



ALBERTA  
**SPCA**

The Front Line of Animal Protection



**20**  
**25**

**A YEAR OF  
COURAGE,  
COMPASSION  
& COMMUNITY**

**ANNUAL REPORT**

# 2025 Snapshot

**2,940**

INVESTIGATIONS  
CONDUCTED

**16,532**

ANIMALS  
INVESTIGATED

**483**

ANIMALS TAKEN  
INTO CARE

**1,179**

STUDENTS  
PARTICIPATED  
IN ANIMALTALES

## ANIMAL PROTECTION:

### INVESTIGATING ANIMALS IN DISTRESS

These files typically involve reports of animals lacking adequate food, water, shelter, veterinary care, or general neglect. They range from companion animals in poor living conditions to large scale livestock welfare concerns.

## Pet Safekeeping

In 2025, the program supported a total of **29 clients**, providing care and oversight for **62 pets** throughout the year. Across all cases, animals spent an average of **47 days in care**, reflecting both short term emergency placements and longer periods of support where needed.

## Updated Humane Educator Toolkit

Thanks to generous donors, the Humane Educator Toolkit was updated in 2025 and teachers are using it in nearly **400 classrooms** across Alberta. The kit now includes a teacher planner and new curriculum-linked resources, including a social-emotional learning program. This kit helps teachers integrate empathy and compassion for animals, people and the environment into their classrooms.

## Species Investigated

ANIMAL TYPE	TOTAL INVESTIGATED
Cattle	3,281
Sheep/Goats	3,079
Duck/Geese	2,059
Dogs	2,399
Horses/Donkeys	1,726
Cats	1,405
Chickens/Turkeys	856
Pigs	818
Elk/Deer	450
Birds (other)	234
Captive Wildlife	58
Rabbits	45
Reptiles	21
Small Mammals	19
Llamas/Alpacas	13
Fish	9
Ostrichs/Emus	3
Other (combined)	57



# 2025: A Year of Courage, Compassion and Community

Reflecting on the past year, we are deeply grateful for the Albertans who stood beside us, and the remarkable community of advocates and caregivers who support us in helping animals.

## IT WAS A YEAR OF SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS FOR THE ALBERTA SPCA

We engaged with the Government of Alberta on **meaningful updates** to Alberta's *Animal Protection Act*, advocating for stronger tools to help our peace officers improve efficiency and effectiveness in resolving animal care concerns. With legislative changes on the horizon, we're committed to continue leading efforts to strengthen animal protections in our province.

The Animal Protection team remained anchored in accountability. We responded to **2,940 cases**, supporting **16,532 animals** across the province. Throughout the year, our team also embraced innovative legal strategies to close enforcement gaps and better protect animals.

On our **66th anniversary** in September, we unveiled a refreshed identity and redesigned website — including tools to make help easier to access when it matters most. This year also marked the **inaugural Animal Welfare Symposium**, a milestone in collaborating across sectors to strengthen our collective capacity to address the root causes of animal welfare issues.

This is just a snapshot of what the Alberta SPCA was able to accomplish in 2025. From enforcement to education, we remain committed to leading animal welfare in our province.

To every supporter — donors, lottery purchasers, and everyday Albertans who look out for animals in their communities — **thank you**. It's your compassion that fuels this work. Together, we stand on the front lines every day, speaking for those who cannot speak for themselves.

Here's to a compassionate 2026 and countless lives changed through kindness, action and community.

**On behalf of the Alberta SPCA board and team,**



**Leanne Niblock,  
Executive Director**



**Andrea Edwards, RVT  
2025 Board President**



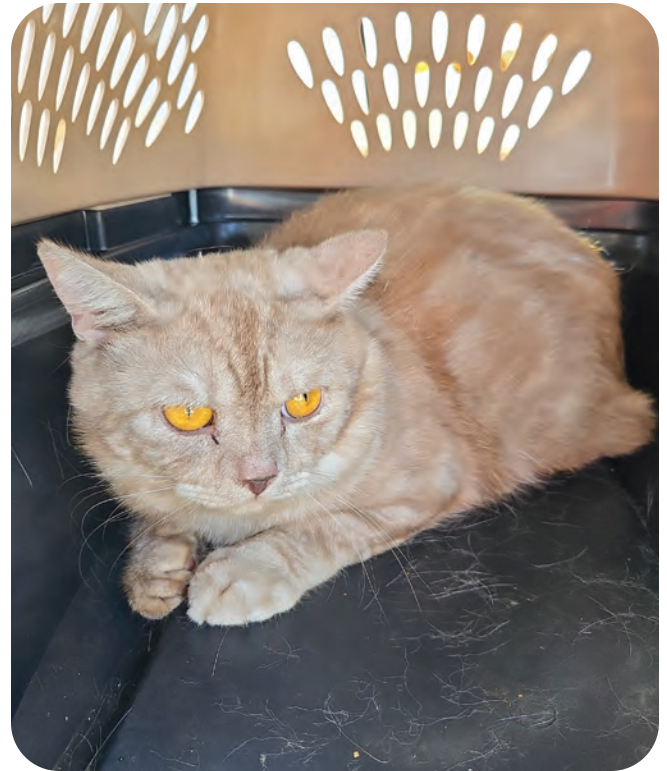
# Protection When It Matters Most

Last August, Alberta SPCA peace officers were called out to a small home in central Alberta where they found 28 cats and three ferrets in terrible conditions.

They were confined to a dirty room with little airflow. Ammonia fumes spread throughout the house. Our peace officers needed special protective equipment and respirators to keep themselves safe. It was a dangerous situation, but we knew getting all the animals to safety was critical.

Thankfully, our team rescued them all and ensured they received the veterinary treatment they desperately needed. Most of the cats had serious respiratory infections and other health issues that required immediate care. Once they recovered, our shelter partners helped them find safe, loving homes.

Cases involving a large number of animals like this are on the rise. Accountability and education remain essential to tackling root-cause issues which can prevent animals from falling into these dangerous situations.



# Ruby's Story

Some rescued animals adjust quickly to their new lives. Others, like Ruby, need time, patience, and a little help from a friend.

Ruby is a cattle dog rescued from a property where the dogs lived in outdoor kennels without proper shelter, food or socialization. When Alberta SPCA peace officers first rescued her, she was fearful and withdrawn, struggling to walk on a leash or enter a home. With patience and guidance from her foster family and their resident dog, Nina, Ruby slowly adapted to her new situation.

While Ruby was adjusting to the foster home, another cattle dog named Badger was facing his own challenges. Although he had been adopted by another loving family, Badger—who is deaf—was struggling to get comfortable. He desperately needed a canine companion to help him feel safe and connected.

That's when he met Ruby.

When Ruby and Badger first met, something clicked. Ruby, once scared and withdrawn, played excitedly with Badger, while Badger found comfort in Ruby's presence. Seeing their instant connection, Ruby's foster and Badger's family knew they couldn't keep them apart. Just weeks later, Ruby officially became part of Badger's family.

Today, they live together on a farm, exploring and supporting one another as a team. Their journey demonstrates the lasting impact of rescue and rehabilitation made possible through community support and the dedication of Alberta SPCA peace officers.



## USING NEW LEGAL STRATEGIES TO CLOSE GAPS AND PROTECT ANIMALS

When legal protections fall short, we found new ways to act. Using innovative legal strategies — including community impact statements and civil court orders — we've closed enforcement gaps, held people accountable, and strengthened protection for animals across Alberta.

Two cases in 2025 demonstrate how these strategies have made a meaningful impact.

In one case involving starved and neglected dogs, we provided a community impact statement that helped the court understand the harm to both the animals and the broader community. The guardian received an 18-month conditional sentence and a 10-year prohibition on owning or living with animals — a stronger outcome than typically seen in similar cases.

In another case involving horses living in harmful conditions, we pursued a civil court order to gain legal authority to remove the animals and place them in safe care, allowing for swift action when criminal enforcement alone would have been slow or uncertain.

These cases show how legal strategies can close gaps when traditional approaches fall short. By using every tool available, we're strengthening accountability, improving outcomes for animals, and continuing to raise the standard of protection across Alberta.



# Pet Safekeeping: Rocco's Story

Our Pet Safekeeping program is designed to keep animals safe when their caregivers need help the most, and that's exactly what it did for Rocco\* and his family.

Rocco's family adopted him to help support their 6-year-old daughter, Alice, who was diagnosed with autism and is nonverbal. They bonded quickly, as Rocco was calm and well-behaved, perfect for supporting Alice through daily life.

But, Alice and her mother were not safe. The two were victims of domestic violence, and Alice's mother knew they had to escape their situation. However, leaving their abuser meant leaving Rocco behind. The abuser had threatened him before and she couldn't leave without knowing he would be safe.

Unfortunately, situations like this happen far too often. That's where our Pet Safekeeping program comes in.

In collaboration with domestic violence support services, we provide short-term care to animals who have to be separated from their guardians. Having peace of mind that their animals are protected

while they take the steps needed to rebuild their lives can give survivors confidence and reassurance.

Alice and her mother ended up moving four hours away to a safe residence, and Rocco was temporarily housed at one of our partner shelters. He was dearly missed by his family, but through regular pictures and updates, Alice knew he was safe and happy.

Rocco stayed with us for six weeks and throughout that time we continued his training, working on staying calm so he could continue to support Alice when he returned to her. Alice and her mother eventually found a safe, pet-friendly home. It was time for Rocco to come home.

When they were finally reunited, Rocco tried to prove he was a professional good boy and did his best to "sit and stay," but his tail was wagging a bit too hard, and excitement took over with a reunion full of wiggles and kisses.

\*Names and details have been changed for anonymity



On September 9, the Alberta SPCA hosted the inaugural Animal Welfare Symposium, bringing together a diverse network of leaders and changemakers committed to advancing animal welfare in Alberta.

**Knowledgeable experts provided attendees with new insights into timely topics, including:**

- Indigenous perspectives
- Stakeholder roles and responsibilities
- The relationship between farmer stress and animal welfare
- Modernization of municipal animal bylaws
- One Health research
- Barriers to veterinary care



**120+** ATTENDEES

**43** ORGANIZATIONS ENGAGED

**31** COMMUNITIES REPRESENTED

Participants also engaged in facilitated discussions focused on identifying collaborative solutions to Alberta’s animal welfare challenges.

The symposium created meaningful opportunities for cross-sector dialogue, knowledge sharing and relationship building. Insights gathered throughout the day continue to inform and strengthen our work moving forward, reinforcing the importance of collaboration in creating lasting change for animals in Alberta.

**THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS FOR SUPPORTING THE ANIMAL WELFARE SYMPOSIUM**



Stephen Michalyk  
Portfolio Manager & Wealth  
Advisor



The event will return in September 2026, in Calgary. Head to [AnimalWelfareSymposium.ca](https://AnimalWelfareSymposium.ca) to learn more and register.



# Preparing for Emergencies Involving Livestock

It's critical that our peace officers are prepared to respond when emergencies involve livestock.

In 2025, we hosted a two-day livestock emergency training session, made possible through a grant from the Government of Alberta's Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership. Our animal protection peace officers, along with other officers from across the province, took part in the training.

The session focused on emergency livestock handling in situations such as motor vehicle

accidents, barn fires, and water rescues. Through hands-on, scenario-based learning, officers were able to practice techniques in realistic conditions.

This training strengthens our ability to respond safely and effectively – supporting both public safety and Alberta's agricultural community when it matters most.

## T-SHIRT DESIGN CONTEST – A HIT WITH STUDENTS!

In Spring 2025 the Alberta SPCA T-Shirt Design Contest encouraged students from across the province to, through original artwork, showcase how animals have taught or inspired them. The entries were reviewed by a panel of Alberta artists and three winning designs were selected to be featured on Alberta SPCA t-shirts.

Congratulations once again to Laurel, a Grade 4 student from Edmonton, Marjorie, a Grade 6 student from Wetaskiwin, and Hattie, a Grade 8 student from St. Albert for having their artwork chosen from close to 100 entries!



Grade 6 student, Marjorie, in her winning design.



# #GivingTuesday

On Giving Tuesday, December 2, 2025, we asked our supporters to provide safe spaces for animals in emergency situations, and the call was generously answered. Over 700 donors stepped up, contributing \$130,000 towards safe spaces for animals in Alberta. Donna Lux, a longtime supporter of the Alberta SPCA, went even further, matching the first \$10,000 raised to provide even more support for animals in emergencies.

A huge thank-you to everyone that helped make this Giving Tuesday a success.

## ZIWI Pet Food Donation



Last June, the Alberta SPCA gratefully accepted and distributed a \$2.2 million donation of pet food from ZIWI, facilitated by Greater Good Charities. We distributed nearly 23,000 bags of cat and dog food to dozens of animal welfare organizations across Western Canada.

The donation arrived at a critical time, as many shelters and rescue groups were operating at or beyond capacity while facing rising care costs for animals. This donation helped ease financial pressures for organizations by feeding animals in shelters and community programs.

Some of the food was also redirected to support animals displaced by wildfires across the Prairies, with more than 3,700 bags delivered to Manitoba alone.

The generous donation helped ensure thousands of animals received the food they needed while supporting the organizations and communities working tirelessly to care for them.

**“These kinds of donations are so huge. This allows us to help more people and pets stay together.”**

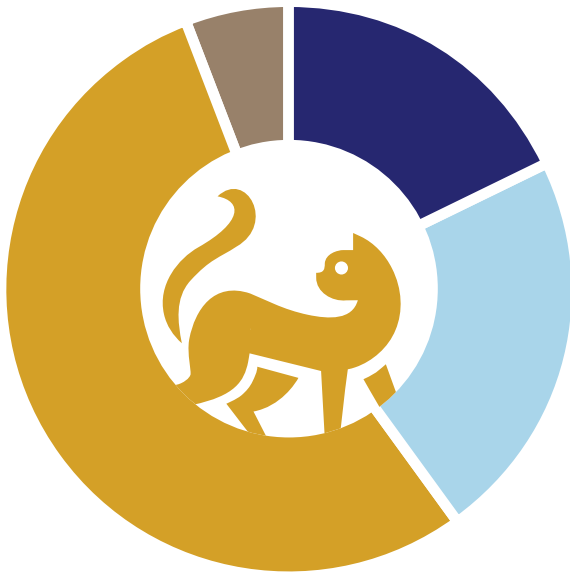
- A rescue organization that received donated food



# Financials

## Revenue

\$7,297,837



- Grants
- Raffles & Casino Revenue
- Donation & Bequest
- Other

## Expenses

\$7,045,323



- Animal Protection
- PetSafekeeping
- Operations  
(including humane education, communications, facilities, etc)
- Other (including fundraising and lottery)





The Front Line of Animal Protection

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