# BCSPCA

1895 **125** 2020

## YEARS OF PROTECTING ANIMALS

A Celebration of B.C.'s Oldest Charity ➡️

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### 1895

## CREATION

A small group of clergy, journalists and businessmen concerned about the mistreatment of work horses successfully lobbies the B.C government to establish laws protecting animals from abuse and neglect.

Justus Edward Knight of Ashcroft, B.C. leads the push for these laws, which includes the creation of a society (the B.C. Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals) to enforce them.

### 1890's

## First Animal Cruelty Charge

Results in a $5 fine to Victoria resident Joseph Phoenix for *"wanton cruelty to a wretched old horse".*

**TODAY**

Highly trained SPCA special constables investigate 8,000+ complaints a year. BC SPCA's ongoing lobbying efforts result in increased legal protection for animals–B.C.'s penalities for animal abuse are among Canada's strongest.

### 1897

## First SPCA Branch Opens in Victoria

By 1901: Branches are formed in Victoria, New Westminster, Vancouver, Vernon, Kamloops, Ashcroft, Okanagan, Kaslo, Nelson, Revelstoke and Rossland.

**TODAY**

There are 36 SPCA branches across B.C.

### 1900-1920

## Lobbying for Farm Animals

The BC SPCA successfully advocates on issues such as farm animal transportation, slaughterhouses, protection of work horses, mistreatment of animals in rodeos and the emerging Hollywood film industry.

### 1920's

## Increase of Stray Cats & Dogs

Advocacy efforts are directed toward domestic animals, as a growing number of strays become victims of starvation, exposure and brutal treatment.

### 1921

## Testing on Animals

The Society speaks out against the use of live animals for scientific experimentation.

**TODAY**

SPCA continues its advocacy for humane alternatives to the use of animals in research.

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### 1957

## BC SPCA helps to create the Canadian Federation (now Humane Canada)

**TODAY**

BC SPCA continues to be a strong voice on national animal issues.

### 1950's

## First BC SPCA Animal Shelter opens in Vancouver

When concern grows over the mistreatment of animals in city pounds, the BC SPCA begins operating facilities to take in stray and homeless animals.

**TODAY**

The BC SPCA finds homes for nearly 15,000 animals each year through its 34 sheltering facilities and two branches that operate through foster networks.

**KELOWNA | 1958**

### 1948

## First Emergency Response & Rescue

SPCA helps rescue animals when the Fraser River overflows and the province declares a state of emergency.

**TODAY**

The Society continues to work closely with provincial emergency agencies to rescue & shelter animals affected by wildfires, floods & other natural disasters.

### 1932

## BC SPCA Junior Humane Society Formed

Youth programming offered to educate children on animal welfare issues.

**TODAY**

The BC SPCA teaches thousands of young people about the compassionate treatment of animals through BC SPCA Kids Club (2004), summer camps, BARK! magazine & school clubs.

### 1976

## Opens Canada's First Spay & Neuter Clinic - Vancouver

The Vancouver SPCA Hospital played a key role in reducing the number of homeless animals, offering low-cost sterilization for thousands of dogs & cats.

Later transitions to a full service hospital for both regular & charitable clients.

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### 1997

## Wild Animal Rehabilitation Centre opens

Wild ARC is built in Metchosin on Vancouver Island to treat injured and orphaned wild animals.

**TODAY**

Staff & volunteers have treated 50,000 animals (over 140 species!) since the facility opened.

### 1997

## BC SPCA helps fund the University of British Columbia's Animal Welfare program

Ongoing partnership highlight's the Society's strong commitment to education and research that improves the lives of animals.

**TODAY**

In 2019, the SPCA supports a new chair in companion animal research.

### 2001-2003

## Society reorganizes to help more animals

The reorganization included standardized animal care protocols across the province and the first centralized Cruelty Investigations Department to provide a coordinated response to animal cruelty complaints.

### 2004

## BC SPCA launches Drive for Lives

A program to transfer animals between shelters to increase their chances of adoption. The program transfers more than 5,000 shelter animals each year.

### 2005

## Reducing Pet Overpopulation

The SPCA opens spay & neuter clinics in Prince George (2005), Kamloops (2009) and later acquires full-service hospitals in Penticton and Burnaby.

### 2008

## Protecting Exotic Animals

BC SPCA successfully lobbies for legislation to protect exotic animals and holds B.C.'s first symposium on exotics, bringing government officials, academics and industry together.

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### 2020

## 125 YEARS & BEYOND OUR WORK CONTINUES!

Today the BC SPCA is one of the largest animal welfare organizations in North America.

To everyone who is helping to create a world where every animal lives without fear, pain or suffering—we THANK YOU!

### 2018

## AnimalKind Program Launched

AnimalKind accredits animal-related businesses that use humane standards set out by the BC SPCA.

First two programs focus on pest control companies and humane dog trainers.

### 2015

**BC Pet REGISTRY**

BC SPCA creates B.C.'s first centralized pet identification database to reunite lost pets with their guardians.

Nearly 90,000 animals are registered in the database.

### 2015

## The Million Mark.

1,000,000TH Animal Adopted!

### 2014-2020

## Renewed Lobbying for Farm Animals

Returning to its advocacy roots, the Society supports national phase-outs of barren hen cages & pig stalls, and new federal animal transport laws.

**OTHER ADVOCACY WINS**

The ban of retail pet sales, an end to the grizzly bear trophy hunt, increased protection for animals used in dog and cock fighting and an end to the captivity of whales and dolphins.

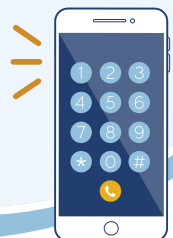### 2013

## New Facilities Plan

A comprehensive plan is created to replace or refurbish aging SPCA facilities across the province.

**TODAY**

New facilities built in Penticton, Maple Ridge, Powell River, Nanaimo, West Kootenay, Kamloops, Dawson Creek, Tri-Cities and the Sea to Sky corridor, as well as large-animal barns in Surrey and Kelowna and a cat intake facility in Surrey.

### 2013

## The BC SPCA Call Centre is created

Providing a centralized response for complaints about animal cruelty, injured wildlife and other SPCA queries across B.C.