



BCSPCA

# 2024 | ANNUAL REPORT

**Dear Friends:** We are pleased to present the 2024 Annual Report of The British Columbia Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (BC SPCA). Thanks to your ongoing support, the BC SPCA was able to assist more than 167,000 animals during the past year. During this period, we also developed a new Strategic Plan for 2025 to 2030 – a plan that is rooted in ensuring animals and people can thrive together. With you as our allies, we will continue to help the most vulnerable animals, keep families together and address the root causes of animal suffering.

CRAIG DANIELL  
Chief Executive Officer  
BC SPCA

MARK MONTEMURRO  
Chair  
BC SPCA Board of Directors

# REACHING THE *Most Vulnerable*

2023  
**135,764**  
2024  
**167,890**

**T**hroughout 2024, the BC SPCA provided life-saving protection, sheltering, urgently needed medical care and outreach support. Because of your kindness, the lives of 167,890 animals were touched. With your help, we provided direct care for 15,970 animals, found homes for 11,174 animals, reunited 1,192 lost pets with their guardians, provided veterinary services for 20,810 animals, and cared for 2,043 injured and orphaned wild animals. In addition to our brick-and-mortar facilities, the BC SPCA transitioned last year to an exciting new community-based service model in Vernon, Nelson and Cowichan to help animals and guardians in need.

## ➤ SUPPORTING THE ADOPTION JOURNEY

In 2024, our care teams across the province continued to see a rise in the intake of fearful and under-socialized animals and those needing significant behavioural support before finding their forever homes. “Animals with behavioural issues typically require more resources, stay longer in care and can present barriers for staff and volunteers in handling and caring for them,” says Tracy Westmoreland, senior director for sheltering. To ensure that these animals

received dedicated help for their adoption journey, the BC SPCA team responded with increased safety training to help with the handling of the animals and the recruitment and training of more experienced foster volunteers to provide behavioural support.

The BC SPCA also began construction on a centre in Duncan that will offer specialized behavioural care for dogs and cats. In 2024, these efforts led to a reduction of days in care for animals before going to their forever homes.

## ➤ THE VULNERABILITY SPECTRUM

In 2024, BC SPCA care and protection experts created an innovative system to ensure that community animals at greatest risk and danger are prioritized for intake at our centres. “As with any animal welfare organization, the BC SPCA does not have unlimited capacity to take in animals,” says Adrienne McBride, senior director for animal flow. “Our new Vulnerability Spectrum guides our staff in making consistent and informed decisions

about which animals are in greatest need of our space, and which can be helped through other BC SPCA services.”

McBride notes that this triage-style system will allow the BC SPCA to respond quickly to the most vulnerable animals, streamline wait time, and



“As with any animal welfare organization, the BC SPCA does not have unlimited capacity to take in animals.”

provide the public with clear information on how each animal can be helped most efficiently, according to their needs. “The system will also operate regionally so that animals at greatest risk can be transported to another BC SPCA facility in the area for intake if there is no space in their own community.”

► **PROTECT**

**Each year**, BC SPCA protection officers save thousands of animals in dangerous and neglectful situations – from hoarding and irresponsible breeders to cases of violent abuse. With your support, BC SPCA officers conducted 7,651 investigations and assisted 76,384 animals last year. “One of the alarming trends we are seeing is the number of animals exposed to harmful drugs and other noxious substances,” says Shawn Eccles, senior director of animal protection services. “These complaints have doubled in the past five years.”

Eccles notes that protection officers are also seeing more complaints due to lack of access to veterinary care. “In 2024, we were able to help more than 200 animals through our diversion program, which offers assistance to guardians in need so that pets and families can stay



After: Doting mom Spirit with her newborn foal Journey



Before: Spirit's chest



Before: Spirit's face

***A Resilient Spirit***

**When Spirit** was found on the side of a remote logging road in Fort St. John, the mare was suffering from multiple lesions on her body and was covered in hives and welts. She was also noticeably pregnant. Notified by the conservation officer who found her, BC SPCA protection officers responded quickly. She was examined by a veterinarian and was prescribed topical medication and oral antibiotics.

“She was placed in an amazing foster home, where she received love, attention, good nutrition, and the calm and rest she needed to recover,” says Christy King, interim program manager for farm and equine animal care services. Spirit’s skin cleared up and the horse, who seemed to have given up on life, was once again alert, happy and healthy.

On July 28, she gave birth to a beautiful foal named Journey, and she has since been adopted by the caring foster mom who helped give her a second chance.

**7,651**  
ANIMAL CRUELTY INVESTIGATIONS

**76,384**  
ANIMALS ASSISTED BY BC SPCA PROTECTION OFFICERS

**1,637**  
ANIMALS REMOVED FROM DANGEROUS OR NEGLECTFUL SITUATIONS

**79,552**  
CALLS TO THE BC SPCA PROVINCIAL HELPLINE

**15,970**  
HOMELESS ANIMALS PROVIDED WITH EMERGENCY CARE AND SHELTER

**20,810**  
ANIMALS TREATED THROUGH BC SPCA VETERINARY SERVICES

**11,174**  
ANIMALS ADOPTED INTO NEW LOVING HOMES

**1,912**  
LOST ANIMALS REUNITED WITH GUARDIANS

**2,043**  
INJURED AND ORPHANED WILDLIFE REHABILITATED

**5,109**  
ANIMALS TRANSPORTED THROUGH THE BC SPCA DRIVE FOR LIVES PROGRAM

**13,620**  
SPAY/NEUTER SURGERIES FOR HOMELESS AND COMMUNITY ANIMALS

**234,768**  
REGISTRANTS IN THE BC PET REGISTRY TO REUNITE LOST ANIMALS WITH GUARDIANS

**41**  
DOG TRAINERS AND PEST CONTROL COMPANIES ACCREDITED THROUGH THE BC SPCA ANIMALKIND PROGRAM

# KEEPING PETS AND FAMILIES *Together*

**M**any B.C. families faced increased economic pressure in 2024, with the rise in food insecurity impacting both people and animals. To reduce the number of people forced to give up their pets due to lack of resources, the BC SPCA's outreach team expanded its Pet Food Bank program across the province last year, increasing its strategic partnerships with social

service organizations. With the help of 180 partners and 34 BC SPCA food bank locations, the Pet Food Bank program was able to distribute 97,466 kilograms of dry pet food and litter, as well as 73,826 cans of wet food. With your support, we delivered 654,727 meals and assisted 40,698 animals with a week's worth of food, enabling pets and families to stay together.

## *Keeping Keekee Safe*

In the heart of the holiday season, the BC SPCA's Safekeepers program became a lifeline for a woman in the Lower Mainland fleeing interpersonal violence. She was desperate to find

a reprieve for herself and her beloved cat, Keekee.

Thanks to the compassion and dedication of a Safekeepers volunteer, Keekee found a warm, loving home for 31 days during that crucial time. Our volunteer ensured the kitty had everything she needed – a safe place to stay, plenty of food, and all the love and attention a cat could ask for. As the calendar turned to January 2025, the woman was able to reclaim Keekee and start the year with a renewed sense of hope. She had found a new place to call home, and now, with her furry best friend by her side, she could move forward with strength.



Keekee



Puppy time

## ■ A SAFE HAVEN FROM VIOLENCE

The BC SPCA's outreach

team continued to provide support for individuals fleeing domestic violence in 2024. "Our Safekeepers program offers long-term foster care for pets so that their guardians can seek help and safety for themselves, knowing that their animals are being well cared for until they are able to be reunited," says Lidia Kemeny, BC SPCA's senior manager, outreach programs. "By providing a safe, temporary home for their pets, we are able to keep people and animals together and remove a barrier that sometimes prevents individuals from leaving a dangerous situation."

Thanks to your support, Safekeepers assisted 35 families by fostering 46 animals for a total of 1,299 nights last year.

**So Happy Together**

**Prudence** was just three months old when she came into Jo's life. Living on a limited income, Jo depends on the BC SPCA's Pet Food Bank program to help provide her precious cat with the care she needs. The money that Jo saves on pet food is put toward more wet food and toys for Prudence, who requires a whole lot of stimulation to stay happy. Another benefit of participating in the program, she says, is the opportunity to connect with neighbours, and chat about their pets. For Jo, these gatherings are a highlight, bringing a sense of community and warmth in a difficult world.



Prudence

“ Kind and empathetic kids are learning how to create a bright and safe future for animals.



► **SOCIAL HOUSING SUPPORT**

**Homelessness** and a lack of affordable housing in B.C. continued to impact both people and animals in 2024. In response, the BC SPCA's outreach team partnered on a project with BC Housing to support guardians living in 10 selected shelters and social housing spaces to ensure residents and their animals could stay together in a safe and supportive environment.

The BC SPCA identified key concerns for guardians in the buildings and followed up with resources tailored to meet their needs. A key action step was the creation of pet-friendly policies for the facilities that set out guidelines for basic care, managing fearful, reactive and under-socialized animals, veterinary support, dealing with too many pets, and roaming cats.

Levi Hole, a resident coordinator in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside, says the BC SPCA program not only improved the lives of the animals in BC Housing facilities, but also

empowered residents to build healthier relationships, laying the foundation for a brighter future – for residents and animals alike.

► **EDUCATION**

**Kind and empathetic** kids are learning how to create a bright and safe future for animals. In 2024, the BC SPCA Humane Education team connected with 8,488 students in B.C. schools; welcomed 1,110 kids and teens to workshops and camps onsite at our Community Animal Centres; supported 5,500 BC SPCA Kids Club members; provided resources for more than 3,000 educators; and engaged 15,000 students to date with its *Dogs* online learning program in partnership with Live It Earth. ■

**654,727**  
MEALS PROVIDED TO ANIMALS THROUGH THE BC SPCA PET FOOD BANK PROGRAM

**6,300**  
NIGHTS OF FREE EMERGENCY PET BOARDING FOR VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE AND NATURAL DISASTERS

# ADDRESSING ROOT CAUSES OF *Suffering*

**W**hile the BC SPCA will always be a safety net for our province's most vulnerable animals, advocating for change to prevent future suffering is a key focus of the Society's strategic efforts. Some of these changes happen quickly, others require ongoing advocacy, but it is vital that we continue to speak out for animals at risk.

In 2024, the BC SPCA continued to campaign on a number of key issues, including:

- ▶ **Pet Friendly Housing** Mobilized 6,300 B.C. supporters to petition for a proposed Canadian Renters' Bill of Rights that would void any "no pet" clauses in tenancy agreements. The petition garnered 19,500 signatures nationally.
- ▶ **Live Horse Export** Gathered more than 4,000 letters in support of Bill C-355 to prohibit the export by air of horses for slaughter. When the Bill stalled after the first reading in Senate, the Society again mobilized more than 9,300 of our supporters to contact the Senate.
- ▶ **Prioritizing Animals in Election Platforms** Ahead of the 2024 provincial election,

the BC SPCA reached out to British Columbia's four main political parties, urging them to integrate key animal welfare policies into their platforms. As a result, the NDP accepted the BC SPCA's recommendation regarding pet-friendly housing as part of its platform.

BC SPCA advocacy and expertise were also offered on topics ranging from a ban on glue traps (an inhumane method of pest control), a recovery strategy for spotted owl habitat, a humane management plan for Canada geese, farmed animal welfare in B.C., transparent and standardized egg labelling, deer management, and the replacement of live animals used in regulatory testing.

## ▶ A VOICE FOR FARMED ANIMALS

**Bettering** the lives of farmed animals is a key priority for the BC SPCA. In 2024, the National Farm Animal Care Council, which creates the Codes of Practice that guide the care and welfare of farmed animals, sought feedback on four Codes that were under review – Poultry,

216,127

VISITS TO OUR TAKE ACTION ADVOCACY WEBPAGE AND 205,000 SUBSCRIBERS TO OUR TAKE ACTION ALERTS.

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MAJOR ADVOCACY CAMPAIGNS LAUNCHED AND 25 POLICY SUBMISSIONS CREATED TO IMPROVE THE LIVES OF ANIMALS

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336,157

SOCIAL MEDIA FOLLOWERS HELPING US SPREAD THE WORD

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8.7 Million

WEBSITE VISITS FOR NEWS AND EDUCATION ON ANIMAL ISSUES

Sheep, Equine and Beef.

"The BC SPCA submitted our top three concerns for these farmed animals and encouraged our supporters to do the same," says Melissa Speirs, BC SPCA manager of farm animal welfare. "As a result of these actions, many of the animal welfare issues identified by BC SPCA experts have been selected as an area of focus by the Code Development Committees."

She notes that these improvements, if adopted, will impact more than 114 million turkeys and chickens, more than one million sheep, nearly one million beef cattle and 184,000 horses annually. ■



# BUILDING *Our Future*

To ensure we are here to protect animals, now and in the future, the BC SPCA prioritizes financial strength; technical innovation; transparent and efficient governance; and staff and volunteer programs that promote growth and resilience. In 2024, the BC SPCA took action to improve and streamline our budgeting processes; strengthen financial accountability; grow our IT infrastructure to address cybersecurity issues; expand leadership training opportunities for staff; and strengthen programs relating to mental health and equity, diversity, inclusion and reconciliation. The BC SPCA also finalized our new 2025-2030 Strategic Plan, including a refresh of the organization's vision, mission and high-level structure.

Since 2013, the Society has been among the elite group of Canadian organizations accredited by Imagine Canada, the national umbrella for charities and non-profits. Imagine Canada accreditation highlights competence in five fundamental areas: financial accountability and transparency; board governance;

fundraising; staff management; and volunteer involvement.

## FOSTERING HOPE

The BC SPCA's 3,743 volunteers are an invaluable part of our team, providing 222,332 hours of services to animals across the province in 2024.

"Volunteers take on so many urgently needed roles within our organization and enable us to do work that otherwise wouldn't be possible," says Lindsay Baker, senior manager, volunteer resources. "There is also a trend in the animal welfare sector towards a more community-based approach to service delivery which relies primarily on volunteers."

Baker explains that one of the key needs identified by the BC SPCA in 2024 was for more foster volunteers to help animals who need a safe and nurturing home environment on their adoption journey. And so, the volunteer resources team took steps to bolster this area by conducting a review of all foster program materials, collecting feedback from interested parties, analyzing best practices from across the globe, and making recommendations to help the BC SPCA improve the foster experience and expand the program for the future.

"We also connected with volunteer-run foster programs in Canada, the U.S. and Australia to identify best practices, and were able to successfully pilot these community-based models in Vernon, Nelson and Cowichan last year," says Baker. ■



## Leadership TEAM

### BC SPCA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- **Mark Montemurro**  
*Chair*
- **Rochelle Stevenson**  
*Vice Chair*
- **Catherine Ruby**  
*Treasurer*
- **Harj Dhaliwal**
- **Lisa Coltart**
- **Cheryl Pelletier**
- **Victoria Brydon**
- **Rebecca Levi**
- **Erin Egeland**
- **Sydney Redpath**
- **Nichola Wade**

### EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP TEAM

- **Craig Daniell**  
*Chief Executive Officer*
- **Shoni Field**  
*Chief Development Officer*
- **Marcie Moriarty**  
*Chief, Protection & Outreach Services*
- **Craig Naherniak**  
*Chief, Social Change*
- **Parm Takhar**  
*Chief, Animal Care Services*
- **Emily Thorner**  
*Chief Financial Officer/  
Chief Technology Officer*
- **Jolie Wist**  
*Chief People Officer*

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BC SPCA FACILITIES DEDICATED TO THE  
CARE AND PROTECTION OF ANIMALS

599

SKILLED AND CARING STAFF

3,743

DEDICATED VOLUNTEERS WHO HELP US  
EXPAND OUR SERVICES TO ANIMALS

222,332

VOLUNTEER HOURS PROVIDED



# YOUR GENEROSITY IN ACTION

FOR EVERY DOLLAR YOU GAVE IN 2024, HERE IS HOW YOU HELPED ANIMALS



36¢

## EMERGENCY SHELTER & COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Provided a temporary home for 15,970 abandoned, injured and abused animals, helped injured and orphaned wildlife and assisted 45,196 animals in the community.



18¢

## CHECK-UPS & MEDICAL TREATMENT

Ensured animals in our care receive a health check, vaccines, permanent ID, were spayed or neutered and, if sick or injured, got further treatment.



9¢\*

## ANIMAL PROTECTION INVESTIGATIONS

Conducted 7,651 new animal protection investigations. The BC SPCA is the only animal welfare organization in B.C. with the authority to enforce laws related to animal cruelty.

\*This represents direct investigation costs only.



20¢

\*Direct and indirect expenses total \$10.25 million.

Indirect expenses include sheltering and treatment for seized animals and the Animal Helpline which receives cruelty complaints.



7¢

## PREVENTING FUTURE SUFFERING

Helped stop the cycle of violence and made our communities safer for animals through humane education and advocacy.



13¢

## SUPPORTING ANIMALS

Ensuring that our buildings are maintained, bills are paid and systems run is also part of caring for animals.



17¢

## MAKING FRIENDS FOR ANIMALS

Made it possible to help 167,890 animals in 2024 thanks to caring donors. Fundraising truly is friendraising! Thank you!

REVENUES (IN \$000s)	Oct. 1, 2023 to Sept. 30, 2024	Oct. 1, 2022 to Sept. 30, 2023
Donations & Fundraising	\$23,536	\$24,889
Legacy & Life Insurance <sup>1</sup>	\$18,569	\$16,374
Kenneling & Municipal Bylaw Enforcement	\$3,316	\$3,451
Sheltering, Medical, Clinical & Social Enterprise Services	\$6,944	\$6,703
Lotteries & Raffles	\$4,519	\$4,108
Government Grants	\$493	\$12,516
Other Grants	\$410	\$956
Interest and Dividend Income	\$4,767	\$3,682
Capital Gains / Losses	\$80	\$0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$62,634</b>	<b>\$72,679</b>

EXPENDITURES (IN \$000s)	Oct. 1, 2023 to Sept. 30, 2024	Oct. 1, 2022 to Sept. 30, 2023
Sheltering, Kenneling, Municipal Bylaw Enforcement & Social Enterprise	\$21,138	\$20,288
Veterinary Care & Spay/Neuter	\$5,253	\$5,299
Animal Protection <sup>2</sup>	\$5,741	\$5,877
Humane Education	\$1,551	\$1,181
Advocacy	\$2,704	\$1,909
Hospitals & Clinics	\$4,828	\$4,601
Administration & Program Support	\$7,461	\$6,922
Revenue Development	\$9,578	\$8,720
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$58,254</b>	<b>\$54,797</b>

Cents per dollar (previous page) includes only the above expenditures and does not include amortization.

TOTALS (IN \$000s)	Oct. 1, 2023 to Sept. 30, 2024	Oct. 1, 2022 to Sept. 30, 2023
Operating Surplus Before the Undernoted	\$4,380	\$17,882
Amortization of Capital Assets	\$(2,528)	\$(2,649)
Change in Fair Value of Investments	\$4,957	\$891
<b>Net Operating Surplus</b>	<b>\$6,809</b>	<b>\$16,124</b>

Surpluses are often a result of being able to recognize restricted gifts received in prior years where the terms of the gift have now been met.



When we show a surplus, it allows us to fund facilities replacement and capital reserve, our operating reserve, and multi-year strategic priorities.



<sup>1</sup> A significant portion of legacy gifts are restricted to a particular use. Restricted gifts are not recognized as revenue in our financial statements until the terms of the restriction are met.

<sup>2</sup> Direct expenses related to the BC SPCA's Animal Protection work are presented here. Please see prev. page for combined direct and indirect costs.

