

Nova Scotia SPCA Provincial Office
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Date: Tuesday, August 9, 2022
For Immediate Release

Eight New Veterinary Assistants in Nova Scotia *Nova Scotia SPCA College of Animal Welfare Graduates First Class*

Dartmouth, Nova Scotia –It was a momentous day for the Nova Scotia SPCA College of Animal Welfare, as the first class of Veterinary Assistants graduated on Tuesday, August 9, 2022. The college, an independent post-secondary institution, is one of the spaces where the Nova Scotia SPCA is working to meet the needs of animals, families, and the veterinary medicine sector.

“We had three goals when we began planning for the College,” says Elizabeth Murphy, President of the college and CEO of the Nova Scotia SPCA. “First, we wanted to meet the needs of veterinary hospitals and shelters, which are seeing gaps in qualified employees. Our second goal was to create a fulsome program. Veterinary Assistants help with the front and back of the house, so the curriculum had to cover both. Finally, we wanted to provide our students with an extraordinary educational opportunity, from instructors to class sizes, to the environment in which our students would learn best.”

Student Madison Crotty knew after volunteering with animals, that this was a career for her. “I saw that it takes a special person to work with animals and I could do it. When I heard about the Nova Scotia SPCA College of Animal Welfare I had to apply, because I know that the SPCA provides the best care.”

Over the year, students took a variety of classes from animal care and handling to business administration and customer service. The learning wasn’t just in the classroom though.

“We did several trips over the year to see Veterinary Assistants working in the field,” says Associate Director of Veterinary Education Programs, Jen Welshman. “What is unique about the Nova Scotia SPCA College of Animal Welfare is the hands-on learning that students receive within the organization itself. Students are able to work with veterinary medicine teams at the SPCA Dartmouth Shelter, and the SPCA Veterinary Hospital, both within steps from the college.”

All eight students received job offers before their graduation. Many will continue to work within the SPCA. The college has applications open for the next class of Veterinary Assistants beginning in September. In 2023, the Nova Scotia SPCA plans to grow the college by adding a veterinary technician program.

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About the Nova Scotia SPCA

Proudly following no-kill principles, the Nova Scotia SPCA is a registered charity that helps companion animals in need. Every year, approximately 15,000 pets are helped through animal rescue, progressive programs, and rehoming opportunities. They do not receive any government funding for their shelters, so the SPCA relies on community support to help care for local pets in need. To learn more visit www.novascotiaspca.ca.

About the Nova Scotia SPCA College of Animal Welfare

The Nova Scotia SPCA College is committed to providing high-quality education to raise standards in animal welfare. The programs offer an educational environment of small classes, hands-on experience in both shelter and hospital settings, and credentialed instructors. Students are taught academic excellence in balance with skills for overall wellness. Students graduate job-ready with a passion for their industry.

The Nova Scotia SPCA college responds to community and business needs by providing excellence in animal welfare education. The college is active in supporting and creating a diverse and inclusive workforce in the animal welfare industry. To learn more visit www.spcacollege.ca.

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