BC SPCA was also once again named in the top-10 Canadian charities in *MoneySense* magazine's annual survey, earning an "A" rating for overall efficiency, transparency and donor stewardship. □



# grow

## Volunteer HEROES

### Improving our facilities

**T**he BC SPCA continues to make exciting progress on our eight-year Facilities Development & Services Plan to replace or refurbish aging SPCA facilities in 12 B.C. communities. In 2018, we officially opened our new West Kootenay Community Animal Centre in Castlegar and our Tri-Cities Education & Adoption Centre in Coquitlam. Work also began on new community animal centres in Kamloops and South Peace (Dawson Creek) and on an education & adoption centre for our Sea to Sky Branch in Squamish. Thank you for the wonderful support that has made it possible to help more animals in these communities. □

**N**ancy van Aggelen has been a volunteer with the BC SPCA for the past six years at the busy Vancouver Branch, where she has contributed more than 2,600 hours of her time. Van Aggelen has had cats and dogs all her life. "They were friendly, they were well-trained, so I thought: 'I can do this. Volunteering will be a piece of cake, right?' But I am constantly learning."



Over the years, she's bottle-fed kittens, worked with cats in isolation who are sick or have infectious diseases,

and addressed a range of feline behavioural issues. She's helped traumatized cats learn to trust again and socialized cats who were fearful of being petted or picked up. She started with cat wellness then moved into cat adoption

Sean Hogan, with one of 1,330 Kelowna animals cared for in 2018.



## Learning to love again

**Y**our generosity helps rescue animals from puppy mills, hoarding environments and other neglectful situations. But did you know your kindness also provides the extensive behaviour modification to help them adapt before being adopted into new, loving homes? One key area of growth for the BC SPCA in 2018 was increased behaviour training for staff caring for

extremely fearful and anxious animals. Sean Hogan, manager of the Kelowna Branch, says this support and knowledge is making a real difference.

He cites Kona, a young Great Pyrenees/pit bull mix who was highly reactive to other dogs and fearful of strangers when she arrived at the Kelowna SPCA. “We gave her anti-anxiety medication to help her cope with her new environment and one of our staff members worked with her every day, following a behaviour modification plan specifically tailored to her needs, until she was ready to be placed in a foster home,” says Hogan. “It is so wonderful to see the progress Kona has made from start to finish.”

Hogan says Kona’s transformation wouldn’t have been possible before. “As early as two years ago, we didn’t have this level of training and support to help animals with very specialized challenges. Now I feel more confident when we take in animals with serious behavioural issues that we can help them and that they will do well in their new homes.” ■



counselling, assisting potential adopters to see if their lifestyle will be a good fit for the feline who has caught their eye.

“It’s your intuitive ability to read a person’s needs, to know which cats you have in the shelter and to then get the match right,” she says. Sometimes that means redirecting a potential adopter to a cat who will be a better fit to avoid the chance of a cat being returned.

Her friends know how much the SPCA means to Nancy and sponsored a kennel in her name to thank her for all the hard work she does.

Last year, more than 5,500 SPCA volunteers contributed 162,922 hours to help animals across B.C. □

**572**

SKILLED AND CARING STAFF

**5,500**

DEDICATED VOLUNTEERS WHO HELP US EXPAND OUR SERVICES TO ANIMALS

**44**

BC SPCA FACILITIES DEDICATED TO THE CARE AND PROTECTION OF ANIMALS

## Leadership Team

### BC SPCA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- **Melissa Barcellos**  
*President*
- **Roselyn Boorman**
- **David Budd**  
*(to August 2018)*
- **Lindsay Curry**
- **Louise Egan**
- **Jennifer Gore**  
*(to May 2018)*
- **Linda Greville**
- **Peter Havlik**  
*(to May 2018)*
- **Shawn Ireland**
- **Rosolynn Kalb**
- **Sheila Kullar**
- **Sabrina Qureshi**
- **Carol Richards**
- **Jason Scultety**
- **Mary Lou Troman**
- **Erin Van Zant**  
*(from December 2018)*
- **Andrea Wilhelm**

### SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM

- **Craig Daniell**  
*Chief Executive Officer*
- **John Andrew**  
*Chief Financial Officer*
- **Bob Busch**  
*General Manager, Facility Development*
- **Lorie Chortyk**  
*General Manager, Communications*
- **Shoni Field**  
*Chief Development Officer*
- **Marcie Moriarty**  
*Chief Prevention and Enforcement Officer*
- **Craig Naherniak**  
*General Manager, Humane Education*
- **Mark Takhar**  
*Chief Operations Officer*
- **Geoff Urton**  
*General Manager, Strategy and Innovation*
- **Jolie Wist**  
*General Manager, Human Resources*

