

**SPCA**  
Nova Scotia

# Annual Report 2017



# The Nova Scotia SPCA

## A Look Back at 2017



6,555 SURGERIES PERFORMED FOR ANIMALS IN NEED



SERVED OVER 16,437 ANIMALS THROUGHOUT THE PROVINCE



WE HAVE A LOW 10.3% ADMINISTRATIVE COST



3 SPCA THRIFT STORES



4.3 MILLION ANNUAL OPERATING COST



OVER 12,975 COMMUNITY MEMBERS SERVED THROUGH OUR PROGRAMS



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# A Letter from the Chair of the Board

“You can't buy love but you can rescue it.”

It is impossible to talk about the Nova Scotia SPCA and not mention the animals. But how do we pay for their care? Each year, we count on thousands of donors to keep our lights on. But what if we could find a stable funding source that would involve our members help? Enter the SPCA Thrift store.

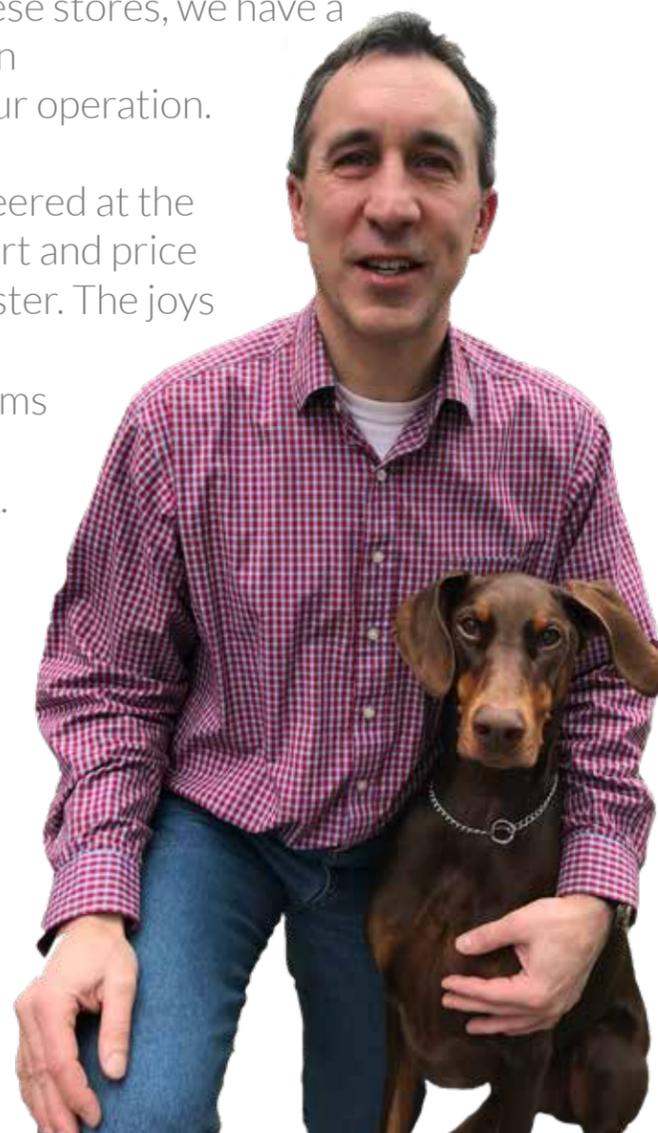
This year we opened two new thrift stores that complement our store in Liverpool - one in Dartmouth, another in New Minas and in 2018 we anticipate opening a fourth in Sydney. With these stores, we have a continued source of income each month and an opportunity for our supporters to be part of our operation.

During the summer, my daughter and I volunteered at the Dartmouth Thrift store. We learned how to sort and price items and even learned how to use a cash register. The joys of retail! I learned that in a few hours, I could help by working at the store or by donating items that I no longer use. There was a new way I could make a financial difference for the SPCA.

Plus, it was fun to shop at our store. The deals are fantastic and selection is always changing. If you are looking for a bargain and a way to help the animals, this is a place for you. Please visit a SPCA Thrift store in your area.



Jim Kochanoff & family dog Lola  
**CHAIR OF THE BOARD**



# A Letter from the CEO

2017 was inspiring! All the changes accomplished over the past few years has culminated in tremendous improvement in the services we now offer animals and the community. World Spay Day saw us perform surgeries for families in need, our P.U.P. (Prevent Unwanted Pets) Program spayed family pets while rehoming puppies & kittens. TNR (trap-neuter-return) continues to go strong with the help of the SPCA Mobile Clinic and surgical teams and is free to families and communities who have limited financial resources to pay. All thanks to our generous donors.

The Nova Scotia SPCA also achieved the goal of being both No-Kill and Open Admission this past year, meaning that we never euthanize for space or refuse a companion animal in immediate need of shelter.

“We don't intend to slow down..”

As we are solving problems in some areas, the Nova Scotia SPCA needs to evolve and focus on various animal and community needs. We need to significantly invest in our Animal Shelters so our facilities are as progressive as our Animal Care Programs & Animal Hospitals. To this end, 2018 will be the year we start to build our strategy to create a Provincial SPCA Campus to ensure we continue to be a viable resource to communities and companion animals for many years to come!

The critical work accomplished in fiscal year 2017 was only possible because of the extraordinary generosity and commitment of our donors, volunteers, community partners and staff. With your continued support and participation, we will continue to grow and improve the lives of animals across the province. On behalf of those animals, and with sincere appreciation - Thank You!



Elizabeth Murphy  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**



# Financial Statements

Non Consolidated Statement of Operations for the Year Ended December 31, 2017

## REVENUES

Donations & Fundraising	1,374,215
Shelter Operations	988,860
Service	966,427
Bequests	862,777
Government Grant (to support enforcement department)	240,000

2017  
\$

4,432,279

## EXPENSES

Administration	458,690
Amortization	67,335
Fund Development & Outreach	345,051
Investigations	695,588
Shelter Operations	1,842,938
Veterinary Services & Medication	909,285

4,318,887

## EARNINGS FROM OPERATIONS

113,392

## OTHER INCOME

Investment income	5,379
Gain on marketable securities	40,516
Loss on disposal of capital assets	(5,712)
Net earnings from controlled profit oriented enterprises	5,370

45,553

## EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES

158,945

With the successful merge of our provincial operations completed in 2016, 2017 allowed us to focus on consolidating our operations, increasing donor outreach and awareness, and simplifying our administrative functions. We saw a year-over-year increase in almost all categories of revenues, and a decrease in administration costs. Due to our in-house veterinary clinic and hospitals, we performed more surgeries but kept our associated expenses consistent with the prior year.

We incurred a greater deficit from our shelter operations in 2017, largely attributable to the improvement of animal care processes which required additional training for existing staff, hiring more skilled staff and expenditures to improve shelter equipment. With previous deficiencies addressed and a goal in 2018 to increase focus on further utilizing our in-house veterinary clinic and hospitals, we anticipate achieving greater operational sustainability.

Overall, 2017 was another successful year for the Society due to the support of the public, our partnerships with PetSmart Charities, other organizations, local communities and the local and provincial governments, as well as the dedication and drive of our employees.

— Charl  
Charl du Plooy | CPA, CA  
Treasurer

## Farewell to our Treasurer...

Charl du Plooy really loves the animals! This is evident through his determination to keep us focused on our goal to achieving financial sustainability to ensure we continue to support animals and the community for many years to come. Charl has persevered through a lot of SPCA changes – in the past 8 years he has helped the Society transition through 2 executive directors, 3 chairs, a financial restructuring and the merge of 11 separate SPCA organizations into one Nova Scotia SPCA. It has been eventful to say the least! Thank you Charl for sticking it out with us and making us strong – The SPCA and the animals we serve are better for having had you on our Board Executive.



# Development & Fundraising

The Nova Scotia SPCA undertook an exciting new chapter in fundraising. With a vision of creating sustainable and reliable revenue streams for the society to ensure that shelter operations and programming can continue to grow and flourish while assisting as many companion animals and community members as possible throughout Nova Scotia.

In July 2017, the Dartmouth SPCA Thrift Store opened its doors, making it the second store in the province for the Nova Scotia SPCA, our first located in Queens County. Relying on the generosity and support of community donations, the Nova Scotia SPCA Thrift Store accepts a wide variety of household items, giving thrift-savvy customers another avenue to support the SPCA while in turn keeping these items out of landfills.

We didn't stop there. After much success and being embraced by the thrifting community with open arms, we embarked on creating a thrift store in the New Minas area in support of the King's SPCA Animal Shelter. A few short months later, in November of 2017, we celebrated the opening of our New Minas store located a short distance from the Kings SPCA shelter in Waterville. This charming store provides the same exciting bargain opportunities to residents, SPCA supporters and treasure hunters alike.

Daily operations of the thrift stores are run primarily by a remarkable group of volunteers who graciously give of themselves and their time. Facilitating everything from sorting donations to merchandising the front end of the store, creating positive experiences for our customers, enjoying the next chapter in their volunteering career with the Nova Scotia SPCA.

The SPCA thrift stores are so much more than a place to find a good bargain. They are also a resource that will further engage our volunteers, donors, and community members with another outlet to participate and show their support to the society.



Thompson, Ken (Photograph) 2017, Dartmouth SPCA Thrift Store (Photograph) 2017

**88+**

**VOLUNTEERS**

Running day-to-day operations of our stores across NS

**220**

**DAYS IN OPERATION**

With our Dartmouth store opening in July 2017, New Minas in November 2017 and planning the opening of our Cape Breton store for 2018 - we have been busy!

**\$92,450**

**RAISED FOR THE ANIMALS**

With generous donations and the hard work of our volunteers, amazing things have happened!

## |SPCA Monster March



October 2017, the Nova Scotia SPCA launched our first ever Monster March event in the Colchester region. This first ever event was a Halloween-themed fun run/walk where pets and their people came dressed to impress and raise much needed funds for the animals in the Colchester area.

This spook-tacular event will be coming to a shelter near you in 2018!

## |Bake Sales for Wagging Tails

2017 was another successful year for our annual Bake Sales for Wagging Tails event across the province. This year's event saw bakers getting creative with their sweet treats, all in support of shelter animals across Nova Scotia! Raising over **\$2,300** for animals in need across Nova Scotia!



## |SPCA Lotteries

In 2017, the Nova Scotia SPCA hosted a series of lotteries across the province resulting in some HUGE success for the SPCA.

Our province wide 50/50 and Kings SPCA *Play for Paws* raised a combined **\$29,000!**

## |Santa Paws Tables

Every year an incredible group of dedicated volunteers and community members get together to host our annual Christmas tables. This year across the province, they raised a total of over **\$23,000!**



## |Santa Pix

Santa Paws came to town and visited all the good little dogs, cats and even rats!

This year's event raised over **\$7,000+** across the province of Nova Scotia, from Yarmouth to Cape Breton and everywhere in between.



## |Halifax Pride



# Animal Care & Veterinary Services

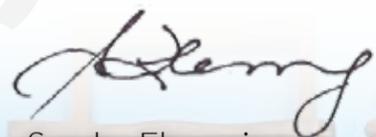
Our organization continued to grow, and with that growth, so has our need to expand veterinary services.

In 2017, the Nova Scotia SPCA made the move to accredit our four remaining shelters across the province as Small Animal Clinics (without surgery) through the Nova Scotia Veterinary Medical Association (NSVMA). This allowed us to bring “in house” the bulk of our veterinary requirements from across the province, along with creating greater efficiency and standardization of care at all our shelters.

Like our hospitals in Dartmouth and Sydney, these clinics now have access to lower medication and diagnostic testing costs due to their special designation with the NSVMA and their partnership with our sister hospital in Dartmouth which continues to act as a “hub” for our organization’s veterinary needs.

Due to the demand for services, we also expanded the size of the Dartmouth Hospital to meet the constantly growing needs of not only our shelters, but also, of our Low Income and HRM TNR Programs. The added surgical space was designed to help us continue to expand our surgical capacity as well as improve disease control and overall efficiency of the hospital.

Since 2009, our goal as a “no kill” organization has meant maintaining an overall live release rate of at least 90% which was achieved once again this year! With an increased intake of 5% and over 6,000 animals coming through our doors in 2017 we continue to see our shelters at full capacity during the peak breeding season. Maintaining this live release rate while being able to meet the needs of the thousands of animals in the province who need our help is truly an amazing accomplishment. It shows not only the dedication and commitment of our staff, but the hundreds of volunteers who help us care for them.



Sandra Flemming  
Director of Animal Care

## Yarmouth Shelter Renovations

In June 2017, ground broke to begin shelter renovations at the Yarmouth SPCA Animal Shelter. We were fortunate enough to receive a generous bequest from the Dyke family enabling us to improve the infrastructure for animals in the Yarmouth community.

The overhaul to the Yarmouth shelter will not only improve the stay and increase capacity for the animals in our care, but will also provide the community with a place to gather, volunteer and engage with the animals prior to adoption.

In addition to creating a beautiful, functional and much needed structural update, in mid 2018 we anticipate adding a spay and neuter clinic to the facility to better serve low-income families in need and service our adoptables.



## STATS

**107**  
PUPPIES

From across the province participated in our WOOF (Working on our Future) Program that pairs puppies with offenders at the Central Nova Correctional Facility in Burnside.

**25**  
ANIMALS

Retired in loving homes during their final year(s) through our Palliative Care Program! These animals have come from shelters across Nova Scotia.

**FACT:** this program is now 9 years old.



Pictured here: Kathy & adoptable dog Gotti - who went to his forever home in 2017!

# SPCA Pet Health Insurance

The Nova Scotia SPCA supporters now have an exciting opportunity to purchase lifelong protection for their new pet through Nova Scotia SPCA Pet Health Insurance that launched in May 2017, in partnership with Petline, Canada's largest pet health insurance company.

Every pet guardian that adopts a dog or cat from the NS SPCA goes home with eight free weeks of pet health insurance and once their trial ends, if they purchase a policy, a portion of the policy actually comes back to the SPCA and supports our shelter pets!

SPCA Pet Health Insurance is not just limited to adopters, but also to our supporters across the province. Partnering with Petline to provide this product helps to ensure continued access to veterinary services for pets after they leave the care of the SPCA.

**“Nova Scotia SPCA is a strong brand that has demonstrated longevity and trust, providing humane care to animals for 140 years...”**

Rob Cunningham  
**Divisional Vice President**  
 Petline Insurance



# PetSmart Charities of Canada

We hold our partnership with PetSmart Charities of Canada very dear. Not only does the charitable foundation support our SPCA Animal Hospitals across the province and Mobile TNR efforts, in 2017 we were the proud recipients of over **76,900 lbs** of pet food through their *Buy a Bag, Give a Meal* program.

Throughout September and October of 2017, the Nova Scotia SPCA distributed all 76,900 lbs of pet food to our network of shelters across the province to low-income communities, first nation communities, rescue groups and individuals in need.



**“The Nova Scotia SPCA wants to ensure all animals, even those in low-income communities across the province have full bellies...”**



# Animal Cruelty Investigations

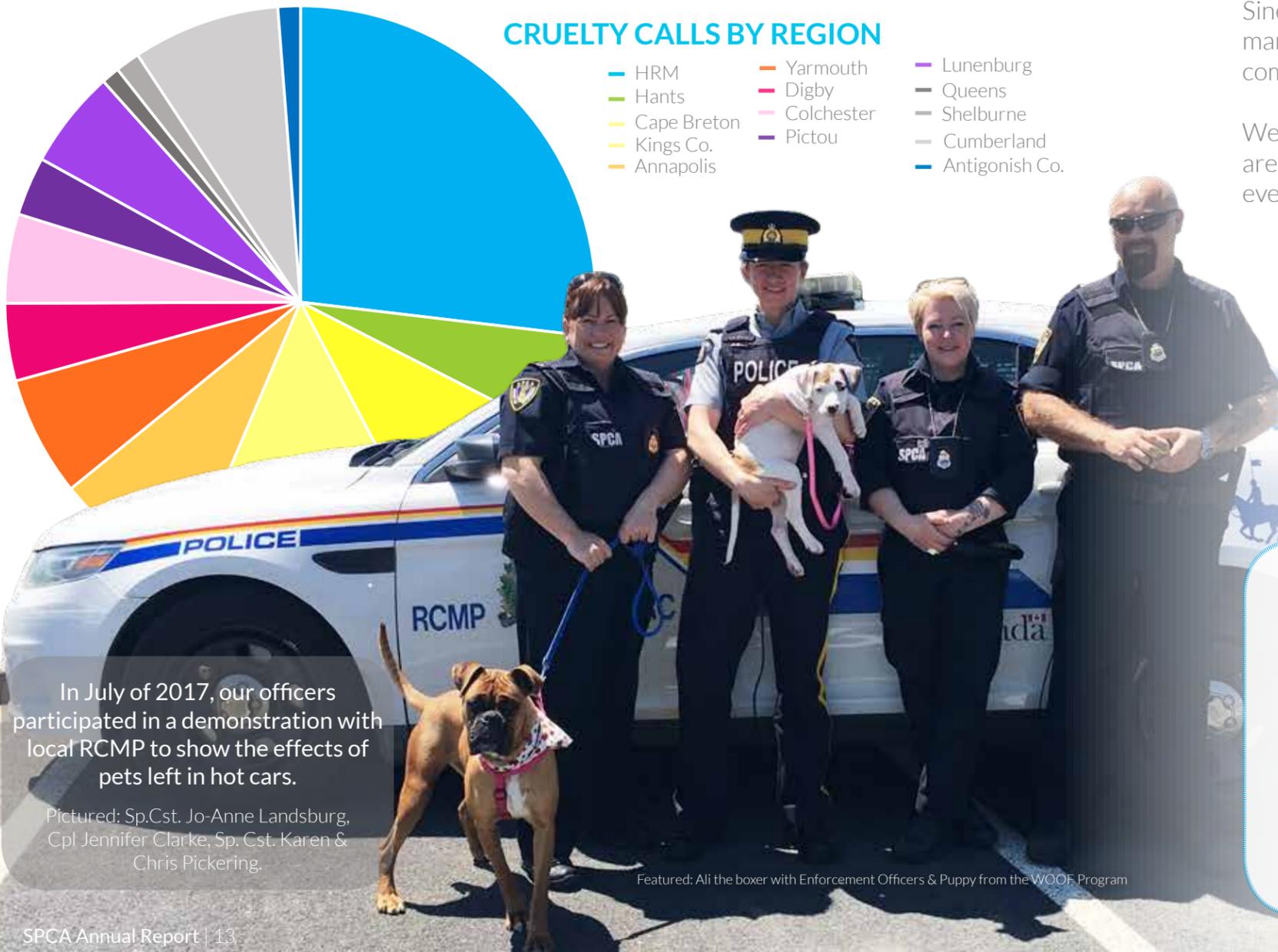
Animal cruelty remains a very serious issue in Nova Scotia with 1,615 complaints investigated throughout the province in 2017. Our officers continue to push for a more humane Nova Scotia by advocating for the ethical treatment of companion animals.

In November 2017, our officers attended a week long classroom training seminar to further educate themselves in investigation techniques. This critical training is offered on a yearly basis and aids our officers in maintaining the highest level of professionalism and expertise in upholding the Animal Protection Act of NS.

The Department of Justice has ordered that every officer must reach a standard of training required in order to maintain their appointment.

## CRUELTY CALLS BY REGION

- HRM
- Hants
- Cape Breton
- Kings Co.
- Annapolis
- Yarmouth
- Digby
- Colchester
- Pictou
- Lunenburg
- Queens
- Shelburne
- Cumberland
- Antigonish Co.



In July of 2017, our officers participated in a demonstration with local RCMP to show the effects of pets left in hot cars.

Pictured: Sp.Cst. Jo-Anne Landsburg, Cpl. Jennifer Clarke, Sp. Cst. Karen & Chris Pickering.

Featured: Ali the boxer with Enforcement Officers & Puppy from the WOOF Program



**BOSS' STORY...**  
 In January 2017, the cruelty office received a call about a dog that was left outside without a shelter and was heavily matted. On arrival, the officers noted a small dog with matts so large it was hard to distinguish his front from his hind end. The owner was unwilling to provide any sort of grooming or medical care so officers seized the dog under the Animal Protection Act and the owner was charged with three counts of animal cruelty. The owner received a prohibition and fine.

**STATS**

**4,462**  
ANIMALS

Intervened on behalf of by our Cruelty Officers across Nova Scotia.

**1,615**  
COMPLAINTS INVESTIGATED

by 18 Cruelty officers.

Since the SPCA holds their own degree of training expectations, in addition to the training mandated by the Department of Justice, we are proud to have a team of highly qualified, dynamic and compassionate officers.

We continue to work closely with Minister of Agriculture, Keith Colwell, attending forums to highlight areas where amendments are needed to the Animal Protection Act that will aid officers in providing even more protection for the animals.

Our Officers intervened on behalf of 4,652 animals, with 533 of those animals coming from situations of extreme neglect. Even with new updates to the Act's Regulations regarding tethering and animal abandonment, we saw over 457 individuals charged for those infractions in 2017.

*Jo Anne Landsburg*  
 Jo-Anne Landsburg  
**CHIEF PROVINCIAL INSPECTOR**

**We'll Miss you Nancy...**  
 In 2017, our cruelty team wished long time Animal Protection Officer, Nancy Noel a happy retirement. Nancy served with the SPCA for 11 years. Over the years Nancy investigated hundreds of complaints and rescued countless animals. We were sad to see her leave but so happy she played such a vital role with the SPCA.  
 -Much love and respect from your SPCA Family!



# Programs & Services

## Open Admission

In March of 2017, the Nova Scotia SPCA launched our Open Admission Program trial at our Dartmouth Animal Shelter in order to better serve the public and the animals in the community. The success of this trial resulted in extending these principles across the province in 2018.

The overall goal of this initiative was to educate the community that the SPCA does have the capacity and programs to help with rehoming their pet.

 **83**  
**ANIMALS**  
TAKEN INTO OUR CARE  
THROUGH OPEN  
ADMISSION

## Trap - Neuter - Return

In addition to the HRM TNR program initiative, our Mobile Spay and Neuter clinic was going strong, travelling across the province to provide high quality services to feral cats in need. Some of the largest identified colonies of feral cats continue to be seen in the Kings and Hants areas.

The Nova Scotia SPCA continues to partner with local rescues and colony caretakers to provide spay/neuter services to feral cats at no charge to the caretaker.

## Prevent Unwanted Pets 'P.U.P PROGRAM'

The Nova Scotia SPCA developed the *Prevent Unwanted Pets program* to tackle the issue of unwanted litters while removing financial obstacles for families by offering a free spay surgery for the mother cat/dog.

As part of our commitment to decreasing the number of homeless and unwanted pets, the SPCA works with families to ensure that all the litter's needs are met. It is preferred to keep litters with their mothers until they are approximately seven weeks old. If impossible to keep the litter comfortable and safe, the SPCA will arrange temporary placement with foster parents who specialize in puppy and kitten care.

Participating puppies and kittens are vaccinated, vet checked, spayed/neutered, placed in loving homes and the mother is spayed before returning her – all for free.

**“Having our feral colony neutered has been amazing! We don't have to look at rounded tummies and wonder where and when the new litter would be. Rounded tummies are now just well fed kitties. I can't stress enough the burden and stress lifted from our shoulders. We are so very grateful.”**

Joanne  
Hants Co. TNR participant

## World Spay Day

In 2017 the Nova Scotia SPCA joined in World Spay Day celebrations across the globe. World Spay Day was an initiative first created in 1995 by the Doris Day Animal League and has now grown to events in over 708 countries promoting spaying/neutering.

The Nova Scotia SPCA's World Spay Day event resulted in over 140 spay/neuter surgeries for pets belonging to low income families across Nova Scotia. Families who love and care deeply for their pets but could not otherwise afford surgeries, and thus were adding to the pet overpopulation problem.

# STATS

**464**

**PUPPIES & KITTENS**

Came through the PUP program in 2017.

**1,007**

**CATS**

Serviced through the Mobile Spay & Neuter Clinic.

**12,000**

**KILOMETERS**

Travelled to provide services to communities in need with our Mobile Spay & Neuter Clinic.



'itty-bitty' bottle baby from the Yarmouth SPCA Animal Shelter

# Major Thanks

## \$1,000 - \$2,000

ACI Central Inc.  
 Andrea Devlin  
 Ann Gorman  
 Arthur & Jo-Anne Trenholm  
 Bob & Barbara Found  
 Brothers Meats  
 Bruce & Carla Elliot  
 Bulwark Ciders  
 Carolyn Gesner  
 Cara Boston  
 Christopher Brazeau  
 Clayton & Rochelle Abraham  
 Dartmouth Kennel Club  
 Debra MacFarlane  
 Dr. Michael Clerk  
 Eldis Group Partnership  
 Ernest H. Irwin  
 Golden Age Auto Club  
 Lila McArthur  
 Linda Stewart  
 Lorene Scrutton  
 McQuarrie's Pharmasave  
 Margaret Mulrooney  
 Michelin Tire  
 Michtell Currie  
 NPR Limited Partnership  
 Paulmac's Pets  
 Scotiabank  
 Sharon Shellis (in memory of Bob Chellis)  
 Symcor  
 Teresa Newman  
 Western Financial Insurance

## \$2,000 - \$5,000

Boston Pizza Sydney  
 Dianne Sobey  
 George F. Wade Foundation  
 Global Pet Foods Stellarton & Sydney  
 Helen Cianfaglione  
 Investors Group Charitable Giving Program  
 Judy Layne  
 Kynock Resources  
 Kim Huskison  
 Liver Pathology Inc  
 Maruerite MacLean  
 Nancy E. Geffken  
 PetValu Sydney  
 Sobey's North & Windsor Street  
 Steele Mazda  
 The Snore Shop  
 Wayne Roberts (in member of Donald Roberts)  
 Walmart Canada Corp

## \$5,000 +

Citco Group of Companies  
 Economical Insurance  
 Imperial Sovereign Court of Atlantic  
 Nova Society Inc  
 Noreen and John Barter Fund  
 PetValu Spring Garden & Larry Uteck  
 Philip & Jill Grafton

## \$10,000 +

Cominar  
 Eve Roswell & Rachel Alders  
 PetSmart Charities of Canada  
 O'Regans KIA Dartmouth  
 Royal Bank of Canada  
 Susan Kerslake

## Bequests

David Hickey  
 Dawn Ross  
 Dorothy Gwendolyn Jones  
 Eleanor Gertrude Dyke  
 Elizabeth MacDonnell  
 Frances Dorothy Wood  
 Hilda Emenau  
 Katherine Roberta Durber  
 Laverne Morrison  
 Mae B. Lunn  
 Margaret Federicks  
 Muriel Mason MacFarlane  
 Myrlan E. Dillmlan  
 Sarah Leslie Dube  
 Susan K. Roberts  
 William R. Martin

**\* SOME DONOR NAMES HAVE BEEN OMITTED AS THEY PREFERRED FOR THEIR GENEROSITY TO REMAIN ANONYMOUS**

## Corporate Partners



At the Nova Scotia SPCA, we're proud to be part of the Hill's Food, Shelter & Love® program and we feed all our pets Hill's Science Diet.

Hill's® Science Diet®. Hill's Food, Shelter & Love® program provides food for our homeless pets 365 days a year. This provides precisely balanced nutrition that helps these pets find their way to happier, healthier lives. We're proud to feed Hill's® Science Diet®!

Petline has been a proud partner of the Nova Scotia SPCA for the past 6 years. In 2017, the Nova Scotia SPCA launched it's own pet health insurance line under the direction of Petline Insurance.

All Nova Scotia SPCA animals now go home with an 8 week free trial of SPCA Pet Health Insurance and every policy purchase, sends a donation back to the animals in our care!



Through their grant program, Pet Smart Charities has helped the Nova Scotia SPCA build hospitals at our Dartmouth Animal Shelter and Cape Breton, supported our Mobile Spay & Neuter Clinic, Transportation Program, World Spay Day Initiatives, Provided over 79,000lbs of food through thier Buy a Bag. Give a Meal program!

Pet Smart locations across Nova Scotia also act as 'off site adoption centers' for cats, helping us to increase capacity within our shelters and fosters and thus serve more animals in our community.



## Veterinary Partners



## Community Partners



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### EXECUTIVE

Jim Kochanoff | **Chair**  
 CharI du Plooy, CPA, CA | **Treasurer**  
 Sarah Oliver, CPA, CA | **Vice Chair**

### DIRECTORS AT LARGE

Cara Boston | Virginia Jones  
 Jessie Irving | Judy Layne

### REGIONAL DIRECTORS

Leah McDonald | Linda Williams  
 Lynne Riguse | Jill Grafton  
 David Phillips

### APPOINTED REPS

Barry McCarthy | **Dept. Natural Resources**  
 Leighann Hartnett | **Dept. of Agriculture**  
 Dr. Jennifer McKay | **NSVMA**

### ADMINISTRATION

Elizabeth Murphy  
**Chief Executive Officer**  
 Karen DeWolfe  
**Director of Finance**  
 Heather Woodin  
**Director of Programs & Services**  
 Courtney Barber  
**Director of Marketing & Graphic Design**

Christa Jensen  
**Director of Development**  
 Taylor Burke  
**Provincial Fund Development Officer**  
 Emily Dobson  
**Provincial Fund Development Officer**  
 Taylor Mundy  
**Provincial Fund Development Officer**

### ANIMAL CARE

Sandra Flemming  
**Director of Animal Care**  
 Jennifer Nolan  
**Provincial Clinic Coordinator**  
 Janice Mills  
**Animal Care Supervisor**  
 Toni Cavaco  
**Occupational Health & Safety Officer**

### ENFORCEMENT

Special Cst. Jo-Anne Landsburg  
**Chief Provincial Inspector**  
 Special Cst. Sgt. Nancy Noel  
**Provincial Investigator**  
 Special Cst. Benjamin Amini  
**Enforcement Supervisor**  
 Special Cst. Karen Pickering  
**Provincial Investigator**  
 Special Cst. Chris Pickering  
**Provincial Investigator**



**Want to learn more  
about our organization?**



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