

A close-up photograph of a light-colored cat, possibly a Birchen or similar breed, with striking blue eyes. The cat's face is the central focus, with its ears perked up and whiskers visible. The background is a soft, out-of-focus light blue.

BCSPCA

SPEAKING FOR ANIMALS
ANNUAL REPORT 2008

OUR MISSION

To protect and enhance the quality of life for domestic, farm and wild animals in B.C.

OUR VISION

To inspire and mobilize society to create a world in which all animals enjoy, as a minimum, five essential freedoms:

1. Freedom from hunger and thirst;
2. Freedom from pain, injury and disease;
3. Freedom from distress;
4. Freedom from discomfort; and
5. Freedom to express behaviours that promote well-being.

A SAFE HAVEN FOR ANIMALS IN DISTRESS

Last year, the BC SPCA provided care and protection for nearly 40,000 abused, injured, lost, neglected and abandoned animals. Through your support, thousands of animals were rescued from violent and hopeless situations and are now in safe, loving homes.

A STRONG VOICE FOR CHANGE

Providing emergency rescue, shelter and care is an essential part of the BC SPCA's commitment to animals in need. But the society also plays a significant role in advocating for changes that are urgently needed to protect all animals from abuse and neglect.

A PARTNER IN THE COMMUNITY

As a non-profit society, the BC SPCA relies almost entirely on donations to carry out its many programs and services for animals. We are grateful to our generous donors, volunteers and community partners who help us make the world a safer and more humane place for companion, farm and wild animals.



Dear Friends,
2008 was a historic year for animals in British Columbia. With the help of 50,000 SPCA supporters the society's three-year End Animal Cruelty campaign led to

the introduction in March of new, stronger animal cruelty laws in B.C. One month later, the BC SPCA and its supporters successfully petitioned for another key piece of legislation to help animals. In April, amendments were introduced to the Wildlife Act to protect exotic wild animals. These two successful campaigns are proof that together we can make dramatic changes to improve the lives of animals in B.C.

In 2008 we achieved another

significant milestone for animals - the BC SPCA reached its goal of 100 per cent spay/neuter of animals adopted from all of its branches across B.C. We also completed plans for the April 2009 opening of a new spay/neuter clinic in Kamloops. These two initiatives are part of BC SPCA's ongoing commitment to help B.C. communities end the tragedy of pet overpopulation.

Finding loving homes for the wonderful animals in our care remains a priority for the society and in 2008 we opened our second Education and Adoption Centre, located in Port Coquitlam. The centre, based on a highly successful model launched in Richmond in 2007, is a welcoming, storefront model that offers animals for adoption as well as a variety of animal-related education

programs for the public.

Like most charities that rely on donations to fund programs and services, the BC SPCA faces some uncertainty as we move forward in a challenging economy. We are extremely grateful to you, our donors and volunteers, for your tremendous commitment and support. Without your generous help, we could not be there to respond when an animal needs protection or emergency care. On behalf of the nearly 40,000 abused, injured, neglected, lost and abandoned animals we served together last year, thank you for making such a difference.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Craig Daniell".

Craig Daniell, Chief Executive Officer

NEW CRUELTY LAWS FOR B.C.!

More than 50,000 BC SPCA supporters were instrumental in helping us lobby for stronger animal cruelty laws in B.C. On March 6, 2008, substantial changes were made to the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act to increase penalties for animal abusers and to give SPCA constables greater powers to access and assist animals in distress. The changes came as a direct result of petitions to government through the BC SPCA's End Animal Cruelty advocacy campaign.



ANIMALS ON THE WEB

Last year the BC SPCA website (spca.bc.ca) received **1,214,468** visits from users seeking information about animal care, advocacy initiatives, SPCA programs and activities and donor and volunteer opportunities. All SPCA animals in B.C. can be viewed online and a new search engine launched in 2008 now enables potential adopters to quickly find their perfect match. In fact, the majority of SPCA adopters last year first "met" their new pet online.

In 2008, the BC SPCA also completed work on a new **Lost & Found** online feature that enables members of the public to view all lost animals currently being held at SPCA shelters and to post information about lost or found animals directly to the website themselves.

PROTECTING ANIMALS FROM ABUSE AND NEGLECT

In May 2008, SPCA constables in Trail were called out to rescue Tigger, a young pit bull who had been doused with gasoline and set on fire by unknown assailants. It took months of veterinary treatment, rehabilitation and care to restore Tigger to health and to find him a new, loving home. Tragically, thousands of animals like Tigger become victims of violent abuse and neglect every year. The BC SPCA is the only animal welfare society in B.C. with the mandate and authority to respond to complaints of animal cruelty and to prepare cases for Crown counsel for prosecution. In 2008, the BC SPCA's **40 special constables** conducted **4,780 investigations** into cases of animal abuse, resulting in the rescue of **3,980 injured animals** and **1,297 animals removed from dangerous or neglectful situations**.



EMERGENCY CARE & SHELTER

In 2008, the BC SPCA provided emergency medical care and sheltering for **36,991 abused, injured, neglected, lost and abandoned animals**. The society operated **31 animal shelters, two education and adoption centres** (situated in Richmond and a new location in Port Coquitlam), **one storefront adoption facility in Nelson, and Wild ARC, a wildlife rehabilitation centre** in Metchosin on Vancouver Island.

Last year, the BC SPCA **adopted 19,951 homeless animals to loving families, reunited 5,439 lost animals** with their anxious guardians and **transported 4,263 animals** from rural and northern areas to shelters where they have greater opportunities for treatment and adoption.

The BC SPCA also cared for **1,867 injured and orphaned wild animals** in 2008 (1,333 birds, 532 mammals and two reptiles) at its wildlife rehabilitation centre.

At the BC SPCA's animal hospital in Vancouver thousands of homeless and owned animals received **emergency care, spay/neuter operations and general veterinary care**. As part of its mission work the hospital treated more than **1,366** homeless, sick and injured animals and provided **free or reduced services** for more than **100** animals of low-income pet guardians. The SPCA also helped more than **8,000** animals through a **free monthly veterinary clinic** and a **weekly pet food bank** offered in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside.





REDUCING PET OVERPOPULATION

Sadly, there are far more animals born in B.C. every year than there are loving homes. In 2008 the BC SPCA achieved several significant milestones to help reduce the suffering experienced by unwanted and abandoned animals. With support from donors, **the society was able to invest more than \$2 million last year in a variety of spay/neuter initiatives**, including providing thousands of **free and low-cost spay/neuter operations** through its animal hospital in Vancouver and its spay/neuter clinic in Prince George, administering **community-based spay/neuter funds** to help low-income pet guardians, hosting **free clinics to sterilize feral cats**, and producing **education materials for youth and adults to encourage spaying and neutering of pets**. In 2008, the BC SPCA also achieved its ambitious goal of **100 per cent spay/neuter of animals adopted from every SPCA branch across B.C.!** This important work will continue in 2009, with a significant addition. In 2008, preparations were carried out to launch an urgently needed **spay/neuter clinic in Kamloops** in early 2009.

PROTECTING FARM ANIMALS

In 2008 the BC SPCA continued to be a strong voice for hundreds of millions of farm animals raised in B.C. and across Canada. The **SPCA Certified program** offers consumers the opportunity to purchase meat and dairy products from producers who raise their animals according to SPCA-approved standards of welfare. In 2008 the program introduced improved standards for the care of broiler chickens and completed work on new standards for the care of turkeys. The SPCA also played a key role in developing **new Canadian Codes of Practice for the Care and Handling of Dairy Cattle**. The new codes, which include a ban on tail docking and the performance of surgery without pain relief, will benefit more than one million dairy cattle each year across Canada. Other work included a national campaign in support of **improved federal animal transport laws**, a campaign to address concerns about the inhumane practices used to raise force-fed ducks for **foie gras** in Canada and the distribution of **FarmSense**, an e-newsletter sent to more than 1,300 farmers, government officials and members of the public with news of research and key developments in farm animal welfare.

CRUELTY PREVENTION & EDUCATION

While much of the BC SPCA's work involves rescuing animals in distress, the society's primary goal is to prevent cruelty and abuse from happening in the first place. A wide range of humane education programs for youth and adults were carried out in 2008. These included a record **46 summer camps** held in branches across B.C. for more than 1,000 youth, an increase in the **BC SPCA Kids Club** to 2,788 members, the production of four issues of **Bark!** magazine for children, the distribution of **e-Kids**, an online newsletter that engages children in

animal-related issues and activities and the launch of **animal-themed birthday parties** and **monthly youth events** in the Lower Mainland. The BC SPCA also presented **programs to thousands of school children** on topics such as pet overpopulation, dog bite safety and responsible animal care, developed **new animal welfare curriculum materials for B.C. classrooms**, including a **new School Club manual for Grades 3-7**, produced the **e-Teacher newsletter** for educators across the province and attended **annual teachers conferences** and **UBC education classes** to promote humane education.



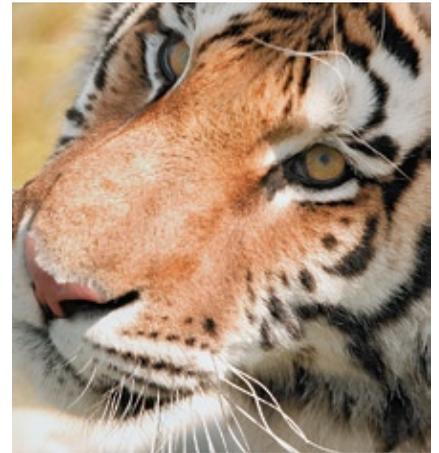
OUR VOLUNTEERS

The work of the BC SPCA would not be possible without the incredible dedication and support of the nearly 4,000 volunteers who offer their time and skills at SPCA branches across the province. In 2008 our volunteers saved thousands of animal lives by participating in animal rehabilitation and fostering programs, adoption counseling and follow up, dog walking, cat grooming, small animal care and a wide variety of fundraising and advocacy programs.



ADVOCATING FOR CHANGE

In March, the BC SPCA's three-year **End Animal Cruelty** campaign culminated in the passage of **new, stronger animal cruelty laws in B.C.** The amendments to the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act and the appointment of a specialized Crown counsel to handle animal cruelty cases will dramatically increase the SPCA's ability to help animals and bring those who inflict violence on animals to justice. The BC SPCA was also instrumental in petitioning for **changes to the Wildlife Act that will now ensure that exotic wild animals have greater protection in B.C.** As part of this campaign, the SPCA convened an international symposium in May 2008, bringing together animal welfare experts and key representatives from all levels of government to address the issue of exotic wild animals in captivity. Other campaigns in 2008 addressed the issues of **puppy mills, the lack of pet-friendly housing, dogs in the back of pickup trucks** and **pet overpopulation.**



A THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

Though the markets may have changed in 2008, the community's commitment to the BC SPCA remained strong. As a not-for-profit organization, we rely on the support of animal-loving individuals, businesses and foundations. We receive just one per cent of our operating budget in support from provincial grants. The rest comes from people like you who care and give generously to help those who cannot speak for themselves.

None of the stories about our work outlined in this Annual Report would be possible without you.

Your support ensures that the animals in our care are healthy and happy. Your support helps us prevent animal cruelty and neglect. Your support helps us educate and inspire to improve the lives of animals. Though the impact of the community's contributions can be best found in the results of our work, here are some other incredible results we are pleased to share:

- You and your fellow donors generously contributed more than \$15.5 million in 2008 to help the BC SPCA carry out its work for animals;
- 641 new animal lovers responded enthusiastically to our television campaign with Canadian singer Sarah McLachlan and became monthly supporters;
- A record \$1.1 million was raised by more than 10,000 participants at *Paws for a Cause* walks held at various locations across the province;
- \$1.34 million was donated through our very successful mail campaigns that helped farm, wild and domestic animals in B.C.;
- A record \$452,000 was donated through a range of activities to the Biscuit Fund for emergency medical care for homeless and injured animals;
- The BC SPCA Lottery for the Animals sold out faster than ever and raised almost \$250,000;
- 4,654 of you generously donated online and by giving in such an efficient way, helped minimize administration costs;
- Approximately 300 people informed the BC SPCA that they had made provision for the BC SPCA in their Will ensuring care over the long-term for animals in need; and
- More than \$5 million was received through planned gifts to support animals.

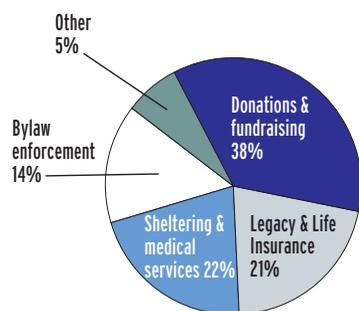
On behalf of the animals we serve and protect, thank you from the bottom of hearts. We are grateful to you, our family of donors, for your outstanding support in 2008.



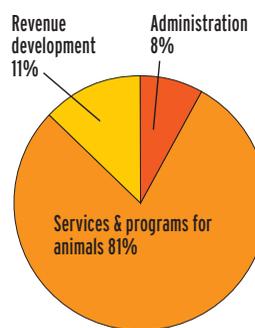
BC SPCA FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

2008 Unaudited Financial Statements*

2008 REVENUES	2008 \$	2007 \$	2006 \$
Donations and fundraising	9,413,251	8,317,879	7,869,274
Legacy and life insurance	5,388,562	4,733,601	4,665,849
Bylaw enforcement services	3,068,891	3,214,588	3,302,276
Sheltering, medical and clinical services	5,183,697	4,819,774	4,472,145
Lotteries and raffles	290,883	278,731	312,505
Provincial government grants received	325,000	325,000	446,000
Other grants received	512,485	348,531	318,358
Investment income (loss)	(165,016)	210,666	374,396
Total	24,017,753	22,248,770	21,760,803



2008 Revenues



2008 Expenditures

2008 EXPENDITURES	2008 \$	2007 \$	2006 \$
Sheltering and bylaw enforcement	10,134,637	9,194,725	9,006,766
Veterinary care and spay/neuter	2,435,734	2,003,434	1,660,478
Cruelty investigations	2,019,430	1,841,224	1,817,296
Humane education	502,962	504,410	460,066
Advocacy and volunteer development	552,864	504,161	466,908
Hospital	2,125,183	2,097,627	1,972,589
Animal health and welfare	436,904	358,725	291,686
Administration	2,022,408	2,030,662	1,785,679
Revenue development	2,704,360	2,410,876	2,678,150
Amortization	661,636	668,713	699,535
Other	269,617	255,191	280,020
Total	23,865,735	21,869,748	21,119,193

SURPLUS/DEFICIT	2008	2007	2006
	\$152,018	\$379,022	\$641,610

* A copy of the full 2008 audited financial statements will be distributed at the Society's AGM on May 30, 2009.

DONOR PROFILE

WHEN CRYSTAL AND CHRIS BALDWIN tied the knot in 2006, they encouraged their wedding guests to make a donation to the BC SPCA's Biscuit Fund in lieu of traditional gifts.

The selfless gesture generated \$12,000 exclusively to help sick and injured animals. It was a fitting beginning to the couple's life together, and reflective of the spirit and philosophy that continue to guide their charitable giving. "We decided that the greatest gift we could receive was being able to help animals get the veterinary care they needed but would not otherwise get without the Biscuit Fund," says Crystal.

Crystal's desire to help animals in need goes back to her childhood when her parents surprised her with a golden retriever named Monty, adopted from the BC SPCA's Vancouver branch. Monty made Crystal realize how much animals mean to us, and how vulnerable they are without us.

Today, the Baldwins are major supporters of the BC SPCA, and it shows in almost every area of the non-profit society, from cruelty investigations to humane education and advocacy.

When a children's bursary program was in jeopardy after a key foundation sponsor was unable to continue supporting it last year, the Baldwins stepped in with a donation of \$7,500 to send more than 60 children from low-income families to the BC SPCA's Summer Camp.

"The parents were all incredibly grateful because without the bursaries, these children wouldn't



have been able to go to camp," says BC SPCA humane education supervisor Paula Neuman. "The donation meant the world to them." Crystal says she was thrilled to support the bursary program because the summer camps nurture humane communities by teaching children valuable lessons about animal care, the human-animal bond, empathy, advocacy and activism.

"It's about prevention," says Crystal. "If we can reach children with these messages, they don't grow up hurting animals."

In the last three years alone, the Baldwins have contributed about \$40,000 to various BC SPCA initiatives. One of the couple's contributions was a \$7,500-server upgrade to boost the efficiency, stability and capabilities of the society's electronic operations.

The Baldwins have also donated a number of gifts-in-kind, including Vancouver Canucks tickets and

a raffle prize they won and later donated back to the society.

Although there are hundreds of other worthwhile charities to support, Crystal says the Baldwins direct their efforts toward the BC SPCA because it does so much for so many animals.

"The BC SPCA is all-encompassing," she says. "It shelters and cares for companion animals, investigates animal cruelty, advocates on behalf of farm animals, rescues and rehabilitates wild animals and provides humane education and advocacy to a future generation of animal guardians. Supporting this work makes us feel absolutely incredible."

Crystal adds, "Contributing to a cause you believe in, and a cause that allows you to see tangible results, is priceless."

The Baldwins are dedicated caregivers of their two adopted cats, Shi Shi Pooh Pooh and Samara.