



# 2022 ANNUAL REPORT

Centennial Edition

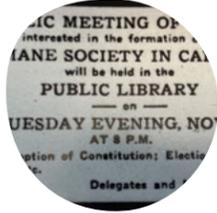


**Calgary  
Humane  
Society**

100 Years of Connecting Lives

# 100 YEARS OF CONNECTING LIVES

# Table of Contents



**1910**

The first group of volunteers held a meeting to talk about the need for an organization dedicated to preventing cruelty to animals



**1930**

Nellie McClung hosts a tea party for the Humane Society. Later that year, she is elected as one of the six vice presidents.



**1960**

A new and permanent shelter opens on 35th Ave, NE



**1991**

Grand opening of the new shelter after expansion and renovation



**2013**

114 stranded animals taken in as a result of the flood



**2020**

Calgary Humane Society deemed essential service during the COVID-19 pandemic



**2022**

Calgary Humane Society Hosts Grand Opening and Centennial Celebration, marking 100 Years of Connecting Lives



**1922**

Calgary Humane Society is incorporated under the Alberta Societies Act on July 11, 1922



Sir James Outram, First President

**1959**

The first temporary SPCA shelter was built in Springbank



**1980**

Calgary Humane Society makes its presence known at the Stampede, and its advocacy results in changes for better care of animals at the yearly event



**2006**

New Calgary Humane Society shelter opened to the public March 22, 2006



**2016**

Kennels donated to CHS in response to the Fort Macleod Fire



**2020**

Calgary Humane Society hosts ground breaking ceremony to begin Building Enhancement Project





# Remembering Joan Snyder

On April 7, 2022, Calgary Humane Society said goodbye to our dear friend, Joan Snyder. Joan was a beloved Calgary philanthropist and a long-time supporter of the Society. She had been adopting animals, attending events, and donating to the organization for over 70 years. If ever there was an animal in need, she ensured those at the Society were aware and there to offer assistance. Few people loved animals as much as Joan did. She was a true animal advocate and had a passion for animal welfare that she wanted to share with younger generations.

One of Joan's most notable contributions to the Society was made in 1984 when she established the **"Phoebe and Joan Snyder Education Fund"** in honour of her late mother, Phoebe Snyder, which is still in existence today. This fund is used for Humane Education programming designed to teach Calgary's youth about responsible pet ownership, respect, compassion and empathy for the animals in our community. Joan was also truly visionary. She understood that if we, as a human race, can build compassion and empathy towards animals and our environment, this can translate into greater compassion towards people, thereby **creating a more humane world**. This understanding is what inspired Joan's initial gift to Calgary Humane Society, as well as her final gift to the organization.

Thanks to a very generous endowed gift established with the Calgary Foundation, Joan ensured Calgary Humane Society will be able to continue this important work of teaching Calgary's youth what Joan already knew. We will be able to carry on the legacy she created, encouraging future generations of compassionate animal lovers to become animal advocates. We are forever grateful to Joan for her countless contributions to Calgary Humane Society, including this wonderful gift to our Humane Education program.

Thank you, Joan.





# Everyone is human. But not everyone is truly humane.

It's the essence of our humanity—within us all, yet an aspiration for most. Because real compassion takes selflessness. Going beyond ourselves every day isn't easy to sustain. But when we achieve it, life takes on a deeply fulfilling purpose.

Our humanity bonds us with animals. Especially those in need.

At Calgary Humane Society, we exist to **create a more humane world**. When animals are at their most vulnerable, our dedicated care sees them through. We are always there to protect and nurture the welfare of all animals. With sympathy and mercy. Kindness and love. And in turn, animals remind us every day what it truly means to be human.

We believe in inclusive animal welfare. Any animal and every situation are welcome through our doors. We'll explore all avenues and care until the very end—with animal wellbeing at the core of every decision.

We will support people and their animals, for life. The joy of initial adoption. The rewards of behavioural classes. The sleepless nights when our animals need emergency care. Our team is there in good times and bad.

When animals need protection, we respond. We'll never shy away from a tough situation—even if it takes an emotional toll. Our work for animal welfare is unending.

Our dreams for the future are rooted in prevention. We're a true community hub for countless Calgarians. Our voice has power. It's our job to inspire empathy and compassion for both animals and humans.

For 100 years, Calgary Humane Society has been at the centre of animal welfare in our city. And for every day to come, we'll work harder than ever to create a more humane world.



**Our Mission:** To Help as Many Animals as We Can



**Our Vision:** Using innovative strategies to lead, inspire, and educate in the humane treatment of companion animals, fostering an enlightened community that consistently demonstrates respect and compassion for all animals.

## LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

2022 was a year that **will go down in the history books** for Calgary Humane Society, with the completion of the Building Enhancement Project, the **100th-anniversary celebration** of the organization and a new look. Needless to say, it was a busy year for CHS, with much of it landing on **the amazing staff**. The team, on top of everything else, provided **exceptional care**, as always, to all the animals and people that came through our doors.



### Andrew Wilson

The efforts of the staff continue to make CHS the go-to agency for animal welfare leadership. On behalf of the Board of Directors, I want to thank the CHS staff for giving tirelessly and always putting the animals first, despite the seemingly endless dust, noise, disruptions, construction delays and challenges. When I took on the role of Chair in the spring, I couldn't help but be impressed as I witnessed first-hand the level of dedication, care and compassion the staff have for the animals in their care both in our facility and out in the community.

In addition to the tremendous CHS staff, the Board of Directors is a strong volunteer team, giving their time and talents generously. Thank you for your dedication and commitment to CHS. As a Board, we work together to provide strong governance and leadership for the organization.

While we planned for the Centennial, we also took the time to reflect and learn about the organization's long history and its important and changing role in Calgary. As we move into 2023, it will be a year for looking forward and envisioning the next 100 years. We will be developing a new Strategic Plan and determining the role CHS will take in supporting the larger Calgary community, how we will continue to grow in our leadership position within the animal welfare sector, and how we will continue to advocate for the animals at the municipal, provincial and federal level.

CHS faced many hurdles and challenges in its first 100 years and will no doubt face many new and unforeseen obstacles in the future. However, I feel strongly that with our dedicated staff, supporters and volunteers, and our passion for animal welfare, we will be able to face any such challenge and not only survive but thrive into the next 100 years.



## Board of Directors

Andrew Wilson - Chair

Maggie Crowley - Vice Chair

Yvette Steiner - Treasurer

Elyce Harris - Secretary

Bruce McBean

Corinne Jamieson

Dawn Rault

Dave Cunnington

Heather Macquarrie

Keri Smith

Kevin Natkinniemi

Lisa Kindree

Sage Pullen-McIntosh

Scott Cressman



# Everything, Everywhere, All at Once...

Not only is it an Oscar-winning movie, but it also adequately describes 2022 at Calgary Humane Society.

It was a year like no other, one that had been planned several years in advance. However, the pandemic had shifted our focus and extended our timelines for the past two years. Many of the goals we had set were not complete and this work shifted into 2022, with the result being many projects ongoing simultaneously – all coming to a conclusion at once.

However, this was a pivotal year in our history! We wanted to make all those who made the past 100 years possible proud. The team at Calgary Humane Society was committed to achieving the goals we had set for ourselves. The effort put forth to get to our grand re-opening and Centennial birthday was inspiring. The team was determined to make this year one to remember – a celebration worthy of such an incredible milestone. We are all very proud of the accomplishments achieved during a very turbulent time in our history and we hope you are as well.

After the grand re-opening, and as the team learned to use our new spaces efficiently, it was immediately apparent how much better this environment was for our animals. With the species segregation, we saw an almost instantaneous improvement in our animal's demeanour. We were thrilled to see the increase in animal flow with a shorter length of stay and higher live release rates over the previous year – a remarkable feat given the disease and behavioural concerns we encountered in 2022.

The Building Enhancement Project was not just about improving our animal spaces, it was also about creating a hub for the animal-loving people in our community. With the grand re-opening taking place in August, we were then able to welcome the public back to the facility after two years of isolation. Since then, our building has been filled with people coming in to adopt, attend training classes, participate in youth programs, volunteer, donate, or just visit with our animals. This is an incredible facility and we are delighted to show everyone the result of our two-year construction project.

Our reopening could not have happened at a better time. Since completion, we have seen an increase in the need for our services. The level of medical and behavioural intervention our animals require upon intake has dramatically increased. Our Protection team saw more investigations in 2022 than in many years, and the animals seized are at an all-time high. Our community is struggling with access to care.



## Carrie Fritz



The psychological impact the pandemic has had on our animals has also kept our Behaviour team busy with many seeking professional expertise on issues like separation anxiety, aggression and fearfulness; and our Petsafekeeping and Emergency Boarding animals have doubled since 2021 as well.

As the demand from our community increased, Calgary Humane Society responded by introducing new programming to assist more vulnerable populations like our seniors and low-income individuals. However, the need is growing with compounding concerns in the animal welfare sector we have never seen before. While we spent 2022 celebrating the remarkable 100-year history of Calgary Humane Society, we are acutely aware that there is still work to be done and we are, therefore, continually expanding what we can offer with new programming planned for 2023.

This annual report details many of the achievements of 2022. I believe we have positioned the Society well to embark on the next 100 years of helping animals and those who love them. We have reached this incredible point in our history only due to your ongoing commitment to animal welfare.

It is only because of the amazing community support we receive from our incredible donors and stakeholders, that we were successful in 2022, and I sincerely thank you. Thank you for the confidence you have in us, thank you for your trust, and thank you for advocating for our animals alongside us. We could not do this without you!

The past two years have been a challenging and often chaotic time. It has felt like “everything, everywhere, all at once”. Still, the work that has been done has enabled us to set a solid foundation to improve the quality of care we can offer to our animals and support our growing community.

As we conclude 2022, the final year of our existing strategic plan, I am excited to be developing our next strategic plan and use the momentum of 2022 to launch into 2023 – to rebuild connection after the pandemic; to re-establish our networks and

**THANKS TO THE  
719**

Volunteers who gave us your time

**1,159**

Foster families who open up their homes to our animals

**2,371**

Adopters who give our animals their second chance

**19,860**

amazing donors who chose to support the work we do

## LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

develop the relationships we need to have in place for the most significant impact possible. We will continue to be leaders in animal welfare, the voice for our animals who do not have one, and the first organization people think of when they need assistance with their companion animal.

The Calgary Humane Society team is committed. We never shy away from a challenge and will continue advocating for these beautiful beings who bring us such joy, always striving for a more humane world.

Once again, thank you for supporting Calgary Humane Society and being a part of this special time in our history. We hope you will continue to be a part of the Calgary Humane Society's story as we begin our next 100 years.



## Leadership

Carrie Fritz - Executive Director

Dayna Burghall - Director of Finance

Brad Nichols - Director of Operations and Enforcement

Melaina Slater - Director of Human Resources

Weston Jacques - Director of Communications and Outreach

Jose Guillen - Director of Philanthropy

Lisa Olund - Associate Director of Health Services

Sally Johnston - Associate Director of Community Services

Anna-Lee Fitzsimmons - Associate Director of Community Engagement



## BUILDING ENHANCEMENT PROJECT



One of the most common questions we were asked, as we opened our doors and welcomed the public back in our building, was “how many more animals can you house now that the renovation is complete?”

Our response is always the same – the Building Enhancement and Renovation project was never intended to increase the number of animals housed in our shelter at one time. The goal was to improve the overall environment for our animals.

Studies have proven that when animals are provided with a more natural environment that offers them choice and provides the five freedoms of animal welfare, they are better able to manage the stress of a transition into a shelter setting. This, in turn, means our staff and volunteers are better able to support their physical and mental health, which results in a shorter length of stay.

A shorter stay is better for the animals, and it means we can accommodate more animals who need us - without increasing the overall population, ensuring each animal gets the dedicated time and attention they deserve.

Another goal of the building enhancement and renovation project was to create a warm and inviting space for the people who love animals as much as we do – a place for all Calgarians to gather to get the additional resources they need to help build a positive and fulfilling relationship with their companion animal. We strive to be a true community hub!

In August, 2022, after two long years of ongoing construction and operational turmoil, Calgary Humane Society officially re-opened the newly renovated facility – just in time to celebrate the Society’s Centennial birthday!

As people toured the facility for the first time, they noted the significant modifications made to over 90% of the animal spaces.

- They saw that species have now been segregated so dogs are on the west side of our building, separated from our cats, who have been relocated to the southeast side, with rabbits and critters now occupying the northeast area
- Our visitors toured through the rooms newly equipped with modifiable and adaptable housing so we can comfortably accommodate any animal admitted into our care
- They noted we are now able to offer our animals more access to natural light, improved acoustics, and better access to the outdoors for our dogs – all designed to reduce an animal’s stress while in shelter
- They saw the new state of the art veterinary clinic generously supported by the MacNeill Family Foundation, complete with an intensive care unit, a separate dental surgery suite, and a neonatal ward
- They stood in the new surgery suite that is now large enough to comfortably accommodate our veterinary students alongside our four full time veterinarians
- They also explored the previous cat holding area which has been transformed into dedicated isolation wards. For the first time in our history, we are now able to treat animals with infectious disease like Parvovirus successfully and still keep the rest of our population safe – something that has never before been possible



# Commitment

Today, the word “commitment” seems to have lost some of its true meaning. However, when you walk through the doors of Calgary Humane Society, you will see it is **unmistakably present**.

For **100 years**, Calgary Humane Society has been dedicated to **ending animal cruelty** and **improving the lives of animals** in our community. The entire team understands that if we are going to make a difference in animal welfare, it is going to take **commitment**, and this is evident through the following:

- The preventative work of our Humane Education and Community Outreach teams, who hosted **404** kids camps and clubs, as well as **136** field trips, class presentations and tours to talk about compassion and empathy towards animals, responsible pet ownership, and the link between animal abuse and violent crimes against people.
- The **801** adopters who participated in a consultation or training class with our Behaviour Outreach team to enhance the human-animal bond and ensure the best possible adoption experience.
- The challenging work of our Protection and Investigations team, who investigated **1,195** suspected cases of animal cruelty, **saving 891** animals from abuse, neglect or abandonment.
- The motivated team who showed up every single day to make a difference in the lives of the animals even when the demands did not always seem manageable.
- The **22,613 hours** our amazing volunteers spent with the team, working alongside them to ensure our animals got the care they need.
- The **1,159** foster families opened their doors to their homes, took in **1,715** animals, and shortened their time in shelter by an average of 12 days – including animals like Aster.

Commitment is about believing in a goal and working together to achieve it. At Calgary Humane Society, we are invested in being leaders in our community. We are dedicated to going above and beyond to provide animals and our community with the support they need, when they need it. It is a tremendous responsibility we take very seriously and strive to live up to, even in the most difficult circumstances.



## LIFELINE TO THOSE IN CRISIS

### A Commitment to the Community

Calgary Humane Society’s pet safekeeping program provides short-term housing at no charge for animals belonging to individuals in crisis due to family violence or abuse.

This year we received a sweet senior cat while her owner, also a senior, resided in a shelter seeking safety from domestic violence. This 16-year-old cat instantly bonded with staff, evident her owner beloved her.

However, while in our care, our Animal Health team became concerned about her frail frame and conducted testing that would reveal she was suffering from hyperthyroidism. A complicated but common part of aging, this sweet cat faced weight loss, lack of appetite, house soiling, and was at risk of renal failure.

Given the concern for her well-being, the owner was contacted to be apprised of the situation. She immediately got to work on discussing hyperthyroidism with her vet. Ultimately, she made the selfless decision to put her cat’s needs over her own and allowed her to be humanely euthanized.

The CHS team arranged a private goodbye between the owner and her cat. It was a tearful, heart-wrenching experience, but nonetheless, this kitty lit up when she saw her mom walk into the room. She quickly offered purrs and cuddles as if saying it was OK to say goodbye.

During this visit, the owner would share some of her journey and the hurdles she still had yet to overcome. Calgary Humane Society provided her with a memorial piece from funds allocated for our senior programming and gave this person those final moments with her cat that are so important for every pet owner. She was grateful to Calgary Humane Society for providing her cat with a safe, secure refuge and the closure she desperately needed.

In 2022 Calgary Humane Society cared for 100 animals through its Pet SafeKeeping Program and 47 animals through the Emergency Boarding Program.





## THE PERFECT HOME IS OUT THERE

### The Commitment of No Matter How Long It Takes

Aster arrived at Calgary Humane Society through a seizure from Calgary Police in July of 2021. With sore hips, Aster was reluctant to move and quickly appeared depressed and dejected in shelter. The Animal Health team was quick to alleviate her discomfort with medication. However, the concern for her pain and suffering prompted a consultation at an external clinic, which ultimately would result in Aster requiring surgery to correct a tear in her leg. Surgery was arranged without hesitation, but Aster's journey was only beginning.

Our Foster team set to work on finding an appropriate home. Aster needed a caregiver who could keep her on strict kennel rest, no easy feat for someone dealing with a large dog. We needed a patient and innovative individual who could balance movement restriction with mental stimulation, keeping the animal comfortable and safe. Fortunately, after one month, such a home was found. Kelsey, a young woman who had just started fostering earlier the same year, stepped forward for Aster. From that moment, a unique bond was forged.

For six months, Aster remained on her seized hold. During this time, Aster was on a long and complicated road to recovery. With every two steps forward, she would take one backwards through various medical complications. Due to her lengthy hold period, accommodations had to be made for Aster and Kelsey's schedule, which would take Kelsey



in and out of town. Other foster parents would come forward to support Aster, but none would quite hold the same place in Aster's heart that Kelsey did. And every time Kelsey returned to town, she would happily, even eagerly, take Aster back.

Over time, Aster would grow to become reactive towards other dogs, and any brief stays in shelter were fraught with stress and anxiety. When Kelsey would inevitably return for Aster, one could see the relief and joy on Aster's face as she pulled (and pulled hard!) To get back "home."

While awaiting her forever home, Kelsey would continue to manage Aster's needs: walking her away from other dogs, attending training sessions with our Behaviour staff, and commuting to the shelter to access the dog park to let her run free. Kelsey would attend adoption visits for Aster, sharing with potential adopters what a special dog Aster was, and together they persevered, waiting for the perfect fit with a potential adopter.

After a press release and a ton of exposure on TV, in the Calgary Herald and on social media, the perfect family came forward to adopt Aster after **483 days** with Calgary Humane. Though bittersweet and through tears of joy, Aster and Kelsey, as soulmates, parted ways.



### LENGTH OF STAY



# Teamwork

2022 was an **incredibly exciting time** to join the Calgary Humane Society team! We were thrilled to put pandemic restrictions behind us, finalize construction on our renovation project, reopen our building and welcome the public back, and celebrate 100 years of connecting lives. **The goals were aggressive.** There was a great deal of work to do, and it was understood that to be successful, **we needed to work together ... teamwork was essential!**

Aside from the extraordinary projects we were taking on, we were also managing a very challenging year with our animal population and trying to support a community whose needs were increasing, both in numbers and severity. However, when adversity strikes, the CHS team rallies. They perform best when managing an urgent situation and are exceptionally skilled at seamlessly shifting their priorities so they can support their community. This is where they truly shine.

Calgary Humane Society is incredibly fortunate that the “team” extends to hundreds of volunteers and foster parents. We have 1,159 Foster families and 719 active volunteers who support the staff of the Society every single day. Last year our volunteers alone donated 22,613 hours of time to help wherever needed whether it be:

- Assisting with a difficult intake, like our “Dirty Dozen.”
- Ensuring all our dogs get a walk or our cats, rabbits, and critters receive daily enrichment
- Working with our Fund Development team to make sure every donor gets a proper thank you
- Taking animal photos for our adoptions page
- Helping with events like our Centennial Birthday, “the Hound n’ Sound.”
- And so much more!

Our volunteers and foster parents are the ones who motivate us with their endless enthusiasm for the organization, our animals, and our staff.

Every individual comes to Calgary Humane Society with unique strengths and different ways to contribute. Through collaboration, engagement, open communication, cooperation, and of course, teamwork, this CHS Team achieved what we set out to do and succeeded in making 2022 a year to remember.



## HOUND n' SOUND ~CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION~

2022 was a major year for Calgary Humane Society, marking our 100th Birthday. In addition to turning 100 years old, we navigated the end of COVID, completed the building enhancement project, and rebranded the organization – no small feat!

One event, in particular, was our Centennial Celebration, Hound n’ Sound. To celebrate 100 years, we invited the entire community of Calgary to the birthday party of all birthday parties.

Hound n’ Sound was a family-friendly festival set up in our very own dog park. We had an afternoon of entertainment, food trucks, beer gardens and local vendors. Everyone was also welcome to tour the new facility to see the renovated building for themselves.

It truly was a historical celebration of all the hard work the teams put in this year and a way to honour all those from the past 100 years.





# ALL HANDS-ON DECK

## The Teamwork Required During A Mass Seizure

On April 22, 2022, Calgary Humane Society Peace Officers were called to a residence after witnesses reported an individual brandishing a garden rake at a large group of dogs. The officers made a concerning discovery. They found a large group of dogs living in conditions that were not safe for them, or the humans also living in the home.

The owner disclosed she was overwhelmed by the current litter of dogs and had been unable to sell the puppies. She did not feel able to continue to care for the litter and agreed to surrender the puppies and restore her house to a healthy state. The teams back at the shelter were informed. A large number of dogs were coming in right away, and everyone jumped into action.

Much work goes into ensuring the shelter is always ready for any situation. Animal flow is monitored daily, so kennels are always available should the need arise. The Admissions team gets to work preparing paperwork and signing the animals into the system. Animal Care begins preparing kennels with everything needed for the animals during their stay, and administrative staff get up from their desks to go and lend a hand where one is needed.

It is a tense situation when the call of a mass seizure comes in as we never quite know what to expect. As we wait for the vehicles to arrive, many wonder what state the animals will be in, curious about their prior living situation and the care they did or did not receive. When the vehicles pull up, we work as a team to ensure immediate care of the animals.

Once signed in, the veterinary team examined the dogs and bathed them so they could be placed in their new temporary kennels.

Based on the number of dogs and their state upon arrival, they were lovingly nicknamed “The Dirty Dozen.”

As with many young dogs born during the pandemic, the Dirty Dozen were not socialized and were incredibly fearful. They had never been on a leash nor visited a veterinary clinic. Their initial medical exams found that the pups were healthy, and they were to move into foster. The foster team placed each dog in its own foster home until the case was finalized, and they could return for adoption.



Shiloh, one of the twelve, was the most scared. He was, by far, more comfortable with his fellow Dirty Dozen siblings than strange humans. “They didn’t want a whole lot to do with people. Humans had already failed them, and they were only six months old,” says Carmen D., a volunteer who worked with the Dirty Dozen.

Each one of these dogs had the potential to be a fantastic family companion. Once back in shelter, our Behavior team spent many hours socializing and enriching this group of dogs, and under their direction, volunteers got them out for walks to learn leash skills. “Our teams offered everything they could to draw them out so they could really shine. It was an incredible group effort,” says Carmen D.

It was not long before Shiloh emerged from his shell and learned to trust the human beings working hard to help him. Finally, in early June, Shiloh’s new family walked into the shelter and fell in love with the reserved, socially stunted adolescent.

“No matter the odds. No matter the difficulty level, somehow, Calgary Humane Society found them all homes; found the perfect people and families for each dog.” Says Carmen.

This was just one of many mass intakes over the course of 2022 that required help from everyone in the shelter. Without the support from every individual from each department, these stressful and emotional situations would not be handled with the level of care and grace that we prepare for.



## NUMBER AND TYPE OF COMPLAINT INVESTIGATED

	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
ABANDONED	228	174	146	226	216
ABUSED	112	133	134	130	130
FOOD/WATER/SHELTER	95	110	94	85	87
HOT CAR	50	43	48	44	59
MEDICAL	292	286	277	279	236
POOR LIVING CONDITIONS	243	295	274	253	256
OTHER	175	124	101	76	67
TOTAL INVESTIGATIONS	1195	1165	1074	1093	1051
SEIZURES	891	489	376	496	541

# VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

## NATHAN APUZZO



18-year-old Nathan Apuzzo started volunteering with Calgary Humane Society during the worst of the COVID lockdowns as a way for him to connect with others at a time when his mental health was suffering from the isolation he was experiencing. After Nathan's mom and brother encouraged him to get involved, he began volunteering with the bunnies. "I didn't have much to do at home," says Nathan, whose experience with the bunnies quickly led to volunteering with the kids camps.

"I was hooked the first day," volunteering for the kids' camps highlighted the importance of creating a supportive space for all. In remembering the teachers that he had in the past that had not been as supportive or inclusive, Nathan made an effort to ensure that every child felt included and got something out of their time at the Humane Society.

Time spent at Calgary Humane Society "makes up for lost time," as he does not have any animals at home. His experiences as a volunteer has given him the closeness to animals he misses at home while also aligning with his values as someone who finds meaning in helping others, especially animals in need. One animal in particular, a bunny, found a very special place in Nathan's heart. Adoption day for Pie the bunny was bittersweet for him. He was thrilled to see his little friend find a forever home but would always miss the snuggles he got with Pie every day.

Without the hard work of volunteers like Nathan, organizations like Calgary Humane Society would not exist, and kids' camps would not be nearly as fun. Nathan's work with us has made our organization more welcoming for every youth that comes to spend time with us, and has touched many hearts, including Pie the bunny.



# FOSTER PARENT OF THE YEAR

## KEVIN GEORGE



Retirement can be a bit of a shock for someone who has been working their entire life, and Kevin George is no exception. He felt there was a void in his life without deadlines or feedback to adhere to. As someone who had adopted dogs from Calgary Humane Society in the past, he felt the Humane Society would be "an organization I'd like to be able to give back to."

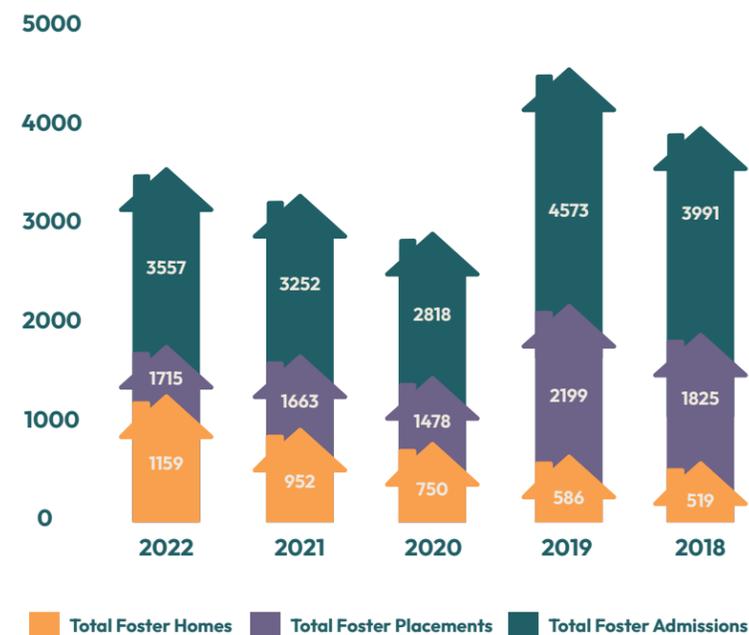
Kevin has fostered a number of animals for the Humane Society, and his work has been deeply valuable to the animals he has cared for. One dog in particular, Millie, stands out to him, as his experience with her was both "tremendously rewarding and tremendously challenging."

Millie had come to Kevin after living a life on the streets of Calgary with little exposure to other animals or people. She required extensive training and care to get her ready for adoption, a challenge that he did not shy away from. Kevin recalls participating with Millie in a number of training classes and working with her every day. Millie slowly adjusted and opened up, allowing him to take her out of town on an adventure. Kevin fondly remembers taking Millie for hikes in the mountains and even taking Millie to a quiet pond where she learned how to swim for the first time.

Memories like this have encouraged Kevin to continue helping the Humane Society. His latest foster, Jackson, happily resulted in a "foster fail," and Jackson now lives with Kevin and his partner. For Kevin, he considers fostering to be "the best of both worlds" as it allows people the flexibility to enjoy the companionship of an animal without necessarily requiring the amount of commitment that adoption does.

Without Foster Parents like Kevin, his kind and empathetic work, it would not be possible to continue caring for the animals that come through the Humane Society's doors daily. Because of Kevin's incredible efforts, Millie found a forever home and got adopted.

## FOSTER PLACEMENTS



# Compassion

When an animal arrives at Calgary Humane Society, and you are fortunate enough to witness the team's **kindness, empathy, and genuine concern**, it will take your breath away. **Compassion is the heart of everything we do and is put into action daily.**

The Animal Care, Animal Health and Behaviour Teams provide daily care, encouraging our animals to grow, heal, learn, and thrive. Every adoptable animal is given a second chance to find a new family, no matter how long it takes. In 2022, the compassion demonstrated reached new heights, given the level of medical care needed, the level of transmissible disease in the shelter, and the extremely concerning behaviour we saw in some of our animals. There are many issues Canadians face across the country that are detrimental to the well-being of their companion animal, which was evident in the animals admitted in 2022.

- Veterinary shortage across Canada makes accessing care difficult for many
- The economic crisis has resulted in more animals being surrendered by their owner or others simply being abandoned
- Mental health concerns post-pandemic has increased dramatically, meaning more hoarding cases, animal cruelty, and abusive behaviour toward our animals and staff
- The housing crisis means pet-friendly housing can be very difficult to find, leading to forced relinquishment
- The aging population is downsizing their homes and moving into assisted living facilities where they are restricted from having their animal with them
- Instances of people fleeing an unsafe living situation due to domestic violence have risen dramatically in Calgary. As such, our Pet Safekeeping/Emergency Boarding program has been heavily utilized.

These factors have resulted in a much higher demand for our support programs, such as our Seniors Program, our Keep Them Home Program, our Pet Safekeeping Program, and our Pets and Renters program.

It also meant the animals that arrived at Calgary Humane Society required a greater effort from the team to get them on to their next stage of life. Their compassion never wavered.



They went to lengths never experienced before to ensure every animal possible found their new forever home – no matter how long it took. Their compassion transformed into determination to see each animal move on to the next part of their life – animals just like Chop.



## CHOP'S ROAD TO RECOVERY

### The Gentle Giant Finds A Home

In early November 2021, a Cane Corso named “Chop” was found in a private residence after several weeks without human interaction or access to proper food and water. The Calgary Police Service incarcerated Chop's previous owner for unrelated charges. The individual thought they arranged care for Chop but sadly no one showed up. Chop stayed there, patiently waiting for someone to come and help him.

After a long time waiting, surviving on what he could, he was found and taken to a local veterinary clinic where he weighed only 77 lbs. A healthy full-grown Cane Corso should weigh over 120 lbs. Staff at the clinic were shocked by his state of emaciation. He was stabilize and immediately sent over the Calgary Humane Society so he could receive the long term care he would require.

Once Chop arrived at Calgary Humane Society, our team of veterinarians, animal care attendants, behaviour counsellors and Peace Officers were on standby to greet him. His gentle and loving demeanour brought tears to the eyes of many. They all wondered how it could be possible that a dog who had experienced this level of abandonment and hardship could still have so much love and trust in people.

He was cleared for daily snuggles and, eventually, walks from volunteers and staff members. Chop touched many hearts during his stay at the shelter, and was nicknamed the “Gentle Giant.” Not surprisingly, due to his traumatic experience, Chop developed a fear of being left alone and went to live with two foster families to keep him safe and comfortable while he continued to gain weight. Chop's foster parents gave him endless love, cuddles, and lots of tasty treats to help teach him some new tricks.





In January 2022, Chop became available for adoption from his foster home through our “Adopt from Foster” program. This program helps dogs like Chop stay in their foster home and attend virtual or in-person adoption appointments without the need to return to the shelter and occupy a kennel. It didn’t take long for the public to learn about Chop and fall in love with his sweet face. Luckily for him, Chop was adopted within a week of becoming available.

Chop’s new family loves him very much. His new parents adore how much of a snuggle bug he is and are happy to share several photo and video updates with the team. Thanks to the compassionate staff, volunteers and foster parents, Chop has reached a healthier 128 lbs.

**Chop’s story is not unusual... we admitted 3557 animals this year, many with high medical needs and extended lengths of stay. Because of incredible donors and supporters like you, we can care for all the animals like Chop. Thank you to the over 80,000 individuals, corporations, foundations, and agencies that chose Calgary Humane Society as their charitable giving partner this year. Thank you!**





The team confronted each challenge with an open mind and a willingness to try new ideas to find the best possible solution to help as many animals as possible. They truly made what seemed to be impossible, very much possible.

# Innovation

Innovation takes place every day at Calgary Humane Society. It is a strength that naturally exists within the organization and team. Sometimes we are not even aware of it. It simply shows up as a unique idea to solve a simple problem. However, in 2022, innovative thinking was noticeably present, given the complexity of the environment we were operating in.

At the beginning of the year, we moved away from the restrictions of COVID and re-opened our newly renovated facility. 2022 was the year that many of the CHS team experienced a fully operational shelter. Animal numbers returned to pre-COVID levels, and teams had to quickly adjust to the faster pace and an elevated level of need within our community in a completely transformed infrastructure.

Over the course of the year, the team continued to face exceptional challenges that put their resourcefulness and ingenuity to the test:

- The development of support programs for pet owners facing the relinquishment of their beloved animals
- Controlling the spread of new transmittable diseases never seen before in Calgary
- Dealing with unsocialized and fearful animals due to the impact of the pandemic
- Finding imaginative ways of adopting each animal, including those who had very specific needs
- Creating connection in a community still accustomed to isolation so we could properly celebrate our incredible centennial milestone

## THE YEAR OF DISEASE

2022 was the Year of Disease and tremendously challenging for those charged with the care of our animals. They were managing various outbreaks, often simultaneously, throughout the year.

- The year started with a large group of cats (97 to be exact) admitted to the facility, later confirmed to be suffering from calicivirus
- At the same time, we admitted a large group of dogs, which were later diagnosed with a persistent strain of CIRDC (kennel cough), which ultimately affected 80% of our dog population
- Parvovirus was extremely prevalent in the summer of 2022. Thankfully, our new isolation wards were complete, and for the first time in our 100-year history, we successfully treated and contained the virus
- The team also dealt with a very unique and challenging feline URI (upper respiratory infection) outbreak through our shelter that had the Animal Health team sending cats over to the emergency clinic as they were struggling to breathe
- Animal Health successfully treated a group of ringworm kittens utilizing a foster home trained for managing this disease to prevent transmission in the shelter
- The team created new protocols for admitting affected species and were able to successfully contain the spread, keeping our healthy population safe

The innovation necessary to manage the disease in shelter this year was tremendous and really highlighted the strengths of the entire CHS team.



## ANIMAL HEALTH STATS:

2,369 surgeries performed

415 animals in our new isolation wards

73 rabbits were monitored for RHDV

32 birds were quarantined for Avian Flu

26,717 exams were administered

Over 98,000 other procedures were performed, including re-checks, nail trims, compress' applied, physiotherapy sessions, medications administered.

## DISEASES WE SAW:

In cats – Calicivirus, Ringworm, URV, Panleukopenia

In dogs – Parvovirus, Kennel Cough, Giardia, Coccidia



# PUPPY PARTIES

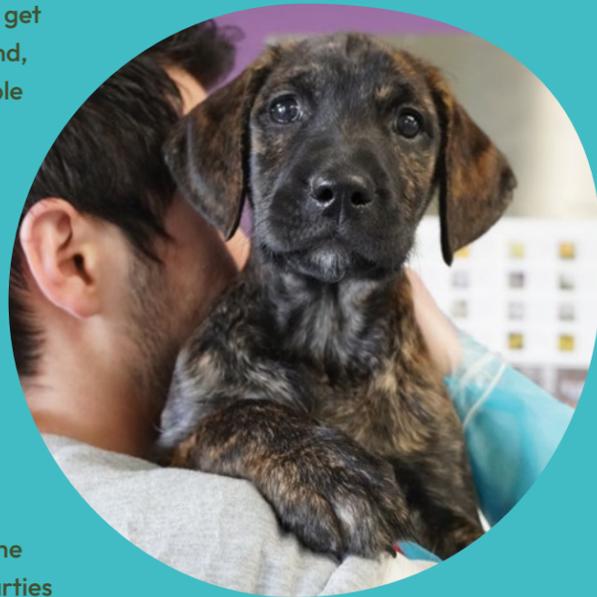
## A new way to Engage the Community and Adopt a Litter

Athena was left tied up outside Calgary Humane Society in December 2021. Naturally, we took her in and cared for her. She gave birth to a litter of puppies that would now need to find new and loving homes. This is where the idea of “puppy parties” as a fun way to host an adoption event came to light.

Puppy parties have proved to be an effective, innovative and fun way to get puppies adopted quickly. With puppy parties taking place on the weekend, typically, by Monday, all the puppies will have been adopted. Many people come prepared to adopt a puppy, and there are no holds. Folks coming to a puppy party to adopt a puppy must already have their home “puppy-proofed” and be ready to commit to the responsibility (and fun) of having a puppy.

But coming to a puppy party doesn't mean you have to adopt.

“A lot of people don't come to adopt. They come to play,” says Team Lead of Education and Outreach, Hanna Chartrain. By coming to play with the puppies, visitors get the opportunity to explore our new building and learn more about Calgary Humane Society's place in their community. Resources are available to teach visitors more about the adoption process as well as what we do for animals in our city. Puppy parties have proven to be an excellent way for the Humane Society to educate and connect with our community and great fun for the puppies!

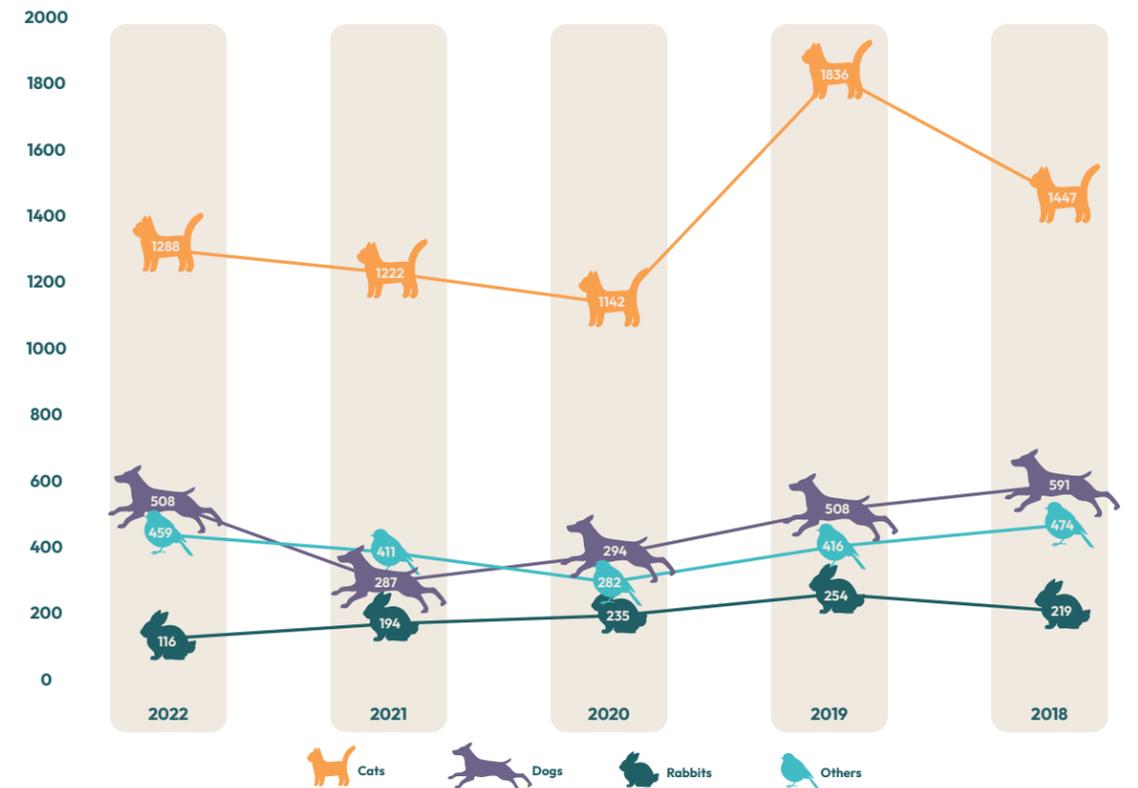


“From an adoption standpoint, our goal is always to make sure we are setting up the animal and the adopter for success,” says Johanna Mihoc, Teamlead of Adoptions, who has been pleasantly surprised to see that many of the people who adopt at the puppy parties are not adopting on a whim and are furthermore fully equipped to handle their new little bundle of love.

Without puppy parties, it takes on average 10-14 days to get a litter of puppies adopted. The solution to having so many puppies at an animal shelter? A puppy party, of course! March 2022 brought with it three puppy parties, Athena's litter being by far, the busiest of the three. Since then, we have hosted puppy parties whenever we find our hands full with too many puppies.



## ADOPTION BY SPECIES



# Integrity

Calgary Humane Society has been a part of the Calgary community for 100 Years and has come to be the animal welfare organization people recognize and trust. We are there to offer support and resources to members of the public when:

- There is an animal-related concern in the community
- There is a suspected case of animal cruelty, neglect, or abandonment
- They are seeking support for their companion animal
- They want to adopt a new companion animal to add to their family
- They want expertise for an animal-related media story
- There is the opportunity to advocate for changes that will improve animal welfare in our city

This trust is something the team works hard to retain through transparency, open communication, patience, empathy, and a willingness to listen and learn, always striving to do more.

Integrity is the foundation of our organization. It is imperative that we hold ourselves to a high standard because this is what our community has come to expect. They rely on the team and know we will always act in the best interest of our animals and the people who love them. It is why our donors continue to have confidence in the team and continue to support our work. It is why we are called when there is breaking news in the animal welfare sector and why we have strong community partners whose vision and values align with our own.

In 2022, 100 years after the inception of the organization, our community continues to have faith in the Society and because of this:

- Our supporters chose Calgary Humane Society as their charity of choice for the #BettyWhiteChallenge and we were able to raise over **\$107,000**
- We received **28 estate gifts** totalling **\$1,309,026**
- We achieved **80%** of our fundraising goal for the For Them Capital Campaign, raising **\$12,500,000**
- Over **\$260,000** needed for the new Protection Investigations fleet was raised
- We raised over **\$5.7 M**, representing an increase of **14%** from the prior year to help sustain our operations – which is critical as we receive no government funding
- We were able to partner with organizations in our city to improve the lives of animals and the people who love them such as the University of Calgary Faculty of Veterinary Medicine; Silvera for Seniors; Calgary Housing Company; and many more

## #BETTYWHITECHALLENGE



Days shy of what would have been her 100th Birthday, beloved actress and animal welfare advocate, Betty White sadly passed away. Her longevity and positive reputation in the industry made her an icon to many generations so news of her passing devastated everyone. This sparked the #BettyWhiteChallenge.

At the beginning of January, a social media post started to

circulate asking people to donate \$5 to an animal welfare organization of their choice on what would have been Betty White's 100th Birthday. As we got closer to her Birthday on January 17th, 2022 our Communications Team was surprised to see the number of people tagging us in the post online. This prompted us to build a donation page and stand behind the campaign in the hopes that the public would choose us as their trusted animal welfare organization.

The day before her birthday, we had already raised \$15,000 and we were prepared to continue the momentum. The morning of her Birthday, we were scheduled to appear on the Global Calgary and CTV Calgary Morning Show.

After several calls to the media, we were inundated with calls from the press asking about our progress. It almost felt like our own telethon, sharing throughout the day on social media our updated process.

It was such a simple and actionable campaign, making it easy for people to participate. Simply donate and share it on social media. This grassroots, digital campaign was a great example of the ever changing landscape of fund development, allowing us to reach a new philanthropic audience.



Having received significant media coverage, including the front page of the Calgary Herald and a story in People Magazine, we received a total of over \$107,000 in donations.



Queen Elizabeth II approved the creation of a commemorative medal in honour of the 70th anniversary of Her late Majesty's accession to the Throne as Queen of Canada.

This medal was awarded to 7,000 residents of Alberta who have made a significant contribution to Canada, Alberta, their communities, or fellow citizens.

MLA Tanya Fer nominated Calgary Humane Society for demonstrating exceptional qualities and outstanding service to the Province of Alberta in the field of humanitarian services.





# IN THE NEWS

At Calgary Humane Society we have worked hard to be the voice of animal welfare in the city of Calgary. With COVID restrictions lifting, journalists started to do in-person interviews again, which was a great opportunity for the shelter to start showcasing the renovations. This increased visibility further enhanced our credibility, meaning more insightful coverage of important issues.

With 100 years behind us, we have established ourselves as the authority in our field and the first call for journalists covering stories or topics related to animal welfare. This year, we worked hard to build up our relationships with journalists and update our contacts. We were responsive and timely in order to meet deadlines and secure coverage.

Whether investigating a story on animal cruelty or helping us promote an adorable animal available for adoption, we maintained a constant presence in the media throughout the year. Each one of our media releases was picked up by the major media sources Global, CTV, CBC and Calgary Herald.

Major stories included:

- [Pet separation anxiety as people started to return to work](#)
- [Mass seizure of 97 cats](#)
- [Shelter capacity due to an increase in surrenders](#)
- [BettyWhiteChallenge](#)
- [Rabbit Haemorrhagic disease](#)

With increased coverage, we see more donations and animals being adopted faster, benefiting our animals and the organization as a whole. This enables us to maintain our credibility and be a leading voice in animal welfare.



**Toronto Sun** · Stephanie Babych  
Premium | CA | May 30, 2022 · 7:11 AM  
**Five dogs rescued from hot car in Calgary**

**Virgin Radio - iheartradio** · Melissa Gilligan  
Editorial | CA | Mar 25, 2022 · 10:23 AM  
**'Soaked with urine': Calgary Humane Society seeks owner of Shih-Tzu found in city's northeast**

**The Calgary Herald** · Michael Rodriguez  
Editorial | CA | Mar 7, 2022 · 3:09 PM  
**'She's my shadow': Separation anxiety a concern as dog owners head back to work**

**The Calgary Herald** · Stephanie Babych  
Editorial | CA | Jun 7, 2022 · 7:33 PM  
**Dozens of cats, birds removed from home in northeast Calgary**

**The Calgary Herald (Print Edition)** · Stephanie Babych  
Premium | CA | Nov 4, 2022 · 1:45 AM  
**Shelter dog has waited more than a year for a home**

**The City of Calgary Newsroom**  
Editorial | CA | Jun 15, 2022 · 10:39 AM  
**Calgary pet shelters at capacity and seeking help from Calgarians**

**CBC CA News**  
Premium | CA | Dec 6, 2022 · 4:04 PM  
**This cat's story illustrates why Calgary's humane society and police work closely together**

**Calgary Herald (Print Edition)** · Michael Rodriguez  
Premium | CA | Aug 2, 2022 · 1:45 AM  
**Dog owners warned to watch out for weed with barbed seeds**

**City News** · Touna Mazloum, Lisa Grant  
Editorial | CA | Jul 14, 2022 · 8:07 PM  
**Calgarians reminded to leave pets at home during hot days**

**Calgary Herald (Print Edition)** · Stephanie Babych  
Premium | CA | Nov 17, 2022 · 12:46 AM  
**'Gentle giant' Aster the dog finally finds a home after spending nearly 500 days in animal shelter system**

**Calgary Herald (Print Edition)** · Stephanie Babych  
Premium | CA | Nov 4, 2022 · 1:45 AM  
**Shelter dog has waited more than a year for a home**

**Global News**  
Editorial | CA | Nov 29, 2022 · 8:57 AM  
**The Calgary Humane Society seeks 150 new foster families**

**The Calgary Sun** · Stephanie Babych  
Premium | CA | May 9, 2022 · 9:08 PM  
**Calgary Humane Society stresses importance of spaying or neutering dogs**

**Global News** · Tracy Nagel  
Editorial | CA | Jun 9, 2022 · 4:42 PM  
**Large number of cats seized from northeast Calgary home**

**Calgary pet rescue organizations in 'crisis,' say city officials, with shelters at capacity**

**CBC CA News**  
Premium | CA | Feb 18, 2022 · 3:32 PM  
**Calgary father who killed 2 dogs in violent attacks gets 3 years in jail**

**Calgary Herald (Print Edition)** · Michael Rodriguez  
Premium | CA | Aug 2, 2022 · 1:45 AM  
**Dog owners warned to watch out for weed with barbed seeds**

**Calgary Herald (Print Edition)** · Jordan Stricker  
Premium | CA | Jun 16, 2022 · 1:30 AM  
**Animal shelters seek help as they reach capacity**

**City News** · Lisa Grant  
Editorial | CA | Jun 7, 2022 · 3:37 PM  
**Calgary animal welfare groups facing low donations, high pet surrenders**

# Respect

The people who choose to build a career at Calgary Humane Society are **exceptional individuals**. In 2022, they went beyond extraordinary, and this page is dedicated to them as **a genuine and sincere thank you** for their accomplishments over the year. There are far too many examples to detail in these brief pages, but a few of the highlights include:

- “100 Years of Connecting Lives” - A beautiful collection of fascinating stories, photos, and testimonials from those who helped shape who we are today, published in April 2022
- Donor Appreciation Night and AGM - the first in-person event since 2020, which gave 70 of our most dedicated supporters the first glimpse of our newly renovated building
- Humane Canada Conference - The first in-person conference the team had attended since 2020, and we were honoured to be selected to be the co-host city.
- Dog Jog - The 21st annual Dog Jog and first in-person Dog Jog since 2020 was held at South Glenmore Park.



- Grand Re-Opening - On August 5th, the team invited all those who helped support the “For Them Capital Campaign” to officially re-open our building. After the ribbon cutting, our guests proudly toured the renovated spaces while we explained the modifications and why they were important.
- Hound n’ Sound Centennial Birthday Party - On August 6th, the team hosted our 100th birthday party, where we welcomed over 800 people to celebrate this impressive milestone.
- Cocktails for Critters - The 20th annual Cocktails for Critters gala event took place downtown at the Westin.
- 100,000 animals admitted - on December 31st, 2022, at 12:45 pm, the team at Calgary Humane Society admitted a sweet little rabbit named Murphy. Murphy was the 100,000 animal admitted to the facility since we moved in 2006.

MURPHY THE RABBIT



**Our length of stay was reduced by two days, and our live release rate increased, which is a testament to the effort put in by the team:**

- Animals admitted increased by 305 animals
- Pet Safe Keeping and Emergency Boarding increased 110% from the prior year
- Seized animals increased 82% from the prior year





- 257 more animals were adopted in 2022 versus 2021
- There were 52 more foster placements in 2022 versus 2021
- 110 more people attended a Behaviour Training Class to ensure their adoption was a success
- Volunteers donated 10,836 more hours to Calgary Humane Society in 2022 versus 2021

• The Humane Education and Outreach team connected with 13,962 more people than the prior year to build awareness of what responsible pet ownership looks like

This team never fails to demonstrate integrity in handling difficult situations, commitment to the cause, compassion for our animals, teamwork with their peers to get a job done, innovation to find solutions when resources are often scarce... but most importantly, they demonstrate respect.

Respect for the people who need support, the animals we help, and all those who work with them to navigate the spectrum of emotion in the world of animal welfare.

With the increase in demand for our programs and services, the challenging behaviour and prolonged medical neglect observed in our animals, and the number of significant events in 2022, it would have been easy for the team at CHS to falter.



**It would have been easy to fail to meet our goals. They did not.**

They rose to the challenge and did this with a culture of empowerment, encouraging one another and providing support to ensure their peers were successful. They worked with a spirit of collaboration and truly valued the unique contributions everyone brought to the table.



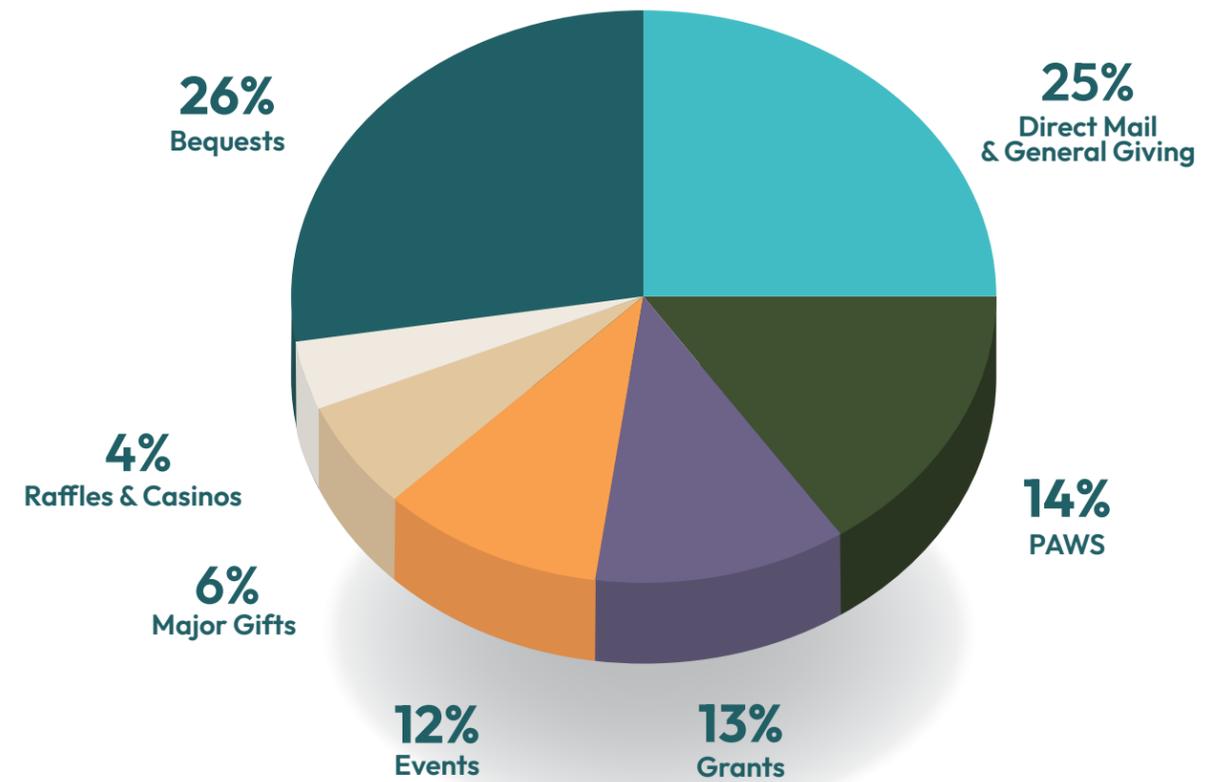
**2022 was a year like no other, and there will not be another one in our lifetime. Every team member was vital to the organization's success - truly demonstrating Calgary Humane Society's definition of respect.**

# Financial Statements of Calgary Humane Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

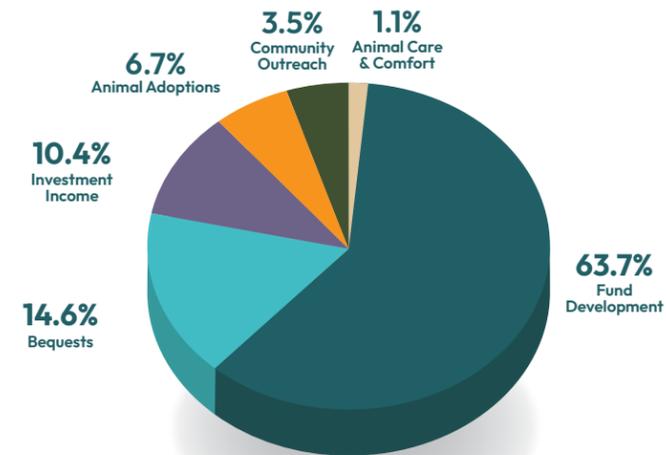
And Independent Auditors' Report thereon  
Year Ended December 31, 2022

[CLICK HERE](#) to view the full financial report

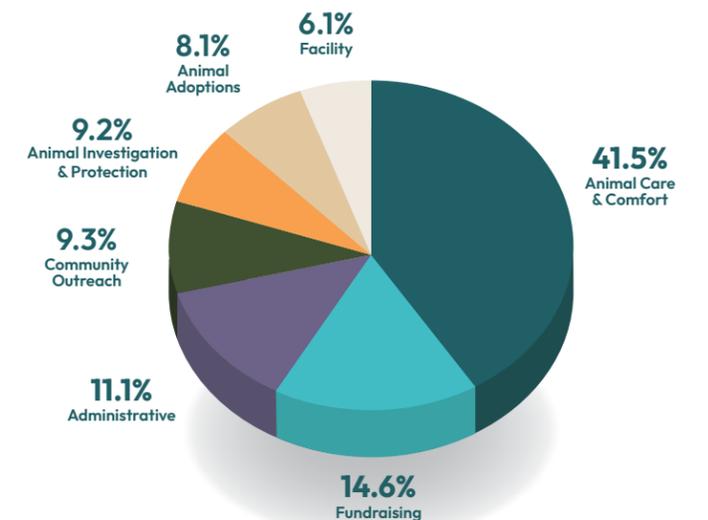
## 2022 Fund Development Revenue



## 2022 Summary of Revenue by Program



## 2022 Summary of Expense by Program





Calgary  
Humane  
Society

# Creating a more humane world

Calgary Humane Society is a non-profit, charitable organization.

Charitable Registration #118823632 RR0001



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