
BCSPCA THE PAWPRINT

Issue 81

Shuswap Branch

May 2022

Happy tails Maisy!

Staff and volunteers all get emotionally attached to the animals and in particular to the medically needy ones. Maisy has the biggest, saddest eyes we've seen and she quickly won our hearts.



Maisy was brought to the vet clinic for being sickly & lethargic for a long time and apparently hadn't eaten for 6 days at that point. Maisy had emergency surgery that day for a toxic infection in her uterus called pyometra. Her hair was falling out in places due to a suppressed immune system and she just looked broken-hearted. We later found out she is also hypothyroid and had gone undiagnosed.

Maisy was a quiet girl that seemed under socialized. She was polite with staff, moved cautiously and took treats gently. Fast forward a few weeks in a loving foster home and some new meds for her thyroid, she was wagging her tail and her head held high! She had a couch all to herself for naps, went for daily walks to build muscle strength, enjoyed dipping her toes in the water at the beach, got lots of snuggles and loved car rides.

Maisy was adopted to a lovely lady who wants to spend all her retirement time walking around her acreage and snuggling with Maisy. ...Victoria Olynik



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In Brief - A Shelter Update:

We feel optimistic about “coming out of the pandemic” and springtime blooms help too! Staff have continued to remain healthy and show up every day to care for the animals. Staff recruitment is very challenging for many businesses but after hiring a couple new people, we are currently operating with 3 full time staff, 3 part-time staff, 2 Casual staff and several volunteers. It takes a village to keep all the animals happy as well as keeping the branch clean and safe!

Welcome back **Hannah** who will be with us over the summer until her university courses resume this fall; a delightful employee we’re so glad to welcome back. New employee **Mikaela** has a passion for children and animals and is eager to work with them at the branch until her university courses resume in the fall. **Isabell** is an animal photographer and our **new assistant manager**. She brings a lot of energy and ideas into this role and will focus on volunteer recruitment, health & safety and of course the animals.

In other congratulatory news, staff person **Rhonda** had a 10yr service anniversary on Apr 18. Rhonda is the dog whisperer at this branch and really enjoys matching dogs with new adoptive homes. Also with a service anniversary is **Katie** with 5yrs of animal welfare in her pocket as of Feb 27. Katie loves the cats and often will foster cats or kittens in need.

The natural disasters in 2021 reached new highs, stretched our resources very thin and left emotional scars. As a result our organization is focused more on shelter fire drills and evacuation training. We were notified of an evacuation alert at the Sicamous Mobile Home Park recently and staff were prepared to hop into action setting up a potential pet services site if the alert escalated to an evacuation order. As part of our community outreach activities, we continue to offer free temporary emergency animal boarding including pet food, bedding, kennels etc. Each week, we deliver pet food primarily to the Second Harvest Food Bank; YTD we’ve given out 421 cans of wet food and 1107 kgs of dry kibble to local animals. We also accept donations of pet food whether the bag is open or not as long as it isn’t expired.

We are very fortunate to have volunteers who show up to help foster, socialize and/or walk our animals most days. We love that you love the animals like we do! With the help of staff & volunteers, our branch has **adopted out 90 animals January-Apr**. In the past few months we’ve had several medically needy animals with multiple issues so we had to ask folks to donate to the specific needs of 3 dogs (Sasha, Foxy & Maisy) and 2 cats (Ping & Orion) which raised **\$14,000** towards multiple, critical surgeries & medications. They have all been adopted now to great families and will have much better lives!

BC SPCA branches will be lifting the mask mandates after May 16 but will continue to ask the public to make an appointment prior to coming to the branch. We’re still following health protocols which means daily cleaning requirements, social distancing and limited building occupancy.

A quick look at some finances for our branch (fiscal year Oct 1-Sept 30): branch fundraising totals \$64,145 includes bottle recycling \$32,340 (wow!), BC SPCA merchandise sales, used pet supply sales, community coin boxes, and the Adopt a Kennel program. Grants, legacies and animal adoption revenues also account for \$297,733 (as of end of Feb). Veterinary care is critical to our work and we’ve spent \$13,837 on spay/neuter and \$14,247 on other medical procedures and medications (as of end of Feb).

We’re optimistic of a brighter 2022 so we’re planning for a few fundraisers to connect with our community and see some smiles again!

May 28 & 29: Women Who Wine annual bottle drive; contact me if you wish to help sort refundables for a 3hr shift.

June 1-24: Lock In for Love event on June 23 but fundraising and registration start June 1. Watch for more details on the spca.bc.ca website or on our branch Facebook page. Looking forward to having YOU “locked in”!

July 16: Super Self Storage annual BBQ & Garage Sale at their location on Auto Road. All funds raised come to our branch. 2-3 volunteers needed

Sept 10: Paws in the Parade annual parade to kick off the Salmon Arm Fall Fair (Sept 9-11). After a year waiting, we’ve finally received our new branch van so we’ll need a few volunteers to decorate the van, a driver and someone to wear our large (air cooled) dog costume. More details to come.

Dec (TBD): Santa Paws photos with Santa at the Shuswap Cider Co.

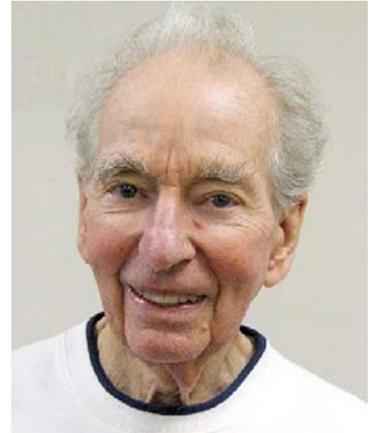
Paws-itively yours, Victoria Olynik Shuswap Branch Manager

Remembering Al Neale

Long time member, supporter and volunteer, Al Neale, died on March 29th at age 97. Many of us remember Al and his special friend, Beryl Herdan, regularly attended our Branch AGM's. Al was the person who established the first of the endowments at the Shuswap Community Foundation in support of our branch, named the Shuswap Branch B.C.S.P.C.A. Endowment. Al and Beryl were featured in the SCF annual report for 2017-18. That endowment has grown over the years and is an important source of revenue for the operation of the branch.

We extend our condolences to all his friends and family who mourn his loss.

Janet Pattinson



Annual General Meeting

On April 9th the BC SPCA held its 127th AGM. 78 members and senior staff from across the province were able to participate from home and hear about the progress and challenges faced by the Society over the past year.

Many of us remember the 'good old days' when we travelled to Vancouver or other locales and spent happy times with other animal lovers. For some of us it was something we looked forward to. But travelling to Vancouver involves considerable time, possibly time off work, and arranging for others to look after family members while we were away. Members from the north often could not make the trip.

While there are the costs of the sophisticated communication system to do the Zoom style meeting, it is still less expensive than the costs of transportation and accommodation for the official delegates and the venue, so this new model for the AGM makes it possible for more people to join in and less expensive all round.

Before the meeting there was a presentation by **Sara Dubois** and **Emilia Wong Gordon** about the advocacy successes we have had recently such as the campaigns to end the use of rodenticides and the end to fur farming. During the meeting we learned that the Board has approved funding for a dedicated year-round emergency response unit. Last year we anticipated the fire season but the floods were a surprise! CEO **Craig Daniell** noted the need to be aware of the impacts on our organization of climate change.

We also welcomed our newly elected Regional Director, **Rochelle Stevenson**. We look forward to her participation in our next regional council meeting. At the same time we thanked our retiring Regional Director, **Lindsay Curry**, who served for six years.

If you are looking forward to joining other members in the regional council meetings, here are the dates to save:

Wednesday, May 25th, 2022 at 6 pm

Wed. October 5th, 2022, 6 pm

Wed. February 8th, 2023, 6 pm

Janet Pattinson



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!

Regional Governance Update

As many of you may know, the voting process for a Board of Director representing the Thompson, Kootenay, Okanagan (TKO) Region was recently completed. There are 420 eligible Member voters in this Region, of which 103 (25 percent) voted. The voting packages were sent out in a combination of email or mail, based on the Member request for communication. Unfortunately, there were 54 returned emails, representing incorrect information. A gentle reminder to all Members: when you have mail or email address changes, please notify the membership coordinator (membership@spca.bc.ca) of the new information. Ideally it would be desirable to increase voter input and strategies to achieve this could be discussed in future Regional Council meetings.

The Nomination and Development Committee of the BC SPCA Board meets at least five times over the year and a key part of the Committee's responsibility is identifying the Board skills and diversity required to meet governance, financial and strategic oversight of the Society. The Board is comprised of two Directors representing each of the provincial four regions plus two additional independent positions for a total of ten Directors plus the Director role the CEO fills. Director terms are three years with a maximum of two terms and the terms are staggered which necessitates the Board to review annually the desired attributes of the vacant positions. Every year, there will be Director vacancies created, although in our TKO Region, the next vacancy will be in two years. Candidates are identified in the fall with voting, if required, to occur in the first quarter and results shared at the April AGM. The Regional Councils, an important new and evolving key component of the Society's governance models, have been and will continue to be a mechanism in which new Directors can be identified and developed.

I would like to make a plug to consider joining the Regional Council for a few key reasons. Gaining input from all members assists the Society in developing and executing our strategy, identifying and supporting Directors as well as an opportunity to learn about the organization. There are three meetings during the year which are done virtually or by phone. There have been education sessions provided by SPCA staff which include a chance to ask your questions. The Webinars are also taped, so you can watch at your own convenience later as well. Some examples of the excellent Webinars this past year are Farm Animal Welfare, Wildlife Welfare, and Humane Education for Youth.

If you would like to participate as a guest for one meeting, contact Hannah at membership@spca.bc.ca She will send you the "invitation".

If you think you would like to attend all the meetings as a member of the council you can get more details and a link to sign up at this place on the website:

spca.bc.ca/about-us/governance/regional-councils/

Mark Montemurro, Regional Director

Keeping in Touch

For the past two Pawprint newsletters the membership person in provincial office has sent the mail for us, whether by surface or by e-mail. If you become aware that one of our lifetime members has not been getting the mail please let them know about this address: membership@spca.bc.ca so they can get their contact information brought up-to-date. The problem can easily be solved once we know there is a problem!

There are many exciting things happening in the Society. You can find out all about the work going on by checking the website: spca.bc.ca . The news section is a great place to start. That's where you will find information on any letter writing campaigns or petitions to show our concerns about animal issues.

Janet Pattinson