

## Happy Tails

On December 14, we received a young cat whom we named Danny.

Danny was brought to us as a stray, and it was clear that he required an emergency vet appointment. He was found to have a fractured front leg and a dislocated hip, with a rear leg so severely damaged that it required amputation.

Just two days later, on December 16, another stray kitten arrived, whom we named Roo.

Roo had sustained injuries extremely similar to Danny's—the vets discovered that he had a dislocated and fractured front leg. Roo was in critical condition, his leg had already become infected, and sepsis had begun to set in. The leg required immediate amputation.

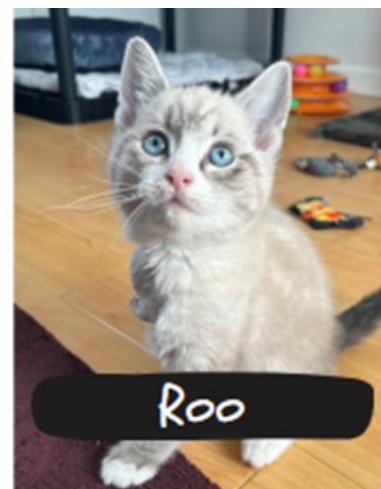
It is thought that collisions with vehicles caused both of these injuries.

Both Danny & Roo underwent life-saving surgery and were placed in foster homes to rest and heal. They were given pain medication to keep them comfortable, and antibiotics to prevent infection. Thankfully, both cats have since been adopted into loving forever homes.

...Katie Dodd

In December, you may have heard about the BC SPCA's rescue of 59 dogs and puppies, along with 14 birds, from an irresponsible breeder in Quesnel. Our center received multiple animals from this property. They were held in protective custody for a month before we were officially able to find them homes. We are incredibly grateful to the foster families who helped socialize and enrich the lives of these pups during that time.

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## BC SPCA - Shuswap Branch

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[www.sPCA.bc.ca/branches/shuswap](http://www.sPCA.bc.ca/branches/shuswap)

**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.

The medical needs of these dogs included treatment for worms and giardia, umbilical hernia repair, cherry eye surgery, and an extensive dental procedure. One dog also required specialist appointments with a neurologist and an ophthalmologist.

We have now rehomed four Cane Corsos, four Chihuahuas, and four parrots from this property. Despite their rough start, we are so glad these animals received the care and attention they needed to be happy and loved for the rest of their lives.

...Katie Dodd



## The Joys of Fostering

The new Strategic Plan includes seeking more volunteers to help more vulnerable animals. Many that come into care need extra attention, and that's where foster families come in.

Some animals are waiting for appointments for surgery or dental work. Others need post-surgery recovery time, with medication given twelve hours apart. Some are just too young to be ready for adoption.

Over the years, we have brought home a variety of such animals, particularly dogs. Some came for just a night before their people came to the Centre to find them. Some were quickly scheduled for surgery and soon ready for their new homes. Others needed a longer stay to allow time for recovery. Most were young and had no trouble finding the right fit with a family of their own. Our animal guests may have been a bit scared about what was happening to them, but they responded to love, treats, and a comfy spot to relax in. We enjoyed learning about them and having their company.

I heartily encourage any of our members to take the step and enjoy time with animal guests. All necessary veterinary/medical care and supplies, bedding, crate, food, dishes, toys, leash, or collar are provided. You may have a few car trips if your foster needs to go to the vet or for a follow-up vaccine. Helping animals in need of a kind heart is incredibly rewarding.

... Janet Pattinson



## Shuswap Branch Shelter Update

We have lots of exciting updates to share this quarter, big and small!

Early in the year, we recognized a challenge: many people in our community don't fully understand what the SPCA does. In comparison, other local rescues were receiving far more support and visibility. So, we made it a goal to increase our social media presence and start showcasing the work we do, highlighting things like medical cases, shy or long-stay animals, and behind-the-scenes shelter life. Importantly, we kept the focus on storytelling rather than asking for donations. Thanks to **Katie's** hard work, the response has been incredibly positive. Our online following has already grown significantly, and we've seen more people coming through our doors, more used supply donations, and a boost in adoptions. In fact, we adopted out **88 more animals** in 2024 compared to the same time last year, a huge leap and a milestone worth celebrating! We intend to keep this momentum going throughout the year.

We also chose to re-enter the Christmas parade, a tradition that ended around the time of the pandemic. We had no expectations other than to increase community awareness and support, but what do you know, we actually **won first prize** for our creative float! Huge thanks to staff members **Mikaela** and **Sheri** and our dedicated volunteers **Kim, David, Ryan, and Dawn** for designing and organizing such a fun event.

As many of you know, the Shuswap Centre is quite old. Many of the original designs are outdated and not as user-friendly or safe as they should be. For example, our dog kennels are made entirely of chain link from bottom to top, which increases the risk of fence fighting and disease transmission between neighboring dogs.

Luckily for us, we have some amazing and dedicated team members who can make anything you wish happen. If you haven't figured it out yet, I'm referring to longtime staff member **Rhonda**. She was able to secure a donation of plastic sheets from our neighbours at **Northern Plastics Ltd**. The installation of these has been a game changer for us, animal welfare, safety, and biosecurity have all received a real upgrade.

The outdoor dog yards also received a much-needed update. Previously, the layout didn't make full use of the space. Even if all 22 of our kennels were full, we could only have two dogs out at a time for bathroom breaks. With help from **Good with Wood**, a generous donor, and salvaged materials from the old Vernon Centre, the yards were restructured to maximize usability. We now have seven separate areas available, another big improvement for both the dogs and our staff.

We were deeply saddened by the recent loss of one of our long-time volunteers. Out of respect for her family, we're not sharing her name just yet, but she was a dedicated in-shelter volunteer and foster who spent countless hours here. She often told us the Centre was her happy place. Before she passed, she made a **\$25,000 donation**, ensuring her love for animals continues to make an impact. Her absence is felt by all of us, and we will miss her dearly.

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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!*

With warmer weather comes increased shelter activity. Kitten and puppy season is approaching quickly, and we're preparing for the expected influx. If you or someone you know might be interested in fostering, now is a great time to get in touch. The SPCA covers all costs for foster care.

We're also entering emergency response season, with the possibility of wildfires or floods. While we're hopeful for a quiet year, our emergency response team will be activated in the coming weeks to ensure we're ready for whatever may come.

Finally, we're gearing up for **Lock-In for Love**, our biggest annual fundraiser. Last year, we raised **\$20,535.65**, and we're aiming to match, or better yet, beat that total this year. Every dollar raised goes directly toward helping animals in need at our Centre.

As always, thank you for standing behind our work. We'll be back with more updates soon.

Cheers,

**Meranda Dussault**

Shuswap SPCA Centre Manager

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## Membership Matters

For all questions about membership we have a new contact person, **Rebecca Jacobs**. Please remember to send her any changes in your contact information such as e-mail or surface address. Also, if you would like to participate in Regional Council please contact her. The address is the same: [membership@spca.bc.ca](mailto:membership@spca.bc.ca)

The dates for upcoming virtual meetings are: June 4, 2025, November 19, 2025 and March 14, 2026. All members are eligible and we would like to see you there.

...Janet Pattinson

## Songbirds and Cats

*Concerns about roaming cats and their impact on songbird populations are being raised more frequently in our community. While this isn't a new issue, many municipalities, including ours don't currently have cat-specific regulations in their animal control bylaws.*

*The BC SPCA encourages cat guardians to keep their pets indoors or provide safe, supervised outdoor access, such as leash walks or enclosed "catios." Roaming cats face risks from traffic, predators, and disease, and they can also have a significant impact on local wildlife.*

*Implementing responsible care practices helps protect both cats and wildlife, while also reducing shelter intake and increasing the chances of lost cats being reunited with their families.*

*So, if a friend complains about roaming cats, let them know that the SPCA believes responsible guardianship is the key, and that both cats and birds can be protected through thoughtful action.*

*...Janet Pattinson & Meranda Dussault*