

CONNECTING LIVES



Calgary
Humane
Society

Still At Capacity

FIND OUT ABOUT THE
ANIMAL WELFARE CRISIS
WE ARE FACING AND
HOW CALGARY HUMANE
SOCIETY CAN HELP

Caring for Puppies

READY FOR A PUPPY?
LEARN FROM OUR
TRAINERS ABOUT
WHAT TO EXPECT

REGISTER TODAY

DOG JOG

A Walk or Jog to End Animal Cruelty

PRESENTED BY



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Letter From the Executive Director

Carrie Fritz

As we draft this first edition of the Connecting Lives newsletter for 2024, we just concluded three consecutive Puppy Parties, which you will read about in these pages, to try to find new homes for litter after litter of puppies that have been admitted to the shelter. A trend that we began experiencing in 2022 and are continuing into 2024.

Over the past three years, Calgary Humane Society has seen a significant increase in the number of puppies admitted to the shelter – a staggering 205% increase from the number of puppies we took in prior to the pandemic. There are many factors contributing to this increase – irresponsible breeding; lack of pet-friendly housing available in Calgary; and rising costs impacting people's ability to afford basic veterinary care which includes spaying and neutering animals to prevent unwanted litters. Through the pages of this newsletter, you will note a new direction that Calgary Humane Society is taking to help support our community with new and improved programming aimed at providing assistance to all those who need help, so they never have to face that difficult decision of surrendering their animal to a shelter.

The team at Calgary Humane Society just completed a new 2024 strategic plan which we will be launching at our Annual General Meeting on April 20th. Our new mission is: Protect animals. Support people. Create a more humane world. Our vision is to be a part of an empowered community with the courage to advocate for animal welfare. We have defined bold new strategies focused on supporting, not just the animals, but also the people of our community because behind every distressed animal is a distressed person.

Our goal is to improve our existing programs like our Pet Safekeeping program, our Emergency Boarding program, and our Pet Food Bank to meet the increased demand. We are also launching new programs where the need exists, like our Continued Companionship Programs, which include our Seniors Program, Rosco's Keep Them Home Program, and our Pets and Renters program. Because when you help the people, you help the animals.

As you read this newsletter to learn more, I hope you are inspired by some of the stories you will read and the initiatives we are undertaking in the coming months. This critically important work is not possible without you! You help to be a voice for these vulnerable beings that do not have one. And while you are changing the lives of animals who deserve a second chance, your support is also literally changing human lives, for which we cannot thank you enough.

Yours truly,

Carrie Fritz.

MISSION

Protect Animals.
Support People.
Create a more humane world.

VISION

An empowered community
with the courage to advocate
for animal welfare.

VALUES

Compassion
Commitment
Courage
Collaboration





A Bold New Direction

CALGARY HUMANE SOCIETY'S STRATEGIC PLAN
2024 – 2027



Our Community

To foster partnerships, engage our supporters, and influence decision makers to maximize our impact and create meaningful change in animal welfare.



Our Animals

To enhance the well-being and welfare of animals through improved programs and proactive engagement with our community to promote the human-animal bond.



Our People

To foster a thriving and empowered community of team members, volunteers, and foster families, ensuring their engagement, development and recognition to create a strong foundation of support for our organization.



Our Foundation

To secure the resources needed to support our activities now and into the future, providing the opportunities for all demographics to support the Society in the way that is most meaningful for them.



Check in: STILL AT CAPACITY

In the last issue of Connecting Lives we shared with readers how capacity issues were affecting our day-to-day operations. And indeed, for the past year we have been “operating at or above capacity,” according to the Manager of Adoptions and Visitor Experience, Johanna Mihoc. Since the last issue of Connecting Lives was published “we have continued to struggle with our capacity with an unprecedented number of puppies being admitted to the shelter,” according to Brad Nichols, Director of Enforcement at Calgary Humane Society; this is in addition to a 28 percent increase in physical abuse cases and a 20 percent increase in abandonment cases in 2023.

After speaking with the Director of Community Services, Sally Johnston, we are happy to report an improvement in our capacity crisis, although it is not necessarily due to a decrease in animal intakes, but rather our own operational adjustments to address the issue. With this trend continuing into 2024, the team at Calgary Humane Society (“CHS”) shifted our procedures to better manage the increased demand. By building up our community services and promoting them to build awareness, we have been able to shift “how we respond to the needs of our community,” says Johnston. By predicting and responding to trends we are better equipped to support pet families with tools and resources before they even come in. While this may aid us in our endeavors to manage our own capacity, our waitlist remains overwhelming, with hundreds of dogs waiting to come into shelter. This problem clearly persists in the community.

“We pride ourselves on being a community hub and a resource centre,”

For example, the same week that Johnston sat down to report on our capacity crisis for this issue of Connecting Lives she was also assisting a senior citizen in need by leveraging CHS’s Continued Companionship programs. As a part of this program, CHS is able to support Calgary’s senior population with their beloved pets, by allowing them to keep their animals with them in their homes for as long as possible. In many cases, through this

program, we can assist with access to veterinary care or supplies for their beloved pet. This senior was facing eviction if she did not spay her cat. Calgary Humane Society was able to work with a Calgary veterinary clinic to get this cat the veterinary care needed.

The tragedy of this person being forced to give up their cat when the solution was so simple cannot be understated. The best thing for this cat was to stay with her owner who loves her, something that Johnston was more than happy to see facilitated through our Seniors Program, rather than unnecessary using shelter resources to care for and adopt out the cat. This Seniors Program under our Continued Companionship programming, allows pet owners to keep their animals and allows Calgary Humane Society to prevent another avoidable surrender, thus keeping our population as manageable as possible. Other services we offer are our Pet Safekeeping Program, Emergency Boarding Program, Rosco’s Keep Them Home Program, our Food Bank program, and more.

If someone you know is at risk of losing their pet, please contact us to learn about what we can do to help.

While Calgary Humane Society has gotten better at getting resources into the hands of those who most need them, the larger, societal issues have persisted outside of our shelter. Many pet owners are facing the difficult decision of whether to pay their rent or an unexpected veterinary bill. For Johnston, the issue lies with the lack of pet friendly housing in our city, the dramatic increase in inflation and the general cost of living in Calgary which is creating insurmountable barriers for people trying to care for their animals. These are societal problems that are towering over many pet parents, but the team at Calgary Humane Society is dedicated to helping through this new Continued Companionship programming.

While Calgary Humane Society can certainly continue working to support those who need assistance with their animal, a larger community effort is required to tackle these issues in and out of shelter.

**We encourage everyone to learn more about
“the animal welfare crisis we are facing and
how Calgary Humane Society can help,”**

- Johnston



For those who wish to get involved with Calgary Humane Society and go the extra mile to support an animal family in need, fostering is an excellent way to get involved as it shortens an animal's length of stay in shelter. Calgary Humane Society is continuing to see a trend of dogs who have been under socialized and thus require more training and socialization in shelter. Unfortunately, the stressful environment of the shelter often compounds those behavioural issues, which puts the dog and the community at risk. These under socialized dogs tend to struggle in a shelter environment, making it difficult for them to find their new home as a result according to Mihoc.

Through our Foster program, dogs are placed in a home to learn the skills they need to become a well-adjusted member of their community.

Puppies continue to add additional stress to the capacity crisis at Calgary Humane Society as entire litters are arriving weekly. It seems to be a never ending cycle that is attributed to irresponsible breeding. Mihoc concurs, stating that backyard breeding is a

“Canada-wide societal issue,” that is a result of the demand that skyrocketed during the pandemic.

Now that people have returned to work and can travel freely once again, the demand for a puppy has decreased significantly and breeding practices need to change to align with this reduction. Without change, we will continue to see unmanageable populations that result in owners surrendering litters at a time or possible intervention from Peace Officers due to Animal Protection Act violations.

Typically Peace Officer intervention is met with intense emotions as legal repercussions are likely to follow; however, when a population of animals has gotten out of control, often CHS Peace Officers are greeted with a reaction of extreme relief when animals are brought into our care. This has been an unexpected reaction among many who have received a visit from a CHS Peace Officer, which is a bizarre symptom of a larger problem that started ramping up in 2022. Often these individuals have felt overwhelmed for a long period of time and, despite the legal ramifications of their actions, they are simply thankful to get some help for the dogs they could not place.

Despite the programs that Calgary Humane Society offers to pet families and the various options available to those who are seeking to surrender their animals, another alarming trend we are experiencing is an increase in abandoned animals.

It bears repeating that Calgary Humane Society Peace Officers have seen a concerning increase in physical abuse and abandonment cases in 2023,

something Nichols theorizes is a symptom of stress occurring from hard economic times and lack of affordable housing.

Mihoc hopes to see more people use Calgary Humane's resources, “I have compassion for people in difficult situations but there is a right way to do things.” Indeed, Mihoc's voice trembled as she recalled CHS finding puppies “taped up in a cardboard box on the side of the highway,” a heartbreaking find that only strengthens our resolve to protect animals, support people, and create a more humane world.

While Calgary Humane Society is proud to boast so many programs and be able to offer many different resources to those who need it,

change is needed on a larger scale.

Alberta is behind when it comes to affordable housing for pet owners and the Animal Protection Act of Alberta (APA) has stagnated while provinces surrounding us strengthen their animal protection legislation. Please consider writing to your MLA to see government action in these areas. We can look to Ontario as an example in terms of banning no pet clauses in leases. Similarly, we can look to any other province in Canada in terms of modernizing our Animal Protection Act. Additionally, legislation beyond the APA regarding irresponsible breeding is sorely needed, as currently in Alberta “breeding is not terribly regulated,” according to Nichols who compares backyard breeding to the “wild west” given its lack of regulation in this province. CHS Peace Officers must work to the letter of the law, indeed they are bound by it; the more robust and strengthened the law, the more expanded our enforcement toolkit becomes to combat the root causes of the issue.

If you are reading this and hoping for change, please be the change and write your MLA.

Head to our website for inspiration on what to write your MLA. As we run through the final version of this newsletter, 10 more puppies have been admitted to the shelter. Without your help, this trend continues.



There was a time where puppies would rarely end up in a shelter, but when they did, they were adopted immediately.

Those days are behind us, so we got creative with getting all these puppies adopted!

PUPPY PARTY



At Puppy Party events, adopters are welcome to visit with the puppies on a first come first served basis. Adopters take the puppies home the very same day, and those who are not ready to adopt are still encouraged to come and interact with the puppies as it provides them with ample enrichment to the benefit of a growing puppy.

These events are also to the benefit of the shelter given how resource intensive puppies are.



Come to our puppy parties!

Subscribe to our email and follow us on social media for more information.

Caring for Puppies



Ah puppies... cute, fluffy, little babies capable of chaos on a larger scale than many new pet parents would typically expect. While “tremendously rewarding,” according to Johanna Mihoc, Manager of Adoptions and Visitor Experience, puppies are quite a bit of work. From puppy proofing your home to training, Calgary Humane Society has you covered when it comes to resources and knowledge.

Bob Siemens, Manager, Behaviour Outreach and Training, recommends patience first and foremost as the most important tool in a new puppy parent’s tool kit. This sentiment is echoed by Mihoc who always recommends

the three P’s of puppyhood: patience, preparation, and planning.

This is in part because puppy behaviour is changing as they grow and “learning takes time,” puppy parents must understand the puppy is a “baby” who has no concept of what is and is not appropriate behaviour in their new family, according to Siemens.

Puppies can begin training as early as three weeks, and while patience goes a long way when it comes to caring for puppies, socialization is also necessary to ensure the puppy grows into a responsible citizen.

Socialization should begin at three weeks, with the critical socialization period being three weeks to 16 months of age within a dog’s life.

During this time, like human children, a dog’s brain is like a sponge: ready to learn and make connections. This means that positive associations with new experience can have a significant impact on the dog’s growth. Socialization classes, such as puppy club at Calgary Humane Society, can assist with this by introducing puppies to new objects (like the dreaded vacuum or bicycle) in a safe and positive environment.

On the topic of training, research shows that dogs learn better when they are not stressed.



When it comes to training, positive reinforcement-based training builds the most optimal environment for learning.

This kind of training “accelerates learning” by building a fun and relaxed environment for the dog where positive connections are being made, according to Siemens.

Other challenges that new puppy owners might face include potty training, biting, and chewing. Although typical for puppies, these behaviours are not appropriate in their human families! Siemens recommends always keeping eyes on the puppy. This includes leveraging exercise pens, crates, and even leashing the puppy to oneself. Timers can be set to remind the humans when it is time to go outside for a bathroom break, and if the puppy successfully uses the outdoors to urinate/defecate their humans should reward them with what Siemens can only describe as “a big party” complete with treats, and a ton of affection, and praise.

Additionally, Siemens recommends “puppy proofing” the house which involves closing doors to rooms the puppy should not have access to, like a kid’s room that may have all sorts of tempting toys, perfect for chewing, lying about.

“Puppies explore the world with their mouths,”

says Mihoc, who recommends moving items such as shoes elsewhere, as the interesting smells may invite some unwanted exploration chewing. Exercise pens can be used to block off electrical outlets, cords, and other objects that are at risk of destructive chewing.

On the topic of preparing the house for a new puppy, and deciding which rooms they can access, Siemens recommends sharing a sleeping space with the newest furry family member. This may look like sleeping in the living room with the dog or an exercise pen beside the bed to offer comfort, or if comfortable, allowing the puppy into the bed. “Because you just took the puppy away from the only family they’ve known, if you leave them alone in the living room while you sleep in your bed, they are going to feel scared and unsure of what is happening and when they are getting out next,” says Siemens. By allowing the puppy to sleep with their new family, it offers them comfort and allows the humans to sleep peacefully as the puppy will not be crying all night.

By offering positive reinforcement, lots of stimulation, puppy socialization classes, and taking the time to bond with the puppy, these first two to six months of life will fly by as the puppy grows into a confident and happy dog!

DURABLE CHEW TOYS

PUPPY BED



DOG

A Walk or Jog to E



Saturday June 1, 2024



North Glenmore Park
7305 Crowchild Tr.SW



10:00 AM
Registration Opens



11:00 AM
Walk/Jog



12:00 PM - 3:00 PM
Family Festival

DOG JOG
PRESENTED BY



JAG

and Animal Cruelty

WEASELHEAD
NORTH GLENMORE
PARK

TOTAL DISTANCE
5KM THERE AND BACK

All funds raised support
Calgary Humane's mission
to end animal cruelty

START/END POINT

FESTIVAL
GROUNDS

ELBOW RIVER

Register Today!
Visit CalgaryHumane.ca

Protection and Investigations Update



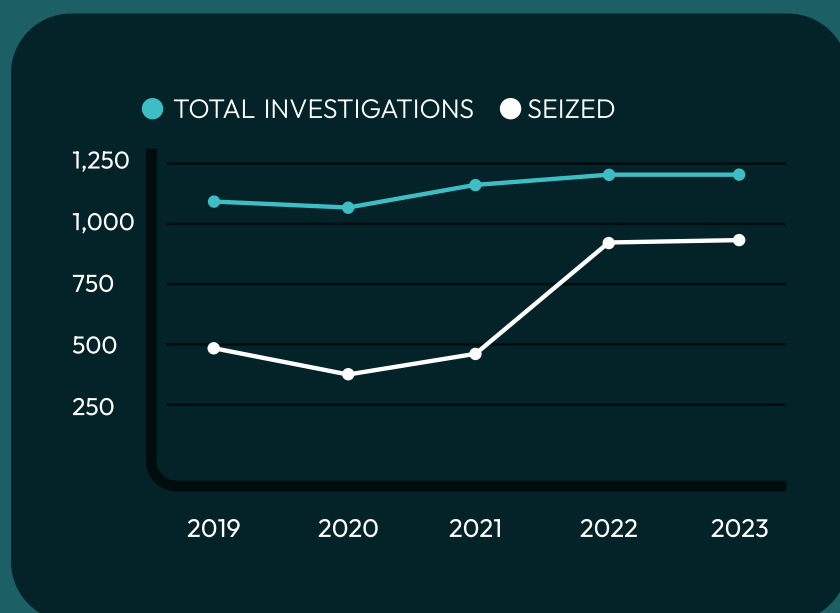




2023 Statistics

TOTAL INVESTIGATIONS 1192
SEIZED ANIMALS 921

ABANDONMENT	273
MEDICAL NEGLECT	253
INADEQUATE SHELTER	149
PHYSICAL ABUSE	144
OTHER	79
UNSANITARY CONDITIONS	77
MALNUTRITION/STARVATION	64
INADEQUATE WATER	52
INSPECTIONS	41
HOT CAR	26
OVERCROWDING	18
GROOMING NEGLECT	16



Animal Cruelty Convictions

Brianna GORDON

Convicted under the Animal Protection Act of Alberta and sentenced to a \$2000 fine and a 15-year animal prohibition order.

Roger HENINGER

Convicted under the Animal Protection Act of Alberta and sentenced to a \$1000 fine and a 5-year animal prohibition order.

Antuen BORICI

Convicted under the Animal Protection Act of Alberta and sentenced to a \$900 fine and a 5-year animal prohibition order.

Sarah FADER

Convicted under the Animal Protection Act of Alberta and sentenced to a \$600 fine and a 10-year animal prohibition order.

Shelley BRISBY

Convicted under the Animal Protection Act of Alberta and sentenced to a \$500 fine and a 5-year animal prohibition order.

Tracey HOSKER

Convicted under the Animal Protection Act of Alberta and sentenced to a \$750 fine and a 15-year animal prohibition order.

Cari HARTGERINK

Convicted under the Animal Protection Act of Alberta and sentenced to a \$1000 fine and a 10-year animal prohibition order.

Bryden JOHNSON

Convicted under the Criminal Code of Canada and sentenced to a 10-year animal prohibition order.

Crystal COMEAU

Convicted under the Animal Protection Act of Alberta and sentenced to a 2-year animal prohibition order.

Cheryl CLARK

Convicted under the Animal Protection Act of Alberta and 10-year animal prohibition order.

Aleeta RAUGUST

Convicted under the Criminal Code of Canada and sentenced to a 6.5 year incarceration and a lifetime animal prohibition order.

Gordana and James PETERSON

Convicted under the Animal Protection Act of Alberta and sentenced to a \$500 fine (each) and lifetime animal prohibition orders.

Vinette WAHOBIN

Convicted under the Animal Protection Act of Alberta and sentenced to a \$100 fine and a 2-year animal prohibition order.

Brent BOND

Convicted under the Animal Protection Act of Alberta and sentenced to a \$7500 fine and a lifetime animal prohibition order.

Van PHAM

Convicted under the Criminal Code of Canada and sentenced to a lifetime animal prohibition order.

Karen LAWSON

Convicted under the Animal Protection Act of Alberta and sentenced to a 2-year animal prohibition order.

Brent CHOMYSHEN

Convicted under the Animal Protection Act of Alberta and sentenced to a \$1000 fine and a 5-year animal prohibition order.

Wendy WERESCHUK

Convicted under the Animal Protection Act of Alberta and sentenced to a \$250 fine and a lifetime animal prohibition order.

Christopher SAUER

Convicted under the Criminal Code of Canada and sentenced to a 5-year animal prohibition order, 1-year probation and a Benchmark Animal Rehabilitative Curriculum course.

James LEVESCONTE

Convicted under the Animal Protection Act of Alberta and sentenced to a \$250 fine and a 10-year animal prohibition order.

2023 IMPACT REPORT

Thanks to the generous support of our community,
Calgary Humane Society was able to:

admit 4,136

animals from the
Calgary area



investigate 1,192

cases of suspected
cruelty and abuse

remove 921

animals from
unsafe situations



care for 205%

more puppies
since 2020



place 1,696

animals with our
foster families
reducing their
time in shelter



perform 2,176

surgeries to improve
the health of our
animals



work with 835

volunteers who donated
close to 30,000 hours of
time



offer 1,198

pet families
support through
our behaviour
training classes,
consultations, and
helpline



find 3,047

animals their
new home

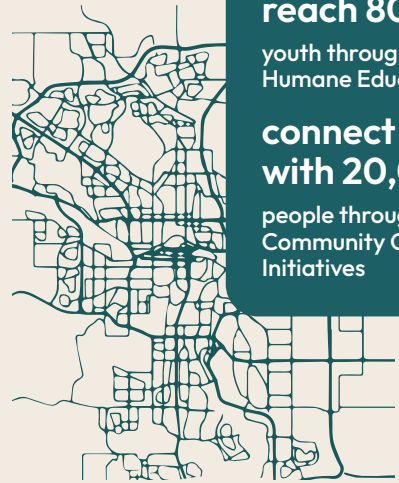


reach 801

youth through
Humane Education

**connect
with 20,000+**

people through
Community Outreach
Initiatives



support 538

families through Continued Companionship
Programming - programs designed to keep
people and animals together

Pet Safekeeping 121	Emergency Boarding 42	Keep Them Home 8
Phoenix Fund 16	Pet Food Bank 299	Seniors Program 52

Over 17,000

donors generously supported
Calgary Humane Society in 2023
and made this work possible.
Thank you!



Your support matters.

The number of homeless and unwanted puppies arriving at Calgary Humane Society has more than doubled in the past two years. We need your help to make sure each and every puppy gets the care and compassion they need and the loving home they deserve.

Your donation will make sure no puppy is left behind. Please give generously.

*These 130 puppies account for only 20.3% of the total intake in the past two years.
Most are now in loving homes. Your support makes this possible.*



Join us at our Puppy Club!

This six-week program introduces your puppy to positive reinforcement-based training, obedience, and appropriate play.

Explore new sights and smells

and meet new





friends along the way

Summer JACKPAWT 50/50

Coming Soon

**Online Only at
CalgaryHumane.ca**

Register today at CalgaryHumane.ca



Find us in the COMMUNITY

COMING UP

Lilac Fest

June 2

Inglewood Night Market

June 7, August 9, September 6

Marda Loop Night Market

June 21, July 19

Pet-a-Palooza

July 27/28

Stay tuned to find out more about our upcoming events like Canada Day, Marda Gras, and Calgary Pride Festival.

Visit CalgaryHumane.ca

FUNDRAISE WITH US

**Get your community involved
in animal welfare by setting up
your very own fundraiser!**

Contact
community.outreach@calgaryhumane.ca



PHOTO TAKEN AT AN OUTREACH EVENT FOR THE CALGARY FLAMES



Summer CAMPS

Grades 1-9, July 2- August 26

Is your child interested in becoming a veterinarian? How about a peace officer who helps animals? Check out our summer camps and enroll your child in one of our camps this summer!



So You Want to be a Vet?

Does your child dream of being a vet when they are older? With a week at vet camp, they'll get to explore the ins and outs of the vet profession while spending time with our professional veterinarians and health professionals.



Animal Investigations

Ever wonder about the laws that protect pets? What about other animals? How are all those laws enforced and what happens when they are broken? Find out through this special camp where you will become experts in everything animal protection and enforcement.



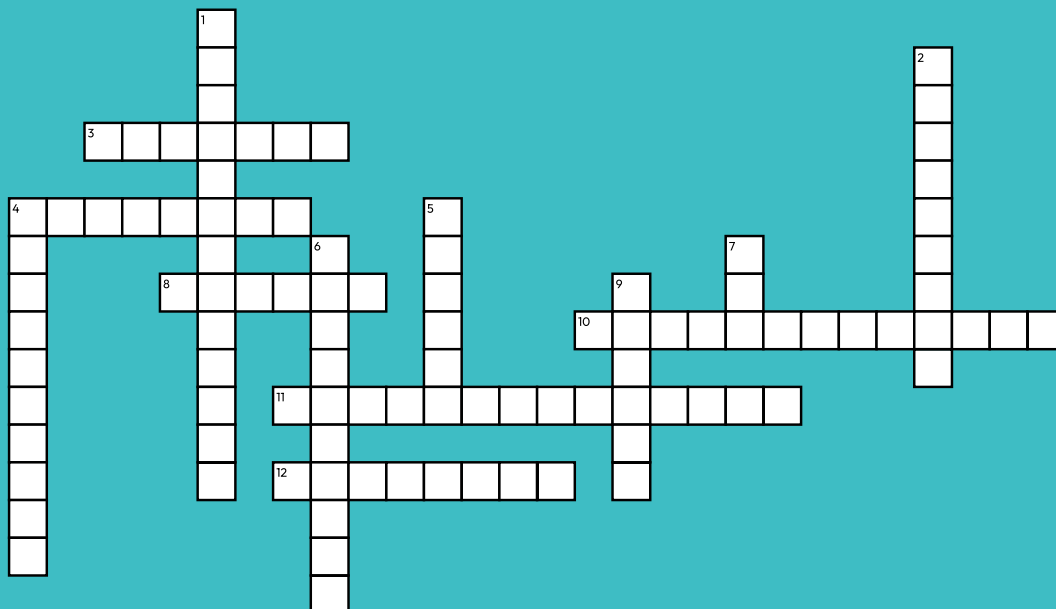
Pets 101

Which animals make good pets? What kind of care do they need? Will this puppy stay this small forever? Campers will explore all these questions and more—everything you wanted to know about having a pet but were afraid to ask.

And so many more!

From Fantastic Felines, to Critters in Motion, to Animal Careers, and even How Animals Learn, kids will get to learn more about animals through crafts, activities, and of course, animal visits!

Head to our website to sign up today! Visit CalgaryHumane.ca



1. Programming to support people in need of Continued _____
2. You can find our outreach team out in the _____
3. Care for 205% more of these little one's since 2020
4. DOWN: An event to help get puppies adopted
4. ACROSS: One of the three P's of puppyhood
5. Over 17,000 of these supporters generously supported Calgary Humane Society in 2023
6. People who donated over 30,000 hours their time last year
7. Be a part of the change and write to your _____
8. An event where you can walk or jog to help end animal cruelty
9. A great way to get involved with CHS and decrease the amount of days an animal is in the shelter
10. Puppies should start this as early as three of weeks for a period of up to 16 months
11. There were 1192 of these conducted this year
12. Positive reinforcement-based training builds the most optimal environment for _____

Matching Game

Pets can show how they are feeling through their body language.

Draw a line from the pet to the sentence that describes how they are feeling.



Relaxed



That feels great!



Back off

Can you find:

- 10 paw prints
- 4 dinosaurs
- 3 fish
- 2 pineapples
- 1 tennis ball





She knows you're only here to see her toebeans

Subscribe to our email list to unlock exclusive toebean content.
Visit [CalgaryHumane.ca](https://calgaryhumane.ca)



**Calgary
Humane
Society**