

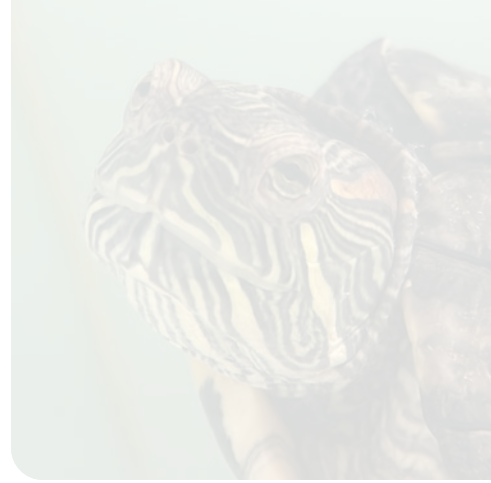


**Calgary
Humane
Society**

A close-up photograph of a green frog's head. The frog is looking towards the left. Its eye is prominent and has a dark pupil. There is a significant amount of brown dirt and debris on the frog's face, particularly around the eye and on its snout. The background is blurred, showing more of the frog's body and some green foliage.

2025 Annual Report





Calgary Humane Society

Calgary Humane Society exists to protect and safeguard animals from abuse, neglect, and abandonment, to uphold the law, and to provide a voice for those who cannot speak for themselves.

We provide refuge, medical care, and enrichment for animals in need, while supporting animal guardians and the community with resources, guidance, and education to keep animals healthy and thriving at home.

By teaching youth and fostering the next generation of animal advocates, we strengthen the human-animal bond and create a compassionate community where every animal has the chance to be safe, healthy, and loved.





Table of Contents

- 1 Land Acknowledgment
 - 2 Message from the Board Chair and Executive Director
 - 3 Directors and Board of Directors
 - 5 Mission, Vision, Values
 - 6 2025 at a Glance
 - 7 Where Compassion Met Action
 - 9 Financials
 - 11 Protection
 - 15 Animals
 - 27 Community
 - 33 Looking Ahead to 2026
 - 37 Thank you
- 



Land Acknowledgement

Calgary Humane Society acknowledges that we are located on the traditional territories of the peoples of Treaty 7, including the Blackfoot Confederacy (Siksika, Piikani, and Kainai Nations), the Tsuut'ina Nation, and the Stoney Nakoda Nations of Bearspaw, Chiniki, and Wesley. We also recognize the Métis Nation of Alberta, Region 3, as well as all Indigenous Peoples who have lived, traveled, and cared for this land for generations.

We honor the knowledge and stewardship passed down through these communities, which continue to inspire how we care for animals and their well-being today. As we work to protect, heal, and connect animals with people, we commit to acting with respect, humility, and gratitude, recognizing the land we occupy, the Indigenous peoples who have cared for it, and the enduring lessons of interconnection they have taught us.

Message from the Board Chair and Executive Director

Every year, Calgary Humane Society brings together people who care deeply about animals — staff, volunteers, foster families, donors, partners, and advocates — united by a shared commitment to building a more humane community.

In 2025, animals arrived at our doors frightened, injured, overwhelmed, or in need of protection. Families reached out in moments of uncertainty, trying to do right by the animals they loved while facing challenges beyond their control. Across the organization, people responded with compassion, expertise, and determination — showing up every day to stand up for animals and support the people who care for them.

This annual report reflects what is possible when that commitment is carried forward through collective effort. It tells the story of a connected system of care, where prevention, protection, medical and behavioural support, fostering, adoption, education, and community engagement work together to create better outcomes — for animals, for families, and for the community as a whole.

Throughout 2025, that spirit shaped our work. Families were supported through crisis so pets could remain at home. Animals received individualized care designed around their specific needs. Protection and Investigations officers pursued accountability when animals could not protect themselves. Adoption and foster teams brought creativity and persistence to every match, ensuring animals didn't just find homes, but found lasting ones.

This work is sustained by the people who choose to be part of it — volunteers who give their time, foster families who open their homes, community partners who walk alongside us, and donors who trust us to act with care and responsibility. Your support reflects a belief that standing up for animals is not optional, even when it is difficult.

As we look ahead, the challenges facing animal welfare continue to evolve. But so does our resolve. Guided by compassion, courage, and collaboration, Calgary Humane Society will continue to learn, adapt, and strengthen how we serve animals and the people who love them.

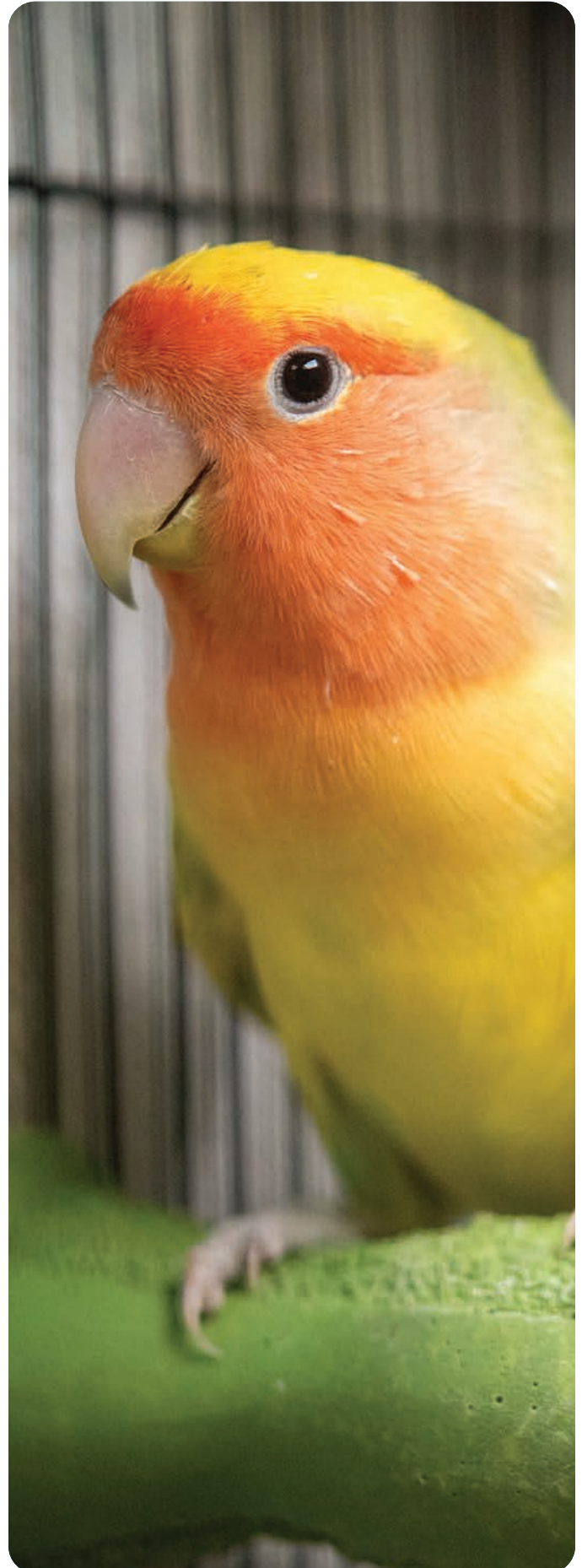
Thank you for standing with us. Together, we are creating a community where animals are protected, families are supported, and the courage to care is something we share.

With gratitude,

Andrew Wilson
Board Chair



Carrie Fritz
Executive Director



Directors

Carrie Fritz

Executive Director

Anna-Lee Fitzsimmons

Director of Public Relations
Vice Executive Director

Brad Nichols

Director of Enforcement
Vice Executive Director

Elissa Bessonette, BSc, DVM

Director of Animal Health,
Lead Veterinarian

Dayna Burghall, CPA, CA

Director of Finance

Kaleigh Goehringer, CFRE

Director of Philanthropy

Sally Johnston

Director of Community Services
& Pathway Planning

Melaina Slater, CPHR, CTMP

Director of Human Resources





Board of Directors

Andrew Wilson
Board Chair

Patric Nagel
Vice Chair

Yvette Steiner
Treasurer

Sarah Gingrich
Secretary

Dr. Iain Chynoweth

Scott Cressman

Dave Cunnington

Elyce Harris

Nicholas Johnson

Keri Lee

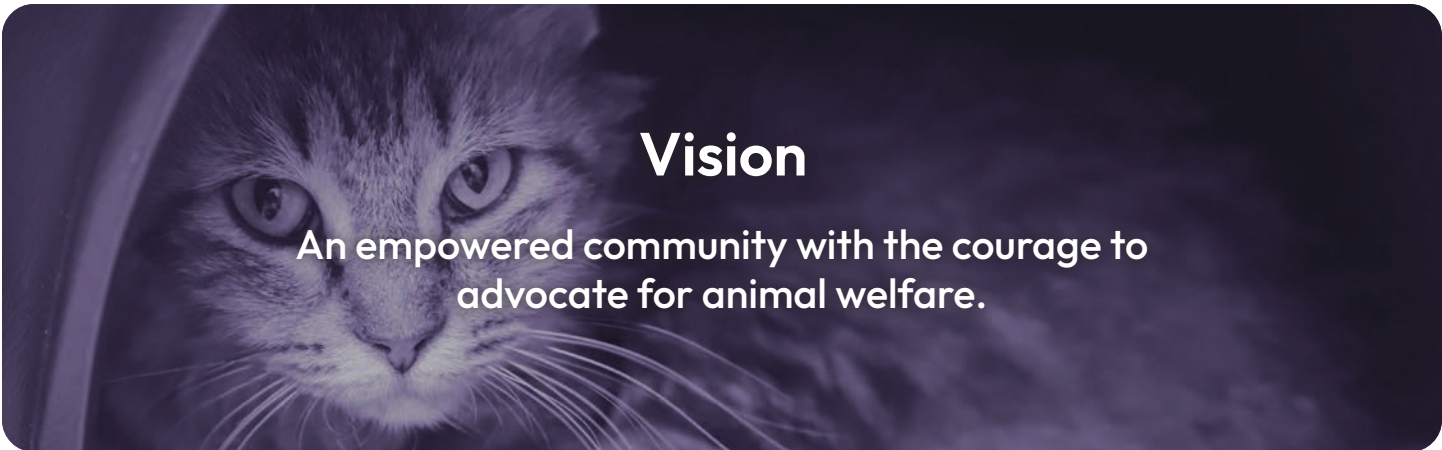
Melanie Litoski

Lanny Westersund



Mission

Protect animals. Support people.
Create a more humane world.



Vision

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



Values

As demonstrated in 2025:

Compassion

We listen deeply, understand each person's situation, and respond with kindness. Whether supporting a family through surrender or providing care for frightened animals in need, compassion guides every action.

Courage

We advocate for the needs of animals and their families, even in challenging situations. From standing up for the welfare of animals to making difficult intake and care decisions, our staff act with bravery and integrity every day.

Commitment

We dedicate ourselves fully to every animal and every family, showing flexibility, perseverance, and follow-through. Our teams go above and beyond to ensure no animal is left without care, whether through large-scale intakes, specialized programs, or fostering support.

Collaboration

We work seamlessly across teams, departments, and community partners. By coordinating efforts in admissions, animal care, behaviour, health, volunteers, and fundraising, we create stronger outcomes for animals and families alike.

These values guide everything we do, from emergency intake and care programs to education, community outreach, and fostering lifelong bonds between animals and the people who love them.

2025 at a Glance



2,475

animals were adopted into loving homes, including 451 adult dogs, giving them a second chance at a better life.



993

investigations led to 650 animals being removed from unsafe situations, with 29 charges laid, protecting the most vulnerable and preventing cruelty.



1,644

families were supported through Continued Companionship Programming. 285 animals received care at our community clinics, and 625 households were supported through our Pet Food Bank program.



20,558

veterinary exams were conducted, 4,544 vaccines given, and 67,135 medications administered, ensuring animals receive the health care they need to thrive.



26,357

people were reached through Humane Education & Outreach programs, empowering our community with the knowledge to care for animals responsibly.



39,897

volunteer hours contributed, a service value of \$598,448, demonstrating the power of community dedication in supporting our mission.



1,551

animals were supported through the foster program, cared for by 795 foster homes, providing temporary loving care that helps animals find their forever homes.



17,851

Thank you to the 17,851 donors who supported Calgary Humane Society in 2025 to make all of this possible.

Where Compassion Met Action

Over the past year, the organization delivered tangible outputs across our strategic plan, that together translated action into meaningful outcomes. By focusing on what was delivered and how it advanced our mission, this work strengthened both immediate impact and long-term organizational resilience.

Animals

Goal

To enhance the well-being and welfare of animals through proactive community engagement and the development of programs that support the human animal bond.

2025 Accomplishments

- Expanded community-based prevention and intake diversion
- Increased access to spay/neuter, wellness, and behavioural care
- Enhanced shelter best practices, enrichment, and foster support
- Improved shelter operations, training, and best practices to enhance daily wellbeing
- Strengthened reunification, foster, and adoption pathways

Community

Goal

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

2025 Accomplishments

- Provided expertise and support to the provincial government on Animal Protection Act amendments
- Expanded humane education, youth engagement, and outreach
- Built partnerships with shelters, food banks, housing, and social-service agencies
- Strengthened storytelling, digital engagement, and advocacy
- Strengthened donor engagement and stewardship, sustaining philanthropic support during a challenging economic year

People

Goal

To foster a thriving and empowered community of team members, volunteers, and foster families to build a strong foundation of support for our animals.

2025 Accomplishments

- Expanded volunteer and foster family engagement and capacity
- Strengthened inclusive recruitment, onboarding, and training
- Invested in mental health, wellness, and peer support
- Improved recognition, compensation review, and professional development

Outcomes

- Fewer animals entered shelter unnecessarily
- Improved health, behaviour, and quality of life for animals in care
- Shortened lengths of stay and increased shelter capacity
- Better outcomes for behaviourally complex animals

Why This Matters

Prevention-first approaches and high quality care ensure animals thrive.

Outcomes

- Earlier support for people and animals in crisis
- Expanded access to Calgary Humane Society programs across diverse communities
- Stronger animal protection tools across Alberta
- Increased public trust and donor confidence
- Supported financial stability, enabling Calgary Humane Society to deliver essential programs and care while planning responsibly for the future

Why This Matters

Animal welfare does not exist in isolation. Thorough community solutions address root causes and build humane futures.

Outcomes

- Higher engagement, morale, and retention
- Increased capacity to care for animals in more complex environments
- Stronger trust and confidence from donors and the community

Why This Matters

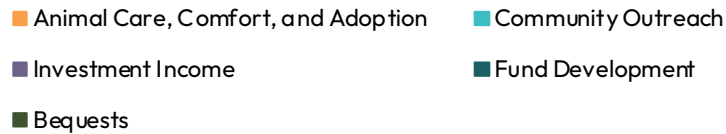
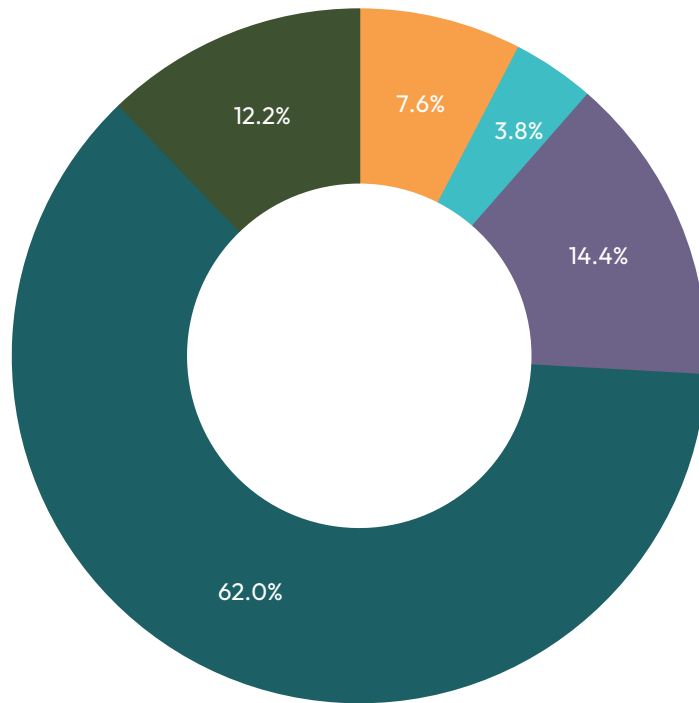
People power compassion. When they feel supported and valued, the entire system of care becomes stronger and more sustainable.

Collective Impact

Together, these outputs and outcomes reflect a year of purposeful delivery—meeting immediate needs while strengthening the systems, people, and partnerships required for sustained impact. Progress across all our pillars ensured balanced advancement of the organization’s mission, today and into the future.

Financials

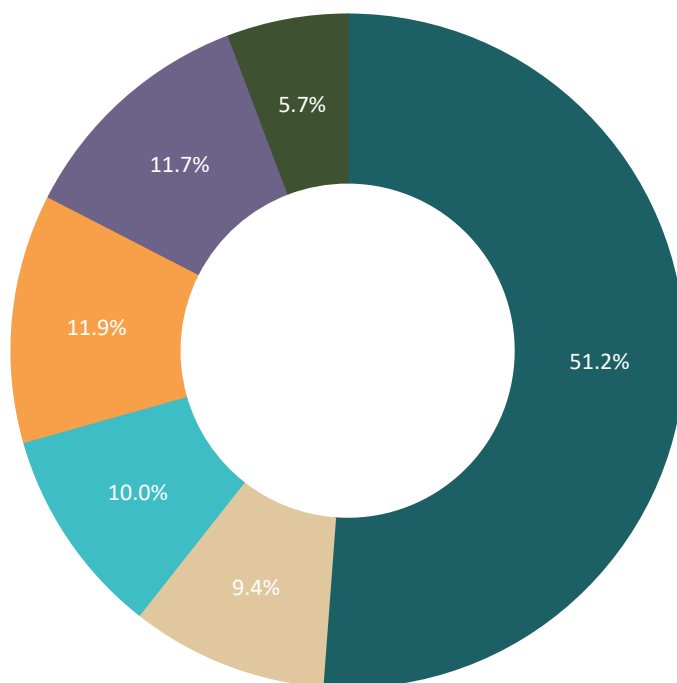
Summary of Revenue



Summary of Revenue by Program in 2025		
Program	\$	%
Animal Care, Comfort, and Adoption	\$ 841,295	7.6%
Community Outreach	\$424,650	3.8%
Investment Income	\$1,597,150	14.4%
Fund Development	\$6,853,080	62.0%
Bequests	\$1,344,764	12.2%
	\$11,060,939	100%
Unrealized Loss on Marketable Securities	\$286,340	
	\$10,774,599	

Financials

Summary of Expense



- Animal Care, Comfort, and Adoption
- Protection & Investigations
- Community Outreach
- Fundraising
- Administrative
- Facility Costs

Summary of Expense by Program in 2025		
Program	\$	%
Animal Care, Comfort, and Adoption	\$ 5,268,959	51.2%
Protection & Investigations	\$971,825	9.4%
Community Outreach	\$1,028,889	10.0%
Fundraising	\$1,228,639	11.9%
Administrative	\$1,203,015	11.7%
Facility Costs	\$591,766	5.7%
	\$10,293,093	100%
Amortization	\$1,394,805	
	\$11,687,898	

Protection



While every effort is made to keep animals safely in their homes—or to quickly find them new ones—not all animals come to Calgary Humane Society by choice. For some, our involvement begins when safety and care have been compromised. In those moments, Calgary Humane Society Peace Officers step in to protect animals from abuse, cruelty, abandonment and neglect, ensuring they receive immediate care and a path toward safety and recovery.



Abner

When Abner arrived at CHS, the signs of severe neglect were unmistakable. Emaciated, with untreated medical conditions and significant skin issues, his condition reflected prolonged suffering and a lack of care.

After being transferred from Animal Services, CHS's Protection & Investigations team stepped in to ensure his safety and begin a complex medical recovery. With dedicated veterinary treatment, including surgery and ongoing care, Abner slowly regained his strength.

Today, Abner is thriving in a loving home. His case also resulted in a conviction, with his former owner prohibited from owning animals for 10 years, helping protect others from similar harm.



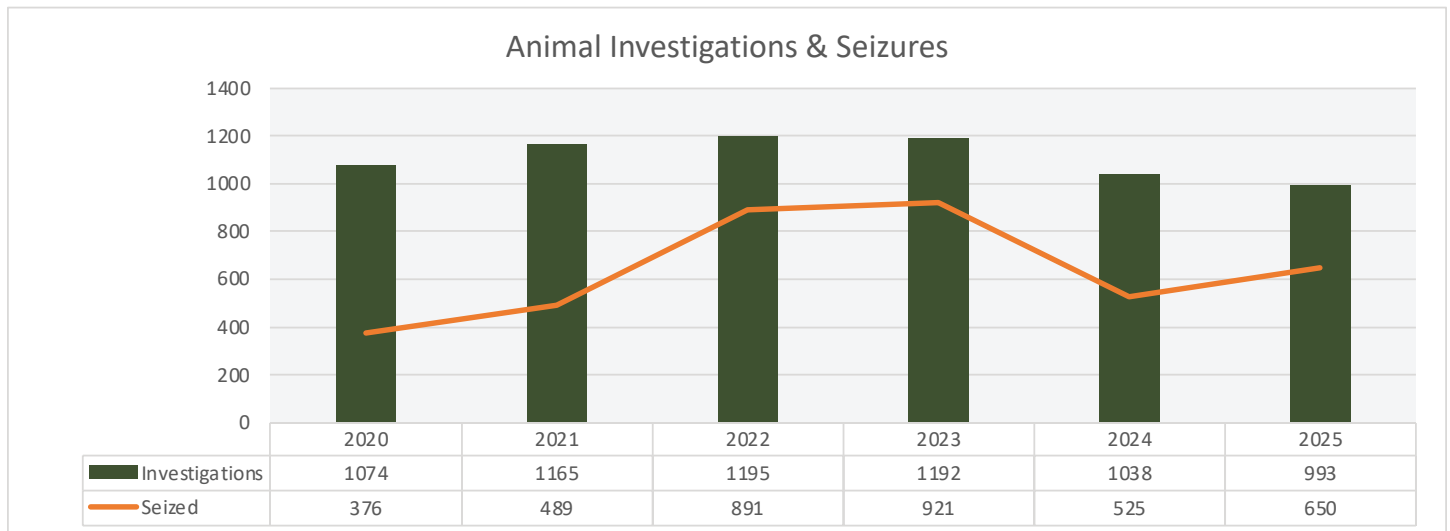
Strengthening Accountability

Every year, Calgary Humane Society’s Protection & Investigations team confronts one of the most complex challenges in animal welfare: ensuring animals who are suffering, neglected, or abused are identified, protected, and given a voice, often in the most difficult and emotionally charged circumstances. Animals that come to the attention of the team are frequently among the most vulnerable. They may be experiencing neglect, intentional cruelty, abandonment, or chronic distress behind closed doors. The problem is not only the harm itself, but also the barriers to intervention such as limited visibility, evolving legislation, and the need to balance compassion with enforcement. The team exists to ensure that harm does not go unseen, accountability is upheld, and animals receive protection when they cannot protect themselves.

Turning Protection into Action

In 2025, the Protection & Investigations team continued to address these challenges through proactive enforcement, thorough investigations, and through strong collaboration with community partners and government stakeholders. Officers conducted inspections across pet stores, animal facilities, and events, collaborated closely with other law enforcement agencies, and responded to reports of cruelty with care, precision, and professionalism. Furthermore, there was a 56% increase in prohibition checks, ensuring those already convicted of an offence are abiding by their conditions.

Over the course of the year, more than 650 animals were seized from situations of distress and brought into care, receiving life-altering medical intervention and protection. Most importantly, critical Peace Officer positions were filled, strengthening Calgary Humane Society’s ability to respond quickly and effectively as concerns arise. At the same time, the team maintained a strong and credible voice in Provincial engagement surrounding the Animal Protection Act, ensuring frontline enforcement experience informed proposed legislative change.



Protection Investigations					
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Abandoned	174	228	273	192	174
Abused	133	112	144	135	108
Dirty Conditions	62	74	77	82	73
Basic Needs Not Met	110	95	116	109	107
Inadequate Shelter	228	163	149	179	182
Medical	286	292	253	209	214
Other	172	202	142	116	110
Prohibition	0	29	38	16	25
Total Investigations	1,165	1,195	1,192	1,038	993

When Persistence Makes the Difference

Some cases underscore the depth and difficulty of this work. One such case began in July with disturbing CCTV footage showing a dog being abused on a train platform. Despite early efforts, the suspect could not be located. When the abuse resurfaced months later, the team persisted, collaborating across enforcement agencies to safely seize the dog. What followed was an extraordinary test of resilience: sustained harassment, attempted break-ins, and even the theft of the dog while in Calgary Humane Society custody. Through it all, the team remained focused and resolute, ultimately securing significant charges against the abuser and dismantling a misleading public narrative. Most importantly, the victim animal was protected and given a chance at a safer future. Innovation also played a role in positive outcomes.

Advancing Protection Beyond Individual Cases

Beyond daily investigations, the Protection & Investigations team works to address systemic gaps that impact animal welfare across Alberta. In 2025, Calgary Humane Society welcomed the Province's decision to reopen the Animal Protection Act for stakeholder consultation, the first such opportunity since 2005. Drawing on more than a century of enforcement experience, Calgary Humane Society advocated for meaningful legislative improvements that go beyond punitive optics. Rather than focusing solely on higher maximum fines—rarely imposed by courts—Calgary Humane Society emphasized clearer definitions, reduced ambiguity, and provisions that reflect modern understandings of animal welfare. Recommendations included expanding the definition of “distress” to address environmental and psychological suffering, strengthening abandonment provisions, clarifying exemptions through alignment with codes of practice, and modernizing offences to reflect emerging cruelty trends. These efforts aim to equip officers, courts, and the public with clearer standards, improving protection outcomes for animals across the province.

Update

At the time of writing this report, the APA has gone through its first reading and is one step closer to becoming law - a bold step forward for Animal Welfare in Alberta.

A Commitment That Endures

Through courage, compassion, and collaboration, the Protection & Investigations team exemplifies Calgary Humane Society's commitment to protecting animals and supporting a more humane community. Their work in 2025 ensured that suffering animals were not forgotten, that accountability was pursued even when the path was difficult, and that the foundation for stronger animal protection in Alberta continues to be built.

Animals



Compassion in Action, Every Step of the Way

Animals thrive when they are with the people who love them. This belief—shared by our supporters—continues to guide everything we do.

In 2025, how we cared for animals evolved, but our purpose remained the same: ensuring animals are treated with compassion and given every opportunity to thrive. With a greater focus on prevention and community support, we strengthened the systems that help keep animals safely in their homes whenever possible.

When admission to the shelter was necessary, our commitment did not change. Animals received high-quality veterinary care, behavioural support, and thoughtful planning to protect their wellbeing and prepare them for the next chapter of their journey, whether that meant reuniting with family, foster care, or adoption.

Because of the generosity of our donors, this shared belief became more than an aspiration. It became action. Together, we are building a humane, connected system of care, one that meets animals where they are and helps them move forward with dignity, safety, and hope.

Keeping Animals Where They Belong

In 2025, Calgary Humane Society worked to expand the Continued Companionship Programming (CCP) in order to reduce owner surrendered animals to the shelter. For many families, surrender is not about a lack of love, it is about a moment of crisis. A medical emergency, housing instability, or an unexpected financial hardship can place even deeply cherished pets at risk.

As the first point of contact for families seeking help, Calgary Humane Society works to solve problems before separation occurs. Through community services, admissions support, and the Continued Companionship programming, families are met with compassion rather than judgment, and with practical solutions rather than ultimatums.

In 2025, the Continued Companionship programming saw a 65% increase in overall program utilization. Animals like Monk, whose guardian was navigating homelessness and mental health challenges, were cared for without losing connection, preserving bonds while stability was restored.



Rosco's Keep Them Home

Cheese, a beloved family cat, faced a sudden medical emergency that threatened both his life and his place in the home. At the same time, his family was coping with the immense stress of a child undergoing cancer treatment. When Cheese was diagnosed with a life-threatening urinary blockage, the cost of urgent care felt overwhelming, and surrender began to feel like their only option.

Through Rosco's Keep Them Home program, Community Services stepped in, quickly coordinating immediate treatment, covering medical costs, and providing post-procedure support. With that burden lifted, the family could focus on what mattered most: their child's health, without losing a cherished source of comfort and companionship.

Cheese recovered fully and returned home, where he belongs. For this family, the support they received from Calgary Humane Society went far beyond veterinary care, it was about keeping their family together and preserving a critical bond during one of the hardest years of their lives.

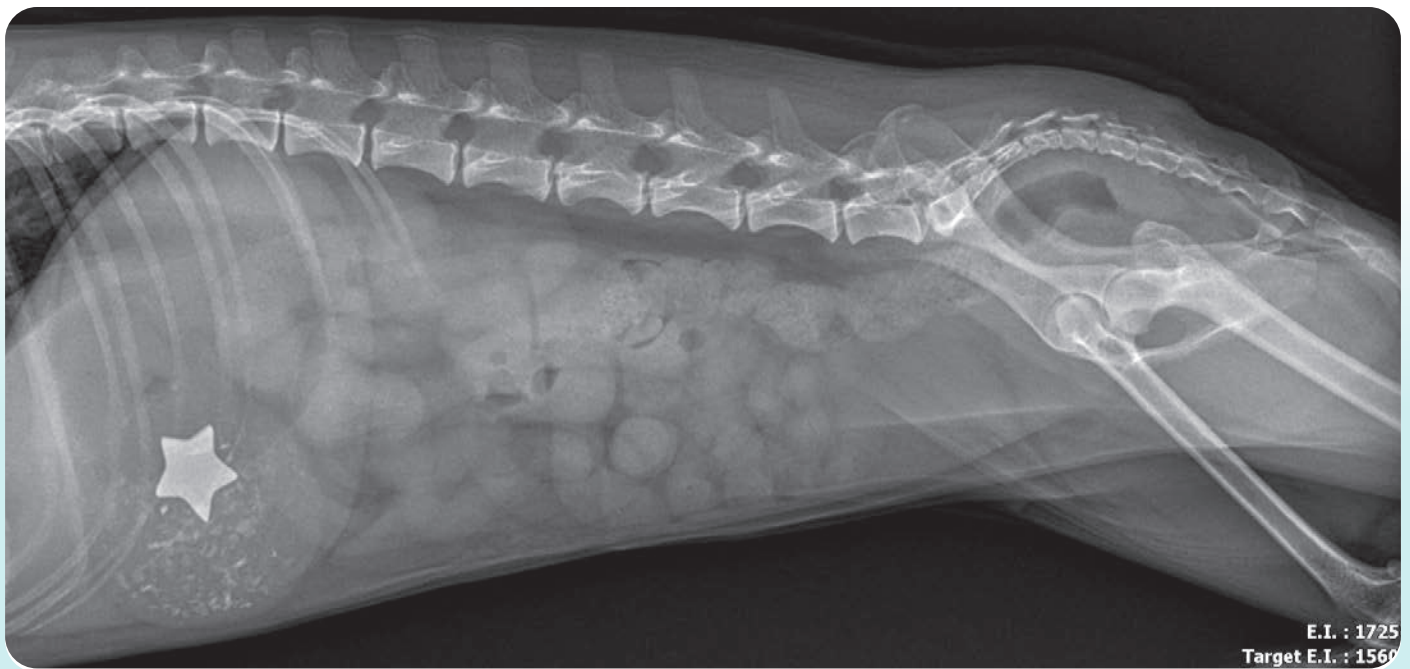
Tiny Star

Tiny Star came to CHS under urgent circumstances. After ingesting a foreign object, staff also discovered a tumour during her intake assessment—making an already serious situation even more complex. With her family’s full support, every option was explored to give Tiny Star the best possible chance at recovery.

Imaging revealed the foreign object to be a tiny foam star, a discovery that inspired her affectionate new name, “Tiny Star.” Admissions staff quickly coordinated care with Animal Health, ensuring timely intervention. The object was safely removed, and treatment options were assessed with a focus on Tiny Star’s comfort, recovery, and long-term well-being.

Throughout her care, CHS teams worked closely with her family, honouring their commitment to responsible pet ownership. Once stabilized, Tiny Star was able to return home through the Rosco’s Keep Them Home program—reunited with the family who never stopped advocating for her.

Tiny Star’s journey reflects the real impact of accessible veterinary care, collaborative teams, and compassionate support. It’s one of many stories this year that show how CHS helps keep animals with the families who love them.

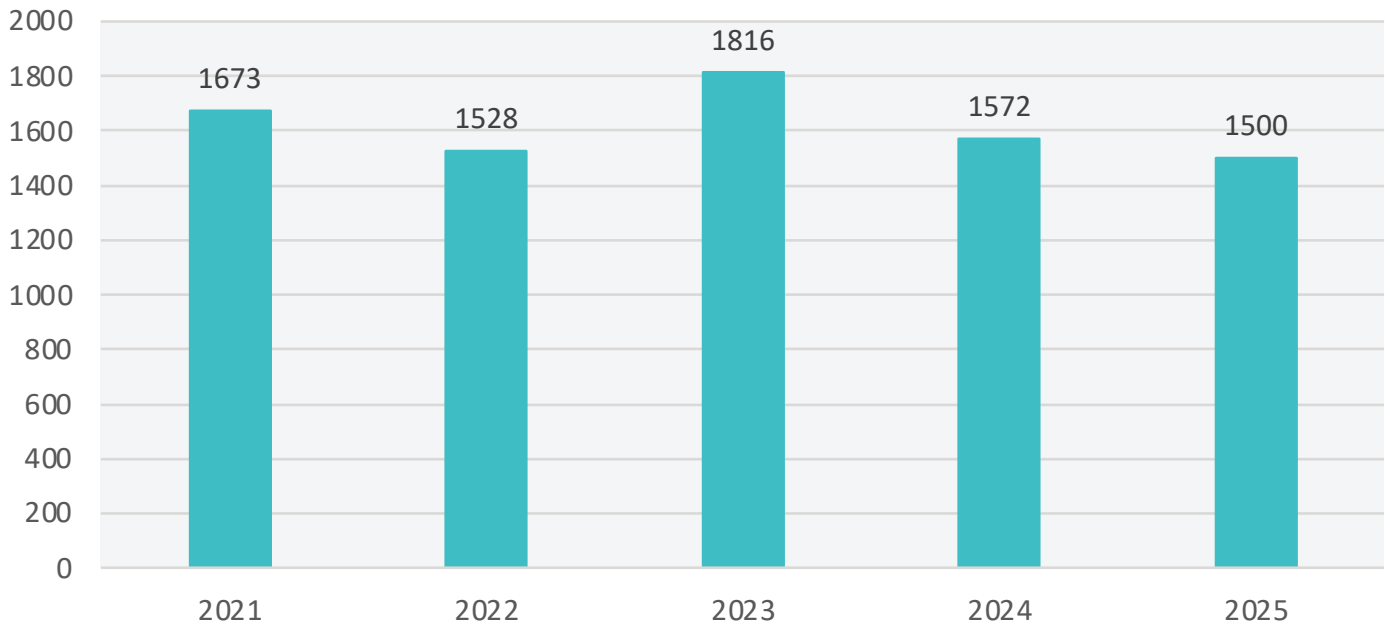


Continued Companionship Programs

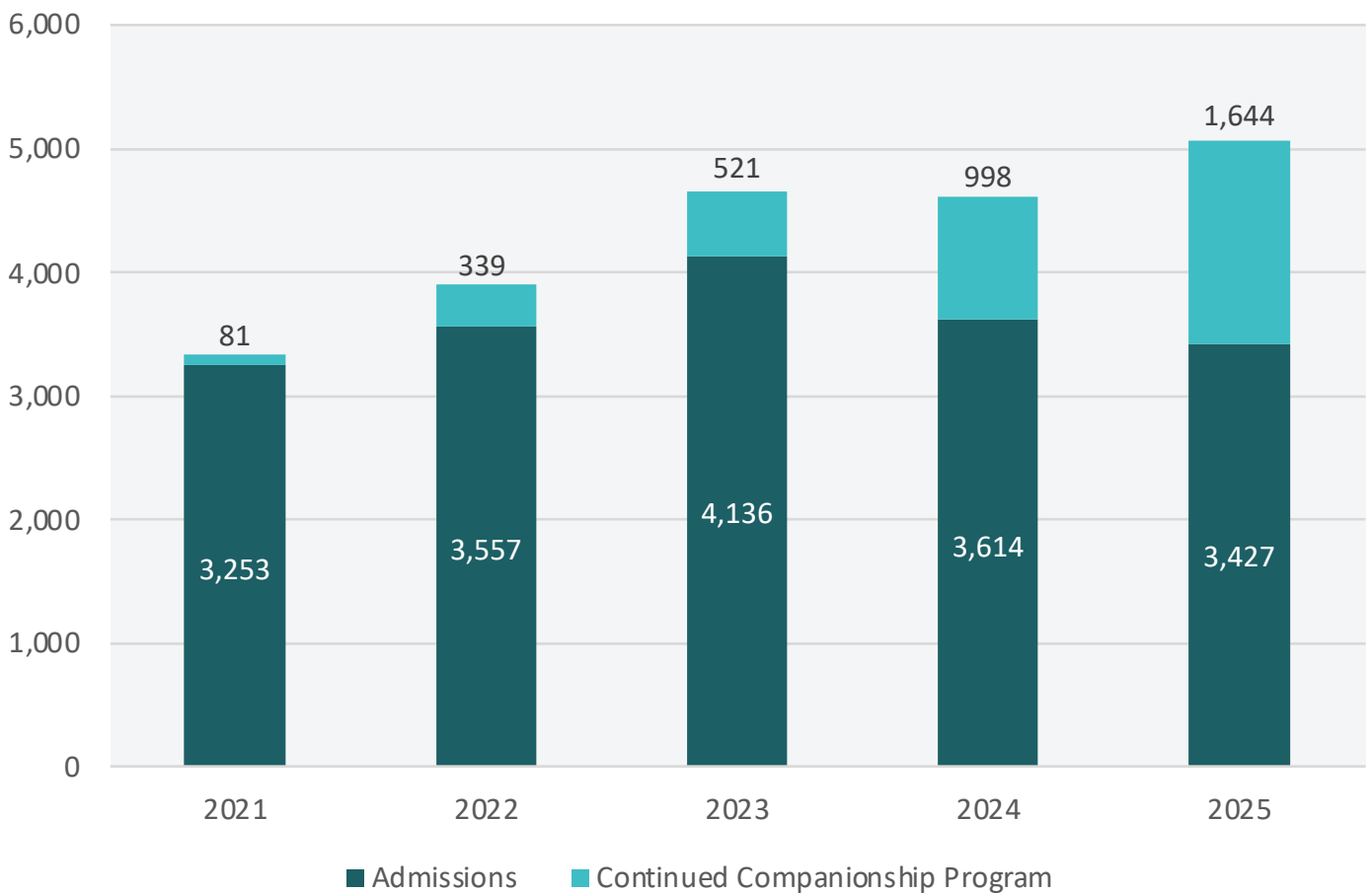
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Pet Safekeeping & Emergency Boarding	70	147	163	173	150
Rosco’s Keep Them Home	11	14	7	14	12
Seniors Program	-	-	52	303	540
PAWWISE Spay/Neuter and Wellness Clinics	-	-	-	49	285
Behaviour Consultations	-	-	-	55	32
Pet Food Bank*	-	178	299	372	625
Total Families Supported	81	339	521	996	1,644
Increase (Decrease in Program Utilization)		+319%	54%	91%	65%

*Although program existed in 2020-2021, utilization was not tracked and quantified before 2022.

Owner Surrendered Animals



Total Animals Supported



When Animals Need Us, Care Begins Immediately

Despite our best efforts, there are times when staying home is not possible for an animal. This is when Calgary Humane Society becomes fully responsible for an animal's wellbeing, and we take that responsibility seriously.

Animals arrive with a wide range of needs. Some are simply overwhelmed. Others arrive injured, ill, or medically fragile. Each one is assessed, supported, and treated based on their individual needs.

Expert Care When It Matters Most

Big Rig, a young puppy attacked by a larger dog, arrived at CHS with serious injuries, a spiral fracture of his front leg and bruising to his lungs from the trauma. After careful assessment, the veterinary team determined that a forelimb amputation would give him the best chance at a pain-free, active life. The surgery, performed with meticulous care, marked the beginning of his recovery.

In the days that followed, staff focused on managing pain, monitoring his healing, and giving this resilient little puppy the reassurance he needed after such a frightening start. Soon Big Rig moved to a foster home, where he began learning how to balance and move confidently on three legs. With time, patience, and encouragement, he quickly adapted, his playful and affectionate personality shining through.

Today, Big Rig thrives, running, exploring, living proof that compassionate veterinary care can transform even the most difficult beginning into a bright future.



Small Kitten, Remarkable Resilience

Douglas's journey began just as precariously. The tiny kitten arrived as an eight-week-old stray, weighing less than a kilogram. He was hungry and underweight, but determined to defend himself despite his fragile state. With steady meals, medical care, and the warmth of a foster home, Douglas slowly began to grow stronger. But recovery rarely follows a straight path.

Not long after his arrival, his foster parent noticed he wasn't using his hind leg. Radiographs revealed a fracture through the growth plate of his femur, a difficult injury for such a small kitten. Because he was too underweight for surgery, the veterinary team carefully managed his pain and allowed time for him to gain strength. Soon after, another complication appeared: a previous injury had left part of his tail non-viable, which now required amputation. Despite these setbacks, Douglas continued to grow stronger each week. When he finally returned for surgery, follow-up radiographs revealed the remarkable news that the fracture had begun to heal on its own. With continued monitoring and support, Douglas regained full use of his leg.

At the time of his final check-up, he was running, climbing, and playing like any other kitten, his early hardships behind him. Douglas was healthy, healed, and ready for adoption. He found his way home after 45 days in care.

The Calgary Humane Society Animal Health team partnered with community veterinary clinics and University of Calgary Veterinary Medicine students to support 285 animals through our Spay/Neuter and Wellness clinics, reducing the unwanted litters being surrendered to the shelter and reducing infectious disease in our community.

Because donors believe in comprehensive care, animals received what they needed, when they needed it.

Thanks to donor support and organizational investment, the Animal Health team delivered an extraordinary level of care in 2025:

20,558
medical examinations

873
spays

771
neuters

405
dental procedures
(a 13% increase)

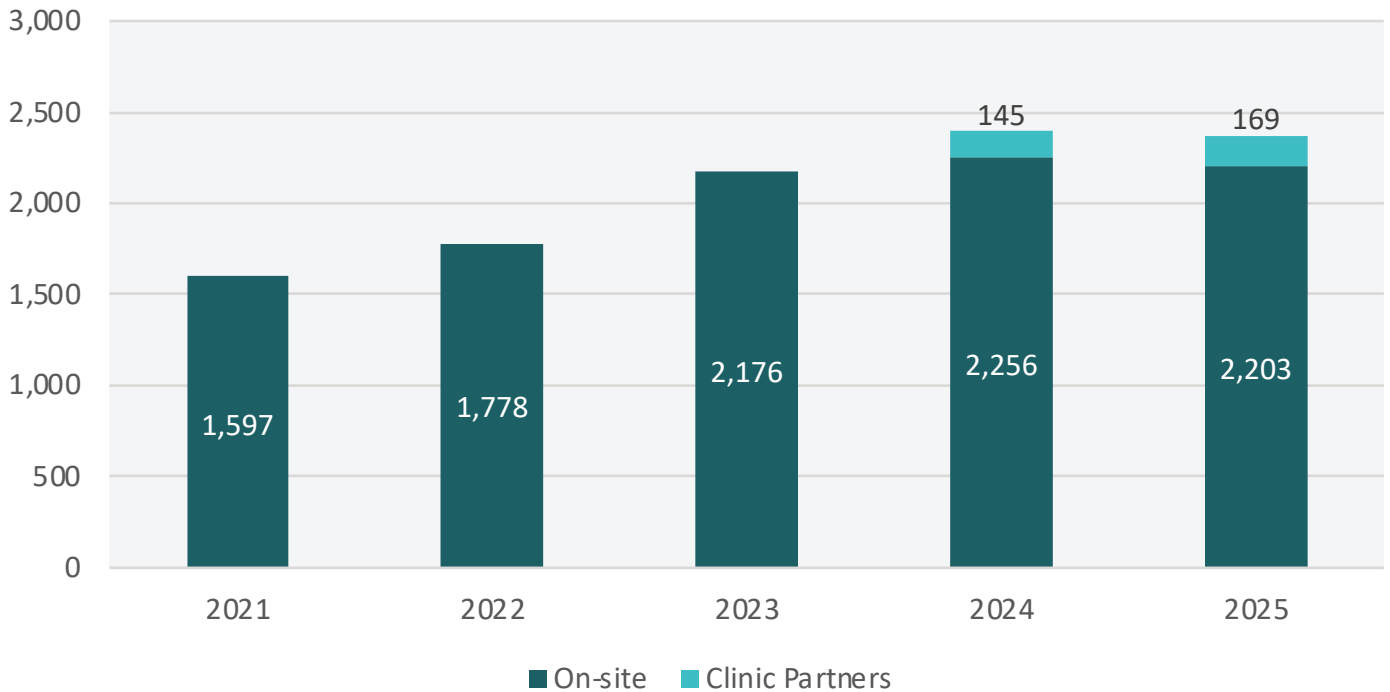
1,211
diagnostics tests

67,135
medication doses administered

4,544
vaccines given

105
additional animals helped through Community Spay/Neuter Clinics

Surgeries Performed on CHS Animals



Care That Builds Confidence

In 2025, Calgary Humane Society saw an increase in large breed, behaviourally challenged dogs, which are significantly more difficult to adopt. Highly stressed animals face barriers to wellbeing, safety, and adoptability. Our Animal Care and Behaviour team worked to reduce that stress through humane, evidence-based care, helping animals feel secure, regain emotional balance, and build the coping skills they needed to thrive in our care and beyond

The teams built pathways for every animal to succeed. With expanded volunteer roles, partnerships with professionals, and

the development of behaviour programs designed to reduce stress, the team created daily opportunities for engagement and allowed for better monitoring of progress. Volunteer involvement grew, adding hands-on support and strengthening connections across the shelter.

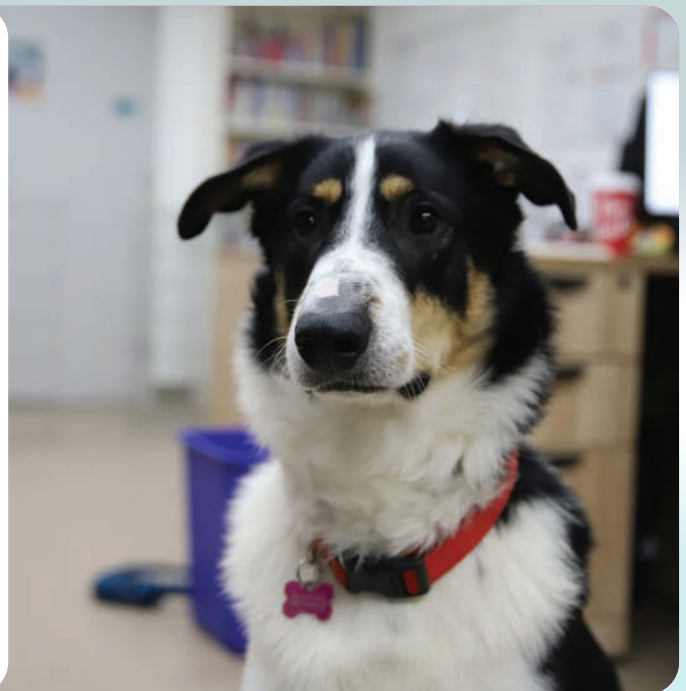
Every day, Animal Care, Behaviour, and our volunteers worked together to balance medical needs, behavioural challenges, and enrichment with patience and skill. They created environments where animals could feel safe, learn new skills, and build confidence preparing them for adoption or long-term wellbeing.



Behaviour Support Changes Futures

Adrian, one of the most behaviourally complex dogs the team worked with in 2025, arrived overwhelmed and highly reactive. His stress escalated quickly and managing him safely was becoming increasingly difficult. Recognizing the urgency, Animal Care and Behaviour came together in a coordinated effort, building a structured daily plan that engaged every team member. Each person contributed to a small, consistent part of his training and enrichment, ensuring his needs were addressed intentionally and compassionately.

The results were remarkable. Adrian went from fearful and reactive to confident and social, ultimately being adopted into a home with two other dogs where he continues to thrive. His journey not only transformed his life but also set a new benchmark for what is possible when the Animal Care team, the Behaviour team, and the Volunteer team join forces with shared purpose and dedication.

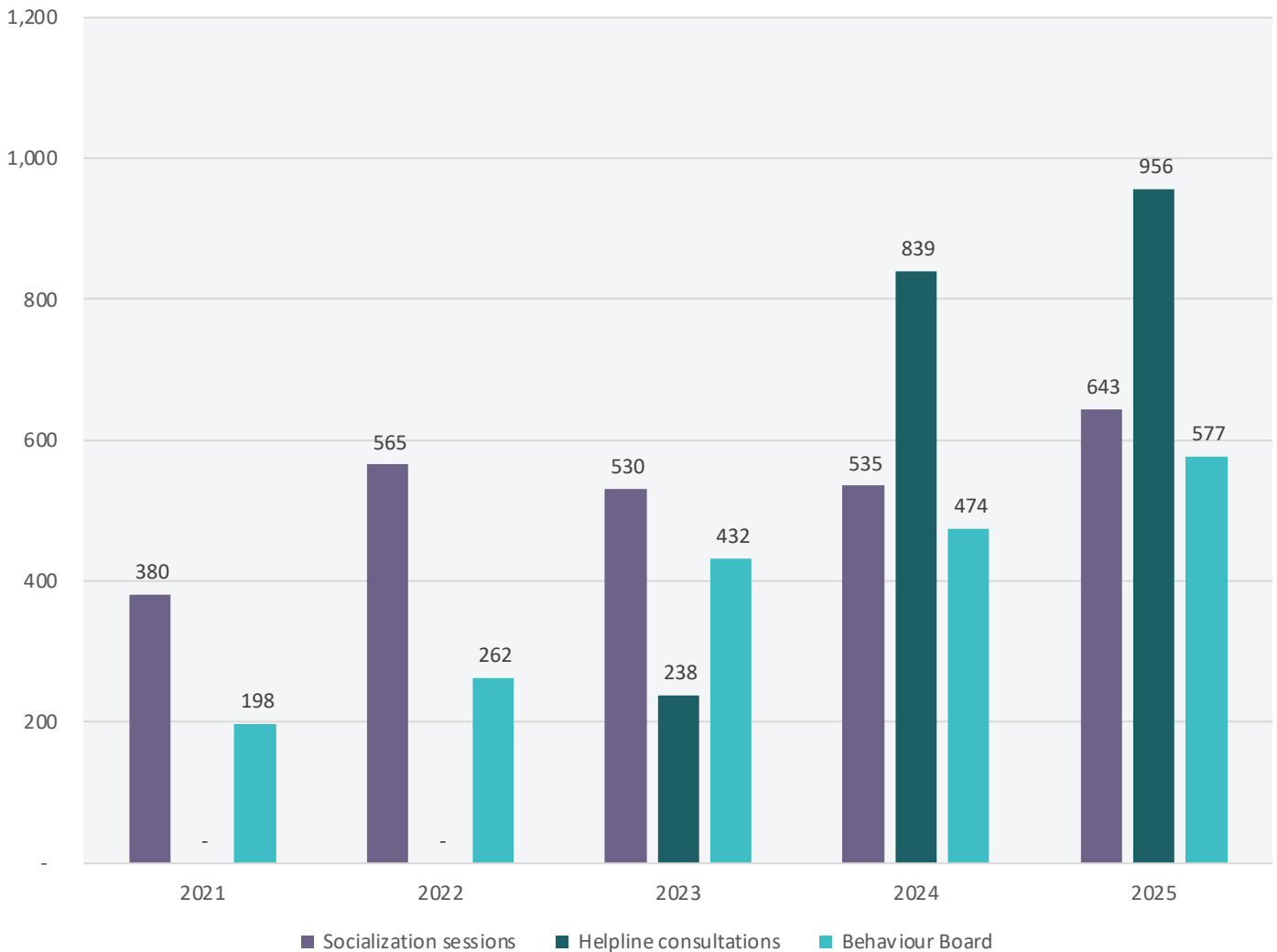


Isolation Success Story

When Cinnamon arrived with ringworm, she required a full isolation stay, a situation that often leads to stress and a behavioural decline in shelter dogs. The team went above and beyond to ensure her needs were met and wellbeing maintained. Through creative scheduling, innovative enrichment, and consistent, genuine affection, Cinnamon remained calm, engaged, and content throughout her isolation. When she was finally cleared for adoption, she left the shelter almost immediately, a testament to the team's dedication, resourcefulness, and heart.



Dedicated Behaviour Resources



Foster Care: Care Beyond the Shelter

When animals weren't yet ready for the Adoption floor, foster care became a vital bridge forward. Working closely with the Animal Care and Behaviour teams, the Foster Program provided animals with the time, space, and individualized support they needed to continue progressing in a home environment.

By strengthening relationships with foster families, reducing barriers to participation, and increasing support for more complex placements, the team expanded foster capacity for animals who benefited from quieter, more personalized care. This approach ensured that behavioural work continued consistently, even outside the shelter setting.

Some journeys required patience. Bella-Bo-Ella spent a full year in foster care, supported every step of the way by a dedicated foster family until she was ready for her permanent

home. Others showed remarkable transformation: Charlotte, a fearful and untouchable cat at intake, gradually became an affectionate companion through steady care and ongoing behaviour guidance in foster.

Foster care also played a critical role during times of increased intake. When large groups of seized animals arrived, the foster network mobilized quickly—placing animals into safe homes in record time, easing shelter capacity, and protecting their well-being.

Together, foster families and Calgary Humane Society teams ensured that 1,551 animals who needed more time and support were never left behind, reducing length of stay by 44%. The lowest average time in shelter experienced since 2022.

Celebrating Our Foster Parent of the Year - Garrett Ursu

Garrett Ursu goes above and beyond for behaviourally complex dogs, providing patience, structure, and love to help them thrive. In 2025, he fostered high-risk dogs like Opie, Aggie, and Major, guiding them through their journey. Garrett also volunteers on-site as a dog walker, ensuring all dogs receive exercise, enrichment, and attention. His detailed training plans and mentorship are shaping the standard for future foster parents, leaving a lasting legacy that extends far beyond the dogs he directly supports.



Whiskey's foster journey was one of transformation. Transferred to Calgary Humane Society with her two puppies in December 2024, she was a devoted mother who helped her puppies thrive before they were adopted.

Once alone, Whiskey struggled. She withdrew completely, hiding and disengaging from her surroundings. Recognizing the change in her wellbeing, the Foster team partnered with behaviour specialists and her foster family to reassess her needs.

Just when we thought no progress was possible, a small breakthrough changed everything. Whiskey began to explore, play, and reconnect. With a structured training and enrichment plan, ongoing in-home support, and extraordinary patience from her foster family, her confidence slowly returned.

By the time adoption was possible, her foster family knew she was already home. After 100 days of care, Whiskey was adopted by the people who helped her heal—never needing to transition again.

Her story is a powerful example of what compassionate foster care, behavioural support, and collaboration can achieve.



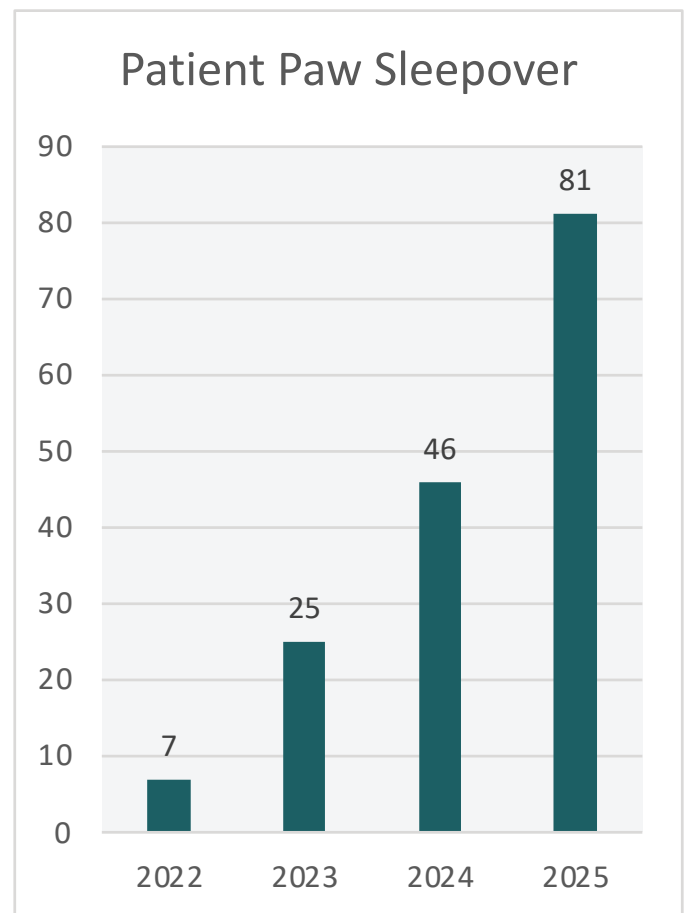
Adoptions: Where Preparation Meets Possibility

New beginnings took shape as the Adoptions team guided animals into homes built for success. Behind every adoption was close collaboration, professional insight, and a commitment to ensuring both animals and families were ready for the journey ahead.

As animals progressed through care and behaviour support, Adoptions focused on what came next—matching each animal with a home that understood their needs and could support continued growth. To strengthen this transition, the team expanded the Patient Paw Sleepover program, allowing dogs and families to spend meaningful time together in a home environment before finalizing adoption. These experiences built confidence, reduced uncertainty, and led to stronger, more informed matches.

One story captures the heart of their work: Martin, a dog struggling to adjust in the shelter, was initially seen as a difficult match. Rather than sticking strictly to checklists, the team trusted their knowledge and intuition, placing Martin in a home that seemed unconventional but ultimately perfect. He thrived, and his family gained a loyal companion, illustrating the team’s dedication to animal well-being above rigid procedures.

Together, these efforts ensured that the care animals received did not end at adoption, but continued into homes ready to support them for life.



Beyond Adoption

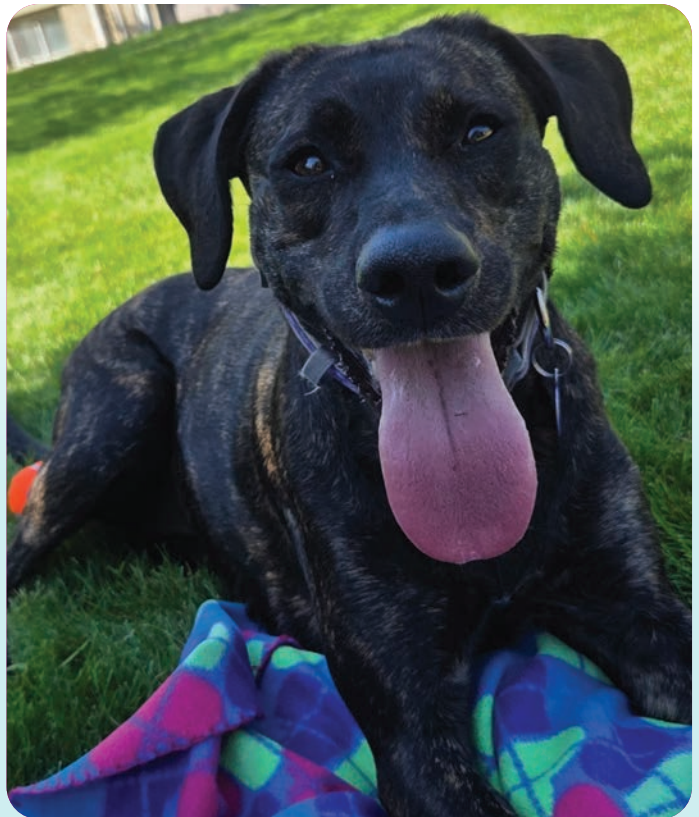
Even after Adoption, Calgary Humane Society is there to offer continual support through our behavioural training and consultation services. We are invested in the success of every animal we serve and offer a lifetime of support.



The Fur-Low Program

The Fur-Low program, designed to provide short-term “shelter breaks” for dogs, expanded in 2025 and exceeded expectations. By lowering barriers to participation and growing the Fur-Low volunteer base, the program created more opportunities for dogs to spend time outside the shelter environment.

As a result, more than 1,100 dogs experienced rest, routine, and meaningful human connection in home settings. For many, these short stays became a turning point, reducing stress, improving behaviour, and helping them transition more successfully into adoptive homes.



Celebrating Our Fur-Low Volunteer of the Year – Bruce Campbell

Bruce Campbell has been a pillar of the Fur-Low program since its launch, consistently providing shelter dogs with essential time away from the shelter environment. While weekend shifts fill quickly, Bruce regularly takes multiple weekday Fur-Lows, ensuring that even during slower periods, animals still receive this additional enrichment and decompression. Bruce's dedication, reliability, and compassion shine through every outing, from planning walks in Fish Creek Park to adapting on the spot for anxious dogs, demonstrating an unwavering commitment to the wellbeing of every dog he supports. His efforts make a meaningful difference and set a standard for excellence in the Fur-Low program.



One Mission, One Shared Impact

None of this work happens in isolation. It is one coordinated effort, guided by compassion and made possible by community.

Because of our collective team – staff, volunteers, foster families, and our donors:

- Families stayed together during crisis
- Injured and ill animals received expert, timely care
- Behaviourally vulnerable animals gained confidence and resilience
- Animals found homes — and stayed there
- Foster families turned temporary homes into places of healing

The support of our community powers every step of this journey.

It ensures animals are protected when things go wrong, and celebrated when things go right. It allows Calgary Humane Society to respond early, act compassionately, and adapt when animals need more.

Your ongoing commitment and generosity doesn't just support our work, it defines it.

And together, it ensures that every animal we serve has the chance not just to survive, but to truly thrive.

Community



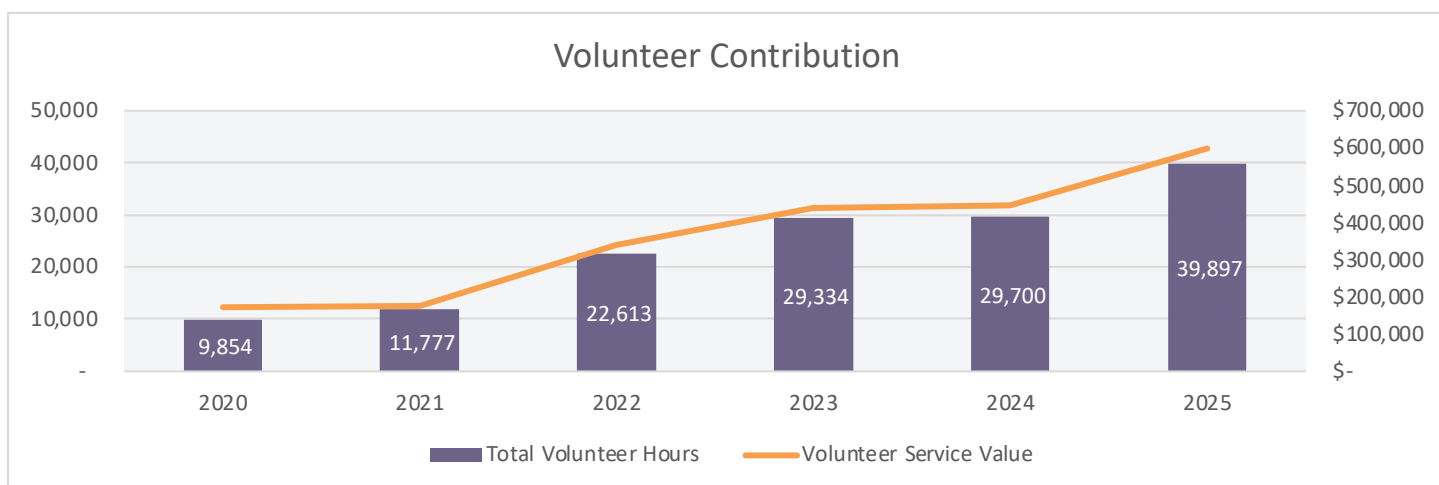
Powering the Mission Through People

At the heart of Calgary Humane Society's work is a shared responsibility: caring for animals while sustaining the people who do this work every day. The needs of animals are growing and increasingly complex, requiring far more than shelter alone. They need consistency, patience, enrichment, and compassionate human connection, delivered by a team that is supported, resilient, and united by purpose.

This is Where People—Staff and Volunteers—Work Hand in Hand

Alongside staff, Volunteers expand capacity, strengthen care, and help ensure animals receive consistent attention while teams are supported through the emotional and operational demands of animal welfare. Together, this collective effort allows donor support to go further and makes high-quality care possible across the organization.

In 2025, Volunteers contributed 39,897 hours to Calgary Humane Society, an increase of 34%, supporting animal care, adoptions, administration, fundraising, and community engagement. Their time, skills, and commitment extend staff capacity during routine operations and peak periods alike, helping the organization respond with care and stability when it matters most.



The impact of volunteers is often seen in quiet, transformative moments. Eloise, a dog who arrived severely emaciated and overwhelmed by the shelter environment, began harming herself in her kennel. Volunteers provided gentle enrichment, calm companionship, and consistent care as she healed—helping her rebuild trust and preparing her for a second chance.

In 2025, the Volunteer Resources team strengthened this partnership by aligning volunteer roles more closely with organizational needs. Recruitment remained steady, while engagement efforts focused on continuity, skill alignment, and

meaningful contribution. Growth in Adoptions and Animal Care allowed volunteers and staff to work side by side, providing animals with consistency, connection, and support.

This collaboration has a direct impact across the organization. Volunteers provide continuity for animals, ease pressure on staff, and allow teams to focus on advanced care and long term planning. In Fund Development and Administration, volunteers support campaigns, welcome donors, and strengthen daily operations—demonstrating that every role contributes to a shared mission.

The Human Cost of Protecting the Voiceless

The work carried out by the Calgary Humane Society team is inspiring—but it comes with real challenges. Across all roles, staff routinely encounter cruelty, suffering, and emotionally demanding situations, all while managing heavy workloads and supporting one another. This work can take a toll, and sustaining healthy teams remains an ongoing priority.

This is why we are deeply grateful to our Volunteers, who help shoulder this burden. Their time, care, and commitment extend our capacity and ensure animals continue to receive protection and support. Together, staff and volunteers, with the support of our donors, make this vital work possible.



Together, staff and volunteers model Calgary Humane Society's values of compassion, courage, commitment, and collaboration. Their shared efforts create a workplace where people feel supported, animals feel safe, and meaningful work can be sustained over time.

As the organization looks ahead, investing in people—both staff and volunteers—remains essential. This collective team continues to strengthen capacity, build resilience, and ensure every animal in our care has the opportunity to heal, connect, and thrive.



Celebrating Our Volunteer of the Year - Debbie Barron

Debbie Barron was recruited in April 2025 as a Store and Reception volunteer, and in just eight months contributed 580 volunteer hours, adding six more roles to her repertoire. She spent countless hours reading to and enriching shy, fearful, or stressed dogs, helping them gain confidence and trust, like Mahina, who flourished under Debbie's patient support before finding her forever home. Debbie steps in wherever needed to keep programs running smoothly. Her calm, compassionate, and proactive approach ensures animals receive care, enrichment, and advocacy, making her an invaluable part of our shelter community.



Building a Community That Cares: From First Hello to Lifelong Impact

Creating lasting change for animals requires more than excellent care, it requires a community that understands the work, believes in it, and chooses to stand behind it year after year.

At Calgary Humane Society, this responsibility is shared across Humane Education, Community Outreach, Communications, and Fund Development. Each plays a distinct role, but their greatest impact comes from working together, building awareness, deepening trust, and transforming moments of connection into lifelong commitment.

In 2025, this collaboration fueled extraordinary results.

Inspiring Compassion Before Crisis

Humane Education lays the foundation for everything that follows. By reaching children early, before misunderstandings become neglect and before fear becomes harm, the team helps shape the next generation of animal advocates.

Through school programs, camps, and experiential learning, children learn empathy, responsibility, and how their actions affect animals. For some, the impact is especially profound. Christian, a young participant who arrived fearful after being attacked by a dog, rebuilt trust through supportive, guided interactions. His experience is now influencing the development of new programming to support children coping with animal related fear or trauma.

Animals like Gertie, a beloved reptile ambassador, help challenge misconceptions and spark curiosity, expanding understanding beyond traditional pets. These moments of learning ripple outward, shaping not just attitudes, but community norms.

By cultivating compassion early, Humane Education reduces downstream pressures on the shelter system and strengthens the future of animal welfare in Calgary.



Turning a First Hello into Connection

The Community Outreach team exists to be the welcoming, human entry point into Calgary Humane Society, transforming first contact into lasting connection.

The team's role is not transactional, it is relational. They create the conditions for trust, curiosity, and emotional connection that turn a simple "hello" into a lifelong relationship with the Society.

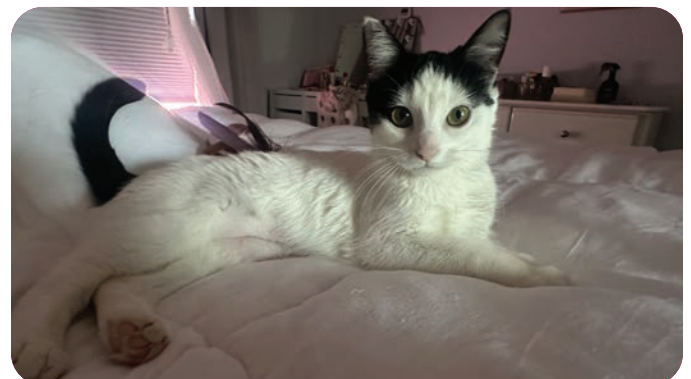
In 2025, the Outreach team prioritized meaningful engagement, expanding our presence in seniors' residences, group homes, community events, and nontraditional spaces. The goal wasn't simply to be seen, it was to be remembered.

That approach worked. Through 184 outreach events, adoption opportunities beyond shelter walls, and expanded partnerships like the Calgary Flames puppy visits, thousands of people experienced Calgary Humane Society not as an organization, but as a trusted community partner.

Community Outreach expanded our reach through innovative digital fundraising after being approached by a well-known Twitch streamer who initiated a live-streamed campaign in support of our work. The fundraiser raised an incredible

\$150,000, introducing Calgary Humane Society to new audiences and demonstrating the power of online communities to rally around animal welfare. By embracing emerging platforms and meeting supporters where they are, we continue to grow a diverse and engaged community committed to helping animals in need.

These first hellos mattered, because what followed was even more powerful.

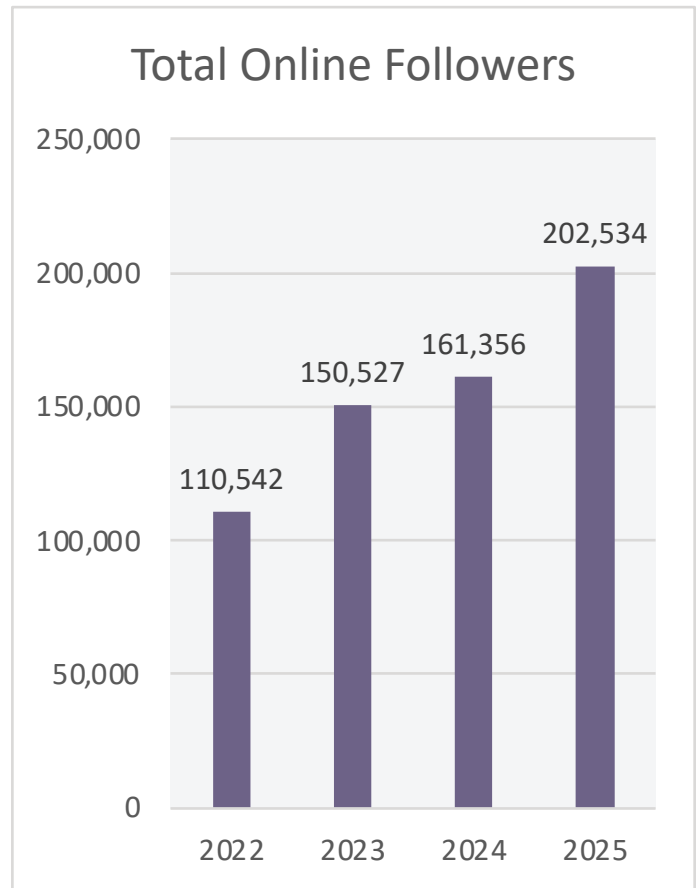


Giving the Mission a Voice

Focused on compelling storytelling, the Communications team worked across print, digital, and social media, supported shelter initiatives, signature events, and donor engagement. The team aimed to increase visibility, connect with the community, and amplify the impact of the Society's programs and animals in need.

Highlights included the growth of video storytelling through the Cocktails for Critters series, coverage of spay and neuter clinics, and marketing for events like Dog Jog, all of which contributed to exceeding fundraising goals. Communications also strengthened interdepartmental collaboration, connecting media efforts with frontline work, and built new external partnerships with organizations like Derp Dog, Cirque du Soleil, and the Calgary Flames. Notable animal stories, including Bella-Bo-Ella, Mr. Worldwide, and Home for the Holidays, were elevated through social media and digital campaigns, engaging more followers and supporters than ever before.

Throughout the year, the impact of the Communications team's work could be seen in how the community responded. When urgent calls for help went out, supporters answered, sharing posts, filling event registrations, and stepping forward to support animals. Social media engagement continued to climb as more people connected with the stories of the animals and the work happening behind the scenes, ensuring Calgary Humane Society's key messages reached our community when it mattered most.



Mr. Worldwide

Mr. Worldwide, a dog known for his high kennel stress and clever escape behaviours, proved to be a challenging match within the shelter environment. Traditional adoption pathways were not gaining traction, prompting a more creative approach.

Through innovative communications and marketing, his story was shared through a local radio segment, introducing him to a wider audience beyond typical adoption channels. By highlighting his personality and needs in a relatable, engaging way, the team was able to connect with the right adopter.

It was this exposure that made the difference. Mr. Worldwide found a safe, loving home, demonstrating the power of storytelling and strategic outreach in helping even the most complex animals find where they belong.



Stewarding Trust for the Long Term

Fund Development ensures that moments of inspiration become lasting impact.

In close collaboration with Communications and Outreach, the Fund Development team stewarded new and existing supporters through thoughtful engagement, personalized outreach, and meaningful recognition. Donors were not treated as transactions, but as partners, thanked, informed, and invited deeper into the mission.

In 2025, this approach resulted in exceptional outcomes, including exceeding fundraising goals by more than \$1 million. But beyond revenue, something more important was built: trust.

Impact updates, donor calls, appreciation events, and intimate gatherings — such as a special event hosted at a private ranch — reinforced a simple truth: supporters matter, and their generosity changes lives.

17,851

donors supported Calgary Humane Society in 2025.

When Collaboration Clicks, Impact Multiplies

Each of these teams plays a vital role, but the true success comes from how seamlessly their work connects.

- Humane Education sparks empathy.
- Community Outreach opens doors.
- Communications amplifies the message.
- Fund Development builds relationships that last.

Together, they form a powerful cycle of engagement, one that turns awareness into advocacy, connection into commitment, and generosity into real, measurable change for animals.

To everyone who learned with us, met us in the community, shared our stories, attended events, donated, and encouraged others to care — thank you.

Because of you, Calgary Humane Society is not just responding to the needs of animals — we are building a community that will protect them for generations to come.

Looking Ahead to 2026



Looking Ahead to 2026

As Calgary Humane Society enters 2026, we do so with a clear sense of purpose and gratitude for the community that makes this work possible. The year ahead is a key moment in our 2024–2027 Strategic Plan—focused on strengthening what works, addressing persistent challenges, and building sustainable capacity.

Strengthening Support for Animals and Their Families

In 2026, we will continue to prioritize care that supports both animals and the people who love them by:

- Expanding access to community based veterinary, behavioural, and emergency support
- Focusing renewed efforts on pet friendly housing to reduce unnecessary relinquishment
- Strengthening shelter care through enrichment, individualized planning, and refreshed behaviour education programs

Deepening Community Engagement and Advocacy

Creating a more humane community requires collaboration and sustained advocacy. In the year ahead, we will:

- Re-engage with municipal leaders following the election of City Council
- Advocate for policies that advance animal welfare, responsible pet ownership, and equitable access to care
- Support the implementation of recent amendments to Alberta’s Animal Protection Act
- Continue building partnerships with community organizations, educators, and supporters



Investing in People and Organizational Resilience

Our people are the foundation of our impact. In 2026, we will:

- Strengthen supports for the emotional demands of animal welfare work
- Pursue partnerships focused on mental health, wellness, and workplace resilience
- Invest in technology, infrastructure, and process improvements to ensure responsible stewardship and informed decision making

Turning Engagement Into Sustainable Action

As interest in our work continues to grow, we are focused on transforming goodwill into lasting impact by:

- Expanding and strengthening volunteer engagement
- Creating purposeful roles that increase capacity and support staff
- Building the people power needed to sustain our mission over the long term



Even in a challenging year, Calgary Humane Society's culture remained a clear strength. For the second consecutive year, the organization was recognized as a Canadian Non-Profit Employer of Choice and received an HR Award for Best Workplace Culture, while an 81% engagement score reflected a connected and committed team.

Moving Forward Together

Calgary Humane Society remains guided by its mission:
Protect animals. Support people. Create a more humane world.

Progress is strengthened through reflection, partnership, and shared commitment.

We are deeply grateful to our donors, volunteers, advocates, and community partners. Your trust and generosity allow us to face complex challenges with honesty and resolve—and to move into 2026 focused, collaborative, and ready to build solutions that last.

A close-up, shallow depth-of-field photograph of a dog's ear and whiskers, positioned on the right side of the page. The ear is a light brown color with fine hairs, and several whiskers are visible extending from the snout area. The background is a bright, out-of-focus white.

Thank You

Each year, thousands of animals come to Calgary Humane Society, seeking a second chance. Some are hurt, scared, sick, or are surrendered by people who love them but can no longer care for them anymore.

What happens next matters.

Because of you, animals receive medical care, food, and comfort. They are not left to face fear or neglect alone. Animals who experience cruelty are no longer invisible. They are seen, protected, and given another chance. Families stay together, companionship is preserved, and support shows up when it matters most.

Healing happens here, in foster homes, and in quiet moments that help animals grow stronger and learn to trust again. And because of you, these animals don't stay here forever. They go home, complete families, and start new chapters.

This is what happens when compassion turns into action and support becomes real, measurable change. Thank you. The goals achieved over 2025 were made possible because of you. As we move into 2026, we do so together, because we are not done yet.





**Calgary
Humane
Society**

Protect Animals.

Support People.

Create a More Humane World.

4455 110 Ave SE, Calgary AB, T2C 2T7 | (403) 205-4455 | CalgaryHumane.ca