

DRAW A CAT  PET SAFETY  BOARD GAME INSIDE!

kids speaking for animals Vol. 19 • No. 3

BCSPCA

Bark!



**WHAT
MAKES
A HAPPY
HEN?**

High Paws

KIDS HELPING ANIMALS!



Wren held a lemon iced tea stand with friends and they donated the proceeds to the BC SPCA! Wren's favourite animal is a platypus. We can understand why – they're so cool! Check it out:

Found only in Australia, platypuses look like a combination of a duck, beaver and otter. They lay eggs, use electronic impulses to detect underwater prey, and male platypuses can secrete venom from their hind feet. **Our favourite fact: A baby platypus is called a puggle!** Here's a funny joke to tell your friends: **What do you call a cat who ate a tray of veggies and dip? A platter-puss!** (The photo above is by Goddard Photography).

Write to us! Send artwork, tell us a joke, share your kind acts!
BC SPCA Kids Club,
1245 East 7th Avenue,
Vancouver, BC V5T 1R1
or kids@spca.bc.ca.



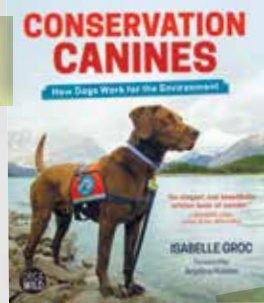
Eva held a months-long charity bake sale for the West Vancouver SPCA. She made a poster, took orders by email, then baked and delivered her homemade cookies (chocolate chip, sugar cookies and snickerdoodles). Eva's bake sale raised \$750, helping animals like Nora the kitten, pictured here with Eva.



Letterbox

(letters to the editor)

Thank you to the Bark! readers who entered the Conservation Kids Contest. Edi Apter won a signed copy of Conservation Canines by Isabelle Groc.



To BC SPCA,

There are many reasons why conservation is important to me, however the main reason is that without conservation, a lot of amazing and fantastic creatures will go extinct. Here on Denman Island, one species that needs help is the Southern Resident Orca.

We need to conserve their food sources, in order to help them survive.

The Southern Resident Orca's food supplies are being taken away by the yearly herring fishery, and we need to do something to stop it, whether that is banning the herring fishery, or making a limit on how much they can fish.

I hope that we can save the Southern Resident Orca before it is too late.

Edi Apter, 13, Denman Island



After a BC SPCA presentation where they learned about the animals at the Nanaimo SPCA and how staff and volunteers care for them, a group of Grade 6 students from **Aspengrove School** in Lantzville got to work. They created braided climbing ropes for small animals, tug toys and adoption posters for some of the shelter residents. The gifts were greatly appreciated by all – including this sweet shelter dog!



Instead of presents for her sixth birthday, Addison asked friends for donations to the Victoria SPCA. This thoughtful gesture raised \$100 to help care for the animals.



Jadyn, with the help of her aunt **Anita**, collected animal supplies as part of a school outreach project. She kindly delivered the pet food, treats and toys to the Coquitlam SPCA.



Sisters **Charlotte** and **Maxine** asked for donations from friends and family for their birthday. They raised \$50 each for the Vancouver SPCA!



Eight-year-old **Aimee** (left) sold her original artwork as a fundraiser for the Vancouver SPCA. Combined with money saved up from her birthday and Christmas, Aimee generously donated \$145, plus toys and treats for the animals! She delivered everything to the shelter with her friend, **Juno**, who also decided to donate \$25 of her savings.



Jaxon and **Wylie** held a bottle drive for the West Kootenay SPCA. Combined with a gift from their grandparents, they donated \$120!



Sadie, 9, raised \$229 by making and selling homemade keychains. Sadie's hard work means so much to the animals at the Kamloops SPCA, where she donated the proceeds.



Otto is a valued volunteer at the Vancouver SPCA, regularly helping out with his dad by cleaning up, sweeping and doing whatever is needed. Otto also likes to fit in playing with the rats in care!



Logan Ariel, a 17-year-old singer-songwriter from Rossland, hosted a Zoom concert and invited members of her community to attend by donation to the BC SPCA. The concert was a success, and raised \$250!



The **Division 5** students at **Ecole Poirier** in Victoria participated in a BC SPCA *You Can Make a Difference* school presentation, and were inspired. They decided on their own to run a school yard sale as a fundraiser to help animals. The event raised \$381.95, which was split between the BC SPCA Wild ARC and Victoria SPCA.



The **21st Capilano Beaver Scouts** made a difference for animals in their North Shore community. This wonderful group of kids donated money, food, toys, beds and cleaning supplies to the West Vancouver SPCA.



Join the Kids Club!

spca.bc.ca/kidsclub

Free range hens enjoying time outside exploring and scratching for food.



THE LIFE OF THE EGG-LAYING CHICKEN



Everyone knows eggs come from chickens. But what do you know about the hens who lay them? Like our cats and dogs, hens are clever and have a range of emotional and social needs.

The behaviour of hens

In a natural setting, chickens spend most of their day foraging for seeds, grains and insects. As well as finding food, the exercise keeps them fit and healthy. They also like to live in groups. There's safety in numbers!

At night, hens perch in trees to sleep – safe from predators. Their feet are designed to grip branches even when sleeping.

Feather care

Chickens enjoy grooming their feathers. They stretch their wings, flap and preen their feathers to keep

them in order and water-proofed. They spread oil from a gland at the back of their tail through their feathers. To clean their feathers, hens dust-bathe in sandy soil. The dust and grit removes parasites and old oil.

Egg laying day!

A big event in a hen's day is laying an egg. Hens lay about 320 eggs in a year – close to an egg a day. An hour before laying, hens search for a quiet, safe nesting place away from the larger group.



Hen cleaning her feathers by ruffling in sandy soil.

Frustrated caged hens

Unfortunately, most hens raised in Canada don't get to go outside. In fact, they live in barns in cramped cages called battery cages. There are 5-7 hens per cage. Cages are stacked from floor to ceiling. The hens stand on wire floors their whole lives. They are so crowded they can't flap their wings. Each hen has about the same floor space as the size of this magazine – 8x11 inches.

Caged hens can't forage, perch at night, dust bathe or lay their eggs in a quiet nest area. As a result hens suffer greatly from frustration every single day.



Looking down on stacks of hens in battery cages.

Battery-caged hens lay their eggs and stand on wire floors.



PHOTO: WE ANIMALS

Why are hens kept in cages?

You might wonder why hens are kept in cramped cages. The battery cage system was introduced in the 1940s. Previously, birds were kept on barn floors but there were problems with diseases. Plus, it was hard to gather the eggs.

Battery cages made it possible to provide automatic feeding, drinking and egg collection. Plus, the chicken manure falls through the wire floors onto moving belts. The belts take the manure out of the barn, reducing the spread of disease.

Another advantage of battery cages is that you can pack more birds (20,000 is common) in a barn. Cages lowered costs for farmers, making eggs less expensive. **But the cost to the hens is poor welfare.**

To improve hen welfare, some farmers are switching to larger cages that have a bit more space. These "enriched" cages do have perches and a nesting area. But hens still can't dust bathe, explore or forage for food. Hens have a bit better welfare than being in battery cages, but not much.



Cage-free hens have a much better quality of life.

Cage-free eggs

To improve hen welfare, progressive farmers are now switching to cage-free barns. Modern cage-free barns provide more opportunities for chickens to do natural behaviours. Hens can forage, dust-bathe, stretch their wings, perch and lay their eggs in nest boxes. Importantly, hens have the space and freedom to move about.

Your action: Talk to your family about how hens suffer. Consider switching to cage-free eggs. The eggs do cost more than caged eggs, but the hens have a much better quality of life.

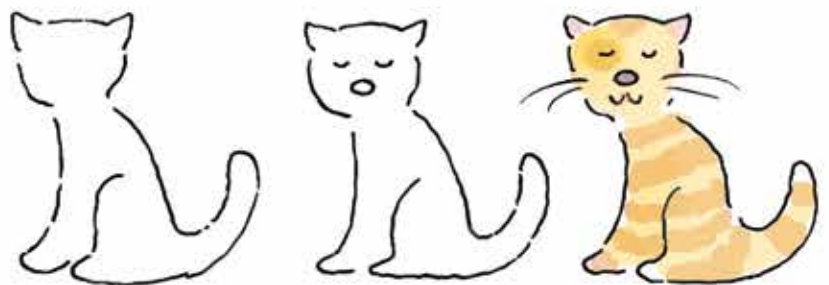
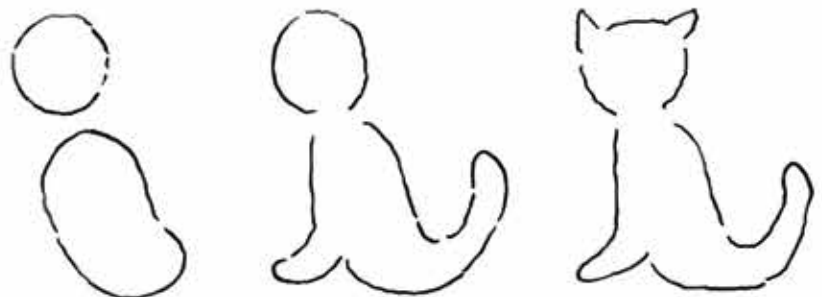


Scot Ritchie is an author and illustrator who loves animals. He drew this page, along with plenty of other articles for *Bark!*. You may have also read one of Scot's 65+ books.

Scot started drawing when he was a kid, and loved it so much he made it his job. If you like to draw, you could be an illustrator like Scot!

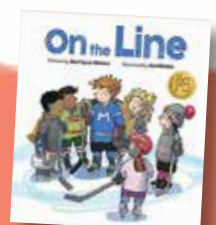
To learn more about Scot and see some of his work, visit scotritchie.com.

It's all about the shapes. Start with a circle for the head and a bean shape for the body. Now, step by step, add a tail and ears and eyes. Have fun colouring in your cat when you're finished!



DRAW A CAT CONTEST

You could win an autographed copy of one of Scot Ritchie's books! Send your cat drawing to **BC SPCA Kids Club**, 1245 East 7th Avenue, Vancouver, BC V5T 1R1, or email to kids@spca.bc.ca with the subject line **Draw a Cat Contest**. Please include your name, age and mailing address. One winner will be selected. Contest is open to kids 13 and under and closes August 31, 2022.



Scot



SAFE SUMMER GUIDE

Tips for dog lovers

Summer with a dog can be so much fun! But it can also raise some safety concerns. This **Safe Summer Guide** includes basic tips to ensure a *pawsitive* summer experience for you and your dog.

NO PETS IN HOT CARS

Every summer, the BC SPCA responds to hundreds of calls about dogs left in cars. **The temperature on the inside of a vehicle on a warm day can reach dangerous levels FAST.** In as little as 10 minutes, an animal can overheat. Parking in the shade and cracking a window isn't enough. Cars are like ovens and dogs can't let themselves out! If you can't take your dog when you get out of the car, leave them at home instead.

YOUR ACTION: Print and share the **BC SPCA No Hot Pets poster**. If you see a pet left in a vehicle on a warm day, contact the BC SPCA Call Centre at **1-855-622-7722**.



EXERCISE CAUTION

Dogs don't sweat like us, plus they are wearing a fur coat! When it's hot out, keep walks to the early morning and later in the evening. Bring water with a cup for your dog. Check the pavement with your hand to make sure it will be comfortable for sensitive paws. Take breaks and head for shade when needed.

YOUR ACTION: Know the signs of heat stroke in dogs: **Hard panting, muscle twitching, an anxious or dazed look, vomiting.** Heat stroke is serious and needs veterinary attention.

PLAYING IT SAFE

Summertime brings more outdoor play for kids and dogs – and more chances for dog bites. A friendly dog you know may nip simply if they get too excited while playing. Before this happens, call a time out and switch games. When meeting a new dog, always ask the guardian before approaching or petting. Finally, if an off-leash dog approaches you don't run or scream. Instead, **STAND LIKE A TREE** and look away. If the dog barks or growls, slowly back away to a tree, car or building. If the dog jumps or bites you, **LIE LIKE A LOG**. Drop onto your stomach and put your hands behind your neck. Stay as calm and quiet as you can.

YOUR ACTION: Play the **Bite Free Game** on the next page to learn more.



Ask, "is it ok to pet your dog?" first.





Have fun playing it safe with dogs!

FINISH!

Here's how to play the Bite Free game:

Join Kat and Fin as they walk home from school.

Along the way you meet dogs in different situations.

By doing the correct and safe action, you advance.

Do the wrong, unsafe action and you go back or even end up in the hospital.

You need one die and each player needs a coin or other marker. Start at the school. Take turns rolling the die and moving along the game board. To win you must roll the exact number to reach home or you will have to wait and roll again.

BITE FREE



HOSPITAL

H
Hospital

MEOW!

RUFF!

SPCA

Society for
the Prevention
of Cruelty
to Animals

REE

BCSPCA



Diane Waters providing pet food to the residents of the Downtown Eastside via Charlie's Food Bank.
Photos: Chung Chow

Want to make a difference for animals and kids

when you grow up?



Diane Waters is the BC SPCA's Outreach Specialist. She helps people in need and their animals get pet food, supplies and other support services. Throughout her career, she has worked in a variety of roles that help animals and people. She got her start with the BC SPCA as a summer camp counsellor.

We asked Diane about working with animals, kids and people of all ages. And we wondered how starting out as a summer camp counsellor inspired the work she does now.

Do you have any favourite memories from working as a summer camp counsellor?

One of my favourite parts of being a camp counsellor was teaching kids to interact with animals in a way that was safe and positive, with a focus on welfare. It was amazing to see how the campers' thinking evolved as they learned to

consider things from an animal's perspective.

Can you tell us about your career path leading up to, and since working as a BC SPCA camp counsellor?

Growing up, I knew I wanted to make a difference for both people and animals. While I was in university, I spent

two summers working as a camp counsellor. I enjoyed the experience so much that I knew I wanted to stay involved with the BC SPCA. When camps ended, I worked as a birthday party host at the Surrey SPCA. Eventually, I became the relief manager. I then spent four years working at the city of Surrey's Animal Resource Centre, where I got a lot of



experience working with dogs. I returned to the SPCA and worked as a human resources assistant until I had a chance to work at Charlie's Food Bank. Now I'm the BC SPCA Outreach Specialist, Low Income & Food Bank Programs.

Please tell us about some of the programs the BC SPCA offers that you have worked with.

Charlie's Pet Food Bank is a support service for any residents of Vancouver's downtown east side and their pets who are in need. Thanks to the work of our volunteers, staff and community partners, we now run pet food banks at 34 BC SPCA locations. Anybody in need can show up, no questions asked, to pick up food and supplies for their pets.

Throughout your different roles with the BC SPCA, what is something you've noticed about the bond between people and animals?

It is meaningful to see the bond develop between people and animals. And this is a bond that I've seen in every age group, and all populations of people. Most people treat animals like family, so it's important to do what we can to help animals and their people stay together. What's more, we are all connected.

When we help people and the environment, this helps animals too. Animals and people both need access to services at different points in their lives. It is important to do what we can to nurture and support the loving relationships between people and animals.

Was there ever an animal in your life who made a special impression on you?

I always had animals growing up, and always felt a connection to animals. As a kid, I remember finding an injured bird and rescuing her. That experience made me realize that I wanted to be able to help animals.

Do you have any advice for kids who want to make a difference for animals?

Don't wait for somebody to ask you. If you're interested and want to help, go out there and do it. Whether you're feeding a stray animal, volunteering, dog walking or picking up litter, small things make a big difference. It's great to have a job you love working with animals. But it doesn't have to be your career for you to be able to help them.

Your career path to becoming a BC SPCA summer camp counsellor:

- Graduate high school
- Experience working with kids and animals
- Communication, organization and leadership skills
- Philosophical harmony with the mission of the BC SPCA
- Demonstrated experience working as a team
- A teachable spirit



ANIMAL CROSSINGS



See a 4-minute video of animals using the wildlife bridge in Banff →



Highways can spell trouble for wildlife. Each year millions of animals risk their lives trying to cross roads.

One way to reduce the risks to both animals and people in cars is to put up wildlife fences. But when fences and highways block their paths, animals such as elk, bears and wolves, can't migrate. The isolated animals are prevented from finding mates or seasonal feeding grounds.

BRIDGING ROADS

The solution is to build wildlife crossings that allow animals to safely travel over or under busy roads. The first animal bridge in Canada was built in

1996 over the Trans-Canada highway through Banff National Park. Initially, large animals such as bears and wolves were wary to cross. Deer and elk were the first to use the bridge. It took six years before the large predators like cougars and grizzly bears began to cross.

Now 12 species use the bridge from bears, deer and coyotes, to squirrels, badgers and cougars. They even teach their offspring to use the crossings.



Most animals cross at night or very early in the morning so people rarely see them. Scientists use motion-sensing cameras to take pictures of the animals using the crossings. They have discovered that grizzly bears, wolves, elk, moose and deer prefer wildlife

underpasses that are high, wide and short in length. Black bears and cougars prefer long, low and narrow crossings.



Cougars and black bears prefer sheltered passages, like underpasses.

Temporary barbed wire collects strands of hair for genetic analysis.

TUNNEL TO SAFETY

Bridges are great, but expensive. It can cost up to \$17 million to build one. Constructing tunnels is a tenth of that cost. B.C. was the first province to put wildlife crossings under highways. Now there are more than 20 wildlife tunnels around B.C. The wildlife underpass along Highway 97C, between Kelowna and Aspen Point, had 3,700 mule deer pass through in just seven months. Other animals sneak under as well.

In Banff National Park there are six wildlife overpasses and 38 underpasses. As a result, more than 200,000 animals have safely crossed the highway. The Banff animal corridors have lowered animal-car collisions by 80 per cent.



MORE CROSSINGS COMING

There is help on the way for bighorn sheep and other wild animals. Wildlife fencing is being put up near Sparwood, B.C. to guide animals to safe under-highway crossings. This stretch of highway includes four of the top eight places in the province where collisions with large wildlife occur. This project will help bighorn sheep, elk, deer, moose, bears and other wildlife.



How you can help wildlife near roads:

- ✗ Never throw food waste (apple cores, banana peels, bread, etc.) out your car window. The food attracts animals such as deer and raccoons to roadways.
- ✓ Drive slowly in high wildlife crossing areas, especially at dawn and dusk. This is when animals are most likely to be on the road.
- ✓ Obey wildlife crossing road signs. Be the family lookout. Search ahead into the ditch for movement. At night look for the reflection of animal eyes from headlights.
- ✓ Often animals travel in groups. If you see one on the road, there may be more following. In summer, baby animals may be following the parents.
- ✗ Don't stop to feed (it's also against the law) or take pictures of wildlife along roadways. It puts them at risk of car strikes.

TOADS ON ROADS

On Vancouver Island in the Cowichan Valley, migrating tiny Western toads recently got some help. **A culvert was dug under a roadway.** This helps the toads reach their breeding grounds without risking their lives. Fencing directs the toads to the tunnel.

Similarly, in Whistler, thousands of Western toads migrate to the forest from Lost Lake each year. Barely the size of a dime, the toads are very vulnerable as they emerge from the lake. When the young toads begin their travel to the forest, the entire community goes on "toad alert." Parts of parks, roads and even golf courses are closed for the two-week migration. **Volunteers help at all hours slowing traffic. They help thousands of toads safely make their way across roads and walking paths.**



PREPARING IS CARING

MAKING AN EMERGENCY PLAN FOR YOUR PET

Does your family have a plan in case of a fire, flood or earthquake? It can be scary to think about these possibilities. But talking about it with family and making sure everyone knows the plan, can help you feel less afraid. If you have pets, it's important that they are included in your plan. They are family members, after all! Being prepared will save precious time and maybe even your pet's life.

THE PLAN

If a disaster happens, you probably won't have time to gather all the supplies you need for your pets. Rescue centres may not have supplies for your pet; this is your family's responsibility. Put together an emergency kit ahead of time. Keep everything in one place and easy to "grab and go."



RESCUE KIT WORD SEARCH

You can start to prepare your emergency kit using the basic list below. Find a more detailed emergency checklist with extra helpful tips by scanning the QR code!

- **Food, water and treats** (seven-day+ supply)
- Food/water **bowls** (collapsible are best)
- **Medications** with instructions
- Copy of your pet's medical and vaccination **records**
- Recent **photos** of your pet with written **descriptions** (in a Ziploc bag)
- **Waste bags** for dogs
- **Litter box, litter and scoop** for cats
- **Leashes, harness and muzzle** (for the safety of others)
- Sturdy **crate or carrier** for each pet
- **Toys** to entertain and lower stress
- **Towels/blankets**
- Pet **first aid kit**
- **Garbage bags, paper towels, disinfectant**
- Manual **can opener**
- **Rope, duct tape, Sharpie marker, snap ties**

How many highlighted words from the emergency kit list can you find in this word search?

A SPECIAL NOTE ABOUT WILDFIRES

With the changing climate, summer wildfires have been more common in B.C. Last summer, the BC SPCA helped hundreds of companion and farm animals affected by fires. While communities will be given as much notice as possible to evacuate, wildfires can move quickly. Having a plan in place each summer can help ease some worry about the possibility of wildfires in your community.

Mars Water bomber dropping water on the Garnett forest fire, Penticton, B.C. Photo: C. Farish



When you need to leave without your pets:

- Post a highly visible sign in a window or on your door to let rescue workers know how many pets were left behind. Include a short description of each pet.
- Leave plenty of water in a large tip-proof container inside and outside your home.
- Leave dry food in large open containers or timed feeders.
- Do not tether (tie up) dogs or cats as chances for survival are better if they can escape easily. Leave barn doors and gates open for farm animals.
- If your cat is outdoors when a disaster occurs, chances are they are hiding somewhere safe so you may not be able to find them. If adults tell you it's time to leave, put a sign on your window or door saying you have lost cats outside. Include a description and where you last saw them.



THE BACK-UP PLAN

If you need to evacuate, “Plan A” is to try your best to take your pets with you. However, if rescue authorities say you have to evacuate immediately, you must listen to them. If you cannot take your pets with you, it’s not your fault. Take comfort that the BC SPCA and other animal rescue groups will look for pets left in homes and provide care for them. “Plan B” is to make it as easy as possible for your pets to be rescued.

X A P V N U H C R C S M C R A T E T R U X N F R
S L E A S H E S A M U D V G Q D G Y O F I I X E
D H C H O Z A Z X R S Q P H O T O S M V R X O W
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R E T T I L I E D Q A O A G S L W O B H S N M Y



Look up, down, forwards, backwards and on diagonals!

IMPORTANT REMINDER

All pets need two types of ID (microchip and collar with tags) to increase chances of being reunited if you become separated. Register and keep your family’s info up to date at bcpetregistry.ca.



The Jane Goodall Act is back!

PHOTOS: WE ANIMALS



Above: Lucy, the lone elephant at Edmonton Valley Zoo, rolls a tire around on the floor. She has lived at the zoo since 1977. Left: A Mom and her calf playing in Kenya.



Last summer, we told you about Bill S-218 – the Jane Goodall Act – a proposed law to make it illegal to keep elephants and chimpanzees in captivity in Canada. The BC SPCA supports this law because the true needs of these wild animals cannot be met living in a zoo.

Unfortunately, due to an election, Bill S-218 did not pass. Now the bill has been updated and reintroduced to the Canadian Senate as S-241. It aims to protect more than 800 species, including big cats, bears, wolves, seals, sea lions and more. Animals performing for entertainment and new captivity of many animals would be banned. This would be some of the strongest animal protection laws in the world.

We need your help! If you agree that wild animals deserve to stay wild, write a letter to the Canadian Senate. Ask them to vote in favour of Bill S-241.

Find a list of senators at sencanada.ca/en/senators.

You can also send a message directly to Senator Marty Klyne, who re-introduced S-241, at Marty. Klyne@sen.parl.gc.ca.



A White Lion lays next to a home at a roadside zoo in Canada. Below: a lioness and her cubs at home in Africa.

Want to do more? Show your support by not visiting zoos or other attractions where animals are on display just for entertainment. Tell your friends, too!



LOVE ANIMALS? THEN JOIN THE BC SPCA KIDS CLUB!
Get *Bark!* four times a year, monthly eNews, and a fun Kids Club package with posters and activities when you join!
Sign up here: spca.bc.ca/kidsclub today and let's get started!

BCSPCA



Here's the herd who ran free to bring you *Bark!* magazine:

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