

Protective Services

Dog Control & BC SPCA



1450 K.L.O. Road
Kelowna, BC, V1W 3Z4
rdco.com



BC SPCA Kelowna Branch

Gaelene Askeland

Karin Massar



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Presentation to RDCO Board

June 1, 2023

Gaelene Askeland – Senior Manager, Kelowna Community Animal Centre

Karin Massar – Senior Officer, Community Giving



BCSPCA – Kelowna Animal Care Centre

Serving Central Okanagan since 1959 in Kelowna. The BC SPCA formed in 1895 and celebrated 125 Years in 2020.

Volunteer complement of 150 including direct animal care, fostering, admin support, and fundraising/events.

We help companion animals, farm animals, and wildlife at the Kelowna Community Animal Centre on Casorso in the Mission.

Our network of SPCAs throughout the province enable us to transfer animals and supplies within and between regions

We are authorized to enforce the



Mission: To protect and enhance the quality of life for domestic, farmed and wild animals in B.C.

Vision: To inspire and mobilize society to create a world in which all animals enjoy, as a minimum, five essential freedoms:

1. Freedom from hunger & thirst
2. Freedom from pain, injury & disease
3. Freedom from distress
4. Freedom from discomfort
5. Freedom to express behaviours that promote well-being



Meet our amazing team!

- Gaelene Askeland – Senior Manager, Kelowna Community Animal Centre
- Karin Massar – Senior Officer Community Giving
- Chaelyhn Berry – Manager, Kelowna Community Animal Centre
- Robyn McMurphy – Animal Care Supervisor
- Mary Whittaker - Animal Care Supervisor
- Lindsey Leverrier – Animal Care Specialist - Cat Department Lead – Barn Coordinator
- Aislinn Torgunrud – Animal Care Specialist - Wildlife Coordinator
- Leah Demas – Animal Care Specialist
- Jorden Lane – Animal Care Attendant
- Bailey Broughton-Day – Animal Care Attendant



January 2022 a new 2-year contract was signed to continue the work of the previous contract

- Offer low cost spay/neuter/microchip program
- Temporary emergency boarding of domestic and farm animals
- Dog Control adoption services



RDCO Dog Control Adoption Services

- Collaboration toward rehoming of dogs not claimed within the 72-hour hold at dog control in Kelowna. When we are unable to assist in the Kelowna shelter due to capacity, we do our best to find an alternative solution for RDCO (I.e speak with a sister clinic)
- We take over custody, provide ongoing care, get sterilized and microchip, assess behaviorally, then promote through our online adoption application process
- Dogs are always licensed at the time of adoption, and adopters are always provided the proper paperwork for their records



Spay/Neuter/ID Fund (SNIF)

Our Kelowna SPCA offers a spay/neuter and identification program to families who live within the Regional District of Central Okanagan

Within the past 3 years, we have been able to issue over 1300 SNIF certificates to low-income families in need of assistance.

By sterilizing and providing a microchip that is registered with BC Pet Registry, the program impacts the number of unwanted litters and the length of time anxious owners wait to be reunited with a lost pet.

WHO QUALIFIES?

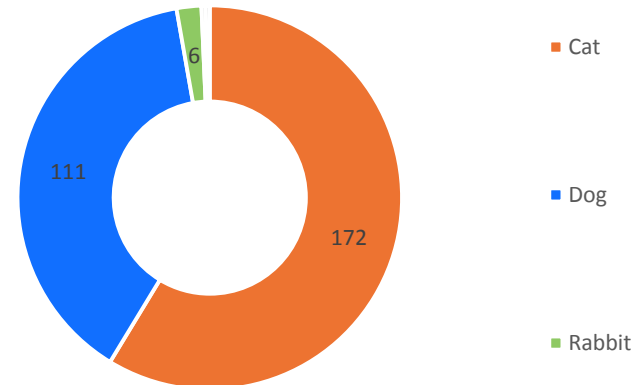
- ❖ Residents of the Regional District Central Okanagan
- ❖ Meets threshold for Household Income as set by Statistics Canada LICO guidelines

** It is unclear if residents of the Westbank First Nation are eligible for SNIF vouchers. This is a demographic that would benefit from this program and we would appreciate confirmation that RDCO accepts their eligibility.

In 2022 we received from Dog Control 25 dogs and 2 cats

For the SNIF program we issued
291 vouchers for spay/neuter
172 for cats – 111 redeemed
111 for dogs – 81 redeemed
6 for rabbits – 3 redeemed

Vouchers issued in 2022



We also issued 164 new dog licenses and renewed 49

Emergency Boarding

In 2022 we provided emergency boarding of companion animals for guardians:

- Leaving an interpersonal partner violence situation
- Being hospitalized and having no friends/family to care for the animals
- Temporary loss of housing
- Natural disasters

We provide all animals a physical exam, vaccination update, and parasite management at the time of admission.

There are no fees charged for this service.

Pet Food Bank

We offer food for animals to anyone who walks into the centre with no questions asked

We provide food and other supplies as we can to other organizations such as:

- Paws It Forward dog rescue
- Okanagan Humane Society
- Okanagan Wildlife Centre

We have begun a reciprocal relationship with the **Central Okanagan Food Bank** to ensure that Okanagan citizens who are accessing supports from them are also able to access supports for their companion animals at the same time.

Other Considerations

Veterinarian shortage has led to a significant increase in costs

- There is so much business that many of them have pulled out of the SNIF program
- Some clinics have reduced or eliminated the discounted rates to the BCSPCA

Cost of rent in Kelowna continues to increase and pet-friendly rentals are very hard to find. This has increased the number of people contacting us to surrender their animals when they have to move.

Cost of food for humans and pets has increased considerably in the last 2 years. We have seen an increase in requests for pet food.

As much as low cost/free spay and neuter services are needed and appreciated, we have seen an increase in the number of people surrendering their animals due to inability to pay for other veterinary services.



Wrapping Up

Thank you for continuing to support our work with vulnerable animals in our community!

Are there any Questions ?

Recommendation:

THAT the Regional Board receive the Report from the Director of Community Services, dated June 1st, 2023 with an annual update from the British Columbia Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) for the provision of the Spay, Neuter and Micro-chip Program, Community Outreach Service and Dog Control Adoption Services.