

SHEEP SMARTS  PET FOOD BANKS  READING DOG SIGNALS

kids speaking for animals

BCSPCA
Vol. 20 • No. 4

Back!

**CATS, BATS
and KIND ACTS**

High Paws

KIDS HELPING ANIMALS!



When **Cru** saw on the BC SPCA website that it takes \$27 to care for a dog for one day, he went through his piggy bank and counted up enough to do just that. This isn't the first time that Cru has donated; he is a dedicated ambassador for animals! Cru is pictured here with Gizmo, a senior Jack Russell terrier.



Co-founded by animal lovers **Zoë** and **Lilly**, Animal Club at École Cobble Hill Elementary was partly inspired by *Bark!* magazine. Zoë, in grade 7, and Lilly, in grade 6, host club meetings over lunch for kids in grades 1-3. Each meeting, members learn about a different animal. They also make themed animal crafts or toys for the animals themselves! The club has donated some of the toys to the Cowichan SPCA, as well as money raised by organizing a donation drive. *Pawsome!*



Girl Guide **Kinley** held a fundraiser to help the animals and earn her Lady Baden-Powell Award. Thanks to Kinley's hard work, the Penticton SPCA received a remarkable \$715 donation.



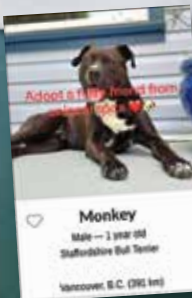
Ten-year-old **Brooklyn** sold lemonade and donated the proceeds to the Kelowna SPCA — a wonderful gift of \$24.25 for the animals.



Five-year-old **Riley**, pictured here with Rocky, held a lemonade stand to help animals. Riley's fundraiser earned \$60 to donate to the Kelowna SPCA.

These students from Valley View Elementary in Courtenay sent in a lovely card along with a donation of \$468.15!

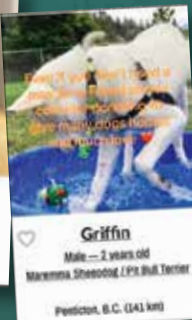
Pet Pals



Monkey
Male — 1 year old
Staffordshire Bull Terrier
Vancouver, B.C. (392 km)

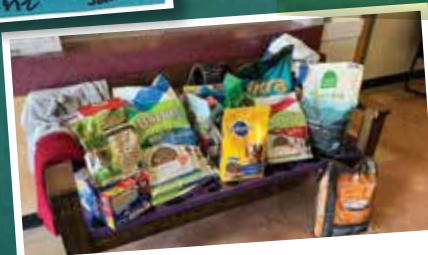
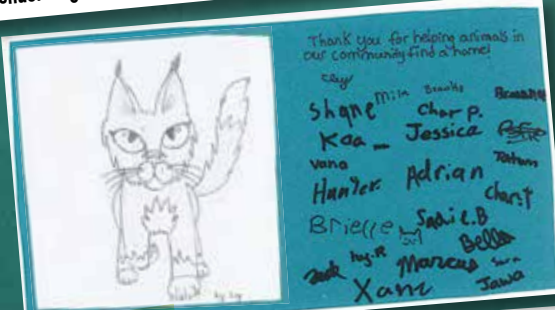


Jade
Female — 10 years old
Catahoula Leopard Dog
Castlegar, B.C. (23 km)



Griffin
Male — 2 years old
Maremma Sheepdog / Pit Bull Terrier
Penticton, B.C. (143 km)

Twelve-year-olds Chloe and Emma, from Rossland, made a video with photos and information about BC SPCA adoptable animals — specifically dogs. They then shared it on social media to help find homes for the dogs. Here are some screenshots of their video. So cool!



Inspired by two BC SPCA classroom presentations, grade 1 students at **Promontory Heights Elementary** decided to hold a supply drive for the Chilliwack SPCA. Families donated food, toys, blankets and other goodies to the animals!



Friends **Charlotte** and **Eva**, both 11, held an iced tea stand and made \$66.65. They generously donated the money to the Burnaby SPCA. Charlotte's family also has two adopted cats — Olive, 3, and Leo, 1.



Abby, Jillian and **Hunter** teamed up to sell iced tea, handmade bracelets, fresh-picked raspberries and freezies. The result? A donation of \$62.45 for the Comox SPCA.



Litterbox

(letters to the editor)

Salutations dear BC SPCA,

I think you do the best job ever and I would like to help whenever you need and I adopted both my cats there. I think that all the people that work there are very friendly so hope I find some stray cat to bring in to help it out and bring there.

I went to the SPCA around one year ago and I gave \$25 of birthday money and I was asked if I would like to come around some time and help. I really like that I was asked to do that! The service was also outstanding and I was treated like a king, so I felt awesome. So I hope that all who come in and all creatures feel the same. So I hope that this will make your day and just stay the same and have a good day.

Sincerely, Maddox Wood

Thank you for your kind words, Maddox! We appreciate your support and are glad you had such a great experience!

Hey Kids! Send your letters, photos and artwork for Pet Pals, High Paws or Litterbox to:
BC SPCA Kids Club
1245 East 7th Avenue
Vancouver, BC V5T 1R1

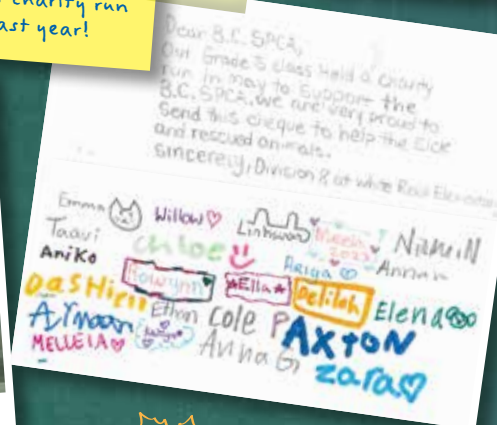
Thank you to these students from White Rock Elementary for donating \$459 from their charity run last year!



For her seventh birthday, **Emi** collected \$170. She generously donated the money to help care for the animals at the Burnaby SPCA.



Suzy and **Miko** held a lemonade stand and raised \$30 for the Powell River SPCA. Way to make a difference!



For her eighth birthday, **Ava** held a fundraiser for the Kamloops SPCA. She collected \$104 to help care for animals like Kimba, pictured here.



Daxson donated \$165 in birthday money to the Nanaimo SPCA. High Paws!



Skyler turned 11 and had a party! Rather than gifts, Skyler asked friends to bring donations for the Kamloops SPCA, and collected \$50 to help animals in need.



Reading an anxious dog

Just like you and your friends have different personalities, so do dogs. Some are relaxed and easygoing, while others are shy and anxious.

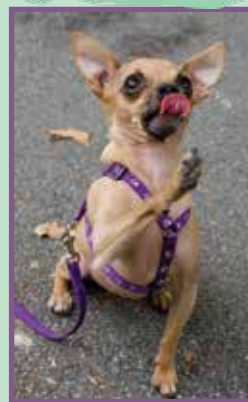
Anxious dogs are unsure and fearful of new situations, loud noises or strangers – whether other people or dogs. They can't help it. If you see another pooch while out on a walk, your dog may show signs of being nervous or afraid. The closer you get, the more worried your dog gets. They are thinking, **"Will I get hurt?"** They feel fearful of the meeting.



Anxious dog turns away from an on-coming dog



What should you do? Before your dog reaches the fear emotion, immediately turn and walk away. Never force your dog to meet or pass another dog when they feel this worried. Crossing the street will help. Once there is some distance from the other dog, watch how your dog starts to relax.



Once dogs reach a fearful state, **they won't react to your commands.** The emotional side of their brain takes over and blocks everything else out.



Luckily, anxious dogs give signals about how they feel. You can "read" these signals. The first signals can include **yawning, lip licking** or **blinking their eyes**. As you get closer your dog may "whimper" and look to the side, not wanting to make eye contact. Their ears tuck back and they lower their tail and body. **They try to look small.** Some dogs may suddenly stop and sit, even **paw at you.**

They're saying, **"I don't want to keep going. I'm getting scared."** Your dog's anxiety is turning to fear as they prepare to fight or try to run away.



Ways to help an anxious dog

Never force your dog to do things that scare them, or they may stop signally – because the signaling didn't work. Yet, the fear will be kept inside. Next time they feel afraid they may just lunge and bite.

You must be extra patient with dogs with anxious personalities. Watch their body language. Use reassuring words. Don't yell or blame them for their anxiousness. Build their confidence with supportive words like, "It's okay, good dog." **Use treats** to help distract them from what they are worried about. It helps change worry into happiness.



Playing it **SAFE** with dogs!

Any dog – big or small – can bite. But did you know that most bites are from dogs you know? Many bites occur by playing too roughly with dogs. Dogs easily get excited and can nip at your heels or grab an arm. If your dog is getting excited, call time out! Give your dog a chance to calm down or switch to a different game, like fetch!

Meeting dogs safely

Often you meet dogs in public places. These tips will help you be safe around dogs. The most important rule: never approach or try to pet a dog without first asking the guardian. Not all dogs are friendly.



Hey Fin,
ever been
bitten by
a dog?

Once, I was playing
chase with my friend's
dog and he bit me on
the hand.



ILLUSTRATIONS BY SCOTT RITCHIE

Learning how to “read” a dog’s body language can help avoid most situations that cause dogs to bite. Below are the four most common dog bite situations and how to play it safe.



1. Play bites

Most kids are bitten while playing with dogs. We all get over-excited at times.

Dogs are no different. Dogs

use their mouths and claws when they play. Usually, they are in control. But rough play can cause a dog to accidentally bite.



Solution: Stop the play and walk away!

Gentle play is fine, rough play is not. If your dog gets too excited, call time out! You can play again in a few minutes after everyone calms down. If you have a dog that gets excited easily, avoid tug-of-war or run-and-chase games. Try fetch instead.

Continued on next page! ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

- Approach from the front.
- Walk at an angle to the dog, not in a straight line.
- Never come from behind.
- Ask if the dog is safe to pet.
- With fingers clenched, lift a hand slowly to allow the dog to sniff.
- The first place to pet is under the chin.
- Never reach over a dog’s head to pet.



2. Your dog, the protector!

Many dogs protect stuff like their toys, food, puppies and even their space.

Dogs who protect usually give “signals” when they are protecting something. Warning signs include growling, showing their teeth or barking. Some dogs stand over top of what they are protecting, like a favourite toy. When they are about to bite, they usually snarl or lunge at you.

Solution: Be on the prowl for growls.

Read their signals! Dogs who defend everything, including their favourite spot on the couch, are most likely to bite. If your dog gives protective signals, back away and give them space. Also, never place your hands or face near their food dish when they’re eating or reach in with your hand. If you have an overprotective dog, it’s wise to see an AnimalKind trainer (see next page) for some help. This behaviour will likely get worse over time if your family doesn’t get some help.



3) Scared dogs can be scary

Anxious, fearful dogs are more likely to bite without much warning. You can tell an anxious dog if they lower their head and tuck their tail between their legs. They may also pull their ears back, growl and show their teeth. Fearful dogs tend to chase and bark. Slowly walk backwards away from them.



Solution: Be calm and confident around anxious dogs.

Don’t try to pet anxious dogs. Let them come to you. NEVER try to hug them! Avoid situations where the dog feels cornered or crowded. Anxious dogs always need a place to retreat if they feel scared. Never sneak up on fearful dogs or try to pick them up. They are likely to bite first and ask questions later. It is always best to back away slowly from a fearful, anxious dog. Never turn and run – you are almost sure to be bitten!



4) Lonely lure

Ever seen a lonely dog all by himself in a backyard? Don’t be tempted to reach into his yard to pet him. Often, backyard dogs are fearful of people.

They may look sad and lonely, but they can be very unpredictable. These dogs are the most likely dogs to bite. Many kids just like you have had their arms badly bitten while reaching to pet a lonely dog through a fence in a backyard.

Solution: Leave them be!

Don’t try and pet a backyard dog or approach a dog on a chain – EVER! They may even be wagging their tail. But not all tail-wagging is friendly. The only way to meet dogs is with their caregiver – and only when they say it is safe. Even so, pay close attention to what the dog is signaling to you! If there is a growl, lip-licking or showing of teeth, back away no matter what the dog’s caregiver says.





you don't give too much for the reward or your dog could get a lot more food than their body needs. Treats should be tiny – the size of the end of your pinky finger.

Humane training helps dogs

All dogs can benefit from some dog training classes, especially when they are puppies. Like people, dogs need some structure and to know the boundaries of what they can and cannot do – like biting your brother! Dogs are smart and they sometimes do things that “break the rules,” like jumping on the couch or running off with your favourite shoes.

The best training method is called “reward-based” training. When your dog does something you like, you “pay” them with a treat. This makes your dog happy. It also says to them, “When I go lie on my bed I get a treat, I’m going to do that again.” If you continue to say “bed” and your dog goes and lies down, give a treat. Pretty soon your dog will be going to their bed on command.

Treats can be a piece of cheese, a dog biscuit or a small piece of cooked chicken. Be careful that



If you have a dog who may be acting aggressively by guarding their food, toys or their place on the couch, you need extra help. **The BC SPCA accredits dog trainers who only use reward-based training. They’re called AnimalKind trainers.** They

can help your family with all sorts of training but are very good at helping with issues like aggressive dog behaviour. Learn all about the AnimalKind program at animalkind.ca.



Stray dog strategies!

If a strange dog comes up to you in a park or on the street, here's what to do.

Stand like a tree

Turn slightly away from the dog and stand still – **like a tree**. Don't stare at the dog's eyes. A stare is a threat to a dog. In most cases, a dog will ignore you. Don't run or scream. This can cause dogs to get more excited. If you run, they will chase you and may bite. Besides, you cannot outrun a dog.



Lie like a log

If you are attacked – lie on your stomach with your hands behind your neck. **Lie like a log**. Be as still as you can. Try not to scream. If you are still, the dog is more likely to stop the attack and move on.



The wildfire devastation in the
Okanagan, summer 2023.

Climate change & citizen science

Droughts, floods and wildfires are impacting everyone – including wild animals. Climate change is forcing some animals from their homes. For example, many birds are having to change their migration routes because of fires. Bears are moving into new habitats because food is harder to find. Salmon are spawning sooner because rivers are warming. Scientists need to understand more about these changes to better protect wildlife, and you can help!



Use *iNaturalist* to help animals

Using the free *iNaturalist* app, you can help scientists understand the changes to wildlife patterns. The wildlife pictures you take are shared with scientists. It's called citizen science (see *What is citizen science?* sidebar, opposite page).

iNaturalist also helps you easily identify and record your personal nature observations. Point and click a picture of a bird, deer, mushroom, or anything else wild, and *iNaturalist* tells you what you found. Each observation is then shared with scientists studying the planet's ecosystems. The data tells them what you saw, where it's located and when you saw it. When lots of citizens contribute, it gives scientists a better understanding of how climate change is affecting wildlife.

iNaturalist projects

There are lots of animals and plants scientists are trying to collect information about. Visit the *iNaturalist* website to explore all the nature observation projects from around the globe. School classes, environmental groups and individuals like you can create a project in your community. You can also join other projects. A project, for example, can focus on just birds, butterflies or beetles. Or you can collect data on all biodiversity (the entire community of plants and animals).



CITIZEN SCIENCE



BLACK BEARS PHOTO CREDIT: MAJA LAKHANI

TIPS FOR NATURE LOVERS

When out in nature observe the following rules:

- ✓ Tell an adult exactly where you are going and when you will be back.
- ✓ Bring a buddy, don't go alone.
- ✓ Always be safe and be aware of your surroundings.
- ✗ Never trespass or explore in areas you aren't allowed.
- ✗ Don't eat wild berries on nature walks – leave them for wildlife.
- ✗ Never disturb wildlife just to get a picture.
- ✗ Don't feed wildlife! Human foods are unhealthy, animals can lose their ability to find their own food, it spreads disease and feeding leads to human-wildlife conflicts. That's why wildlife feeding is also against the law.



Helping bats

On the *iNaturalist* website, you can explore all the projects happening now. Bat sightings are an important topic. Bats are essential pollinators and insect eaters, yet bats are in trouble (see *To help bats, start with cats*, page 12). Global Bat Watch, for example, is collecting as many worldwide bat sightings as possible. Here in B.C., Community Bat Programs have lots of ways to help bats. These include making bat boxes, protecting bats from dangers (like cats) and participating in their annual bat counts. Visit bcbats.ca to get involved.



Create your own *iNaturalist* project!

Whether it's a group of friends, your school class or an animal club, you can set up a project to record the species you see. Setting up a project is easy (though you might want to ask a parent or teacher to help get started).

1. Go to the *iNaturalist* website at iNaturalist.org.
2. Click "Community".
3. Select "Projects" from the dropdown menu.
4. Select "Start a Project" and you're on your way.

Need some ideas?

If you do a search of "school," "city" or "marsh" you will see *iNaturalist* projects people have started that focus on a specific place. Type in "butterfly," "whale" or "bat" and you'll see groups collecting data on a particular type of animal.

GET INSPIRED!

To learn more about using *iNaturalist*, watch *How to Identify Any Species in Your Backyard with Nothing But Your Phone*, a fun 10-minute video on YouTube.
www.youtube.com/watch?v=1-LjzKx-u9g



WHAT IS CITIZEN SCIENCE?

Citizen science is research done with the help of public participation. It involves ordinary people recording observations of plants and animals they see using *iNaturalist* or other citizen science apps. That information is collected into a giant database of observations. Scientists review the data to understand more about the health of ecosystems. Getting your help allows scientists to gather way more data than they could get on their own. That's great news for science – and the planet!



Score something unique-to-you at your local thrift store.
Bonus points: you won't show up to class with others wearing the exact same threads!

Make a fashion statement



Fast to make. **Fast** to buy. **Fast** to be unfashionable.

Fast to discard.

And repeat! This is the cycle of fast fashion.

Fast fashion is clothing that is not only made quickly, but also inexpensively. This means it's more affordable to buy new clothes, more often. Companies constantly produce new looks and sell them to people who will buy them without too much thought, because of their low prices.

But there are still hidden costs. 

The price of fashion

People buy more clothes – and wear them less – than ever before. This is partly because of rapid-moving trends, and partly because when clothes are quick and cheap to make, they are also

fast to fall apart. This feeds the cycle yet again. Up to **100 billion** pieces of new clothing produced each year lead to **92 million tons of new waste**.

Landfills piled up with discarded clothing aren't the only environmental issue with fashion. A staggering amount of water is needed to produce all these clothes. On average it takes **10,000 litres of water** to harvest one kilogram of cotton! Fabric dyeing also requires water (**the equivalent of two million Olympic-sized swimming pools per year**). What's worse, the dye and other chemicals pollute rivers and streams. For example, there is a river in China that is nicknamed the "blue river" because of the blue dye pumped into the river from making jeans.

The clothing and shoe industries also account for eight per cent of global carbon emissions. This adds to **global warming**.

And then there's the human cost of fast fashion. For clothes to be inexpensive, companies pay the people making them very little. **Factory workers in countries such as India, China and Bangladesh are mainly women and girls. Yes, kids your age work in factories all day.** Pay is low and they work long hours. They also work in unsafe conditions, with no access to education or healthcare.

It's time to start a new trend. 




Microplastics flowing into rivers and oceans, harming our planet and wildlife.


Slow it down

Make a different kind of "fashion statement" by thinking carefully about the impact of what you wear.

 **Go natural.** Plastic-based fabrics like polyester and nylon release microplastics when washed. These tiny bits of plastic flow into rivers and oceans. Look for natural fibres instead. They also decompose faster once discarded. It takes only **one week for 100 per cent cotton** versus up to **200 years for plastic-based fabrics**.

 **Buy less.** Choose only items you really need and will wear often, and you can slow down the cycle of fast fashion.



 **Get thrifty.** Check your local thrift store or re-selling app before buying new. Done with something? Donate or sell it for a small price. **Apps like VarageSale allow members to buy and sell used items within the community.** Charity thrift shops do double-do-good-duty by fundraising for non-profit organizations – including the BC SPCA! Visit **spca.bc.ca/thriftstores** to learn more.




 **Hold a clothing swap.**


This is a fun way for a group of folks to get new-to-them outfits at the same time.

Invite friends to each bring a bag of clothes you no longer wear, set them out and then all

"go shopping"!



 **Quality over quantity.** You may not need as many clothes as you think. Rather than three poor-quality tops, consider one higher-quality item that will last longer and be easier to pass along.

 **Mend it.** Sometimes clothes get holes. No need to toss them out right away! Learn to use **a needle and thread** and fix it before you nix it.



BC SPCA CAMP T-SHIRTS MAKE A CHANGE

BC SPCA summer camps always include a camp t-shirt. This year, our team looked hard at where our shirts come from – to be part of the solution, rather than the fast fashion problem.

We partnered with **Kindred Apparel in Victoria**, the **Canadian distributor for Joyya fashion**. Joyya works with women in Kolkata, India. **Joyya's wages are double the usual amount, and the company provides healthcare, daycare, flexible working hours, clean well water, education on sustainable food growing and education for children.** The cotton is 100 per cent organic, using as little water as possible. Dyes are water-based and not dispersed in local watersheds.



Joyya created a video about the process of making BC SPCA camp t-shirts. Scan the QR code to watch it. Learn more about Joyya at **joyya.com**.



TO HELP BATS, START WITH CATS

Bats are an essential part of the ecosystem. They are also among the most endangered animals in the world.

Bats help pollinate and disperse seeds. They also eat their body weight in bugs during a night's hunt!

Bats are the major nighttime predators of flying insects, such as mosquitoes. Plus, they eat insects that harm food crops. Without bats, there would be billions of dollars worth of damage to food crops.

Sadly, here in B.C., half of bat species are at risk. Threats include habitat loss, pesticides, diseases, introduced predators, climate change and outright persecution.

We need to protect bats – and, as pet guardians, we can start with our cats. Studies have shown that **outdoor cats are one of the greatest threats to bats.**

How do cats threaten bats?

Cats are swift and agile hunters. They can see well at night when bats are most active. Unlike us, cats can also hear the high-frequency sounds used by echolocating bats. Cats hunt bats by swatting at them as they fly by or by leaping and catching them in mid-air.

Even if bats escape a cat attack, they may still be injured. Cats can easily tear their delicate wing membranes. Also, the bacteria carried on cats' teeth and claws can transfer through wounds. Bats can die from these infections.





What makes bats so vulnerable to cats?

Bats are social animals and like to roost together in groups.

The noise, smell and movement of these roosts attract cats.

Cats will lie in wait for the bats as they emerge at night to feed.

Some bat roosting spots, such as attics, can increase cat encounters.

Bats are also long-lived animals with low reproductive rates.

Most bats give birth to just one pup each year, and only about half of pups survive their first winter. Cats tend to prey on female bats more often than males. These factors make it harder for bat populations to recover from cat predation and other threats.

Protecting bats from cats

Hunting is a natural behaviour for cats, so the best way to prevent them from harming bats is to keep them indoors or in an outdoor enclosure. This is especially important at night when bats are most active. Also, keep cats contained **during the bat reproductive season (March to August)** to protect female bats and their young. Once cats learn the location of a roost, they often return to it night after night. **Keeping your cat inside could save a whole colony!**



Bats in B.C.

B.C. has the greatest diversity of bats in Canada. Fifteen of the country's 19 species call our province home. Bats are nocturnal, meaning they sleep during the day and are active at night. Because of this, it might surprise you that bats are among the most common wildlife in our cities. They're drawn to river valleys and parks where they can find sources of water and old trees to roost in. Human-made structures like barns, bridges and houses are also attractive roosting sites, especially for little brown bats.

Keeping cats indoors is even more critical if you live near a forested area. Bats tend to target areas with more insects, including forest edges where insects seek shelter from the wind. This can bring them into contact with cats on the hunt.

Supervising or providing outdoor access in an enclosure is a safe alternative for cats who still want a taste of outdoor life. This also keeps cats safer. Bats are the only known wild carrier of rabies in B.C. Rabies is a severe disease. Although rabies occurs at very low levels in bat populations — about one in every thousand bats — being outdoors still puts cats at risk. Plus, outdoor cats can be attacked by other wild animals.

OTHER WAYS TO HELP BATS

- 🦋 Plant native trees, shrubs and flowers to attract insects. Moths are an especially important food source for bats.
- 🦋 Avoid using pesticides.
- 🦋 Avoid raking up all your leaves this fall. Decaying plant matter makes great shelter for overwintering insects. This will benefit bats in the spring.
- 🦋 Keep your yard or garden dark at night to encourage use by foraging bats.
- 🦋 The more we know about bats, the better we can protect them! Learn how you can participate in a bat citizen science project on pages 8-9.





Pet food bank most-needed items include dry and wet cat food and cat litter.



Kids in Kelowna donated supplies to those affected by wildfires this past summer.

Food banks – for animals too!

Food banks can help families cover the cost of groceries – including food for their pets. Natural disasters like **wildfires** or **floods** also create a need. When guardians and their **pets are evacuated**, many need pet food and supplies while away from home.

The BC SPCA helps people and animals through our food bank program. Food, treats and toys can be donated at local BC SPCA branches. The items are then distributed to people in need, directly and through partner community food banks and services.



The BC SPCA has run Charlie's Food Bank, a weekly off-site food bank on Vancouver's Downtown Eastside, for more than 20 years.

How to give

1 You can donate pet food year-round at your local BC SPCA branch. Any amount helps! Treats, collars, leashes and pet toys are also welcome! For locations, visit sPCA.bc.ca/locations.

2 Many schools hold food bank drives before the winter holidays. Consider bringing some pet food. Ask that pet food be mentioned on the morning announcements or in the notice that goes home!

3 Does your school have an animal club? Holding a pet food drive is a great club activity to spread awareness and make a difference. Learn more about starting your own club at sPCA.bc.ca/schoolclubs.



These food bank supporters donated at the Dawson Creek SPCA.

BC SPCA food banks by the numbers*

532,000 meals provided by the BC SPCA through pet food banks

41,019 cats and dogs provided a week's worth of food

91,729 kilograms of dry food, **54,125** cans of wet food and **11,151** kilograms of cat litter distributed

*In the year 2022



Need assistance?

If your family, or someone you know, needs pet food to continue caring for a pet, please contact the **BC SPCA Animal Helpline at 1.855.622.7722**. They will be able to give details about what is available in your community.

Everyone has a right to have enough food to eat. BC SPCA pet food banks are there to help.



FIVE FUN FACTS ABOUT SHEEP

What do **you** know about sheep?

Many people believe that sheep are *passive* animals who aren't all that smart.

YET, RESEARCH NOW SHOWS THAT SHEEP ARE **INTELLIGENT**, **COMPLEX** AND **FEELING** ANIMALS.

1. Sheep are clever animals

Despite some popular beliefs, sheep are **intelligent animals** with **great memories**. Research has shown that sheep can recognize up to 50 other sheep faces and remember them for two years. **They are even able to recognize human faces!** Other studies have shown that sheep can remember how to navigate complex mazes.

2. Sheep have rectangular pupils

Rectangular pupils allow for a wide field of vision, around 270 to 320 degrees. This means that **sheep can see almost everything around them**, except for what's directly behind them. As a prey species, this helps sheep **scan for predators** even when their head is down grazing.

3. Sheep are emotionally complex with unique personalities

Sheep have a wide range of emotions, just as humans do. **Studies have shown that sheep can feel afraid, angry, bored, sad and happy.** Not only can sheep feel basic emotions, but their feelings can be very complex. For example, scientists have shown that sheep can have positive or negative outlooks.

4. Sheep have an excellent sense of smell

One way sheep communicate with each other and their surroundings is through scent. **Sheep have scent glands in front of their eyes and between the digits of**

their hooves. These glands **produce smelly discharges** used to communicate with one another.

5. Sheep are highly social animals

A group of sheep is called a flock, but sheep do not hang out in flocks simply for predator protection. Sheep **form strong bonds** with one another, such as those between a mother and her lamb and other friendships. Studies show that sheep can distinguish between emotional expressions, **such as pictures of sheep with calm, startled, or fearful expressions.** This is a very important skill for sheep. Knowing how other **sheep feel** is the basis for forming strong social relationships and keeping the flock safe.



TIME 2spay or neuter



Kittens are adorable – it's true! But too many kittens leads to suffering. Thousands of kittens are born each day. Some to family cats, others to abandoned community (feral) cats. Unfortunately, there aren't enough homes for them all.

If your family has welcomed a kitten in the past few months and they haven't been spayed or neutered, ask your parents to make the vet call! A female kitten can get pregnant **as young as five months old**, so it is important to act fast.

By scheduling the surgery with a veterinarian as early as possible, you can prevent future suffering.



By spaying and neutering our kittens, we avoid them having kittens. It stops the cycle of cat overpopulation.

It is safe to spay or neuter a healthy kitten at two months old or when they weigh two pounds.

Spaying (for females) and neutering (for males) are procedures done on pets by veterinarians to stop them from being able to reproduce (have babies).

ONE UNSPAVED CAT  HAS 4 KITTENS



5 MONTHS LATER



12 MONTHS LATER



17 MONTHS LATER



SPAY OR NEUTER YOUR CATS BEFORE THEY REACH 5 MONTHS OF AGE!

Learn more at: spayneuter.ca.

BCSPCA
SPEAKING FOR ANIMALS



IF YOU'RE NOT ALREADY A BC SPCA KIDS CLUB MEMBER, WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?

The Kids Club unites youth (13 and under) who **LOVE ANIMALS**.
Sign up today: spca.bc.ca/kidsclub.

You'll get **Bark!** magazine delivered to your door four times a year, monthly **e-Kids Mews!** letters, a **welcome package** and more.



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