

**BCSPCA**  
SPEAKING FOR ANIMALS

# ADVOCACY REPORT

20  
22

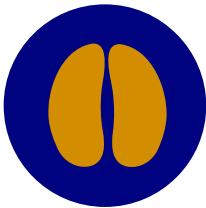


# YOU ACTED ON 11 KEY ISSUES

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- Called for a ban on “debarking” dogs
- Spoke up to ban fireworks across Canada
- Shared concerns for animals with local governments
- Gave feedback on standards for pet boarding, grooming, daycare, and dog walking businesses



- Demanded action on a government promise to ban live horse export for slaughter
- Denounced a new rodeo in the Lower Mainland
- Banned the worst three rodenticides in B.C.



- Condemned poisoning of large mammals across Canada
- Supported a federal bill to end fur farming
- Commented on new national welfare standards for dairy cows
- Petitioned for video surveillance in slaughterhouses







# Your impact this year



**49,000**

**Actions taken  
through BC SPCA  
campaigns in 2022**



**163,000**

**Caring people  
who are first  
to learn about  
ways to take  
action**



**11**

**Campaigns to  
help animals**



**17**

**Policy submissions  
by BC SPCA staff  
experts**



# CHANGING LAWS

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## Pushing for protection from fireworks

An incredible 14,075 Canadians signed a petition asking the federal government to change fireworks regulations to protect animals, people, and the environment from fireworks – **83% of signatures were from B.C.!** Unfortunately, the federal government chose not to act. The BC SPCA will continue to support a reduction in the use of fireworks.

## Local animal welfare concerns ranked

We asked B.C. residents their priorities for local government action on animal welfare issues in anticipation of October's local elections.

Over 13,000 individuals ranked their local animal welfare priorities:

- # 1 Advocating for pet-friendly housing
- # 2 Creating bylaws to prohibit exotic pets
- # 3 Restricting private use of fireworks
- # 4 Safe, accessible public parks and trails for dogs
- # 5 Reducing human-wildlife conflicts with wildlife feeding bylaws
- # 6 Ending the use of rodenticide poisons on local government property

To welcome new councils, the BC SPCA contacted each municipality and regional district in the province with these results, providing resources to encourage them to strengthen their animal-related bylaws.

## Bylaw search tool

The BC SPCA offers information, tools, and support to enhance animal bylaws, and this past year we created a new [online search tool](#) to share some of the most progressive animal-friendly bylaws in the province. This tool empowers communities of all sizes to compare their own bylaws and improve standards for animals, such as backyard chickens. We look forward to working with local governments on these issues over the coming year.

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# COMPANION ANIMALS

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## Debarking to be prohibited

Over 6,500 British Columbians signed our petition to **ban dog debarking**. The BC SPCA sent a letter to the College of Veterinarians of British Columbia (CVBC), with our opposition to debarking and public support for a ban. In response, the CVBC agreed to review the practice and has invited us to consult with them on the issue. Other painful and unnecessary procedures like declawing, ear cropping, and tail docking are already banned in B.C., and we are expecting an end to debarking soon!

## Setting the bar for professional pet care and training

This year, 2,558 pet guardians, pet services operators, and staff provided feedback on the draft BC SPCA AnimalKind companion animal services standards. Created in response to the **lack of regulation** for dog daycares, dog walkers, and pet boarding and grooming, these evidence-based standards were developed with input from animal welfare experts and pet services business operators. The public's desire to see more humane ways of interacting with animals is clear, and these voluntary standards provide a much-needed resource to support change.



See the **new pet care standards**

# FARMED ANIMALS

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## B.C.'s farmed animal welfare under review

In 2022, the B.C. Ministry of Agriculture and Food began a review of the province's farmed animal welfare framework. The BC SPCA has been working with the government to bring awareness of [shortcomings in B.C.'s farmed animal welfare](#) protection framework over many years. We look forward to working with government and industry to improve welfare, transparency, and accountability for farmed animals. The results of the review are expected in 2023.



## Ban live horse export for slaughter

In 2021, over 77,000 Canadians signed a petition to end the live export of horses for slaughter. It has been over a year since the federal government agreed to end the practice. Since then, approximately 2,000 horses have endured frightening journeys by road and air for up to 24 hours. The BC SPCA has contacted the federal Minister of Agriculture to urge an immediate ban. Thank you to everyone who has signed [a new petition](#) open until February 7th, 2023 to encourage the government to follow through on its commitment.



Photo: Canadian Horse Defense Coalition





### Concerns with a new rodeo

Over 4,500 people spoke out to oppose a new rodeo in the Township of Langley. The BC SPCA wrote to the Township urging them to explore ways to halt the rodeo out of concern for the horses, cattle, and sheep involved. Unfortunately, the rodeo took place and is planned to be an annual event. The BC SPCA will continue to **oppose events that cause pain or suffering** to animals and engage with residents to help them advocate to their officials.



### New Canadian welfare standards for goats

The Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Goats was updated after 20 years and includes changes that will improve the welfare of goats across Canada. In 2021, Canadians suggested changes to a draft version through an online public consultation period. Following this, the Code Development Committee, which included BC SPCA Manager, Farm Animal Welfare Melissa Speirs representing Humane Canada, reviewed all comments and made **extensive positive changes to the final version**. The new Code of Practice published in December 2022 now includes important new welfare standards around enrichment, space allowance, veterinary care, and pain control.

# WILD ANIMALS

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## New wildlife feeding bylaw in Vancouver

The BC SPCA asked the City of Vancouver to adopt a city-wide wildlife feeding bylaw after tragic coyote feeding incidents in Stanley Park. The Vancouver Park Board already had an anti-feeding bylaw, but a city-wide bylaw could better prevent human-wildlife conflicts. The City of Vancouver **unanimously approved a bylaw** which BC SPCA experts helped to draft, that prohibits intentional and unintentional wildlife feeding with \$500 fines, while still allowing for limited backyard bird feeding with conditions.

## Worst rodenticides banned

Following an 18-month temporary provincial ban on certain rodenticides prompted by public and local government pressure from a 2020 campaign, the changes are permanent as of January 21, 2023. The new requirements ban almost all use of **second-generation anticoagulant rodenticides**. These cause painful deaths of rodents, kill many non-target wild and companion animals each year, and become toxins in soil and water systems. In 2022, BC SPCA experts helped to inform the final regulations during a scientific review consultation. Advocacy for rodenticide-free humane rodent control will continue with local governments and by promoting AnimalKind standards.



**24 municipalities  
have passed motions  
to ban ALL  
rodenticides to date**



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### Poisoning wolves, coyotes, and bears under review

Poisons are still used to kill wolves, coyotes, and bears to protect farmed animals in other provinces, but thankfully not in B.C. However, animals don't recognize borders and **poisons cause a painful and prolonged death** for predators no matter where they live. As a result of a 2021 petition, the use of strychnine and Compound 1080 are being reviewed by Health Canada. A public consultation period was held in fall 2022 – the BC SPCA submitted comments and encouraged supporters to call on the federal government to ensure all wolves, coyotes, and bears are protected from inhumane deaths.

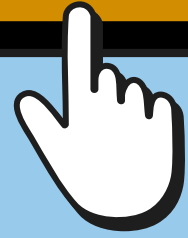
### World leader in compassionate wildlife control

A 2022 motion in the Scottish Parliament cited BC SPCA experts on their publication [International Consensus Principles for Ethical Wildlife Control](#). Their parliamentary motion aimed to shift wildlife management in Scotland to a more ethical approach that protects animal welfare and ecosystem health. AnimalKind's first-of-its-kind standards for wildlife and rodent control, and accreditation program, were also mentioned as an example of putting the "principles into practice".



# HOW YOU CAN HELP

TAKE ACTION



Keep an eye on your inbox to be sure you are the first to know about new actions to help animals

[Sign up](#) to receive Action Alerts

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You have an MLA, MP, and municipal or regional representatives who work to serve you and your community.

Make sure your voice is heard at all levels of government.

Reach out to thank them for recent progress and raise issues you would like to work together on.

Find my [municipality](#) or [regional district](#)

[Find my MLA](#)

[Find my MP](#)

Visit the BC SPCA's [Take Action](#) page for more information on how you can help animals





# THANK YOU

What a year to celebrate! Thank you for taking the time to speak for animals when they needed you most. One person can make a difference, and thousands working together move us closer to a world where animals are protected from suffering and have lives worth living. None of this would be possible without passionate people like you!



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