EVENT PROGRAM

3:00pm

Dress Rehearsal

4:00pm

Staff & Volunteer Arrival

Oak Room Set Up

4:30pm

Animal Guests Arrive

Registration Table Ready

5:00pm

Cash bars open, guests arrive

5:00pm – 6:00pm

Guest & Sponsor Mix and Mingle

Passed Canapes & Wine

Classical Piano in Lobby

6:00pm

Ballroom Open

Jazz Band

6:10pm

Welcome Video

6:15pm

MC Welcome

Presenting Sponsor

Table Wine Poured – Bar Closes

6:30pm

Dinner

Jazz Band

7:15pm

MC Introduces

Board Member – Yvette Steiner

Animal Video & Guest – Pet Inclusive Housing

Poncho

Spud & Winston

7:30pm

MC Introduces

Executive Director – Carrie Fritz

Animal Video & Guest – Animal Health

Napkin & Dove

7:50pm

Bar Opens – Table Wine Removed

MC Introduces

Director of Enforcement & Vice ED – Brad Nichols

Animal Video & Guest – Animal Protection

Brook

Lettuce

8:10pm

MC Introduces

Director of Enforcement & Vice ED – Brad Nichols

Zeus & Luna

8:20pm

MC Introduces

Animal Video & Guest – Bella Bo-Ella

Bella Bo-Ella

8:45pm

MC Introduces

Auctioneer – Bill Brown

Live Auction & Program Fund-a-Need

Raffles & Silent Auction
Reminder

9:00pm

Jazz Band

9:15pm

MC Introduces

Silent Auction 45 Min Reminder

Raffle Draw at 9:45

Ears & Tails

Jazz Band

9:45pm

Raffle Draw

Jazz Band

10:00pm

Close Silent Auction

Silent Auction Checkout

Bar Closes

10:30pm

Event Ends

5:00pm	Cocktail Hour Ballroom Closed Pianist in Lobby	**Silent Auction and Elevate** on lobby screens.
6:00pm	Ballroom Opens Musicians take the stage for the first set.	**Pre Event Slideshow** on stage screens. **Silent Auction and Elevate** on all other screens

6:10pm		**Run of Show Slideshow Welcome Video** on all screens. (Slide 2)
6:15pm	Joelle takes stage Table wine open and poured Bars close	Camera on Joelle, **live video** on stage screens.

Joelle:

Everyone please another round of applause for Motus Jazz Quintet! Jeremy Brown, saxophone and flute, Jon Day, piano, Kodi Hutchinson, bass, Neil McVey, guitar, Tyler Hornby, drums

My name is Joelle Tomlinson and I will be your Master of Ceremonies this evening. Welcome to Calgary Humane Society's 25th annual Cocktails for Critters, presented by **Heather Edwards.**

Before we begin, in the spirit of reconciliation, I want to acknowledge that we live, work, and gather on the traditional Treaty 7 territories—the ancestral lands of the Blackfoot Confederacy, including the Piikani, Siksika, and Kainai First Nations, as well as the Stoney Nakoda First Nation, and the Tsuut'ina First Nation. This land is also home to the Métis Nation of Alberta, Region 3. We honor and give thanks to the many First Nations, Métis, and Inuit peoples who have cared for these lands for generations. We make this acknowledgement as a step toward reconciliation and with deep gratitude to those whose territory we reside on.

We are thrilled to have you all here tonight, this evening we will have some special furry friends visit us up here on our stage sponsored by **Memory Express**, and we hope you've had a chance to visit the Critter Meet and Greet room sponsored by **Pet Secure**. If not, don't worry—the animals will be with us all evening, so there's still plenty of time to meet some of our furry friends! We also have the **Sponsor Energy** Signature Moments photo booth in the Oak Room as well.

As many of you know, each year Calgary Humane Society relies solely on the incredible generosity of Calgarians to continue our mission: *Protect Animals. Support People. Create a More Humane World.* Fundraising events like *Cocktails for Critters* are critical in making sure that we can provide ongoing care for Calgary's most vulnerable animals.

Throughout the night, we'll be updating you on our progress toward tonight's fundraising goal. You'll hear updates from me on stage, and you can also keep an eye on the screens around the room. Our goal for this evening is **$305,000,** and I know we can reach it together. Remember, everything we raise tonight goes directly to the care of the animals!

You can donate by using the QR codes on your tables to support the silent auction, purchasing raffle tickets in the lobby or during our live auction and fund a need later tonight.

We will also be playing Ears & Tails 50/50 raffle game later this evening, sponsored by **GFL**. There are roaming volunteers selling these tickets so please see them and purchase a bundle.

Back by popular demand, we are also doing a live auction tonight following the formal presentation.

Of course, an event like this wouldn't be possible without the support of our generous sponsors. A big thank you to all of our sponsors for making tonight happen.

Now, before we enjoy our meals, I'd like to invite our presenting sponsor **Heather Edwards** to the stage.

Thank you Heather, enjoy your meals and we will start this evenings formal presentation at 7:15pm.

6:30pm	Dinner service starts Musicians continue to play.	**Pre Event Slideshow** on stage screens. **Silent auction and Elevate** on side screens
7:15pm	Joelle to take the stage Musicians finish first set.	Camera on Joelle, **live video** on all stage screens

Joelle:

Now to help kick start our formal presentation we're going to hear from Calgary Humane Society's board of directors, I'd like to invite Yvette Steiner to the stage.

YVETTE SPEECH

Thank you, Yvette, a great reminder of why we are all here tonight.

The story of Calgary Humane Society has a way of touching our hearts and reminding us of the deeper connections we all share—connections that extend beyond just people but to the animals who share our world. Tonight, we are reminded of the compassion, kindness, and empathy that drives all of us to come together for a cause bigger than ourselves.

Now, I'm thrilled to welcome you to **Rescues on the Runway!** Very soon, some of our incredible animal friends will be joining us right here in the ballroom. As they make their entrance, we ask that everyone keep the atmosphere calm and gentle—so we don't overwhelm our special guests.

GIVE UPDATE $$$ - OUR GOAL IS $305,000

7:20pm	Cue Poncho & Family for red carpet Cue Spud, Winston & Family for red carpet	**Run of Show Slideshow Pet Housing Video** on all screens (Slide 4)

		Lights fade. Camera on red carpet guests, **live video** on stage screens When **Spud & Winston** are invited switch to still image (slide 6)

Please join me in welcoming Poncho and his guardian Joshue to the stage.

Note: Joelle to interview Poncho's family for a few minutes on stage.

Tonight we have not just one, but two more dogs with us that were helped through Calgary Humane Society's Emergency Boarding program after they couldn't not access pet inclusive housing. Please join me in welcoming Spud, Winston and their guardian Lynn to the stage.

Note: Joelle to interview Spud and Winston's family for a few minutes on stage.

7:30pm	Carrie prepares to take stage	Camera on Joelle and Carrie, **live video** on stage screens When **Hershey & Sherlock** is mentioned switch to still images (slide 8)

Before we continue, please join me in welcoming the Executive Director of Calgary Humane Society, Carrie Fritz to the stage.

CARRIE SPEECH

Thank you, Carrie! Another great reminder of why we are here tonight.

Every year, Calgary Humane Society welcomes more than 700 stray animals through our doors.

Many of these animals arrive frightened, vulnerable and in need of immediate medical care. Some have injuries that have gone untreated, while others have simply been trying to survive on their own.

When they arrive at Calgary Humane Society, they receive more than a safe place to stay. They receive veterinary care, compassion and the time they need to heal.

Behind every stray animal cared for is a story. And tonight, we'd like to share one of those stories with you

7:45pm	Cue Napkin & Dove for red carpet.	**Run of Show Slideshow Napkin Video** on all screens (Slide 10) Lights fade. Camera on red carpet guests, **live video** on stage screens When **Dove** is mentioned switch to still image (slide 12)

Please join me in welcoming Napkin, her cat sibling Dove and their guardian Elana to the stage.

Dove is a cat who was born at Calgary Humane Society who underwent life-changing surgery to amputate her malformed leg. Her leg hadn't developed properly because a cord had wrapped around her foot while in the womb. How special that both of these girls ended up in the same home!

Note: Joelle interview Napkin and Dove's guardian on stage for a few minutes.

7:55pm	Brad prepares to take the stage	Camera on Joelle and Brad, **live video** on stage screens

We've heard tonight about the incredible bond between people and animals, and the many ways Calgary Humane Society works to support both.

But at the heart of Calgary Humane Society's mission is also a responsibility to protect animals who are neglected, abandoned or abused.

The Animal Protection and Investigations team enforces the Animal Protection Act of Alberta within the city of Calgary, investigating concerns of animal cruelty and working to ensure animals are treated with the care and compassion they deserve.

To share more about this important part of Calgary Humane Society's work, I'd like to invite Director of Enforcement and Vice Executive Director, Brad Nichols, to the stage.

BRAD SPEECH

Thank you all for being here tonight for our signature fundraiser. We receive zero government funding, even for our law enforcement activities, so these evenings become that much more important in ensuring we can continue to meet our mandate at a high level. What I can say is that we have never had to short cut an investigation due to funding and you can give yourselves a pat on the back for that. 2026 was an eventful year with plenty to be grateful for. We have a fully staffed department after a long 2–year rebuild. We are on the verge of a brand new Animal Protection Act that will serve Alberta's animals as well or better than any other Provincial Act. This will bring a higher case load but we are eager to face that challenge with the refreshed team. Our job is not easy to do and I recognize that the video you are about to watch may not be easy to consume but it does reflect outcomes of our hard work and there are happy endings to be celebrated even in the most horrific cases. We focus this year on rabbits as we have had court outcomes that run the spectrum of satisfaction. Though both rabbit related, these files also demonstrate a spectrum of animal maltreatment from intentional, cruel torture to well-intentioned neglect. A record breaking 8-year incarceration sentence is something to celebrate, as are survivors, one of which you will meet shortly. While we try not to get personally invested in court sentences, it is easier said than done. A short animal prohibition order exempting over 20 animals for a 'rescue' we have been engaged with disproportionately does not inspire much celebration but it does allow us to monitor them better during the term of the order and the publicity does allow potential clients some transparency. Without further ado, I present to you a video that will make sense of my ramblings.

8:00pm		**Animal Protection Video** on all screens. (Slide 14) Lights fade. When **Lettuce** is invited switch to still image (slide 16 - 18)

Please join me in welcoming a victim of the Waseen case fortunate enough to be enjoying second chance. Lettuce was present at the crime scene at the time of search warrant execution and was rescued from almost certain violent harm, whisked away to the safety of CHS. Joining us with Lettuce is Jana, a bunny hugger volunteer and now adopter.

Note: Joelle to interview Lettuce's guardian for a few minutes.

We have another animal protection related story for you this evening, sharing that story with us is Brad Nichols, Director of Enforcement and Vice Executive Director who I will invite back to the stage.

8:20pm	Cue Luna & guardian for red carpet Luna to start walking read carpet when Brad invites.	Camera on Joelle and Brad, live video on stage screens **When Brad says "Suffice to say" … Zues & Luna photos** slides on all screens within speech. (Slide 20) Camera on red carpet guests, live video on stage screens when Luna is announced

BRAD SPEECH

We don't do this very often, so you can count yourself part of an exclusive crowd. We generally embargo case stories until they have been adjudicated to maintain the integrity of the investigation and keep a potential jury pool untainted. Occasionally, however, we have to publicize a case file due to public interest, information seeking or media attention. In this case, it is none of those reasons, but rather the contained audience of supporters that soothes my risk tolerance, so what happens at Cocktails for Critters, stays at Cocktails for Critters.

We also have community partners from VCA CARE Centre in the room, critical in rehabilitating these voiceless victims, to recognize. We thank you for everything you put into giving these dogs a fighting chance. We'll be able to talk more about this case in the future, so consider this a teaser. Suffice to say that our officers encountered a case of 2 severely emaciated dogs, necessitating immediate seizure and hospitalization. On a scale of 1-9, these dogs were zeros with guarded prognoses. As an Animal Protection agency, we are duty bound to treat owned animals regardless of cost, unless the animal's distress hits a veterinary threshold allowing humane euthanasia. It took weeks of intensive treatment before these survivors were out of the woods, at a market cost of over $60,000 of emergency veterinary care to get them to where they are today. Criminal charges are pending for what is one of the worst neglect cases we have seen, and we have an experienced team. Our Peace Officers seize an average of 600 animals annually and the average cost of care per animal is $2500. This rehabilitation from cruelty and neglect is what you are funding when you donate to Calgary Humane Society. Keep that in mind in a few moments as we open the live auction with 'fund-a-need'. We are so happy to have Luna with us here tonight to show off her recovery. Zeus was unable to be here due to a conflict. He is a very busy boy. Please join me in welcoming Luna and her new mom Jessica to the stage.

Note: Joelle to walk on stage, interview Luna and guardian Jessica, for a few minutes. With Luna and Jessica remaining on stage, Joelle to invite VCA guests to the stage.

Please also join me in welcoming two individuals who helped both Zues and Luna during their recovery. Dr. Carissa Tong (Veterinarian Criticalist) and Kimberly Hately (Veterinary Technician Specialist in Emergency and Critical Care) to the stage.

Note: APPROVED QUESTIONS

- **What does it mean to you to have played such an important role in Luna and Zeus's recovery and to see how far they've come?**

  It is a huge privilege to have been a part of Luna and Zeus's recovery. In Critical Care, we see animals at their most vulnerable, and we don't always get to see them recover. Watching Zeus and Luna recover has been a powerful reminder to our whole team of the impact that our skills, collaboration, and patience can make on a pet's life.

- **What does it mean to be part of a team that helps an animal move from needing intensive medical care to being ready for a loving home?**

  It is truly rewarding to see such a positive outcome. When we first met Zeus and Luna, they were too sick to show much personality. Watching them slowly show us who they are and celebrating all their small milestones along the way has a huge emotional impact on the people that are involved in their care. There is absolutely a feeling of pride to have been involved in their success story.

- **Knowing that Luna and Zeus have both been adopted into loving homes, what does that outcome mean to you and your team?**

  Knowing that they are both in loving homes means everything to our team. It is a validation of our hard work. It has been a blessing to receive updates from their new families and see how well they are doing now.

- **Calgary Humane Society has an in-house veterinary clinic, but some animals need specialized treatment and around-the-clock care. How important is the partnership with CARE Centre in helping ensure animals like Luna and Zeus get the care they need?**

  This partnership is vital to ensure that the city's most vulnerable animals have a place to go when their medical needs become complex. Without strong communication between our teams, Zeus and Luna's future may not have been possible. Every animal deserves a second chance at life, and the partnership we have with CHS allows that to be possible.

Final question for Brad Nichols:

"What do partnerships between veterinary teams and animal welfare organizations make possible for animals who need more extensive medical care?"

What we've just heard is a powerful reminder of why animal protection is so important and why having an organization such as Calgary Humane Society that can step in when animals are suffering matters so much.

Once an animal comes through the doors at Calgary Humane Society, the work becomes about helping them heal, helping them feel safe, and ultimately helping them find the people and place where they can thrive.

Some animals find that home quickly. For others, the journey takes much longer.

The next story is about one of those animals, a dog who spent a longer than usual length of stay at Calgary Humane Society waiting for the right person to see what the team knew was there.

We'd like to share that journey with you now.

8:35pm	Cue Bella-Bo-Ella & guardian for red carpet	**Bella-Bo-Ella Video** on all screens (Slide 22) Lights fade. Camera on red carpet guests, live video on **stage screens**

Now please join me in welcoming Bella-Bo-Ella her guardian Rhys and her Foster Parents The Ross Family, to the stage.

Note: Joelle to interview Bella-Bo-Ella's guardian and Foster Parent for a few minutes.

GIVE UPDATE ON $$ OUR GOAL IS $305,000

8:45pm	Joelle to come back on stage. Joelle to invite Bill Brown for live auction	Camera on Joelle/Bill, live video on **all screens.** Title Page for **Live Auction** to play on **all screens. (Slide 24)** **Flow through Bill's slides as per his narration.**

It is now time for the Live Auction brought to you by **Royal Canin.**

BILL TAKES THE STAGE

What an incredible auction! Thank you to everyone who bid, and congratulations to all of our winning bidders!

We're not done yet , there are still a few more opportunities to have some fun and support Calgary Humane Society tonight.

A quick reminder of what's still to come:

Ears and Tails sponsored by **GFL** will take place at 9:15 p.m., so make sure you're here for one of the most entertaining moments of the evening.

Our raffles will be drawn at 9:45 p.m., so if you have a ticket, keep it close!

And don't forget, the silent auction closes at 10 p.m. That means you still have time to get those final bids in, but don't wait too long!

Now enjoy the music from the very talented Motus Jazz Quintet!

9:00pm	Jazz band plays second set. Breaks for games and raffles, ending at 10:00pm.	**Pre-event Slideshow** on stage screens. **Silent Auction & Elevate** on side screens.

GIVE UPDATE ON $$ OUR GOAL IS $305,000

9:15pm	Joelle back on stage for Ears & Tails	Camera on Joelle, live video on stage screens. Ears & Tails from **Run of Show Slideshow** to play on **all screens. (Slide 34)**

9:45pm	Joelle back on stage with Carrie for Raffles	

	1. Wine 2. Spirits 3. Trip 4. Diamond	Raffle Slides from **Run of Show Slideshow** to play on **all screens. (Slide 36-39)**

First we have our wine raffle sponsored by **Wheedles** , featuring a selection of wine valued at $750

Second we have our spirits raffle sponsored by **Wheedles**, featuring a selection of spirits valued at $750

Third we have our Trip raffle sponsored by **While Away House Sitters & Pet Care**, roundtrip for two anywhere Westjet fly's along with matching luggage.

And last our Diamond raffle sponsored by **Westland Insurance**, featuring 18K white gold, diamond stud earrings.

Lets give it up one more time for the Motus Jazz Quintet! Jeremy Brown, saxophone and flute, Jon Day, piano, Kodi Hutchinson, bass, Neil McVey, guitar, Tyler Hornby, drums

We have until 10:00pm to get final bids in for Silent Auction brought to you by **Royal Canin**! Remember to get those in before it closes.

GIVE UPDATE ON $$ OUR GOAL IS $305,000

What an unforgettable night! Thank you all for being part of this incredible gala and for showing such amazing support for Calgary Humane Society. Because of you, more animals will have brighter futures, and that's something to truly celebrate!

Let's give one more big round of applause to the animals, the staff and volunteers, and of course—to all of YOU—for making tonight such a success.

On behalf of Calgary Humane Society, thank you for your generosity, your energy, and your compassion. Have a safe journey home, and we can't wait to see you again at next year's gala. Good night, everyone!