



GROUP NOMINATION

Annual Mayor's Volunteer Awards, 2023 Not for Profit

Submitted By:
Helen Elgie, Volunteer Coordinator
volunteers@bowvalleyspca.org
403 678-8198

Introduction:

The Volunteer Team at the Bow Valley SPCA continues to impress, inspire and truly make an impact, both at the Carla Cumming Sojonky Adoption Centre and within the Community, throughout the Bow Valley.

We are submitting a group nomination because collectively this team has made tremendous headway in 2023 in all aspects of our volunteer scope. This collaborative team, rather than one individual person, works together to accomplish extraordinary things. Our volunteers are at the heart of what we do.

This summary nomination is a top-level summary of many aspects of what we do, and we'd be pleased to provide additional commentary, statistics, names and photos as/if required.

The 9 volunteer Board of Directors have collectively served about 45 years of service within our organization, and work closely with our volunteer team, under the leadership and guidance of Lisa McDowell, President.

158 individuals have logged volunteer hours with us year-to-date, with many more hours not accounted for! Volunteers often pitch in with many different types of assignments, helping wherever needed.

The average age of our volunteer team continues to be around 40 years and includes a range from 17 - 81 years! We're proud that our volunteer team fosters and encourages diversity.

We are grateful to have both Joseph Potts and Ann Jorgensen still volunteering with us, who have both been with the Bow Valley SPCA in some capacity since our inception 16 years ago.

What our volunteers do:

At the Centre:

- Cat cuddling, rehabilitation and socialization, grooming, and overall care (Selena McNeilly is currently developing a cat program to lead our regular kitty volunteers, with our cat cuddling volunteers being too many to name individually).
- Dog walking, training, rehabilitation, socialization, behaviour assessments, and overall care (again lots of volunteers are involved, with Kate Barker, Charlotte Brown, Dawn Beaumont, Dawn Baggley, Andrea Graham, Jaime Kirton, Denita Stan, Shanni Scott, and Carla Webster all showing tremendous leadership and initiative).
- Puppy care, cleaning, grooming, and socializing (32 different volunteers worked with the “Old Timers” litter during their recent stay!).
- Yard work (15 volunteers have taken less glamorous tasks such as poop pickup, raking, sweeping, snow shovelling, and weed control to keep us looking smart and providing a safe and healthy outdoor space for our resident dogs).
- Centre Greeters, providing a warm welcome and assistance at the front desk during opening hours (many volunteers are involved, with a some “regulars” Kathy McNeil, Mary Rigby, Heather Vardy, Jeanne Pickard, and Martino Ciaramidaro to name just a few).
- Animal Care Attendant Helpers, a few volunteers come in to help our staff out during their shifts, Ann Jorgensen is a Monday regular, and Linda Stenger diligently helps with litter boxes recycling, plus lots of other assignments, and Karolina Opova & Katerina Ladyrova have all been weekly regulars).
- Maintenance (Dean Drozdiak has been a huge supporter, on speed dial for all sorts of issues and assistance, often with the help of Marsha Drozdiak).
- Animal Transportation
- Shed Shop (Theresa Lambe takes the lead to keep this shed of treasures organized and manageable).

Community Outreach (Katya Melnick has recently taken over the Lead of this committee):

Post-Covid we emerged with many of our community outreach initiatives no longer operating and this amazing team has revived, reestablished and enhanced so many valuable pieces:

- Therapy Dog Program (with Chris Kean as our main Lead, supported by Kathy McNeil and Dawn Baggley)
 - Visits to senior's homes, including:
 - Bow River Seniors Lodge
 - Origin/ Morningstar
 - Canmore Hospital, Golden Eagle Wing
 - Banff Mineral Springs Hospital, St. Martha's Place
 - Visits to business and community as requested:
 - Just one of several examples would be Lake Louise, after the residence fire, we had therapy dog volunteers visit the victims 3 days in a row

- Therapy sessions with employees at various locations where there has been tragedy or Health & Safety Fairs, Town of Banff Recreation grounds
 - Community events & fundraisers etc. as requested
- Education (presentations created and delivered by Val Colburn):
 - Classroom visits to classes at:
 - Lawrence Grassi Middle School
 - Banff Elementary
 - Our Lady of the Snows
 - Ecole Notre Dames Des Monts

Fundraising & Events (headed by Jennifer Whalen), to name a few:

- Bark-A-Que/ Block Party (Lisa McDowell)
- Festival of Trees committee (Pam Bayfield, Fiona Groves and Heather Delange)
- Raffles
- Booths at events, where there is a fundraising component for the Centre such as Stewart Creek Ladies Members Guest Tournament
- Bottle Drive - 27 volunteers, 155 hours = \$12,000 raised! (Helen Elgie)
- Tunes for Tails (Julia Wiebe and Lisa McDowell taking the lead, and several other volunteers on site that day, including Darcey MacArthur driving the 50/50 ticket sales)

Fund Development (Kate Barker, Ed Mrozek, Joseph Potts):

- Team members continue to build new, and foster long-term relationships, with both individuals and businesses within our community who generously sponsor and donate to BVSPCA to ensure we remain sustainable over the long term.

Donation box organization and collection within the town (Heather Vardy)

Animal transportation, as needed

Programs (Kate Barker):

- Agility Training (Lisa Young & Lenka Petnyova)
- Essential Life Skills for Dogs
- Open Paw training for our volunteer dog walkers and staff (Kate Barker, Andrea Graham, Charlotte Brown, Dawn Beaumont, Dawn Baggley)

Fostering dogs and cats who are not thriving at the Centre:

- Cats – 8 foster homes, over 1200 days
- Dogs – 8 foster homes, over 372 days

Many volunteer hours go into supporting the care, socialization, exercising, training, quality of life, enrichment and fostering of our cats and dogs, enabling them to be set up for success in their forever homes and live their best lives.

In Summary:

Our incredible volunteer team continues to shine; we would not be a sustainable organization without our exceptional volunteers. Our blue volunteer t-shirts are well recognized in the community and worn with pride.

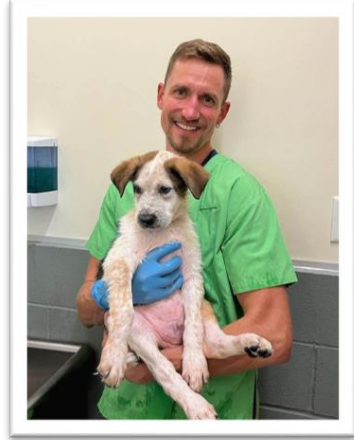
Carla Cumming Sojonky Adoption Centre
Bow Valley SPCA
123 Bow Meadows Crescent
Canmore, Alberta, T1W 1Z6
403-609-2022



Lisa McDowell & Joseph Potts



Mat Boissonnault



Brad Foster



Chris Kean, Christine McLeish,
Dawn Baggley



Andrea Graham, Joe Soyka
Dawn Beaumont



Open Paw training, with Kate
Barker



Zach Taylor & Brad Foster



Marsha Drozdiak, Chris
Kean & Dean Drozdiak



Chris Thomas & Leslie Lewis