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# BCSPCA THE PAWPRINT

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Issue 84

Shuswap Branch

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## *Happy Tails*

### **Tank**

In April, our animal rescue received a cat named Tank. He arrived in rough shape, semi-feral and quite wary of humans. We knew that Tank had a long road ahead of him before we could find him a home. We spent months with him on a behavior modification plan slowly working on him. He was so lonely and shut down. It was heartbreaking to see.

Then, like a wish made on a falling star, a kind-hearted young man applied for him. This exceptional human wanted to give a unique but overlooked cat a home. He visited Tank multiple times, speaking softly, bringing treats, and connecting with him. Slowly he built a bond, and Tank finally let him take him home. Tank thrived in his new environment, even finding a brand-new secret second hiding place inside the walls once! Although that was short lived. Luckily, after some time he was confident enough, he didn't need his secret hiding place anymore and his days of being a struggling stray were far behind.

The best part of this is, this story doesn't even end here! Tanks dad began volunteering at our shelter shortly after, helping other animals come out of their shells and find their forever homes. Tank's story became a symbol of hope, showing that with patience and love, even the most challenging cases can have a happy ending.

...Isabell Diederichs



**Fearful Tank**



**Tank happy and relaxed**

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### **Baby's Brave Journey to Finding His Forever Home**

This poor handsome fellow was aptly named Baby. Baby exhibited fear and anxiety, particularly when it came to men. But fear not, because we have **THE BEST VOLUNTEERS!** Enter **David and Kim**, our dedicated volunteers with a hearts of gold. When David heard about Baby's struggles, he decided to make it his personal mission to help the timid dog. David's calm and understanding demeanor created a safe space for Baby. He visited the shelter daily, offering treats, soothing words, and gentle pats. Slowly but surely, Baby started to trust David. His tail would wag ever so slightly in David's presence, and the fear that once clouded his eyes began to fade, replaced by a glimmer of hope.

David's commitment never wavered. He understood that building trust took time and patience. Baby, in return, began to open his heart to this kind-hearted man. And once comfortable, Baby allowed David to become his foster dad where he ensures that Baby's progress continued, preparing him for the day when he'd be ready for adoption.

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Under David's loving care and diligently hard work to expose Baby to various social situations carefully and within Baby's comfort zone, Baby became more confident and self-assured.

Baby has now found a loyal and loving to be his furever dad! And it was thanks to David's hard work that the meet and greet went off without a hitch. His new dad continues the work that David had started, providing Baby with a safe and loving environment where he can continue to heal and grow.

Baby's story is a powerful testament to the healing power of love, patience, and dedication. Thanks to David's unwavering commitment and boundless love, Baby found his happy tail and a forever home where he would be cherished and loved for the rest of his days.

...Isabell Diederichs



**Lil' Hopper**



**Notorious B.U.N.**



**Snoop Bunnie Bun**

### **A Heartwarming Tale of Three Bunnies Finding Their Forever Home: Lil' Hopper, Snoop Bunnie Bun, and Notorious B.U.N.**

This must be one of the sweetest stories. This family helped our patooties more than they may ever realize!

These rabbits had endured a rough start, having been rescued alongside 140 other rabbits. And to top it off, when you have that many rabbits come into care all at once it's hard to stand out, even with those super awesome names we gave them to match their super awesome personalities.

Well finally it happened, a wonderful app hopped into our inbox. And the day before this amazing family was to come to meet the three and adopt one of them our area was horribly afflicted by the wildfires. On a whim, I called the family and asked if they would potentially consider temporarily fostering all three of them while we were helping all of the displaced animals. Little did they know that their visit would soon turn into a heartwarming tale of compassion, generosity and a full furry furever family.

As the family spent time with the bunnies, they couldn't help but be enchanted by all three of the furry friends. Their soft fur, twitching noses, and gentle nature cast a spell on the family. The family and the three bunnies formed an inseparable connection. The bunnies felt the warmth of a true home, and the family found joy in the company of their newfound furry friends.

And so, it happened - the family decided that they couldn't bear to separate the bunnies. They adopted all three of them, cementing their commitment to provide a forever home filled with love, warmth, and endless happiness.

...Isabell Diederichs



## Shuswap Branch Shelter Update

Greetings to all of our amazing, dedicated and loyal supporters.

As we dip into fall and the colder seasons are upon us, it's a good time to update and reflect on summer and all of the achievements and challenges our Centre experienced. Let's dive right into it and review the most significant event that took place in the Shuswap. **Wildfires** struck hard all across BC, they tore through our region and left countless families and their pets displaced.

We faced enormous challenges during the wildfires, particularly with finding the physical space to house the sheer number of animals who needed our help. Our dedicated team took on many roles during this time. Animal Protection Officers put themselves behind fire lines to ensure the safety of animals who had been left behind when their families fled their homes with little warning. This included providing food and water for those who could not be captured, rescuing of those who could and reuniting them with their anxious families.

As the wildfires subside and the community rebuilds, it reminds of the importance of compassion and care for not only our furry friends but also our strong and resilient community.

The 2023 season will undoubtedly go down in history as one of the busiest and most demanding for our organization. We've witnessed a surge in the number of animals requiring our assistance province wide. The increasing frequency and intensity of animals needing our assistance were not only fire related. We continue to see a rise particularly in dogs needing to come into care. Many of these dogs are coming from **large-scale animal intakes** (LSAI's). This trend seems to be mainly related to breeders not being able to continue to care for or home puppies or dogs in their care. We have cared for more LSAI's in the past 8 months than we have in the last few years. While we are thrilled to be helping these furry creatures find their happy endings, it has also been pressing on our resources in all areas.

The backbone of our Centre is undoubtedly our **dedicated team of staff and volunteers**. Every day I witness the miracle of animal compassion while this group I am proud to call my team work tirelessly to provide the love, care and support to our furry residents. Their unwavering commitment to animal's welfare is the driving force behind our ability to meet the challenges presented by this record-breaking season.

Over the years, we have noticed an increase in the number of **feral cat colonies** in our region. These colonies often start out as abandoned cats who breed and result in many cats being born completely wild. They are often faced with harsh conditions and with their numbers on the rise we hope as a community we can rise together to overcome this challenge. Feral cat colonies are unique and difficult to gain control of. They typically consist of under socialized cats that usually are not keen on interacting with the humans trying to help them. We are hopeful that as a community we can begin to address and dismantle some of these colonies. It takes a village to make a difference, so we are grateful to be in this amazing, compassionate and giving community.

Let's talk about some projects we've had on the go. We made significant progress and completed several projects aimed at improving the lives of our residents. One project was the installation of a **new HVAC system** upstairs, which has been a true lifesaver during the scorching summer months. It's kept our felines cool, comfortable and purring with contentment.

We are also in the midst of updating our **medical room**, adding a brand new countertop to enhance the efficiency of our staff in providing top-notch care. This beginning stage of the upgrade ensures our animals receive the best possible medical attention.

In our ongoing quest to better serve our animals we were also in the process of adding a "sea can" (shipping container) for storing essential supplies. This addition allows us to efficiently organize and access the resources needed to care for our animals while also freeing up the dog kennels that have used to store these items to date.

Let's take a moment to welcome some new members to our team. I am thrilled to introduce you to **Mikaela**, who isn't necessarily new, but has recently returned to continue her incredible work. We were also excited to introduce you to **Sage** and **Jenny**. Their passion for animal welfare is a true asset and they have already made a positive impact on the lives of our animals and our existing team.

In conclusion, as we reflect on this extraordinary season, we are reminded of the incredible resilience and strength of the animals we serve. Their stories of survival and recovery inspire us to keep pushing forward, no matter the odds. Thank you to you, our supporters, for being the heart and soul of our organization. Together we will continue to make the difference in the lives of the animals who depend on us.

Stay tuned for the next Pawprint we hope to bring you more inspiring updates from fall and winter.

Sincerely, Meranda Dussault

Centre Manager, Shuswap SPCA Community Animal Centre.

*We respectfully acknowledge that we work on the unceded traditional territory of the Syilx (Okanagan) Peoples and Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc (Shuswap Tribal Nations) whose historical relationships to the land continues today.*



## Speaking up for the Farm Animals

Those of us who are part of Regional Council have the opportunity to “zoom” in on a number of webinars that provide news on what the BC SPCA staff at the Provincial Office are doing to further animal welfare.

In September, we heard from **Melissa Speirs**, Manager, Farm Animal Welfare. We heard an overview of how farm animal welfare has changed over the years and what the Society is working on to improve that.

One surprising detail for me was that there are more chickens (raised for meat or eggs) in the province than all the other farm animals as well as dogs, cats, and people! The Society is working to give farm animals a life worth living and to influence consumers on which animal products they choose.

For example, there has been plenty of information for people on why we should already have switched our egg purchases from the cheap eggs coming from caged hens to the eggs produced by free-run or free-range hens. If the eggs don't have a “free-run” or “free-range” label, they come from caged hens. Our members could be spreading the word on eggs to all our friends, neighbours and relatives!

Periodically, the National Farm Animal Care Council reconsiders the Codes of Practice for the many varieties of farmed animals. These Codes represent a national agreement for what is considered acceptable animal care on farms. When that happens, our Society takes an active part in improving the standards by submitting detailed, science-based comments and encouraging public participation. There is an opportunity for our members, volunteers and supporters to offer their input. The BC SPCA will alert us to how we can do that. If you are signed up for the Action Alerts, you will get the message directly. However, you will also see a mention of this in the news section of the website.

Once again, I encourage our members to join the Regional Council. Meetings are just three times a year - not a big commitment - but definitely worth the time in keeping up to date on Society action.

...Janet Pattinson



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## Pursuing Standards in Animal Welfare

Recently, interested members had the opportunity to hear from **Nicole Fenwick**, Manager of Research and Standards, on the progress of the Society's **AnimalKind** brand. This has been in place for Pest Control companies for several years. Standards were developed for the most humane methods of dealing with unwanted wildlife and rodents.

Later, standards were developed for those in the dog training business. Such standards focus on positive reinforcement of desirable behaviours. There are AnimalKind dog trainers in Revelstoke, Vernon and Kamloops.

There is also work being done to help people choose the kindest, most humane operators of other animal related businesses such as dog walking, animal daycare and grooming. These businesses are not regulated in BC.

People who are keen to find the best services for their animals can check out the AnimalKind website [www.animalkind.ca](http://www.animalkind.ca) for information on standards and AnimalKind accredited businesses offering their services.

...Janet Pattinson

***To our AMAZING volunteers!***

I want to take a moment to express my deepest gratitude to each and every one of you who came together during the wildfire crisis. Your dedication, selflessness, and unwavering commitment truly melted my heart. In the face of adversity, you transformed a challenging situation into a beacon of hope and solidarity.

When the evacuation alerts sounded, and people rushed to safety, you not only remained steadfast, but came to the aid of those who needed you. Your willingness to step up and help with the preparation of the shelter was nothing short of remarkable. It is during times like these that the true spirit of community shines brightest.

Together, you transformed the shelter, ensuring that it was a safe and welcoming haven for those in need. Extra kennels and spaces were prepped with such ease in such a short period of time, showing your foresight and care for our four-legged friends who also faced uncertainty during this crisis. You not only showed love and devotion to your own families, but those four-legged temporary family members you took in.

Your acts of kindness, no matter how big or small, made a significant difference in the lives of those affected by the wildfire. You provided not only physical shelter but also a sense of comfort, support, and reassurance that is invaluable during such challenging times.

It's easy to feel overwhelmed when disaster strikes, but your willingness to stand shoulder to shoulder and work tirelessly to make our community stronger is an inspiration to us all. Your actions exemplify the true spirit of humanity, and I am humbled and honored to have witnessed such a beautiful display of solidarity.

Thank you, from the depths of my heart, for being the shining stars in our darkest hours. Your kindness and selflessness have touched the lives of many, and your dedication has made our community stronger than ever. Together, we are resilient, and together, we will overcome any challenge that comes our way.

With heartfelt thanks and immense appreciation,  
Isabell Diederichs

***A couple of reminders:***

The **membership** renewal letters have been sent to our annual members. We ask our lifetime members to send any e-mail or surface address changes to **membership@spca.bc.ca**. Did the post office make a change in your postal code?

Please use that same membership address if you would like to join the Regional Council.

**Co-op member # 100150**

Thanks to all members who use our SPCA member number at the Co-op gas bar! We receive substantial funds through this membership.



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!