

**Happy Tails****Amelia**

Poor Amelia came into our care at 7 weeks old with burrs stuck in her fur, a bloated stomach, ear mites and a degloved lower jaw (severe injury with extensive loss of skin), which was caused by being thrown out of a moving vehicle. Brave little Amelia journeyed out of the bushes and found a good Samaritan who brought her in to our care. It was very apparent that nothing could dampen her spirit. Both staff and volunteers immediately fell in love with her strength and gusto. She was always up for a play and cuddle even though she has a big recovery ahead of her. She would constantly make everyone laugh with her little shenanigans and made it very apparent that nothing could stop her! On September 30<sup>th</sup> Amelia found the puurfect home and is living her best life.

**Bailey and the puppies**

Prior to Bailey and her adorable puppies coming into our care they were living in horrible conditions. Poor Bailey was in the worst condition. She was extremely underweight and had to go on a regimented diet to help her gain weight back slowly. She had never received any grooming, causing her to have skin issues and hair loss. And to top it all off, she was also suffering from abscesses on her feet and inverted eye lids - both requiring surgery.

Luckily all 5 of her pups were healthy thanks to her being such a good momma. The canine family spent quite some time in foster care with one of the Shelter employees and her family. They took care of raising this lovely bunch into happy healthy pups, including mom.

All of them have now found wonderful homes to grow old in.

Bailey and her pups were featured in our BCSPCA newsletter as well - <https://spca.bc.ca/news/st-bernard-mom-and-puppies-a-family-affair/>

Isabell Diederichs

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What a bustling year it has been for Shuswap! The busy season has had our Branch at maximum capacity throughout the entire spring, summer and even as we enter into fall. We have an amazing and dedicated team of both staff and volunteers who have shown their commitment to helping animals in these challenging few months. You can only be as strong as your team, and we are incredibly lucky to have such a dedicated and educated team here at the Shuswap Branch.

We have our two full time staff **Isabell** and **Katie**. Isabell is the assistant manager who brings her bright and positive attitude to the branch and combines it with an amazing passion and advocacy for animals. Katie is widely known in the shelter as the cat whisperer and can befriend even the grumpiest of cats! We have three part time staff, **Dee**, **Lianne**, and **Rhonda**. Dee has been with the Shuswap SPCA for over 20 years, she brings a wealth of knowledge and experience as well as an amazing ability to relax anyone, human or animal! Lianne is multi-talented, not only is she amazing with all the animals, she is also well organized and keeps on top of all shelter inventory. Most importantly she provides plenty of much needed laughter! Rhonda is extremely passionate about adoption matching and counseling, she is also responsible for many shelter maintenance tasks that we could never complete without her. Our three casual staff are **Marnie**, **James**, and **Ceilidh**. Marnie is easy going, kind hearted and the animals are instantly captured by her calm demeanor. She is also passionate about health and safety and has been helping keep the branch's emergency response plans up to par. James is a brand new staff member and joined our team after a year of volunteering. He is positive, energetic and loves making a difference for the animals. Ceilidh is also a new member of the team. Her bright and cheerful personality make her a wonderful addition, and she already shows amazing passion for the animals. The Shuswap Branch had big changes in management this year when the long-term Branch Manager Victoria left the branch to travel the world with her husband and beloved dog. We wish her the best in her travels and thank her for the amazing work she has done at this branch and in the community.

I am pleased to introduce myself, **Meranda Dussault**, as the newest addition to the team as the Branch Manager. I was employed with the Vernon SPCA for 14 years before making the transition to the Shuswap Branch. I am excited to bring my passion of animal behavior, enrichment and advocacy to the Branch. I have so many ideas and plans I could write a book! To name a few, I would love to add Humane Education to our community as I believe change comes through education! I am passionate about animal enrichment and have many ideas to help increase the welfare of animals who are in our care. I would also like to focus on increasing our foster and volunteer base, as we need all the help we can get! I am incredibly excited to be here and cannot wait to continue to make positive changes in our community.

As the pandemic winded down this year, we saw a large influx in the number of Cruelty Investigations requiring the removal of large numbers of animals. Staff and volunteers have worked tirelessly to help these animals recover from there emotional and physical scars and find happy, loving homes. There is no better feeling than seeing an animal's transformation from poor beginnings to a happy ending. Every animal deserves to find a loving place to call home.

Speaking of loving homes, so far this year 468 animals have come into the Shuswap Branch's care and been placed into forever homes! 85 animals were housed in our emergency boarding program. We have continued to see a higher need for emergency housing for animals during times of fire evacuations, floods and natural disasters, as well as owner hospitalization. This program is also offered to SVIR (Shuswap Violence in Relationships Committee) for families who are fleeing abusive relationships and need temporary safe housing for their pets. We want to insure we can help our community in any way possible.



Our weekly program with the **Animal Food Bank** called the **Kibble Cupboard** continues to be a success and provides many low-income families with much needed food. We are seeing an increased need for this service and are often contacted directly from pet guardians who have found themselves in a tight spot and cannot feed their pets. We make ourselves accessible to our community to ensure that no furry family member goes hungry. Our generous community food donors ensure that this program continues to provide its essential services.

In other news, our Branch has recently made some changes to be able to accommodate small animals! Already, we have had the pleasure of caring for **twelve abandoned guinea pigs**, along with two large groups of **rabbits** from a cruelty investigation. There is no better noise in the world than the sweet squeaks of guinea pigs as they hear a treat bag rustle! Staff have enjoyed discovering the unique personality of each small animal that enters the shelter. Some really are characters! One guinea pig named **Princess** would walk right up to staff and volunteers, patiently waiting for treats. Many of our guinea pigs have already found forever homes where they will receive all the love and attention they deserve.

Fundraising has been going very well, bringing in **\$91,752** (as of end of October). This has been raised mainly through **Endowment Funds** we hold with the **Shuswap Community Foundation**, **Grants** from our local municipality, our **bottle drive**, **community coin boxes**, **Adopt a Kennel**, small events, and other 3<sup>rd</sup> party events. The bottle drive at the shelter has become a very popular program with members of the community coming in and out all day dropping bottles off. The need for volunteers to help sort and return bottles is high priority as it can easily get out of control even from a day or two of no sorting. Veterinary care will always be a very important part of our work. The need for access to quick and regular vet care has become more difficult as vet clinic's resources are stretched due to lack of staffing. Veterinary care for medical procedures totaled \$18,179 (as of end of October). Veterinary care for dental procedures such as extractions, cleanings and dental x-rays totaled \$11,400 (end of October) and spay/neuter expenses totaled \$32,260 (end of October).

**All branches of the BC SPCA have opened their doors to the public as of October 1<sup>st</sup>.** We are excited to start welcoming our community back into our Branch! It will be an adjustment for both the staff and the community as we have been operating by appointment only since the beginning of the pandemic. We have made some adjustments such as creating adoption books which feature all of our adoptable animals. This has helped make the adoption process a little smoother. We are hopeful that opening our doors will help increase adoptions and get animals into loving homes more quickly!

Stay tuned for upcoming events throughout the year! We are in the process of working with several local businesses to set up Santa photos for pets during the upcoming holiday season.

Cheers!

Meranda Dussault, Shuswap Branch Manager



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Like us on **Facebook** or check out our website **spca.bc.ca** for more information about who we are, what we do in the community and how YOU can help us to grow!

## News from the Regional Council

Change is swirling around us, and the BC SPCA is moving with the times. At our Regional Council meeting on October 5<sup>th</sup> **Judith Hutchins** and I represented Shuswap Branch. The biggest news was of the Departmental Reorganization that was put in place on October 1st, 2022. There are still eight departments, but they have been rearranged to group services that are complementary and a new department for Facilities has been established.

Whereas once we had “Operations” we now have **Animal Care Services** which includes all areas of animal care including the hospitals, animal health, emergency response, and animal transfers. There will be a move towards specialization of some facilities and greater recognition of geographic differences among those facilities.

Whereas we once had the Cruelty Investigations Team we now have **Animal Protection Services** which will include enforcement of the **Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act**. There will be emphasis on the prevention side of things with programs to support the human/animal bond. There will be less focus on the term cruelty which has that sense of judgment attached to it. The Society is moving to having in-house legal counsel to support the increasing amount of disputes arising as a result of animal seizures under the Act.

The Department of Social Change will include humane education for all age groups. It will also include the team working on standards of animal care; science and policy; government relations; and advocacy relating to all types of animals. The **Pet Registry** is also included within this Department.

The Communications Department will continue with internal and external messaging and media relations.

The Finance Department will include IT and oversight of the Thrift Stores. In addition to financial management, insurance and risk matters they will also address the issue of cyber security.

Revenue Development and Community Engagement will go together. This takes in things like sponsorships and grants. Regional governance and membership will also fit under this umbrella as will the Animal Helpline, formerly known as the Call Centre.

The People Services Department will take care of staff and volunteers. It will also lead the Strategic Planning process. This department will have a greater focus on mental health.

The new Department of Facilities will be responsible for all preventative maintenance and construction of new projects.

... **Janet Pattinson**

## Looking into the future

We were happy to see the first newsletter sent to all members across the province on September 1st. You will have noticed there were many comments to encourage you to join the Regional Council. There was also mention of some educational webinars especially for Regional Council members.

Here are some that are coming in the new year:

50 years of Animal Welfare with Dr David Fraser, January 25th, 2023 from 6 to 7 pm

UBC Companion Animal Welfare Research with Dr Sacha Protopopova, March 1st, 2023, 6 - 7 pm

Animal Kind with Nicole Fenwick, April 19th, 2023, 6 - 7 pm

If you are interested in joining the council or participating as a guest for the next meeting, please contact Hannah at [membership@spca.bc.ca](mailto:membership@spca.bc.ca)

The next Regional Council meeting will be **February 8th, 2023**. We anticipate talking about the next Strategic Plan.

## Address Changes

It is very important that all members keep the Society up-to-date on their contact information. This is especially important for our Life Members who do not renew each year.

## Listen for the Pet Report on Voice of the Shuswap

We continue with a weekly news report from our branch on CKVS 93.7fm during the Community Hour, Tuesday at 6:00 pm and Wednesday at noon. We tell about animals for adoption and animal welfare developments.

