



BCSPCA West Vancouver Branch Newsletter

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Happy Tails: Meet Ponyo, Snowball & Rosey



incredibly thankful!"

Snowball was adopted from us last year. He had made a lot of friends while in the shelter. Here is what his family had to say. *"Snowball is doing wonderful! He is so friendly, lovely and cuddly. He adapted well to our other cat and dog. We are very happy to have him in our family. We have put him on a diet food and he lost about 2 lbs, so he is quite spry now. But, he will eat the other animals' food, so we have to be watchful. Overall, per the vet, he is healthy."*



toys, and loves to be stroked and fed. Her personality is starting to show and she is quite mischievous!"

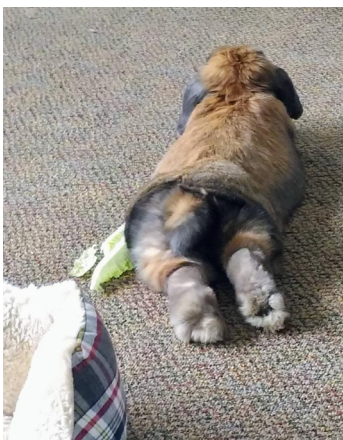
Six months ago, young Ponyo was found alone wandering the beach in West Vancouver. When no one came to claim her, she was placed up for adoption and quickly found a great home. We recently reached out to see how this special girl is doing, and here's what her family had to say. *"It's amazing to think that it has only been 6 months. She has already wound herself tightly into our lives, and it's hard to imagine us without her! She has been extremely well behaved, showing only small defensive problems with sharing toys but we're working on this with her. The West Van SPCA was instrumental in bringing us together and all three of us are*

It was incredibly lovely to hear how Rosie (formerly Chloe) is doing in her new home. This little one went from shy to snuggles pretty quick! "The first few days, she still had on her cone and would not leave a little nook in our pantry; so we set up her bed, litter box and food in there. She was very sleepy and depressed, and very very scared of the slightest noise or movement and was not eating all her food. A few days later we took her to the vet, and she had her cone taken off. That night it was like we had a new cat - she suddenly showed interest in her toys and became a little more active, though still scared. She stayed completely hidden under the sofa for a few days, only coming out for food and her litter box at night after we were gone. We had little improvements every day, and now, just over a week in, we've had such great improvements that we couldn't wait to write to you. She will happily prance around the living room and explore, and even let us stroke her as she is walking past or sitting on her bed. She gets very active at night playing with her scratch tree and

Highlights from our Amazing Foster Program



We have 50 active
fosters currently
with 25 more
incoming from the
shelter foster call out
to our volunteers!



When Sarah Henderson, our Foster Team Leader, asked me to become the Branch's Foster Coordinator in May 2019, it was a quiet week. I was not expecting within days to be up to my neck in kittens needing homes, but in the fostering business, you have to just go with the flow! Kitten season involves a bulge in cat's waistlines and in kitten births from Spring to early Fall. We are fast approaching this year's kitten season, but as I write this, on April 4th, 2020, one rabbit, two cats, two kittens, a dog and five puppies are in foster. Our Foster Placement Coordinator, MJ (Marie-Josée Jasmin) has no more animals to place. Today.

Tomorrow is a complete unknown...we could have a cat so fearful that her foster parent has to approach her wearing rubber boots and gauntlets to maintain skin integrity (like Maggie, a semi-feral kitten rehabilitated to sitting on laps purring, and adopted last week), or a litter of 13 bull mastiff pups (like Roxie and her gang, who taught us that 13 bull mastiff pups are entirely too many to inflict on one foster volunteer), or a rabbit with an injured leg (like Caramel, the Energizer bunny), or an unexpected storm of guinea pigs (like Tulip, the pregnant guinea pig and her two pregnant daughters, who arrived late in the day when the shelter was frantically busy and needed immediately to be whisked into foster homes because they were about to burst...and then didn't give birth for weeks).

Also, tomorrow we could have the beginning of an unexpected tsunami of animals coming into foster on compassion ground as people's incomes, living situations or health become unstable because of COVID-19.

The BC SPCA has just had a hugely successful provincial drive to recruit more foster volunteers from within our existing pool of shelter volunteers (we have enough fosters now, we think, thank you). This week is quiet. Next week, who knows?

By: Dorothy Fairholm, Foster Volunteer Coordinator

Note from Michalle Martin, Chair on the Community Council (CC)
"Many of the active volunteers have had multiple cats over the years. I've fostered over 70 cats and some of our fosters have been on the books for many years! We are a very fortunate branch and sometimes we can help other branches, I have also fostered for the Vancouver shelter when asked and I am not alone in that regard."

Branch News

What a successful Treat Week everyone had! Tracey raised **\$485** with her treat week bake sale. This is the fourth year Tracey has raised funds for our branch for Treat Week and she does it completely on her own!



Look at all those delicious treats she made! Thank you so much Tracey for all your hard work and dedication to help the animals in our care.

Meet **Krista Unser!!** Krista will be taking over operations of the West Vancouver branch while Charlotte Ellice is on maternity leave. Welcome Krista!

A little bit about Krista: she has been doing animal welfare for close to 25 years starting with rehabilitating wildlife in Washington State to working in a large animal shelter that saw close to 5000 animals a year, which also included farm animals. She has worked at the BC SPCA for 5 years and started her career at the West Vancouver shelter where she eventually became interim Manager for a year. She has been at the Sea to Sky shelter for 2 years as the branch Manager.



We'll miss you Charlotte!!

Advocacy Update by Karry, CC Advocacy Chair

BC Emergency Management Legislation:

In January, the BC Government was requesting input to modernize BC Emergency Management Legislation. Currently, BC does not require domestic animals to be included in emergency planning, response or support services. This was the case during the horrific wildfire seasons of 2017 and 2018.

In order to bring the plight of animals to the government's attention, the BCSPCA put together a petition campaign to support the inclusion of animals in emergency management. Within two weeks, the petition generated an impressive 23,000 signatures. In early February the BC Government met with representatives of the BCSPCA to discuss the situation. Here is a note from BCSPCA CEO Craig Daniels about the meeting: *"They were open to hearing what we had to say about including animals in future emergency planning. They also stated that they'd been hearing similar input from others and they acknowledged how important this was to animal lovers. This leaves us optimistic that there could be increased protection for animals in the new emergency legislation that comes out in the Fall."*

Adding Serval Cats to the Controlled Alien Species List

On July 4, 2019 the BCSPCA seized 13 serval cats from horrific conditions at a breeder location in Little Fort, BC. This situation came to the attention of the BCSPCA after complaints of sick and injured cats being for sale.

Serval cats are native to Africa and are solitary animals. Unfortunately, they are sometimes seen as exotic pets and there is a legal market for them in BC.

The serval cats that were seized were placed at an undisclosed wildlife facility pending trial of the owners. Since that time, the BCSPCA was awarded custody and the serval cats were transported to an accredited wildlife sanctuary where they can continue to recover and live in conditions better suited to their nature.

In September 2019 the BCSPCA created a petition to request that serval cats, like lions and tigers, be added to the Controlled Alien Species list so that breeding and owning these animals will be illegal in BC.

What Can You Do? Spread the Word & Support the Branch!

Protecting Animals in West Vancouver During the Pandemic. Message from our Branch Manager:

"We are doing our best here at the branch, but as you know, our doors are closed for public viewing. We have to do our part to keep staff, volunteers and you safe, while being there for animals that are still arriving at the shelter.

Along with the people that usually come to visit and adopt shelter animals, donations come in to our branch. Without the foot traffic, these donations have stopped and we don't know when we will be able to hold another fundraising event. If it's not too much, I was hoping you would make a donation directly to the branch so we can continue to be there for the animals in our community.

Our international SPCA friends reported a huge increase in abandonment of animals when they were hit earlier with this virus, please help us prepare for the worst."



For more information:
Call the West Vancouver branch at
604-922-4622 or email wv@spca.bc.ca

Help local animals in need by recycling your bottles & cans



It's easy! Simply ask to donate your coins to the BC SPCA West Vancouver Branch when you recycle your bottles and cans at:

North Vancouver Bottle & Return-It Depot or
North Shore Bottle Depots Ltd.

Both Depots are still open!

For those of
you looking to help
while staying home,
why not check out our
Amazon Wish List.
Some of these items
are to help people in
our community that
need our help feeding
their animal
companions.

Head over to
our website for the
link to [our Amazon
wish list!](#)

BC SPCA West Vancouver Branch

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BCSPCA
SPEAKING FOR ANIMALS