

# 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 honor of donor Frank Sojonky's wife, the Carla Cumming 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 2010, we made several major improvements. We installed blinds in all of the windows that face the southern aspect of the Centre. These serve to keep the winter sun (low in the sky) from overheating these rooms.





## Admissions 2010

Dogs/Puppies	48
Cats/Kittens	84

## Adoptions 2010

Dogs/Puppies	42
Cats/Kittens	80



Every dog and cat that comes to the Carla Cumming Sojonky Adoption Centre is scanned for microchip 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.



*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 with families that will love and care for them.*

## Happy Tails

Cede was a very stressed cat when she was surrendered to us. She had to live in a room all by herself because she fought continuously with any other cat. She always hid when anyone entered her room and she seemed pretty unhappy. Two volunteers at the Bow Valley SPCA who had experience with fostering cats when they lived in Edmonton agreed to take Cede/Sadie into their home to foster her and see how she did in a home environment.

**Update#1.** Thought I would send you a quick status update. Cede seems to be slowly adjusting to the new surroundings. Mostly she is hiding under the bed, but also exploring around the house occasionally and coming up to us for a pet and a hiss. There's the occasional hiss or paw smack if we pass in the hallway or if we pet her head, and some nervous meowing when she's exploring around the house. We found her just sitting inside the bathtub several times, which was a bit confusing, but it seems she was waiting for the tap to drip because when I turned it on she got very excited and played with it for a long time.



**Update #2.** She is doing well. She will come up to us for attention and will accept several good pets in a row. She'll sit on the floor near us very frequently, and will occasionally jump up on couch or bed to sit next to us for a while. She is eating a lot and drinking a lot of water and is very appreciative of any opportunity to play with toy mice, a piece of string, or climb into an empty box or bag.



Mila was a special needs dog that came to us from Canmore By-law. We were worried that she had been injured and immediately took her to the vet clinic and ultimately for a neurological examination in Calgary. It turned out that her problems were most likely congenital and there was no evidence of any injury trauma. She has only about 15% vision and walks with a peculiar gait--probably due to some neurological development problems. She was friendly and eager to be with people. Shaw TV even included her in a special they did about the Bow Valley SPCA.



Excerpts from an update about Mila proves that Special people adopt special needs dogs and cats.

Hi BVSPCA,

If you recall, we were dealing with some very serious aggression issues around Christmas last year. I had decided to keep working with her and look for other options other than euthanasia. Shortly after I had made this decision, Mila started having grand mal seizures a couple of times a week that would last for 2-3 minutes. After getting a series of blood tests done, it was determined that she was either born without a para thyroid, or that it was malfunctioning. We started her on calcium and vitamin D supplements and a significant dose of phenyl barbitol, which she gets twice a day.

Mila will always have issues – she can't be in a doggy day care and she struggles in groups of more than 2 or 3 dogs, especially excitable ones. Also, she doesn't like a lot of excitement, so we keep as calm a household as possible. On the positive side, I am able to work from home 100% of the time, so I am there when she has a seizure. Her most favourite activity in the world is to go for car rides. It doesn't matter where we go, she just loves to be in the car.

Toupe was one of longer term residents at the Carla Cumming Sojony Adoption Centre. He was a large, friendly but serious cat--at least while he was with us. As this email explains, there was a lot more to Toupe than we saw.

Toupe is very funny - charges around the place with his tail in an omega loop. One of his favorite games is when I drag a boot lace with a catnip toy attached under a small rug - he dives under the rug with his paws and schnoozle, and pounces around on the rug.



He's also very good at entertaining himself. Sometimes I come home and he has moved things around, charged down the hall and slid into the bathroom like third base, leaving the rugs all scrunched up. An elastic from the office might end up in the living room. Sometimes at night I can hear him carrying on. His antics have even awakened some long forgotten kitten behavior in my other 17 year old cat, who now takes turns chasing Toupe up and down the hall and vice versa.

He's enthralled with the rivulets of water running down the translucent shower curtain when I have a shower - he sits on the toilet or on the rim of the bathtub, and when I'm done, he hops into the tub and watches the droplets from the inside, pawing at them, attacking the magnets at the bottom of the curtain, his tail switching back and forth rapidly.

Hope you enjoy the pictures as much as I enjoy Toupe!

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Blake was found wandering in the mountain wilderness just outside of Canmore. When he was brought in it appeared that he had been injured back leg and had not eaten for several weeks. We had him examined and it was discovered that he had a broken back leg and the break was extremely serious. Essentially, the ball of the femur that fits into the hip joint was broken off.

We were given two options to repair his back leg. The first was amputation, a relatively inexpensive surgery, and the second was an orthopedic surgical repair which was estimated to cost about \$5000. Since Blake was a young dog (about a year old) and we are a no kill, no cage adoption center that strives to provide a high quality of life for all of our dogs and cats, we decided to opt for the orthopedic surgery (and thus began our "Cinderella Fund" for seriously sick and injured dogs and cats).



Blake recovered and during his recovery was adopted by a mountain guide. She previously had a "rescue dog" that was trained to do avalanche rescue. She decided that Blake should go through the same training. To make a long story short, Blake went through the training and successfully became a certified mountain rescue dog.

Up to this point in his life Blake has not saved anybody's life. However, he did go to the Special Olympics with his owner to provide protection for the athletes as well as the audience.



## Happy Tails

Shasta is a boxer mix that has been living at the Bow Valley SPCA for the last several years. She is a beautiful, sweet tempered girl—if she knows you. We think she may have been raised with a retriever because she loves to chase after a stick or any other object that has been thrown, and bring it back. She is very strong and loves to play tug, but she has also learned to give up whatever she has brought back using the command, “Shasta, mine!”



Shasta was adopted one time in the past. She was returned to us because of her defensiveness when she sees somebody she doesn't recognize. Her new owners became apprehensive about how she would respond to new people who came to their house (including their grandchildren).

We have found that as long as the person she recognizes introduces her to a new person, everything works just fine. Until recently if she saw a new person that she didn't recognize, she tended to stare and look intimidating. Due to recent intense training with many volunteers, she is now excited and happy to see new people.

We have been working with Shasta and she has learned to “sit” and “walkaway” on command. She has learned this because she loves hot dogs, and she gets a reward when she sits or walks away. She is an example of a dog that is difficult to match with a family, but she continues to prosper in our no cage facility and we believe she will find her “forever home”.



Maya was a long term resident at the Carla Cumming Sojonky Adoption Centre. She spent nearly 2 years with us before her forever family was connected with her. Although she is a big girl, she loved to try to fit on a lap and give face licks while she was with us.

Here is a note from our Adoption Centre Manager, Sonya White after receiving the pictures of Maya via email. “Here are some pictures of Maya in her winter home



in Florida! Things certainly took a turn for the better for Miss Maya! Made me smile, she looks pretty pleased! Imagine going from being an orphaned shelter dog for two years to having your own lounge chair by the pool in Palm Springs! Maybe there is hope after all.”

## Events

On November 12, 2010 The Bow Valley SPCA held its first annual Charity Fashion Show to raise money for the dogs and cats that live at the Carla Cumming Sojonky Adoption Centre.

Events such as the Fashion Show are part of our fund raising strategy. The event included a silent auction with items donated by local businesses and a 50/50 draw. The Fairmont Banff Springs, Alhambra Room was the venue.



The scene was beautiful and the models were great. Then came the Dancing Doctors. They spent hours practicing with their dancing coach and their partners. It remains to be determined whether the doctors or the audience had more fun.



Several Kids Camps were run over the summer at the Carla Cumming Sojonky Adoption Centre. About a dozen kids attended each session. Included in the day was a tour of the Centre and a chance to meet and pet all of the dogs and cats that were "kid friendly". After the tour the kids went on a dog walk with one of the camp coun-tilors and learned more about handling dogs when they are on a leash and about handling dogs and cats.



Possibly the best part of a day filled with excitement was the opportunity to learn about dog agility training. Frans Baars, a Canmore based dog trainer, gave a demonstration showing how a trained dog can run the course.



He then had each of the kids take the dog through the course and then last of all--and possibly the most fun, the kids ran through the course to see if they could beat the best time the dog turned in.. Needless to mention there was a lot of competition.





The Bow Valley SPCA along with organizations around the world came together on the third Saturday of August (August 21 in 2010) to raise awareness about the pet overpopulation epidemic and its simple solution – spay/neuter. We spay and neuter all dogs and cats that are under its care and protection, as well as providing low cost spay/neuter options for residents of the Bow Valley.



Local businesses in Banff and Canmore were asked to contribute a portion of their proceeds on August 21 to the Bow Valley SPCA to support the care of dogs and cats that have been abandoned and educate residents about the importance of spay/neuter in preventing overpopulation. The campaign raised over \$1500, contributing to our ongoing operations and our spay/neuter program.

The Canmore Leader, our local weekly newspaper in Canmore, Alberta ran a free advertisement for the Bow Valley SPCA during the last quarter of 2010.

The ad asked people to collect their loose change and bring it to the Carla Cumming Sojonky Adoption Centre, home of the Bow Valley SPCA and drop it off. Lots of adults and many kids have offered up their loose change and we have taken it and rolled it into coin tubes for a total of more than \$8500 as of December 31, 2010.



One person brought in a giant Coke bottle bank that he said he had been collecting coins in for 20 years. It held more than \$1000. Every single penny went directly to the care of the dogs and cats in our Centre--and as of December 31, we estimate that there have been about 250,000 pennies (that right, about \$2,500 in pennies).



Without the support of the Canmore Leader and the Banff Crag & Canyon this wonderful fund raising project could not have been accomplished.

The 2011 Bow Valley SPCA annual calendar was printed and sold starting September 10, 2011. Each month has a beautiful image of a dog or cat (six of each) that has been or will be adopted from the Carla Cumming Sojonky Adoption Centre.

Local merchants each paid to sponsor a page and thus reduced to 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.

The entire calendar was created through the efforts of volunteers and the generosity of local businesses.



## Our Programs

### *School Outreach*

In 2010, we again had numerous school groups that visited the Adoption Centre. Each group was shown all of the dogs and cats and given the opportunity, under adult supervision, to pet and play with the dogs and cats that like attention. The children were all provided information about the need for spay/neuter and how to safely approach a new dog or cat.

With support from our Adoption Centre Manager, students themselves initiated programs with their classmates to raise awareness of the Bow Valley SPCA and its mission.



Staff and volunteers from the Bow Valley SPCA visited the local grade schools and made presentations on being safe with a dog or cat. Several day long "Kid's Camps" were held over the summer and about 40 children signed up. With enough volunteer support, we intend to conduct more of these outings in 2011. This outreach work was supported by the Kayak Fund through the Calgary Foundation.

***The Cinderella Fund*** was created in 2008 continued to be utilized in 2010. This fund was developed to provide the exceptional care that is sometimes required for dogs and cats with special needs. We expended \$5887 for medical and behavioural care for our special needs dogs and cats. The care included orthopedic surgery, treatment for diabetes, heart disease and behavioural training for dogs in need of "better manners". The "poster girl" for this fund, Belle found a home at the end of 2010--after nearly 3 years of behavioural training and some exceptional medical care. She is living proof that the fund and the no-kill, no cage philosophy really works

***A Low Cost Spay/Neuter Program (SNAP)*** was implemented as a pilot study in 2010. This program targeted Bow Valley pet owners with low incomes. Thirteen cats and dogs from twelve families in the Bow Valley participated in this pilot program. The program was so successful and the demand was so great that we were able to use the information to obtain a grant from PetSmart Charities for 2011. With those funds we will be able to help nearly 100 families who otherwise have pets that would remain un-neutered.

***Open Paws Training*** was developed and implemented by one of our local veterinarians and dog trainers. The program consists of four sessions and teaches volunteers how to safely work with dogs (and to a lesser extent cats). 35 volunteers participated in the program in 2010 and almost one half completed all four levels. Volunteers who have completed all four levels are qualified to help with the training of all of our dogs. Plans for each dog in our care were being developed as the year ended. Specific individualize programs to help each dog to develop his/her skills and behaviours keeps each dog engaged and makes them more desirable for families interested in adopting.



## Our Volunteers



At the end of 2010 we had more than 75 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 care and feeding of the residents. Others were helping with events, educational outreach programs and administrative duties.

Our volunteers logged over 3000 hours of volunteer time in 2010, slightly exceeding the number of hours in 2009.

The challenges of running an adoption centre that requires twice daily care of the animals in our care and administrative coordination with other shelters, by-law 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."



*Thank you to Alberta's Community Spirit Program , the Scotlyn Foundation, The Calgary Foundation, Pestell Pet Products, and the Banff Tea Company. Your contributions save lives!*





We have learned that volunteerism comes in many forms. One of our volunteers has close connections with the building trades and especially with people who work with stone. She decided that the Bow Valley SPCA needed to find a way to honour the dogs and cats adopted from us who subsequently died. A long time volunteer (who asks to be anonymous) was the creative force in the development of our beautiful memorial garden designed to honor adopted animals. The rock garden was a collaborative effort by three Canmore companies; Thunderstone Quarries donated the stone (weight 7000 pounds), Ridgewood Signcrafters inscribed the stone, and Bremner Engineering placed the

stone. The message is sort of subtle but fitting for a memorial garden for dogs and cats (Hint: translate the paw prints into the word Pause or Paws). As we develop this idea in 2011 and beyond, we will be adding smaller rocks with inscriptions.

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The Lake Louise fire department chose the Bow Valley SPCA as the recipient of their fund raising efforts. This fund raising was done based on the reputation of the Bow Valley SPCA and without any knowledge on the part of the staff. We received a call a few days before the arrival of the deputy chief, the food and a cheque for \$1000. Kayla, who has appeared in an UGG boot photo shoot and was adopted by Lauren Laming, president of the Bow Valley SPCA, stole the show by climbing into the back of the Lake Louise Fire Department vehicle and posing next to the deputy chief's hard hat-- as if she was contemplating a new career.



*Thank you to all of our individual donors and volunteers. Your contributions save lives!*

## Our Financials

**BOW VALLEY SPCA  
STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS  
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2010**

<b>REVENUES</b>		
Adoption and re-homing fees	\$33,870	21%
Donations	72,484	44%
Fund-raising events	24,827	15%
Grants	26,564	16%
Investment income	6046	4%
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>\$163,791</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Administration	\$ 8128	3%
Animal care	40,155	16%
CCSAC staff wages and benefits	127,487	52%
CCSAC operating costs	61438	25%
Fund-raising events	6516	3%
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 243,724</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>EXCESS OF EXPENDITURES OVER REVENUES</b>	<b>\$(79,933)</b>	
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		
<b>December 31, 2009</b>	<b>\$ 1,224,643</b>	
Excess of expenditures over revenues for 2009 (see above)	(79,933)	
<b>December 31, 2010</b>	<b>\$1,144,710</b>	

Despite the economic climate of 2010, the successful fund raising efforts of the Bow Valley SPCA produced over \$160,000 in revenues. These revenues together with \$79,933 raised in prior years covered the costs to operate the Carla Cumming Sojonky Adoption Centre for the year. The loss was unexpected and efforts started in late 2010 to improve fund raising and grants should reduce or eliminate the loss in 2011.

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.

We successfully adopted out 80 cats and 42 dogs.

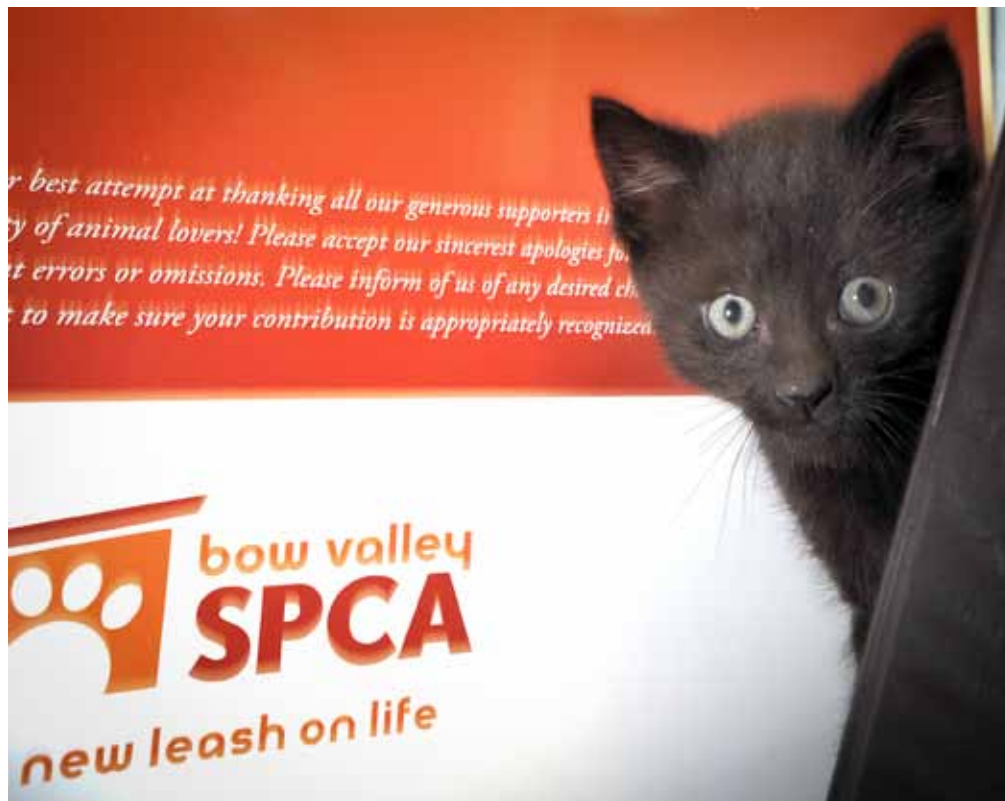
Please visit our website to download a copy of our 2010 Audited Financial Statements.



# 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 2011 and Beyond. There are many ways to support our work. Contact or visit us today! Together we provide the cats and dogs a “new leash on life”.*