

Happy Tails

The 7 'cowboy' kittens

At the beginning of September, we were contacted about a group of kittens that had been found running around the back of an industrial site, believed to have been abandoned. Workers from the site helped trap the group, and one by one, the kittens were brought in until all seven were caught. The kittens, about 7 weeks old, were all suffering from upper respiratory infections. They were very congested and some had eyes that were so swollen and infected they were sealed shut. With the help of antibiotics and eye ointment these babies made a quick turn around and started feeling so much better. The kittens received cowboy/western themed names: Bolo, Cacti, Bandana, Spur, Lasso, Buckaroo & Tumbleweed. Just a couple of weeks after intake, the kittens were healthy and ready for adoption. Two sets were even adopted in pairs!



BEFORE



AFTER



BEFORE



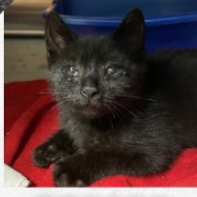
AFTER



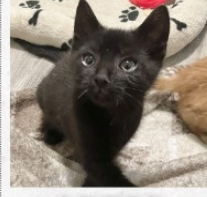
BEFORE



AFTER



BEFORE



AFTER

Foster care serves as an important bridge between rescue and adoption, offering the most vulnerable animals a chance to heal, grow, and eventually find loving forever homes. Our centre is always looking for new foster homes. Interested in learning more? Visit: <https://spca.bc.ca/volunteer>
Katie Dodd

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.

BC SPCA - Shuswap Branch

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Open to the Public:

Tues - Sunday, Noon - 4 pm

BC SPCA Hotline
1-855-622-7722

www.spca.bc.ca/branches/shuswap

Elsa

We received Elsa into our care in June. She was a sweet young pup, around 8 months old — we guessed she might be a Border Collie-Pyrenees mix. Elsa was the 5th dog we had received from the same area with a leg injury. We had reports that people in the area were intentionally trying to hit dogs with their vehicle. Elsa appeared to be in pain in her hind end, showing signs of lameness and muscle wasting. Radiographs revealed that she had sustained an injury, possibly months prior, which resulted in a dislocated hip. Elsa was placed in one of our wonderful foster homes in preparation for her surgery and recovery. In early July, she underwent a successful femoral head ostectomy and was sent home with pain management medications and a physiotherapy plan to help her slowly regain strength and muscle mass. She spent two months in foster care, where she was adored — we were told that she bonds closely with her people and loves to play.



Before



Healing



After

In late August, Elsa was finally adopted into her forever home. She will enjoy her days there with her new three-legged Border Collie sibling and lots of love and attention. We are so glad Elsa can now live pain-free and enjoy playing like a regular puppy.

...Katie Dodd

Donation Box Heroes:

We are also grateful to the many businesses that host our donation boxes. These contributions help us continue our work, and we'd like to extend a heartfelt thank you to:

Shuswap Vet Clinic (Salmon Arm & Sorrento)

Co-op Gas Bar at Shuswap Street

Lighthouse Market

Dollar Up

Tappen Co-op

Pedro's

Critters

Benjamin Moore Paints

Easy Self Storage

SASCU Sorrento

Munro's Prescriptions

Lucky's

Healthy Spot Pet Nutrition

Super Save Gas

Body Waves

Mellor's Store

A special thank you to **John Pattinson**, our dedicated volunteer, who diligently collects donations from these boxes every couple of months and ensures the funds reach the shelter.

We couldn't do what we do without the support of our amazing community. From all of us at Shuswap BC SPCA, thank you for your continued generosity! Your kindness and care help us speak for animals and make a difference in their lives every day.

Member Opportunities

For all those members who are keen to stay informed about the latest news regarding animals of all kinds, there are several newsletters available to sign up for. On the website under *News and Events*, you will find a section on newsletters, which leads to a list including: *Anim@Is*, *WildSense*, *FarmSense*, *e-Kids*, *e-Teacher*, and *the Science and Policy Newsletter*. The last one is great for learning about research. You can sign up for these newsletters, which usually come out a couple of times a year.

Regional Council members have several opportunities to engage with the latest news through three meetings per year—generally held virtually.

We had an excellent webinar in August that provided more details on the reasoning behind the recommendations on farm animal welfare. These were reported in January, but we are still waiting for the government to take action.

In February 2025, there will be a webinar on the Animal Transfer Program. These sessions are offered only to members of the Regional Council, but all members are welcome to sit in on the Regional Council meetings. You just have to contact Hannah at membership@spca.bc.ca to receive an invitation to a meeting or to sign up as a member of the Regional Council. Our region could use a few more people on the council! This year, the Society has been very active in gaining public attention, as well as that of provincial election candidates, regarding the six Animal Welfare Priorities we would like the government to act on. These priorities include action on farm animal welfare, pet-friendly housing, and ensuring that all food banks include pet food. Many food banks are already supplied with pet food by the BC SPCA. The Society also wants all organizations involved in animal care (such as rehabilitation facilities and animal refuges, like the donkey and mule refuge in our area) to be included in planning for emergencies. Microchips for all pets would help reunite them with their families if they are lost, which could be especially important during emergencies when animals and their families may become separated. Additionally, using a One Health/One Welfare approach to evaluate policy decisions would focus on the interconnection of human, animal, and environmental health and well-being.

We can all take action by spreading the word about these priorities.

Janet Pattinson

HIGH PAWS: A Big Thank You to Our Community!

We are incredibly grateful to the wonderful people, businesses, and community members who go above and beyond to support the Shuswap BC SPCA. Your contributions make a world of difference, and we want to take a moment to recognize and celebrate some of you with an extra special **HIGH PAWS** in this newsletter!

Voice of the Shuswap Community Radio for regularly featuring our Shuswap BC SPCA

Report on animal welfare during The Community Hour on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

Salmon Arm Observer for consistently advertising our adoptable animals every week, helping them find loving homes.

Our **incredible bottle sorting volunteers**, whose dedication keeps our bottle drive program running smoothly. We truly appreciate all that you do!

Super Self Storage for generously providing us with a storage locker for many years.

Canadian Tire for allowing dogs inside the store, especially during extreme weather, ensuring their safety and comfort.

The Mall at Piccadilly for their continued support, offering us use of their display board and assistance throughout the year.

Managers of rental accommodations who welcome tenants with pets, helping keep families together.

Businesses throughout our community who thoughtfully place water dishes outside for dogs—your kindness is noticed and appreciated by all!

*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!*

Hello again to all of our amazing supporters!

What an exciting, busy, and rewarding spring and summer we've had—it all passed by in a blur! It's hard to believe we're already transitioning into fall and soon winter. Traditionally, the colder months mean fewer rescues and a slowdown in animals coming into care. However, over the past few years, we've noticed this trend shifting. Rescue work no longer slows down during winter, especially with our incredibly active Animal Protection Department. We're seeing a steady influx of animals year-round now.

Here at the Shuswap Centre, we're always preparing to care for many animals at once and are constantly seeking ways to improve and streamline the intake-to-adoption process. Since our last Pawprint newsletter, we've seen an increase in the average length of stay for our animals. While it's hard to say whether this is a temporary trend or a new normal, we remain committed to reducing the time from intake to adoption because, despite our best efforts, no animal truly enjoys living in a shelter.

One of the main challenges is accessing timely veterinary care, which is crucial for animals ready to move into forever homes. While we work closely with our local vet clinics, we've also expanded our network to Armstrong, Vernon, and even Kamloops to ensure we can provide quick care when needed.

I'm thrilled to share that since our last update, we've adopted out an amazing **167** animals! Many of these adoptions came from some of the large-scale intakes we've dealt with over the last few months. One case that stands out is the Houston Cat file, which you may remember. Initially, we thought this would be a relatively straightforward case, but it became more complicated as medical issues surfaced once the cats were in our care. Despite the challenges, I'm happy to report that all of the cats from this file in our Centre have found loving homes!

We are also delighted to welcome **Sheri**, our newest team member! Sheri has been a dedicated volunteer with us for almost a year, and her passion for animal welfare quickly grew. She decided to officially join the team, and we couldn't be more excited to have her. Sheri has already proven to be an incredible addition, and we look forward to seeing her grow in her new role.

Another exciting update is the formation of our new **Volunteer Emergency Response Team**. This group currently consists of five volunteers and a team leader. They will be activated in the event of emergencies such as wildfires, floods, or other natural disasters. Working alongside Emergency Support Services and myself, the team will help manage the coordination of needed services, freeing up our staff to focus on shelter operations. It's a great relief to have this dedicated team in place!

In addition to this, we're working on delegating other responsibilities to volunteers to free up staff time for more direct animal care. Areas such as Humane Education, veterinary transportation, and volunteer management are in high demand, and we hope to have exciting updates about these initiatives in our next newsletter.

I'm also happy to share some much-needed facility updates! After years of battling a leaky roof, we've finally had it fully repaired and are ready for a dry, leak-free winter. Another big win: all of our dog kennels have been upgraded with new latch safety features. Thanks to the clever work of our multi-talented team member **Rhonda**, we now have secure latches on all 22 of our kennels, both indoors and outdoors, ensuring no more close calls with escape artists!

Fundraising has been steady, and it's about to pick up as we head into the Halloween and Christmas season, which brings our popular themed photoshoots. Our biggest fundraiser this year, **Lock-In For Love**, was a huge success! We raised an incredible **\$20,535.65**, which is truly phenomenal for our small community. We had generous support from a variety of donors, including a classroom at Shuswap Middle School and a local anonymous matching donor. It's been an incredibly busy but fulfilling few months, and we're excited to see what the fall and winter will bring. As always, we'll be in touch soon with more updates.

Thank you so much for your continued support!

Meranda Dussault, Centre Manager