



2025

ANNUAL REPORT

Make a Difference.
Change Lives.
Adopt. Love.

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The Carla Cumming Sajonky Adoption Centre is based in Canmore, in the Treaty 7 region of Southern Alberta. We honour this land, known as Chuwapchipchiyan Kudi Bi, and acknowledge the traditional practices of the Îyârhe Nakoda, consisting of the Bearspaw, Chiniki, and Wesley First Nations, as well as the Tsuut’ina First Nation, and the Blackfoot Confederacy, including the Siksika, Piikani, and Kainai. This territory is also home to the Métis of Alberta Region 3, within the historical Northwest Métis homeland. We listen with gratitude to the ancestral stories of the land. We recognize our shared responsibility going forward on this journey of Truth and Reconciliation.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Bow Valley SPCA (BVSPCA), welcome to our 2025 annual report. This report showcases the BVSPCA's impact and our significant achievements over the past year.

As I look back on 2025, two words stand out to me: community and collaboration. At the Bow Valley SPCA, we have always known that our mission to provide our community with an Adoption Centre following a no-kill, no-cage philosophy is not a solo endeavour. This year, the strength of our organization was bolstered by the incredible people who show up for our animals in need.

The operations of the Carla Cumming Sojonky Adoption Centre could not happen without the support of our donors, business sponsors, volunteers, and staff. Our donors this year have been amazing! Our *Unwrap Their Second Chance* fundraising campaign raised an astounding \$124,517. The generosity of our community fills our hearts with gratitude. Bow Valley businesses have proven that commerce and compassion go hand-in-hand.

Volunteers are the backbone of the BVSPCA. Without our volunteers, we would not be able to provide the attention and socialization necessary to keep our furry friends healthy and prepare them for adoption. Our amazing staff provide the daily, specialized care, medical attention, and behavioural rehabilitation necessary for our furry friends to thrive.

I invite you to turn the pages of this **2025 Annual Report**. Inside, you will find the information that tracks our progress, stories of resilience that will warm your heart, and a look at how your contributions *Make a Difference and Change Lives*. Thank you for being part of our journey. Together, we are spreading compassion one paw at a time.

Sincerely,



Deborah Archibald
Board President



WHERE SECOND CHANCES BEGAN

As I reflect on 2025, I find myself returning to the theme of this past year's winter fundraising campaign - *Unwrap Their Second Chance*. It perfectly captures the overwhelming gratitude and pride I feel for the many second chances that began in our Adoption Centre over the past year. We welcomed animals from every walk of life: seniors who had lost their lifelong families, puppies discovered in the harsh elements, feral cats who blossomed only after being given the time and safety they needed, dogs with behavioural challenges who had run out of options, and abandoned animals desperate for a soft place to land. Each one reminded us why our no-kill, no-cage model matters.

When animals are given space, choice, and dignity, they reveal who they truly are, and they are given the opportunity to thrive.

In 2024, we faced a critical challenge: record low adoption rates paired with unprecedented surrender requests. Thankfully, in 2025 the tides began to turn, and adoption numbers started to normalize. As more animals found homes, we were able to welcome additional intakes. However, this shift brought a new set of challenges. We saw a significant rise in medically and behaviourally complex cases, and animals who required far more time and resources than routine care.

Their needs ranged from specialized veterinary support for lifesaving surgeries and treatments, to consultations with professional force free certified trainers, to extensive hands-on care from our dedicated Animal Care Attendants. Our incredible volunteers also devoted countless hours to socialization and training, ensuring each animal had the best possible chance at finding their forever home. But our hard work paid off! We celebrated several successful adoptions of long-term cats and dogs,



and saw countless incredible transformations, fueling our passion to continue this life-changing work.

Another highlight of 2025 was the completion of our new and improved Shed Shop, a community thrift store offering new and gently used pet supplies. After a successful soft launch, we're eagerly preparing for its official Grand Opening in the summer of 2026. This past year also saw increased funding for our Spay Neuter Assistance Program, ensuring that eligible low-income families can access subsidized spay and neuter surgeries for their pets, an essential step in addressing the ongoing pet overpopulation crisis. As we look ahead, we're excited to explore new and innovative ways to support and strengthen our community.

As we close the chapter on 2025, I feel immense appreciation. For our staff, who show up with compassion even on the hardest days; for our volunteers, who give their time and hearts so freely; for our adopters, who choose love again and again; for our partners, who assist us in the crucial work we do; for our supporters and donors, whose generosity keeps our mission alive; and for the animals that teach us patience, resilience, and joy. They remind us that kindness is a powerful force, and they inspire us to keep pushing for a world where every animal is safe, respected, and loved.

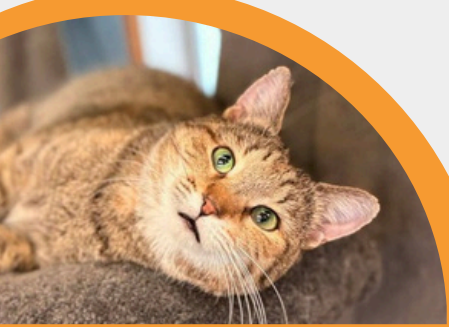
Thank you for standing with us this year, being part of our journey, and helping us to *Make a Difference and Change Lives*. We couldn't do this without you.

Sincerely,



Daisy Hilchey
Adoption Centre Manager





Make a Difference - Change Lives
Adopt - Love



2025 IMPACT REPORT

Thanks to the support of our community, and generosity of donors, volunteers, and businesses, we are able to *Make a Difference and Change Lives* of stray, abandoned, and surrendered dogs and cats.



23 dogs admitted
into BVSPCA care

105 cats admitted
into BVSPCA care



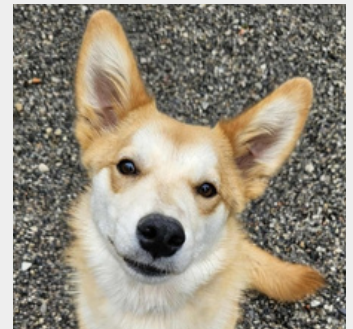
21 dogs adopted
into forever homes

106 cats adopted
into forever homes



no kill

Saving dogs & cats with
treatable medical &
behavioural challenges



70 routine surgeries
performed for the
health of our animals

22 life changing surgeries
performed in extraordinary
circumstances



149 active volunteers
donated their time this
year supporting our furry
residents

5101+ hours
by volunteers
performing various
vital duties



no cage

Means our animals live in
cat chalets & dog cabins
instead of kennels

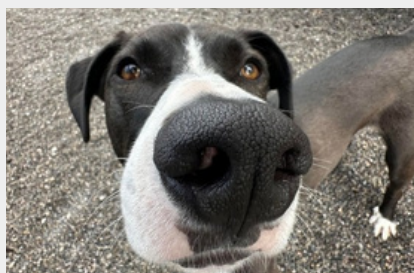
8 pet owners
accessed the Spay Neuter
Assistance Program

11 dog open house days
connecting with our local
community and showcasing
our adoptable animals!



\$22,189 raised
by event & raffles

\$9,580 raised
from our second hand pet
supply shop (Shed Shop)



Our annual operating costs are greater than \$400,000. 76% of these costs are covered by generous donations. We couldn't do this without our community!



HOPPING THROUGH LIFE

Jade, a beautiful Rottweiler mix, arrived at our Centre as a transfer from the Canadian Animal Task Force during one of their spay and neuter clinics. From the moment we met her, she radiated enthusiasm, affection, and had an endlessly wagging tail. Sadly, beneath her joyful spirit, Jade had been living with chronic pain for most of her life.

After she arrived, it became clear very quickly that something was wrong. Jade moved with a bunny-hop gait and would yelp whenever she put weight on her back right leg. When she sat, that leg stuck out at an odd angle and seemed to flop loosely, with little control. The muscle loss was obvious, and so was her immense discomfort.

When Jade went in for her spay - along with dental surgery to remove several fractured, painful teeth - x-rays of her leg uncovered several hidden issues.

The imaging revealed an old fracture through the growth plate, which had caused her right leg to develop significantly shorter than the left. That imbalance set off a cascade of secondary problems: hip dysplasia that led to painful arthritis, and a hypermobile hock (like a human ankle) that was at risk of severe, irreversible damage. For an injury to disrupt bone growth so dramatically, it likely occurred when she was just 4-6 months old, if not younger. By the time she came into our care, Jade was already two years old, meaning she had endured chronic pain for most of her life.

Because of the complexity of her condition, Jade's vet in Canmore sent a referral to a surgery specialist at the CARE Centre in Calgary. Upon examination and consultation with the specialist, it was determined that amputation of the leg, including the hip, would be the best option to ensure a life free from pain and future complications. While amputation is never a decision made lightly,



in this case, knowing it was the best option to ensure a great quality of life for Jade filled with adventures, made it easier. We started a fundraiser with a goal of \$6,500 to help cover surgery costs, and remarkably, our incredible community of dedicated supporters came together to exceed our goal within less than a month.

Jade underwent a leg amputation, and just a couple of hours after surgery her veterinarian called with incredible news. **Not only had she done exceptionally well, but she was already up and happily hopping around the clinic.** It was clear she felt immediate relief, and we were overjoyed to finally free her from the pain she had carried for so long.

Along her recovery journey, one of our longtime dog-walking volunteers formed an instant bond with her, and this lucky tri-paw was off to her new home before long. Now aptly named Roo, she's hopping through life and spreading joy everywhere she goes.

"Over the past seven months Roo has settled into our home with boundless enthusiasm, a whole body tail-wag that causes her to hit herself in the face and an ability to charm anyone. She is equal parts wild creature and devoted snuggle bug. She has fully embraced her new life of unlimited toys, lots of doting grandparents, following her sister around everywhere, and testing the physics behind how close she can actually be to a person during cuddles."

-Roo's Adopters



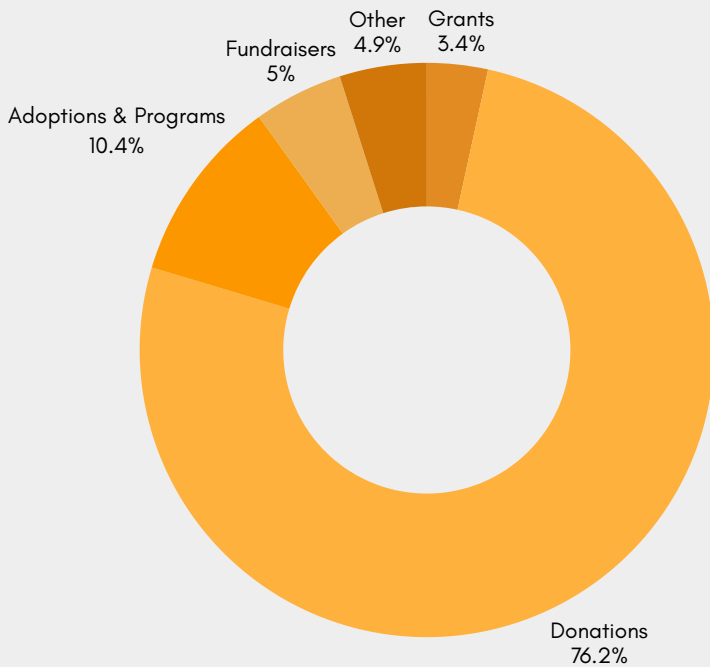
FINANCIAL SUMMARY

based on un-audited year-end results



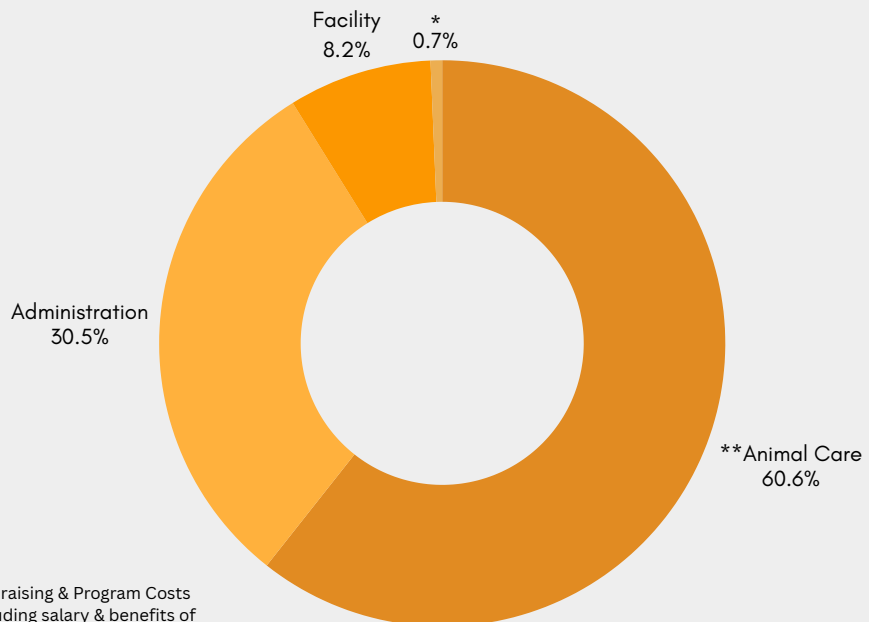
2025 Operating Revenues

\$441,061.62



2025 Operating Expenses

\$411,273.72



*Fundraising & Program Costs
**Including salary & benefits of full-time Centre staff

ONCE FERAL, NOW FAMILY

Our Centre has earned a reputation for successfully rehabilitating feral cats. By definition, a feral cat is unowned and unsocialized to humans, avoiding contact, fearing people, and behaving like a wild animal, often because it was born outdoors or lost human connection early in life. While many shelters place feral cats in barns or shops, we take a different approach. We dedicate time to taming, socializing, and rehabilitating feral cats so they can be adopted and thrive as cherished family companions.

When Max first arrived at our shelter, he was a frightened, feral cat who had spent his life fighting for survival. His wide eyes and flattened ears told the story of a soul that had never known safety, comfort, or love. He hissed, growled, spat, charged, and swatted anyone who entered his room, and we knew we had our work cut out for us in helping Max learn that people could be trusted.

In the initial months, we ensured he had hideaways, used tools to place food bowls in his hiding spots, and otherwise gave him space to decompress.



Gradually, the sharp hisses softened, and he no longer felt compelled to lash out at hands near his space. Instead, we began to see flickers of curiosity. Max would emerge when the Centre was quiet, exploring his room and observing from a distance.



The true breakthrough came the day he climbed into a volunteer's lap for the very first time. Once he discovered snuggles, he wasted no time demanding attention from anyone who visited. His charm made him a favourite, and we knew it was only a matter of time before he found his forever family.

Six months after arriving in our care, Max snuggled his way into the hearts of his adopters. Today, he is thriving in his forever home and spends his days curled up on laps, basking in the warmth of family life. Max's story is a testament to the power of patience, love, and second chances, and proof that with time, compassion, and resources, even the most fearful animals can blossom into beloved companions.

With patience, gentle care, and many hours of quiet companionship, our team slowly earned his trust. Volunteers sat in his room, talking softly so he could grow accustomed to voices. Staff offered treats, never forcing contact, but showing kindness. Day by day, Max began to let down his guard. He began licking treats from fingers and soon welcomed chin tickles and ear scratches. He started to engage, waiting by the door for breakfast, and batting toys around his room.

"All is well, he is the cuddliest of cats and seems happy in his new environment. He sleeps with me in bed and occasionally (and politely) meows for some pets during the night. He has his favourite chair but loves coming on my lap whenever I'm on the couch. I am overjoyed and hope he is too!"

- Max's Adopter

THE HEART OF COMMUNITY



In 2025, the Bow Valley SPCA continued to deepen its role as a compassionate, community-centered resource for animals and the people who care for them, strengthening the human-animal bond across the Bow Valley.

This year marked meaningful progress in our collaborative work with the Mîni Thnîi community. Together, we supported abandoned and surrendered dogs and cats through humane intake, access to resources, and collective work with other organizations including The University of Calgary Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Canadian Animal Task Force, and Sacred Sûga Society. These partnerships reflect our belief that animal welfare is strongest when communities work side by side, sharing knowledge, resources, and respect.

Our Spay Neuter Assistance Program continued to remove financial barriers for eligible low-income residents of the Bow Valley, helping ensure that responsible pet care is accessible to all. By supporting affordable surgeries, we are reducing unwanted litters, improving long-term animal health, and contributing to a more sustainable future for companion animals in the region.

Education also remained at the heart of our work. Through school visits and youth programs, we inspired the next generation of animal advocates, nurturing empathy, responsibility, and respect for all living beings. Our dog training classes further strengthen community well-being by helping canine citizens develop good manners, creating safer and more harmonious neighbourhoods.

Across all these initiatives, the Bow Valley SPCA continues to be a place where animals find hope, people find support, and the community comes together to create lasting change. In 2025, we didn't just care for animals, **we strengthened the fabric of the Bow Valley through compassion, collaboration, and education.**

The Shed Shop, our community thrift store for pets, remains a vibrant hub for affordable pet supplies, with every purchase supporting our work. It's a small shop with a big impact, keeping quality supplies in circulation and promoting a culture of reuse and community care.

NEVER LOSING HOPE



For many dogs, a shelter stay is a brief pause on their way to a new beginning. For Hope, it has been more than 950 days - over two and a half years - of waiting, learning, growing, and, true to her name, never losing hope.

Hope first arrived at the Bow Valley SPCA as a young puppy, carrying a heart full of potential and a past that left her uncertain about the world. She was adopted quickly into a loving home, and her family truly tried to give her everything she needed. But as she grew, it became clear that her nervousness wasn't just a passing phase, and fear-based reactivity began to surface more and more as she matured. Her family worked with a qualified trainer and reshaped their lives as much as they could, yet the reality remained: a busy household with young children in a bustling urban neighbourhood wasn't the right environment for Hope to thrive. With compassion and courage, they made the selfless decision to return her so she could find a home better suited to her needs.

When Hope came back to us, trust didn't come easily. Still, even in those early days, there was a gentle sweetness that emerged whenever she felt safe enough to let someone in. Slowly, she began to warm up to our staff and a small circle of dedicated volunteers - people who saw her spark and were determined to help it grow rather than fade.

Over countless hours, days, weeks, and months, our incredible Animal Care Attendants and select Dog Team Volunteers have been working with Hope patiently and consistently, helping her understand that hands can be kind, voices can be soft, and the world can be a place where she is protected rather than afraid. They trained with her, played with her, walked with her, and celebrated every small victory along the way. They learned her language, respected her boundaries, and loved her as if she were already home. And Hope responded in the way she knows best, with loyalty, affection, and a deep, earnest desire to connect with the people she trusts. With them, she is playful, goofy, and full of warmth. She leans in for cuddles and gives her signature ear kisses, lights up with carefree curiosity on familiar quiet trails, and greets her circle of friends (human or canine) with a joy that makes every hour invested feel worthwhile.

Hope has been with us longer than most, but her story is not one of sadness. It is a story of resilience, patience, and possibilities. **As Canada's first no-kill, no-cage shelter, we stand by our promise not to give up on our residents, and to enrich their lives fully while they are in our care.** Hope deserves a peaceful home; a place where she can finally exhale, where her world is predictable and gentle, and where her trust is met with patience and love. And we know that home is out there! But until the day she finds it, we will keep showing up for her, just as she has shown up for us. We haven't given up hope, and neither has she.

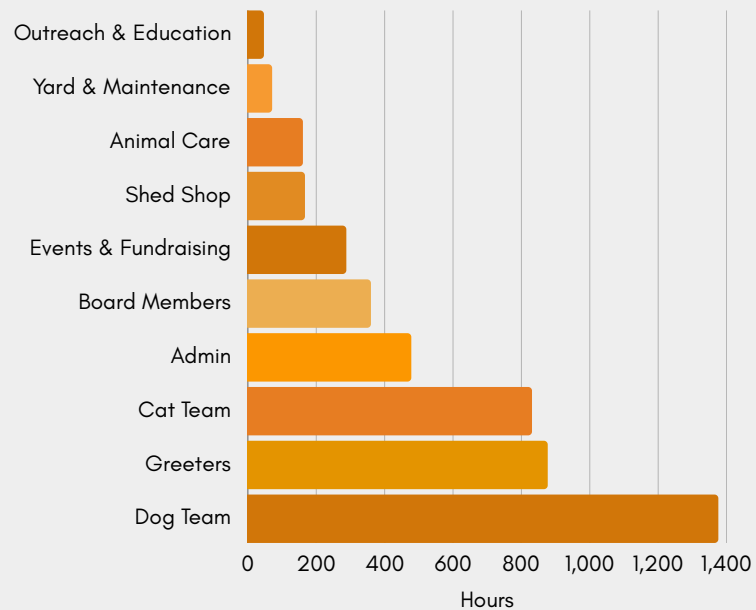


VOLUNTEER SUMMARY

The Bow Valley SPCA is unendingly grateful for each and every volunteer who donates their time to support the Centre and its furry residents. The energy and hard work from our community is the lifeblood of our organization.

Without our volunteers, we could not carry out our mission to care for and re-home stray and abandoned dogs and cats, and promote humane attitudes and responsible pet companionship through educational programs and community leadership.

41,721 volunteer hours in 2025
including foster hours



THE POWER OF VOLUNTEERS

Dogs (and cats) have an extraordinary ability to teach us. In return, we get the privilege of teaching them, supporting them, and walking beside them as they learn to trust again and find their forever homes. Henry arrived at the Bow Valley SPCA as a ten-month-old puppy in a two-year-old dog's body. He was a big, fluffy white dog, and terrified of being left alone. His beginnings weren't ideal - he moved through multiple homes before finally landing at the Bow Valley SPCA, and ultimately, in his perfect forever home. Through working with Henry, I learned a great deal about patience, trust, and confidence.

At first, getting him back into his room could take half an hour. The idea of being alone sent him spiraling. He'd step in, then panic and back out. He'd jump, mouth, pace, and his fear was overwhelming to witness. Treats could lure him inside, but they couldn't convince him to stay. Henry needed to learn that a moment of separation wasn't abandonment. That lesson took weeks of repetition, gentleness, and unwavering consistency. But with individualized training, and the steady presence of volunteers who showed up day after day, Henry learned to walk into his room, settle onto his bed, and wait calmly for his harness to come off, and his well-earned treat delivered.

Henry was a handful. Big, strong, and anxious, he could walk beautifully one moment and erupt into panic the next. It was intense, and at times overwhelming. A firm "Henry" would bring him back to earth, and he'd resume his leisurely walk... until the anxiety crept back in again. Walks weren't always pleasant, but they were part of the process.



Daisy Hilchey, the Bow Valley SPCA Adoption Centre Manager, worked closely with a professional dog behaviourist to tailor an individual training plan for Henry. The plan became our guidebook, helping transform him from a dog who could overwhelm you, to one who made you proud to be part of his journey.

Transformations like Henry's don't happen without volunteers, and they don't happen in weeks – they take months. They require time, repetition, emotional resilience, and a deep belief that every animal deserves individualized care. They happen because of the commitment of a small group of volunteers and the dedicated staff at the Bow Valley SPCA. Volunteers have always been the cornerstone of our organization, but stories like Henry's remind us just how vital their work is to our successes.

And then... Henry went home!

There were tears from everyone who had walked his journey with him. Henry's success is proof that when volunteers show up, animals don't just get housed, they get healed. His story is a testament to what the Bow Valley SPCA can accomplish when volunteers pour their hearts into the animals who need them most.

With the dedication of volunteers and staff, Henry transformed from a jumpy, mouthy, panic-stricken ball of fur into a trusted companion. He left behind the confidence to know that as a volunteer with the Bow Valley SPCA, my time and energy can Make a Difference and Change Lives.



THANK YOU!

TO OUR 2025 DONORS



LIFETIME SUPPORT

Alberta Lottery Fund
Anonymous
Beverley (Bendell) Downing
Carla Cumming Sojonky
Donner Canadian Foundation
Estate of Barbara MacKinnon
Estate of Felicity Edwards
Estate of Joseph Bozak
Fairmont Banff Springs Hotel
Fairmont Chateau Lake Louise
Frank Sojonky & Carla Cumming Sojonky
Neil, Rose and Sierra Tanner
Nick and Heather Weiler
Stonewaters
Town of Banff
Town of Canmore



LEGACY LEADERS

\$25,000 +

Frank Sojonky & Carla Cumming Sojonky
Pestell Family Foundation
Neil, Rose & Sierra Tanner



KEY CONTRIBUTORS

\$5,000 - \$9,999

Rob Stevens, Realtor
Town of Banff
Maja Foundation
Sharon Bowie
Dr. Natali Schindler and Murray Rodych
Harden Family Fund
Fairmont Banff Springs Hotel
Wendy Mah
Competition Concrete
In memory of Ryder Cook



SUSTAINING SUPPORTERS

\$10,000 - \$24,999

Town of Canmore
Barry Taylor & Shannon Danylko
Nick & Heather Wieler
Donner Canadian Foundation
Stonewaters
Shovels Up
Darcey-Lynn and Bob MacArthur

BRAVE LITTLE BEAN

Fava Bean arrived at the Bow Valley SPCA as a transfer in 2024. A timid kitty, she spent several months hiding but slowly showed her sweet side, snuggling with people she knew. Although still a wallflower, she was always a friend to the other cats in her room, and there's nothing she loved more than basking in a ray of sunshine. Still, she was passed by for adoption over and over.

At the start of August of 2025, one of her eyes suddenly changed colour to an alarming brown/red and we quickly rushed her to our local vet. Over the next few days, Fava's health deteriorated quickly, with more systemic symptoms rapidly appearing. After ending up at a 24-hour emergency clinic in Calgary one night after a frightening turn for the worse, unfortunately, she was diagnosed with Ocular Feline Infectious Peritonitis (FIP), a devastating and previously deadly disease caused by a mutation to an otherwise harmless virus. For years, FIP was considered a death sentence. We prepared ourselves for heartbreak, but Fava Bean had other plans.

In recent months, a treatment (albeit, expensive) for FIP had been approved in Canada.

Just in the nick of time, Fava Bean started on this treatment and thankfully responded very well. Treatment for FIP takes place over 84 days, and while it doesn't have a guaranteed positive outcome, we felt cautiously hopeful that Fava Bean might recover. And she did just that! She gained strength, began eating and acting like herself, and got through the most critical stage of recovery.



Unfortunately, the affected eye continued to be inflamed, painful, and with abnormally high pressures which could become an emergency. After several months of supportive care attempting to remedy the issue, we made the decision to do an eye enucleation (removal) surgery, to eliminate her pain. Fava took it all in stride, and just a few days post-surgery was batting toys around, jumping on the bed, and acting otherwise completely normal.

The silver lining to this frightening journey is that, to provide overnight monitoring and administration of treatments, Fava Bean moved into a foster home, and she blossomed into a whole different cat! Snuggly and playful, she began showing a carefree side that she never showed in the shelter. Her fosters took to calling her "The Brave Little Bean." She discovered a love for belly rubs, and she hasn't met a string, ball, or toy mouse that stood a chance against her fancy moves! She's a wallflower no more and in fact loves checking things out! Now sleeping under the covers with her foster family, she's proven that with her trusted humans, she's a total Velcro kitty who craves affection.

We feel so grateful that we were able to get Fava Bean the lifesaving care she needed without delay or hesitation. She's not only surviving, but thriving, and looks forward to a long life of lap snuggles, recharging in rays of sunshine, and expressing her kitten-side after defying the odds.

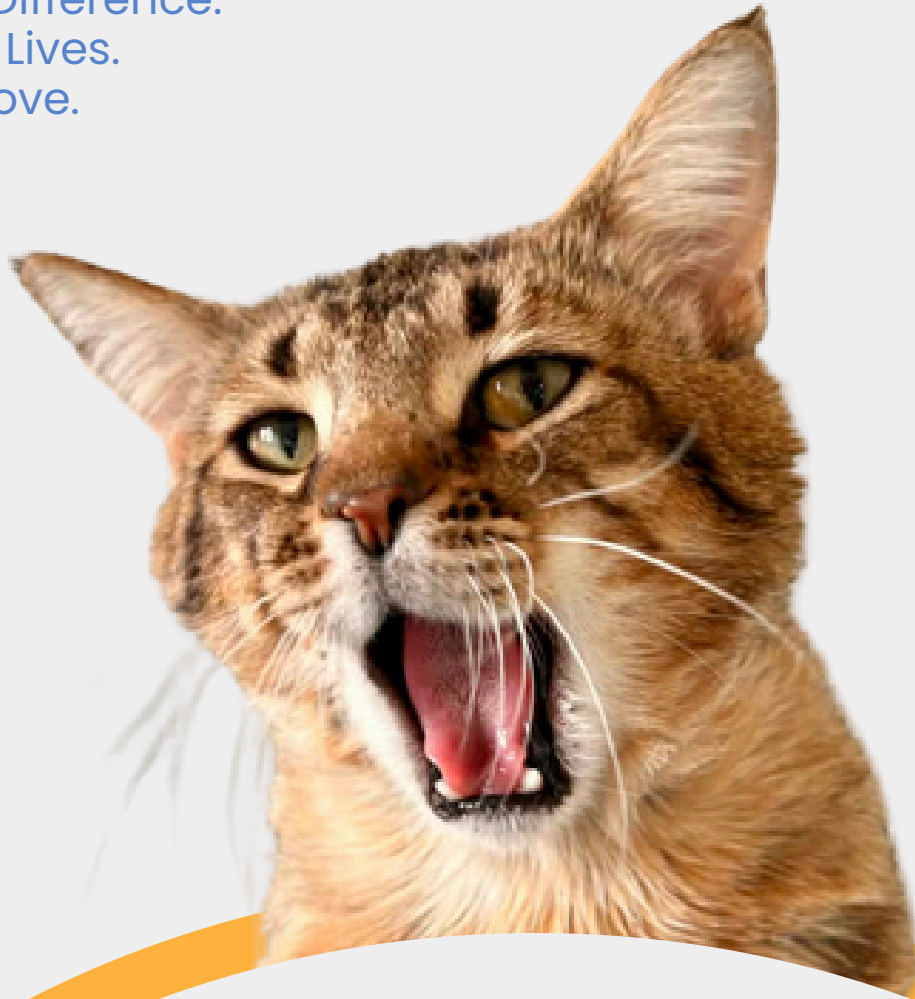


ADOPTED
IN
2025





Make a Difference.
Change Lives.
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Bow Valley SPCA