



# ADVOCACY REPORT 2025

**BCSPCA**

*Animals and People Thriving Together*

# In 2025, YOU TOOK 45,000 ACTIONS

Advocating for companion, farmed, and wild animals across all levels of government. Supporting the BC SPCA's work to ensure animals and people can thrive together.

Grounded in scientific evidence and guided by strategic initiatives, the BC SPCA advances animal welfare across British Columbia and Canada through public policy recommendations, community engagement, and education.

This report showcases the organization's progress in addressing the root causes of animal suffering. The BC SPCA amplifies the needs of animals so decision-makers consider them.

This work is made possible by a dedicated community of over 228,000 advocates. To join this work, sign up for our [Action Alerts](#).



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# Government Relations



The BC SPCA continues to play a vital role in driving systems change by advocating for stronger legislative and policy frameworks that protect animals and prevent suffering.

In 2025, BC SPCA advocated for:

## FEDERAL

- Replacing the use of animals in science
- Including animals in emergency responses
- Ending live horse export
- A national ban on fur farming
- *Criminal Code* reforms

## PROVINCIAL

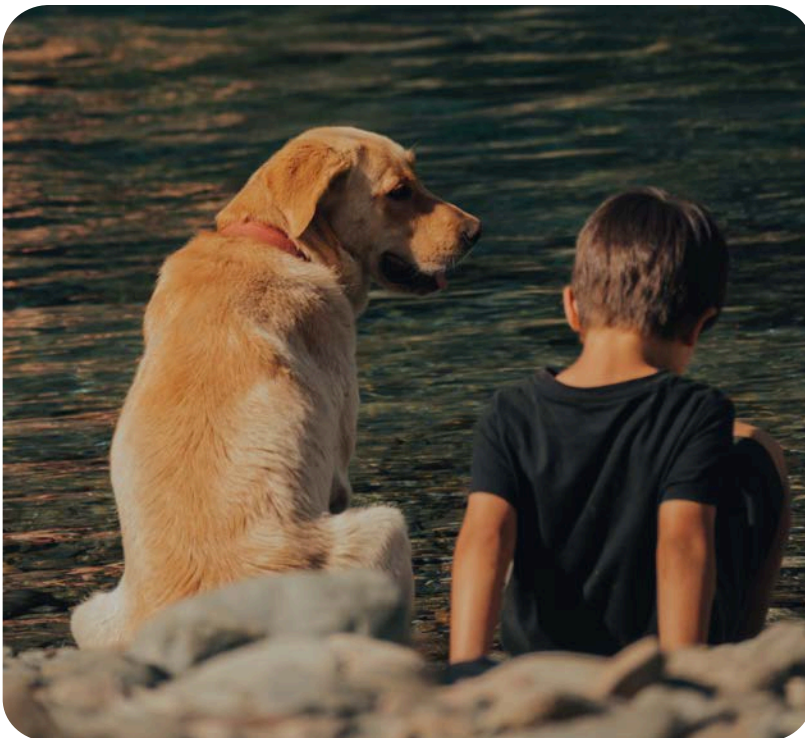
- Implementation of the Farmed Animal Welfare Advisory Committee recommendations
- Increased availability and affordability of pet-friendly housing
- Adding all exotic cats to the Controlled Alien Species Regulation
- Increasing access to veterinary care

## LOCAL

- A ban on aversive dog collars
- Regulation of mobile live animal programs
- Prohibition on breeding and keeping of wolfdog hybrids
- A strategy to address feral rabbits
- Repealing breed-specific legislation

# Federal

While the BC SPCA primarily works locally and provincially, many animal welfare issues depend on federal leadership. During the federal election, over 9,500 Canadians joined the BC SPCA to urge their candidates to update the *Criminal Code* to better protect people and animals, end the live export of horses for slaughter, and prohibit fur farms across Canada. Following the election, the BC SPCA continued to engage with Members of Parliament, advance federal petitions, and advocate to keep animal welfare on Canada's political agenda. Several of the BC SPCA's election recommendations have been included in Bill C-16 (*Protecting Victims Act*), introduced in the House of Commons on December 9, 2025.





# Federal

## Animals in Science

The BC SPCA continued to support the replacement of animals in science by urging supporters to sign e-petition 6841. The petition asks for reductions in the use of animals, funding for non-animal alternatives and public reporting on animal testing. Thousands of British Columbians have already spoken out against animal testing by signing, and the petition will stay open until January 30, 2026.

## Emergency Response

The BC SPCA, together with more than 3,000 caring British Columbians, supported a federal petition urging the inclusion of animals in emergency response planning. With over 6,100 wildfires burning across Canada in 2025, we once again witnessed the devastating consequences of excluding animals from emergency management and the critical need to ensure they are protected in future responses.



# Federal

## Fur Farming



Building on B.C.'s mink farming ban, the BC SPCA continues to advocate for a national ban on fur farming. BC SPCA supported two federal petitions. The first gathered 7,058 signatures but was halted by the election. The second, which received 10,800 signatures, was presented to Parliament on October 2. The federal response did not recognize the inherent cruelty of the industry. To further a ban, the BC SPCA urged the Liberal Party to include this issue in their platform.

## Live Horse Export

The BC SPCA continued advocating for a ban on live horse export. After the bill stalled, progress halted. Ahead of the election, over 8,900 supporters urged action. While no ban was enacted, the government reaffirmed its commitment to consider one. Since the election, shifting government priorities led the BC SPCA and partners to work together to identify a new path toward a ban.



# Federal

## Organic Standards

BC SPCA staff participated in revising the Organic Standards as a member of the Technical Committee. When the draft standard was released in June, the BC SPCA encouraged supporters to submit comments and offered evidence-based recommendations to improve animal welfare. The final version of the standard is expected to be released in early 2026.



## Codes of Practice

The BC SPCA contributed feedback on the Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Pigs, advocating for the phase-out of restrictive housing, more space and enrichment, reduced painful procedures, and humane euthanasia. Supporters were encouraged to share their priorities. The BC SPCA submitted detailed comments on the pullet and laying hen Code of Practice amendment to enhance bird welfare. Development continues on the beef cattle, equine, sheep, and poultry Codes, with public comments periods opening in 2026.



# Provincial

Throughout the year, the BC SPCA worked closely with provincial ministers, senior staff, and Members of the Legislative Assembly to advance key policy priorities, support ongoing regulatory changes, and highlight the needs of animals and the communities that care for them.



Through the provincial government's budget consultation process, the BC SPCA advocated for implementation of the Farmed Animal Welfare Advisory Committee's recommendations in their entirety, and for government action to increase the availability and affordability of pet-friendly housing for British Columbians.



# Provincial

## BC SPCA Oversight and Farmed Animal Welfare Advisory Committee

The BC SPCA met with the Minister of Agriculture and Food, along with the Deputy and Assistant Deputy Minister, to discuss the transition of farmed animal welfare oversight from the BC SPCA to the Ministry at the end of 2027. The organization continues to collaborate with the government to promote progress on the recommendations of the Farmed Animal Welfare Advisory Committee, with notable improvements made in enhancing access to veterinary care for farmed animals, while acknowledging that significant work remains to be done.



# Provincial

27

Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) toured BC SPCA Community Animal Centres to learn more about the organization's programs, services, and key issues such as veterinary care shortages and lack of pet-friendly housing.

6

MLAs met with the BC SPCA to discuss farmed animal welfare, pet-friendly housing, and access to veterinary care.

8,643

Supporters contacted the Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship, urging them to add all exotic cats to the Controlled Alien Species Regulation to ban them as pets. BC SPCA experts are working with Ministry staff to update the Regulation.

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Provincial caucus members reviewed program updates and discussed farmed animal welfare, pet-friendly housing, and funding for enforcement.

# Local

Presentations were organized for several City Councils, including Kamloops, Parksville, Port Moody, and Qualicum Beach, to address critical issues. The BC SPCA also presented to Councils for the Village of Montrose and the City of Quesnel to discuss contract changes, and provided feedback on three bylaws under development



To assist community member advocacy, letters of support were submitted to the Burnaby City Council, urging for the repeal of breed-specific legislation, and to the City of Richmond, advocating for a ban on aversive dog collars.



# Local

## Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) Convention

BC SPCA science and policy experts attended the UBCM Convention, joining thousands of local government officials to discuss community issues. The team was on hand to build support for several issues. The BC SPCA helped draft a resolution seeking the regulation of mobile live animal programs, and supported



other resolutions advocating to address feral rabbits, a prohibition on breeding and keeping wolfdog hybrids, increasing pet-friendly housing, and provincial funding for the BC SPCA. With the exception of the pet-friendly housing resolution, all resolutions were endorsed. However, the Executive amended the mobile live animal program resolution, removing references to prohibiting the keeping, breeding and transport of exotic animals in the pet trade. Work on these issues will continue once the province responds in early 2026.



THANK YOU!



JOIN US IN 2026!