

Victoria Humane Society

Annual General Report 2015

Let 
the love
begin.

A puppy, new into care, gets some snuggles

800+
Animals rescued
and re-homed

12,000+
Facebook followers
supporting our
work

300
Committed and
loving volunteers

A Message from our Executive Director

It is hard to believe it has already been two years since we started the Victoria Humane Society. And what an amazing two years it has been!

In this time we have rescued and re-homed more than 800 animals including dogs, cats, rabbits and even a hedgehog. Most of these animals are coming from sad, heart breaking circumstances. Watching these animals become happy, healthy and engaged through our work makes all the hard work more than worthwhile.



Most animals come into our care one at a time however, we also had two extraordinary incidents of large groups of dogs in desperate circumstances with nowhere else to turn. Partnering with Crooked Leg Ranch we took the “Mountain Man” dogs into care; twenty, mostly fearful dogs, many of who were pregnant (resulting in 39 puppies!). We also provided expertise and assistance in the rescue of 150 sled dogs. This was, of course, in addition to the single animals either abandoned, unwanted or surrendered to us due to medical or other reasons.

Almost as many people as animals have crossed our paths. We have more than doubled our volunteer base. These dedicated volunteers assist with all aspects of our operation – adoptions, fostering, transportation, home checks, fundraising and community events. They are the back bone of our organization and we couldn't do what we do without their tireless support.

Our community partners are another critical source of support. We work with numerous other rescue organizations to reach as many needy animals as possible and we're constantly working with community groups at events that build awareness and help to support us financially. Every day, I am humbled by the generosity of people who truly love animals, they make what we do possible.

Adoption fees do not begin to cover the costs of medical treatment for the abused and abandoned animals we take in and, in fact, they barely cover the cost of rescuing and rehoming even the healthiest, so funding is always a major concern. As we enter our third year, we have started a monthly giving campaign to create a base of ongoing support while keeping the vision of a shelter where we change every animal's story from heartbreaking to heartwarming foremost in our thoughts.

Thank you for your support.

Let the love continue.

Penny Stone



About Us

The Victoria Humane Society (VHS) was formed in November 2013 in response to a gap in animal rescue, care and education in the Capital Regional District (CRD). The response has been overwhelmingly positive, both in terms of our success rate in caring and placing animals and in terms of the financial and volunteer supports. We value a team approach to animal rescue and work together with community partners across the province to save animals in dire need with no where else to go. Led by our Executive Director, Penny Stone, who has over 10 years of experience in animal rescue work, along with a network of over 50 foster homes and almost 300 volunteers, our team works tirelessly to save abused and homeless animals all across British Columbia. Since our inception, we have rescued and rehomed over 800 animals. Focusing on rural and remote communities with no existing animal rescue organizations, we have earned the trust of these communities and work closely with them to provide life saving services. However, at least 50% of our animals are surrendered from the CRD area.

The Victoria Humane Society is governed by an Executive Director, Penny Stone, along with a six-member Board of Directors who come from a variety of job sectors. Each one is willing to share their time, expertise and love for animals.

Board of Directors
Sandi Piano
Daisy Jassar
Jenn Stone
Troy Alexander
Melissa Medve
Valerie Nathan



Our Vision

The Victoria Humane Society rescues animals in need, and through adoption and education inspires our community to create a more compassionate future where animals are valued, protected and treated with respect.



Our Mission

Our mission is to provide leadership in improving the lives of animals by alleviating their suffering or neglect. We do this by rescuing, sheltering, healing, adopting and advocating for animals in need, while inspiring community action and compassion on their behalf.



Our First Two Years

The response has been overwhelmingly positive for the VHS, both in terms of our success rate in caring and placing animals and in terms of the financial and volunteer supports. Year one saw 400 animals rescued and adopted, 100 volunteers of which 40 are foster homes and \$281,530 in donations and earned revenue. In year two, our volunteer base has grown to 300 supporters, we have rescued over 800 animals and our donations and earned revenue is \$260,708. A tireless and committed board of directors and Executive Director provided the foundation for much of this early success as well as overwhelming support from the community and our volunteers.



Our Objectives

To secure an appropriate facility site in the Greater Victoria region.

To ensure financial sustainability by developing new sources of funding while expanding existing funding sources.

To grow community engagement along with our volunteer base.

To improve animal care education in our community through information sessions and through the media.

To continue working with existing partners and develop new partnerships by expanding our reach to remote communities.



Adoptee Storm says hi!



Our Partners

We believe in the power of partnerships. They enable us to widen our circle of care and are an integral part of what we do. They have made it possible to provide care for so many animals.

Broken Promises
Caribou Animal Adoption and Rehabilitation
Crooked Leg Ranch
Greater Victoria Animal Crusaders
Paws for Hope
Pilots N Paws Canada
Spirit's Mission
Victoria Adoptables Dog Rescue
Whistler Sled Dog Company

VOKRA
Barn Rats for Barn Cats
Mill Bay Veterinary Hospital
Grace Veterinary Hospital
Central Victoria Veterinary Hospital



In Sickness and In Health

The Victoria Humane Society utilizes the help of both local veterinary care and, when necessary, veterinary care on the mainland.

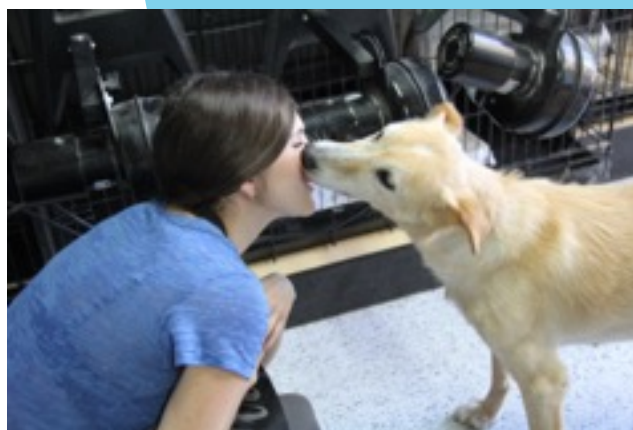
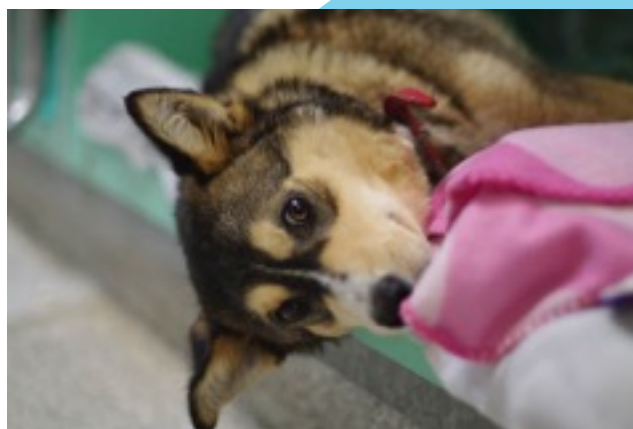
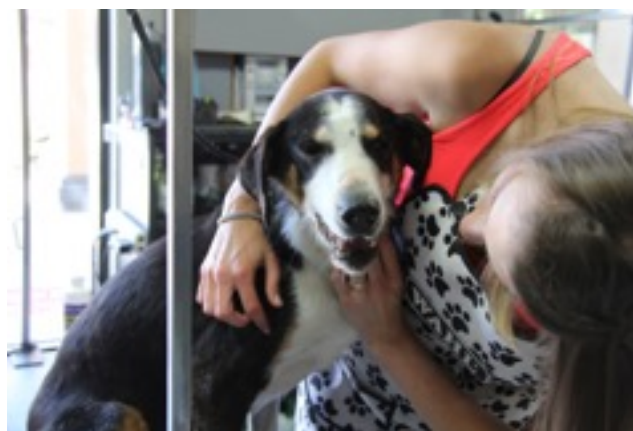
We have relationships with many local clinics and whenever possible, the animals in our care go to our local clinics for treatment. In some cases, emergency care is needed and pets are taken to Mill Bay Veterinary Hospital or Grace Veterinary Hospital. There have been a few cases of pets in need of specialized care and we have been lucky enough to get into Canada West Veterinary Care and Specialist Hospital in Burnaby.

A big part of an animal's well being is grooming. Some of the animals who come into our care are healthy, but due to the lack of resources, time or knowledge of their guardians, are filthy, matted and haven't had basic grooming care. So whether it's an ear tidy, a nail trim or a full spa day, we ensure they get taken care of. We are fortunate to have volunteer groomers who donate their time to help the dogs, and any cats if necessary, and our army of volunteers help with transportation to and from appointments.

The average cost of care for a healthy rescued puppy includes transportation, initial vet check along with vaccinations, de-worm, de-flea treatments, medications, spay/neuter and food for 3-4 months.

The average cost of caring for an adult dog with health concerns includes transportation, initial vet check with vaccinations, dental (\$800-1200), medications, surgery (\$2000-8000), spay/neuter and food (sometimes specialized) for 3-4 months.

photos top to bottom: Miss Misty von Wigglebum post surgery; Piper enjoys the attention at his first grooming session; Sammie post surgery; Goldie gives kisses to her groomer during her very first spa day.



Our Milestones and Memories

Since we began in 2013 we have been continuously assisting animals who need us - no matter their need. Here are some highlights.

GUS' STORY

Through the generosity of our donors, we've been able to help some extremely special cases. Most notably is Gus, our official 'spokespup' and poster dog. Gus was surrendered to our care because he 'wasn't well'. After much testing, he was diagnosed with megaesophagus - a condition which made it difficult to swallow and keep down his food. Being a pure bred Lab, he was very interested in food, so we did some research and found that there was a chair he could use that would help his food go down. It was called a Bailey Chair.

So after a generous donation of a home-made Bailey Chair, Gus began his new routine of standing to eat from a bowl. After a 15 minute rest, he was free to run and romp. A second Bailey

Chair was built to grow with him and today he's doing amazing. He comes to events (along with his chair) and is the life of the party. This past summer Gus learned to swim and had his first attempt at dock diving! Gus' success is a testament to the care and compassion that abounds in our supporters - from the medical team who continues to monitor his

health, to his incredible foster home who adopted him and brings him to all of our events, to those who sent in donations and words of support and encouragement along the way. He's alive today because of their love.



More Milestones and Memories

THE SAIK'UZ FIRST NATIONS SPAY & NEUTER CLINIC

In June 2015, the Victoria Humane Society had the opportunity to work with our partners at Crooked Leg Ranch and Spirit's Mission to travel to the remote Saik'uz First Nations community to provide free spay and neuter surgeries, wellness exams and education. The response from the community was well-received and we performed 40 spay/neuter surgeries and over 100 wellness exams for dogs, puppies, cats and kittens. These exams consisted of vaccinations, flea and tick control and a vet check up. It

also provided us with the chance to form new bridges by talking to the families about their pets, listening to their stories and offering education and answers. These clinics take a lot of organization along with donations of time, money and services, but we realize their importance to communities who have little to no access to veterinary services so we will definitely be setting up more clinics in other remote communities.



More Milestones and Memories

RETIRED SLED DOGS

Since the Whistler sled dog cull in 2010, Penny Stone has been at the forefront of those who stepped up to help the dogs that needed homes after the operation shut down. An advocate and adopter herself, she is committed to helping these dogs with the transition from working dog to family pet. From the beginnings of a small handful of retired sled dog adopters in 2013 to over 200 now who continue to keep in touch, Penny and her specific retired sled dog volunteers work with the dogs through fostering, socialization and a dedicated Facebook group where all manner of things are discussed. There have been several reunions in the past few years, which furthers the network and community of “sleddie families”.



MOUNTAIN MAN DOGS

In September 2014, our partners at Crooked Leg Ranch made the trek into the middle of nowhere to help not only a large group of dogs, but the man who'd been doing what he could to care for them. With little to no access to veterinary care, or the means to pay, it's easy to become overwhelmed with the care of dogs who are able to reproduce. Being partners meant that the VHS helped both financially and with direct care by ensuring the dogs who came into care had a gentle introduction to human interaction and contact. It's a slow process, but with time and dedication, it's possible and proven with over 40 “Mountain Man” puppies and 10 adults being adopted.

The following is an excerpt from a Facebook post written by Willow Eyford of Crooked Leg Ranch after her experience being on the front lines in helping and rescuing the Mountain Man and his dogs:

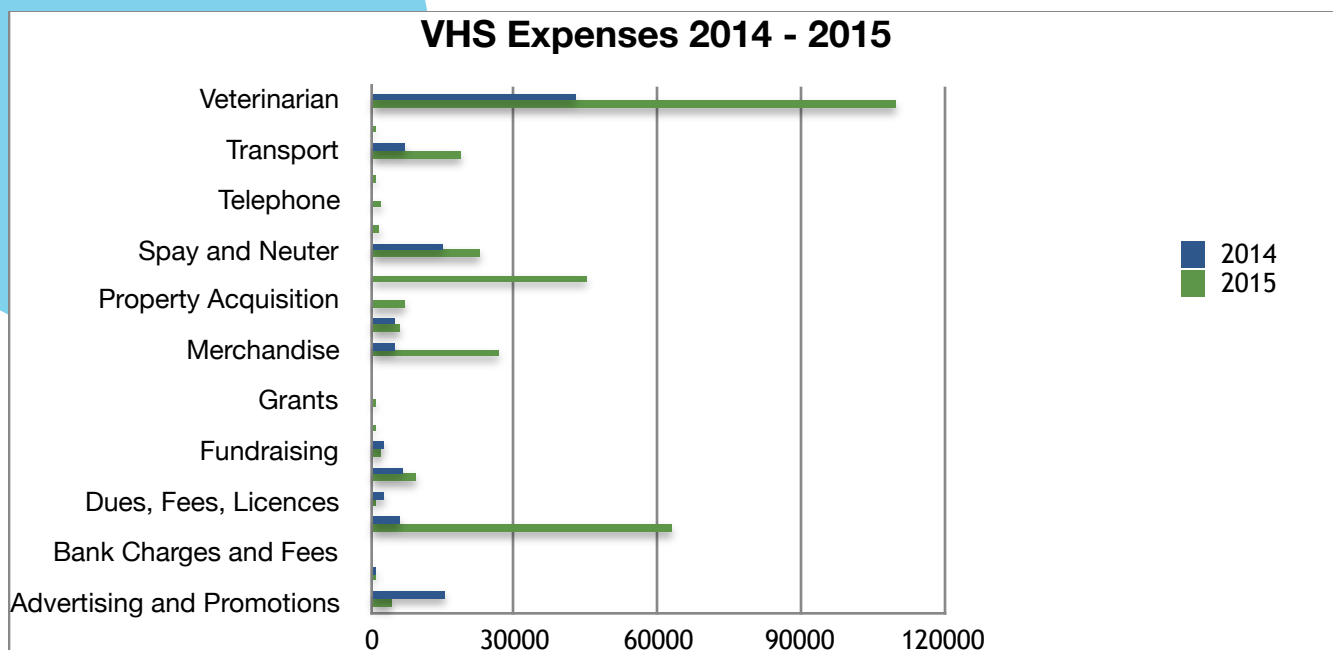


Yesterday we not only made 10 dogs lives better, (although they don't know it yet) we also brought hope and help to a man that the rest of humanity had given up on. He knew he needed help, but didn't think there was anyone that could, or would help him. This was such a profound experience for me, and there is so much more that needs to be done here. But we have made the first step down a very long road in making this world a better place for these dogs and our very own "Mountain Man".

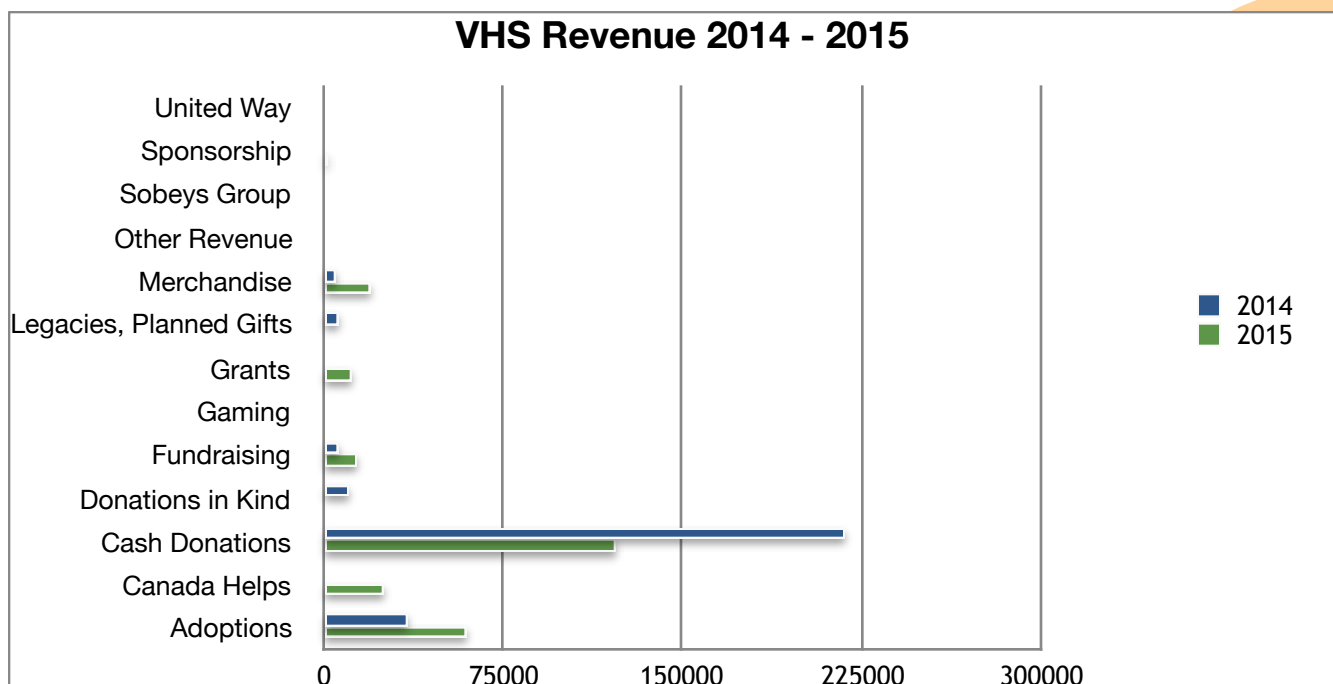


Our Financial Picture

Medicals costs are our main expenditure right now. We ensure all animals are spayed or neutered prior to adoption to ensure we do our part to slow down pet overpopulation. Surrenders of animals who require both basic and extreme medical care are ever increasing. As all of our animals are currently in foster care we provide the food and supplies needed while in foster care. Most travel is donated, but travel costs are incurred during animal transfer.



The majority of funds come from donations. We are continually thinking up new ways to engage donors to ensure our continued success in helping the animals who need us. We are currently looking for a site to create a shelter haven.



Our Volunteers

At the heart and soul of our operation is a small army of volunteers who assist with all aspects of our operation. From adoptions, fostering, transportation, home checks, fundraising and community events, they are the back bone of our organization and we couldn't do what we do without their tireless support.

Volunteers run numerous fundraising events such as pet expos, golf tournaments and other special events. One of our most popular fundraisers is our pop up merchandise booths where we sell merchandise, arrange meet n' greets and pass out information materials to help spread the word through the community about our work. We also have a group of dedicated dog walkers to ensure the dogs who are in kennel care get regular exercise and socialization.



Our Foster Homes

Using a network of volunteer foster homes we have rescued and rehomed over 800 animals in two years. Living in the caring and relaxing environment of a foster home helps animals who need rehabilitation and socialization. A comprehensive adoption process utilizing a specific set of questions and information gathering assists in successful adoption matches. Volunteers spend numerous hours reviewing applications, corresponding with applicants, performing home checks as well as follow up check-ins to see how things are going a couple weeks after adoption.

If an animal needs to recover after surgery, needs medication, is pregnant, or nursing, or just a little extra TLC, whether they're little or large, our amazing foster homes step up for as long as needed.



How Can You Help?

Donate | Adopt | Foster | Volunteer
and let the love begin

Website: www.victoriahumanesociety.com

Email: victoriahumanesociety@shaw.ca

Facebook: www.facebook.com/victoriahumanesociety

Twitter: [@VHSanimalrescue](https://twitter.com/VHSanimalrescue) #letthelovebegin

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Retired sled dogs Cola and ChiChi share a nuzzle

