



# Who We Are



## **Our Vision**

Provide abandoned cats and dogs with love and care in a stress free environment until they are united with their “forever family”.

## **MISSION**

- To provide our community with an adoption centre following a no kill, no cage philosophy
- To shelter, care for and re-home stray and abandoned dogs and cats
- To promote humane attitudes and responsible pet companionship through educational programs and community leadership.

## **Our Philosophy**

Our organization is based on a no kill and no cage philosophy: saving both adoptable (healthy and free of serious behavioural problems) and treatable (medical treatment or behavioural training) dogs and cats, regardless of age or disability. Cages are replaced with “dog cabins” and “cat chalets”, indoor and outdoor play areas, in a stress-reduced animal-friendly environment.





## The Carla Cumming Sojonky Adoption Centre Home of the Bow Valley SPCA

Named in loving honour of donor Frank Sojonky's wife, the Carla Cumming Sojonky Adoption Centre is like no other animal adoption facility! The Centre is nestled in the heart of the Bow Valley on 2.2 acres of provincially-leased land with panoramic views, natural green space, and easy visitor access.

The Centre is a 3,500 square foot building with a large off-leash park, wooded walking trails, and a secure fence line.

Robert Mitchell of Robert Mitchell Master Homes (Canmore, Alberta) donated his construction management expertise ensuring the Centre incorporated the latest technologies, products, and practices for healthy indoor air quality, greater energy efficiency, reduced overall greenhouse gas emissions, and the general preservation of our natural resources.

These efforts resulted in Natural Resources Canada recognizing the Centre as energy efficient in design. Green buildings are of higher quality, last longer, and cost less to operate; the long-term financial savings are significant, especially for a non-profit organization where every dollar matters.

The Bow Valley SPCA is proud that it has built a home that respects the health and well being of both its occupants and the environment, while creating an excellent model for future adoption centres across the country. We opened June 2, 2007.

In 2011, we made a major improvement. The Donner Foundation gave us a grant to refinish the floors throughout the facility. We now have completely sealed floors that are easy to clean and provide a barrier to infectious agents.



## Admissions 2011

Dogs/Puppies	54
Cats/Kittens	72

## Adoptions 2011

Dogs/Puppies	47
Cats/Kittens	69



Every dog and cat that comes to the Carla Cumming Sojonky Adoption Centre is scanned for micro-chip identification and identifying tattoos to be certain they are not simply lost pets.

Following admission, each animal is scheduled for a veterinary examination to evaluate any health problems and if necessary to schedule spay/neuter surgery. Every animal that is adopted for the Bow Valley SPCA is spayed/neutered before being placed with their new family. We accept dogs and cats regardless of health, age, or disability.



Each dog or cat is considered as an individual. Each dog or cat is observed by the staff to assure they are adapting to their new environment and special care is taken to determine their behaviour patterns. Behavioural assessment is provided for all of the dogs to determine if any special training is required and recommend the type of family (other dogs, cats, young children) that would be easiest for the dog to adapt to.

Staff and volunteers work with the dogs prior to their adoption to implement suggestions from the assessment.

The Carla Cumming Sojonky Adoption Centre will not accept proven dangerous animals from private individuals because they could not be safely adopted into the community. We focus on saving as many dogs and cats as possible while providing a high quality of life for all of the residents. We strive to maintain the resident capacity to accept newly abandoned or rescued dogs and cats.



## Happy Tails

HSI/Canada awarded the Bow Valley SPCA \$3000 for our efforts to protect stray and abandoned dogs and cats in the Bow Valley and beyond. The stated basis for the award was:



**HUMANE SOCIETY  
INTERNATIONAL**  
CANADA

“Humane Society International/Canada is proud to announce that another series of our Animal Rescue Fund grants have been awarded to six outstanding shelters and rescue operations across Canada. Animatch, Bow Valley SPCA, Circle F Horse Rescue, Humane Society Yukon, Rest Q Animal Sanctuary and Vancouver Orphan Kitty Rescue Association will use the funds to help pay for much needed community projects in their efforts to protect animals in the upcoming year.

The staff and volunteers that run these shelters and rescue groups presented impressive applications that highlighted their dedication to helping animals in their communities find new homes, recover from mistreatment or life on the street and live out their lives enjoying the love and care they deserve,” said Sayara Thurston, campaigner for Humane Society International/Canada.

“HSI Canada’s Animal Rescue Fund is a grant program geared towards helping relatively small, established rescue organizations in their animal protection work by funding either a portion of their operational costs or an expansion project. HSI Canada animal rescue fund grants range from \$1,000 to \$5,000.

Bow Valley SPCA boasts a wonderful facility that allows all of their cats and dogs to be cage-free in rooms specifically catered to their needs. The Animal Rescue Grant fund will be going towards their Cinderella Project, which cares for special needs animals by offering them much need veterinary and behavioural care.”



Susanne Gilles-Smith brought an early Christmas gift to the Bow Valley SPCA. On December 4th, the owner of the Banff Tea Company, and her dog Arlo, handed over \$3000 to Paul Turner, President of the Board of Directors. Paul commented, “The support of local businesses like the Banff Tea Company is critical to our success. Donations from individuals and businesses are essential and allow us to continue to provide an opportunity for abandoned dogs and cats to find their forever families.” Turner also mentioned Gilles-Smith’s earlier donation to the Bow Valley SPCA as being immensely helpful.

Gilles-Smith said, “I feel it is very important to support charities in the Bow Valley and that in total, the Banff Tea Company gives 25% of its profit to charity each year. Helping dogs and cats that cannot speak for themselves and will ultimately provide families with great companionship and unconditional love is a real privilege.”

According to Turner, “This donation, like all other donations to the Bow Valley SPCA, will be entirely used for the care of the dogs and cats at the Carla Cumming Sojony Adoption Centre.”

*The generous support of our Donors, Volunteers and the Community in the Bow Valley is gratefully acknowledged. Together we ensure abandoned dogs and cats find a new life*

## Happy Tails

**Lola** was adopted on November 17, 2011 by a kind woman in Canmore who wanted to rescue an older cat who had been in the Centre for a long time. She knew that adult cats have a tough time finding their forever home and that kittens are snapped up within a few days.

She fell in love with a lovely nine year old medium hair calico called Lola. Lola was abandoned by her owner in June of 2010. She arrived at the Carla Cumming Sojunky Adoption Centre in a cardboard box after being left behind when her owners moved away.



We think that Lola chose her adopter because the normally reclusive kitty was social, purring, and rubbing against her new “mom”!

We signed all the adoption paperwork and when it was time to pay the adoption fee, it was so great to be able to say that Lola was a gift from two of our major donors! They were paying the adoption fee of the first 10 adult cats adopted in November and December 2011. Lola was the first cat to be adopted through the Cat Love event. The adopter was very touched and immediately made a \$100 donation to the CCSAC! A perfect example of “paying it forward”.



Hi SPCA

**Rooster** passed his child evaluation with St. John Ambulance. We are happy to report that he passed with flying colours and will be the lead dog for Ronald McDonald house in Red Deer. He can now be involved in the reading program and provide his assistance in helping kids learn to read. (Rooster qualified as a Pet Therapy dog soon after being adopted from the Bow Valley SPCA.)

Connie Bohnsack

Pam Doyle caught this interaction between our most senior “Level 5” volunteer, Roberta Richardson, and Pharrah. The photograph says it all. This is the kind of commitment that our volunteers provide and the enormous benefit that the dogs (and cats) get from the extra attention. We believe that in addition to clean living spaces, great health care and regular exercise, lots of attention and just plain “play” is critical to the mental health of our residents. As great as it is for the animals, we humans get a little smile of our own.



**Southpaw** was bred to run. She is fulfilling her destiny, but in an unexpected way. She is a long distance running companion.



In January 2011 we took in a retired working sled dog we named Southpaw. She was four years old, strong, and healthy, but preferred the company of people to working as part of a dog team. When she arrived at the Carla Cumming Sojonky Adoption Centre, we had a tough couple of weeks. She didn't appear to ever have lived indoors and initially was quite stressed by being in her room. She would try to go through doors and windows as if they weren't even there! It was a real struggle to keep her safe and happy.

But, we believed in Southpaw and we believed she deserved the same chance at life and love as every other orphaned dog or cat. Thankfully, with time, patience, and love, she settled into her new life at the Centre. She was a real favorite with volunteers who quickly signed up to be her training buddy! We were thrilled the day she learned to sit for a treat! Another breakthrough was when she learned to make direct eye contact.

We still had some concerns about where she would find her forever home, as she was a bit more challenging for potential adopters than the average dog. One day, a man came in who said he was a professional long distance runner and he wanted a dog who could keep up with him on daily runs! We could not believe our good fortune! Southpaw was the obvious choice and he took her home for a few days to see how they would get along. He took her on a 20K run and the two were an instant pair. He made the adoption official and told us that Southpaw just adores running with him and then curling up in her crate to relax!

This experience reminds us to always look at the dogs as individuals and to never give up until they are all adopted into the loving homes they deserve! There truly is the right family out there for every dog!

---

It has taken over four years and several attempts to finally find the right match for **Apollo**. In terms of failed adoptions, he was returned for allergies, a nanny not wanting to take care of him, an elderly woman not able to walk him, for not working as an "outside" dog, and for his constant need to be with people and his destructiveness when left alone.

Apollo was adopted by a family in Banff who have a large home, and a family business. They have a large network of extended family and friends so there is always someone available to be with Apollo, although his primary caregiver is the adult son. Apollo can go to work with the family, and they have several other dogs in their lives for him to play with. They are active and spend lots of time outdoors. They really are a perfect match for Apollo. The adult son is the one who saw Apollo on the website and fell in love. He was convinced that Apollo was the dog for him and his issues with separation anxiety only made him more endearing to him. He loves big dogs and has a very big truck just for the two of them, which suits Apollo perfectly. It really seems like they both need each other.



## Events

Community support for the **Bow Valley Mut Strut** was amazing. More than 50 dogs and nearly 100 people walked a little over 2 kilometres to raise \$15,906 in pledges. And, 100% of the pledges went towards the care of the dogs and cats at the Bow Valley SPCA (yes, even cats benefit from the generosity of our dog owners in this community). It is because of the support of our sponsors and the volunteers that we can make the 100% claim.



About 2/3 of the participants registered via the internet with the remainder registering between 11:00 AM and 12:30 PM. Between 11:00 and 12:30, Veronica Marchand (Veronicas Dog Grooming) and her husband Patrick trimmed the toenails of any dog whose owner was willing to make a contribution to the SPCA. Judging for the Largest Dog, Smallest Dog, Best Costume and Look Alike contests occurred at 12:30 and the walk started precisely at 1:00 PM. From 11:00 until the walk began, we were entertained

with a great musical selection provided by Ryan Dehan of NRG Music.

Sonya White was awarded the Grand Prize (Alpine helicopter ride for 2 people valued over \$500, a case of Artisan Raw food and a gift certificate from the Mut Hut) for raising over \$4000.



The second annual **Bow Meow Fashion Show** was held at the Fairmont Banff Springs hotel on November 25. The fashions were terrific, the models were wonderful and all of this fashion and talent came from the volunteers. For the second year the Dancing Doctors performed their magic while the crowd of nearly 200 clapped and cheered.

The event raised nearly \$14,000 after expenses thanks to the



generosity of the many sponsors and especially the Fairmont Banff Springs which donated the use of the Alhambra Room. In the first two years of the creation of this event, it has become a

“must see” activity in the Bow Valley. A few dogs even made it on to the models’ runway.







Santa was back again visiting all the animals at the Carla Cumming Sojonky Adoption Centre and made some special time for photo ops with the furry family member.

Photos were \$15 each, and were printed on site or emailed for immediate delivery. Photography services were provided by Banff Photography. Nearly \$1000 was raised to support the Bow Valley SPCA. Ann Jorgensen played Santa and made sure the dogs and cats had fun (lots of treats).

On November 01, 2011 Nomi Whalen took one years worth of scarf making to the Canmore Safeway Store. With the help of four Bow Valley SPCA volunteers (Karen Rollins, Vivien Horton, Diane Venner, and Natasha D'Silva) she sold just under \$1500 worth of scarves.

Nomi rounded the amount up to \$1500 and then a friend matched that amount. So the Bow Valley SPCA received a total of \$3000 from the sale of scarves. When asked about this effort Nomi said, "This is the fourth year I have donated the proceeds for the sale of the scarves to a charity. I feel that the abandoned animals deserve all of the help they can get. Besides, making scarves gives me something to do with my hands in the evenings."

The Bow Valley SPCA staff, volunteers, and the dogs and cats living at the Carla Cumming Sojonky Adoption Centre are all ecstatic that Nomi loves to work with her hands and is such a supporter.

The 2012 Bow Valley SPCA annual calendar was printed and sold starting September 2011. Each month has a beautiful image of a dog or cat that has been adopted from the Carla Cumming Sojonky Adoption Centre or other rescue group.

Local businesses each paid to sponsor a page and thus covered the actual cost of production. This meant that all of the proceeds from the sale of the calendar (\$20 each) went to support the cats and dogs.

In addition we had over 100 photographic entries submitted through the Camera Store in Calgary that competed for the honour of having their photo as the cover shot for the 2012 calendar.



## Our Programs

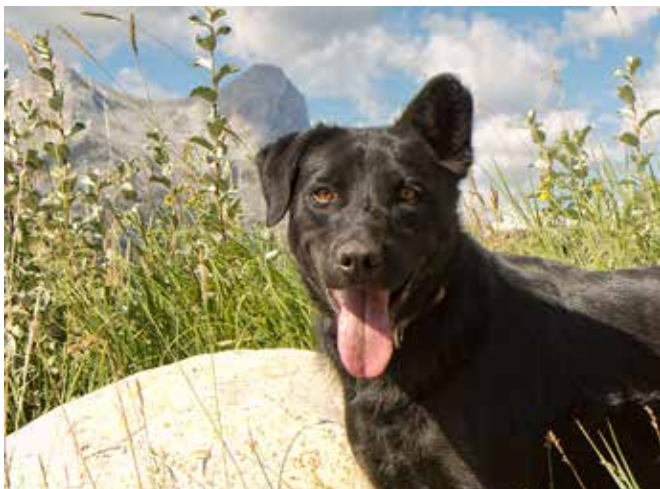
Linda and Ken McEwen are volunteers and supporters of the Bow Valley SPCA. Recently they asked us to support their efforts to deliver free dog and cat food to the Blood Reserve. This is what they had to say.

“Attached is a picture we took of food delivered to the Blood Reserve. The lady on the left side - orange shirt is Sharon Bottle. Sharon and her husband Elmer Oka live at the house where we deliver the food to. People in need of pet food come to their home and they distribute it. We usually take 200 large bags of dog food and some cat food. The food is from Pan Pacific Pet in Calgary. Thanks to the Bow Valley SPCA, we can continue delivering food to help dogs and cats in need. Thank you for your support in making this possible. Donations for food collected by the Sharon and Oka are deposited with the Fort Macleod Vet. Clinic in Fort Macleod, AB and used for medical emergencies for pets on the Blood Reserve.



**Our No Cost Spay/Neuter Program (SNAP)** was fully implemented in 2011. This program targeted Bow Valley pet owners with low incomes. 80 cats and dogs from 69 families in the Bow Valley participated in this program. A grant from PetSmart Charities and the cooperation of our local vet clinics allowed this program to be a huge success. Every dog or cat that is spayed or neutered eliminates the problem of unwanted or abandoned puppies or kittens and is the long term solution to pet over population.

**Open Paw Training** continued during 2011. 51 people participated in the levels 1 and 2 training allowing them to work with dogs in their rooms and do basic training and 60 completed level 3 training allowing them to take the dogs out of their rooms and to work on more complex issues like desensitization about being handled, taking and leaving a treat or toy on command and meeting strangers politely. Nearly two dozen volunteers completed level 4 allowing them to take the dogs outside and practice loose leash walking and meeting/greeting other dogs in a polite manner. Level 4 volunteers were involved with developing and implementing plans tailored to each specific dog to develop their skills and behaviours making them more desirable for families interested in adopting.



**Level 5 Training** was implemented in 2011. Level 5 training is a program of coaching by Susan Flaherty, a volunteer who is a qualified dog trainer. She donates her time to work with our level 4 volunteers who need options for managing the training of a particular dog. Amiga is a good example of this. She was very active and jumped on anyone who would come near her and was also a bit over enthusiastic when meeting other dogs. Coaching of the volunteers working with her was essential to making her a great companion. She is now living with her forever family.

## Our Volunteers



At the end of 2011 we had more than 100 registered volunteers, not including the Board Of Directors and the staff (all of whom generously donate extra time).

Many volunteers were directly involved in the training of dogs and the enrichment of the cats lives. Others were helping with events, educational outreach programs and administrative duties.

Our volunteers logged nearly 10,000 hours of volunteer time in 2011, greatly exceeding the number of hours in 2010 (just over 3000 hours).

The challenges of running an adoption centre that requires twice daily care of the animals in our care and administrative coordination with other shelters, ByLaw Services and individuals that wish to surrender their pets as well as families that wish to adopt a pet means that volunteers are essential and critical to our success.

Without doubt, we could not be successful without the ongoing, cheerful support of our dedicated volunteers.

As one volunteer said, "Nothing in my life makes me feel as good as taking one of the dogs for a walk or grooming one of the cats."





Natasha D'Silva is one of our dedicated volunteers (and one who takes pictures). Toby was abandoned by his owners and when this shot was taken was waiting with us for his forever family to find him. In the meantime, Natasha worked with him to improve his leash manners and train him to be attentive to the person walking with him (quite a difficult task given his desire to pay attention to everything else). And, as you can see from the pictures, it worked. The outcome of this story is that Toby was adopted into his forever family and continues to prosper.

Toby and Natasha are a great example of what it means to volunteer at the Bow Valley SPCA. Without Natasha and the other volunteers that worked with him, it is very unlikely that Toby would have been adopted, given his lack of manners. Without Toby, Natasha would not have had

the opportunity to learn the skills required to train him and would not have the satisfaction of knowing she was instrumental in providing him with the quality of life her deserved.

---

Another volunteer had this to say about one of the dogs that came to the Centre and was then adopted.

"Burton was enjoying the field of flowers and rolled around in the grass a few times. Seeing the happy expression on his face among all the wildflowers was too good to pass up so I had to take a picture. He was feeling particularly affectionate that day as well and stayed close to me for our little walk around the yard. Burton is genuinely a people dog he is very attentive when you are with him. He seems very sensitive and shows his emotions in that wrinkly brow! I think he as an excellent example of how you shouldn't judge a dog by his breed. He is such a sweet tempered dog and most people wouldn't associate that with a pit bull."



## Our Financials

**BOW VALLEY SPCA  
STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS (AUDITED)  
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2011**

<b>REVENUES</b>		
Adoption and re-homing fees	\$28,990	12%
Donations	89,009	40%
Fund-raising events/Programs	66,294	30%
Grants	36,787	16%
Investment income	5,013	2%
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>\$231,208</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Administration	\$ 14,859	6%
Advertising	4,737	2%
Amortization	37,500	14%
Automotive	1,146	<1%
Contract Services	26,430	10%
Facilities	24,769	10%
Fundraising Events	7,782	3%
Supplies	17,034	7%
Wages and Benefits	125,929	48%
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 260,186</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>EXCESS OF EXPENDITURES OVER REVENUES</b>	<b>\$(37,093)</b>	

Our fund raising efforts improved remarkably in 2011, and for the first time in our short history we brought in more cash than we expended. The deficit of \$37,093 reflects the amount of income we needed to generate to completely cover all of our expenses including the amortization of \$37,500 (a non cash account). This smaller loss (compared to \$79,933 in 2010) reflects the focus on funding development which started in late 2010. Our objective in 2012 is to maintain or reduce our costs and to generate enough more income so that we exceed our total expenses, including the amortization, and begin the process of covering long term depreciation.

Thanks to our many generous donors, sponsors and volunteers, the Bow Valley SPCA was able to provide much needed food, shelter, veterinary care and training for the CCSAC's furry residents including the special care required for the beneficiaries of our Cinderella fund.

Please visit our website to download a complete copy of our 2011 Audited Financial Statements.

# Our Sponsors



McEwen Spay/Neuter Fund at the Calgary Foundation



The Kayak Foundation at the Calgary Foundation



PetSmart Charities of Canada



The Humane Society International/Canada



The Body Shop Foundation



The Banff Community Foundation



The Calgary Foundation



Fondation canadienne Donner  
The Donner Canadian Foundation



Bellstar Hotels and Resorts



Douglas Fir Resorts & Chalets



Banff Tea Company



Fairmont Banff Springs



Pestell Pet Products



Purely Pets



Alpine HELICOPTERS LTD.

Alpine Helicopters



Encana



The Scotlyn Foundation



Alberta Community Spirit



# BOW VALLEY SPCA

**For more information contact: [info@bowvalleyspca.org](mailto:info@bowvalleyspca.org), or 403 609-2022 Location: 123 Bow Meadows Crescent in Canmore, Alberta or on the web at [www.bowvalleyspca.org](http://www.bowvalleyspca.org)**

Registered Charity # 867338527RR0001



*Please give to the Bow Valley SPCA in 2012 and beyond. There are many ways to support our work. Contact or visit us today! Together we provide cats, dogs and people the opportunity for love and compassion.*