



pei Humane Society

# Annual Report

April 1, 2020 - March 31, 2021



## Mission Statement

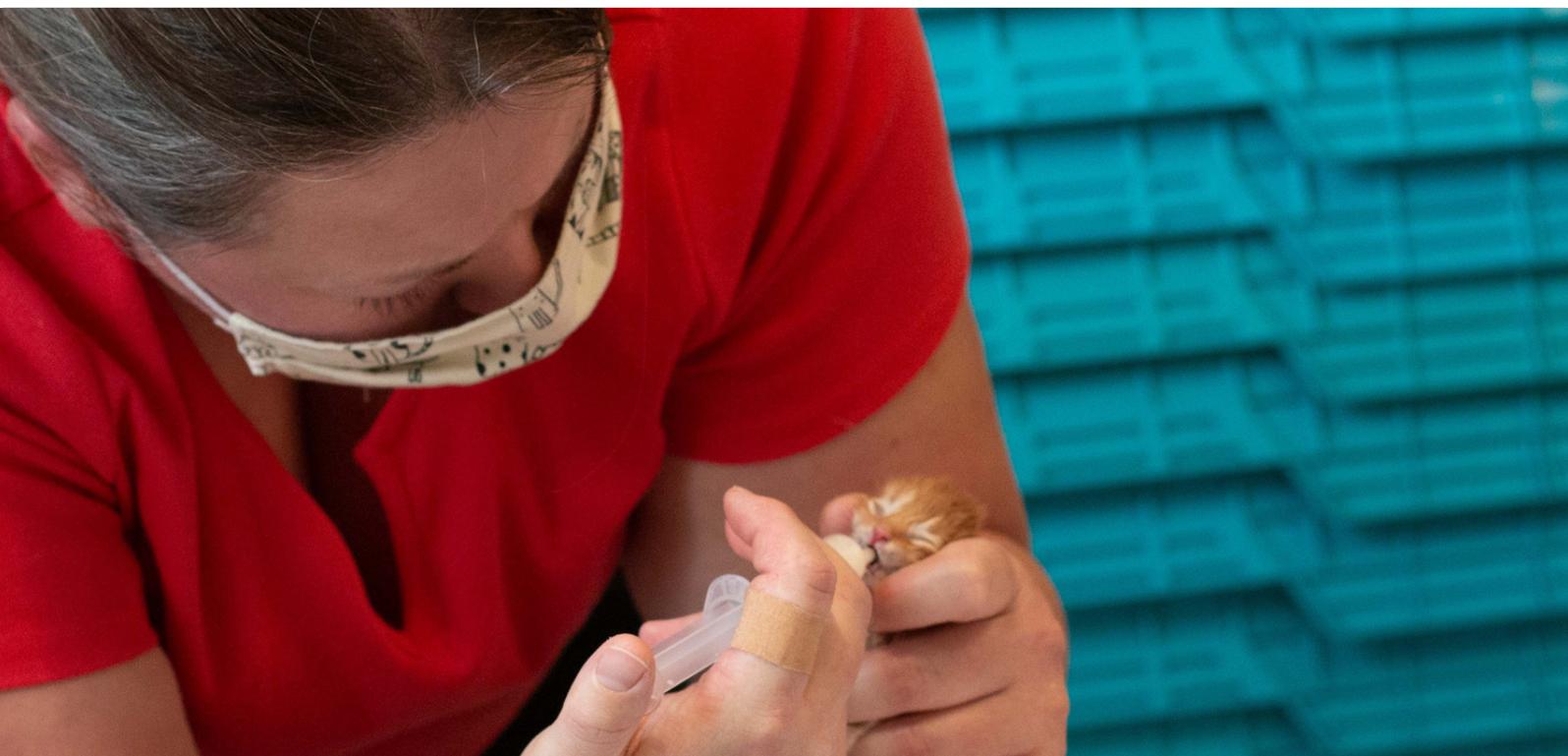
To advance animal welfare protection province-wide, aligned to the Animal Welfare Act, and champion best practices in prevention, sheltering and placement of companion animals.

## Our Vision

The PEI Humane Society will provide leadership across Prince Edward Island, in ensuring the proper treatment of companion animals

## Our Values

- 🐾 Humane treatment and care for all companion animals
- 🐾 Protection from and prevention of abuse and neglect for all companion animals
- 🐾 Promoting informed and responsible ownership of companion animals
- 🐾 Protecting public health and safety relating to companion animals
- 🐾 Promoting the continued health and safety of employees and visitors to the PEI Humane Society



# President's Message

As I reflect on my first term as President and of the past 19 months, I take note on how far we have come while facing such unknowns. I first need to acknowledge and thank the staff and volunteers; they constantly amaze me with their strength and dedication. In a job that can often be filled with so much sadness and pain they continually find the joy. They take everything they have to give to make the animals, who come into their care, feel loved and safe at a time when they need it the most.

COVID-19 has forced us to take a close look at our key priorities and activities while at the same time trying to grow our services. We needed to pivot, be agile and embrace change from every angle. We have done this through our change in approaches to fundraising with having to change some activities and finding new ones to pursue. We also seen changes with our staffing team and model. Change has been the one constant for the Society and these past months have challenged us to our core, but we have held strong and persevered.

We have continued to advance our Board 'Governance Model' building off the framework developed in previous years. Our efforts have focused on activities for enhancing board member engagement and strengthening our policies, procedures and practices. I am confident with our increased board strength and capacity we are on the right path to support the Society in the critical work they do to support communities across PEI.

One of the highlights for the year occurred barely one month into my new role, when we learned that the Society had become the benefactor of the largest donation of \$1.2 Million dollars toward our Expanding our Pawprint Capital Campaign. This milestone was a turning point for us as we could finally shift our efforts from fundraising toward breaking ground. As we prepared to move forward and plans were strategically reviewed, it was clear the design would not meet the needs or could limit future capacities. The decision was made to revisit the entire design to ensure this new modernized space will work for us for years to come.

The new building design aligns and supports the mission and vision of the Society and will enable staff and volunteers the space to provide services to the community and for our furry, feathered, and scaly companion animals who come to us in search of their forever homes.

There have been highs and lows, challenges and opportunities but through each of these it has allowed for tremendous growth and improvement. With the start of the 2022 new year in close view, our eyes can start to shift to explore what new challenges we will face and what opportunities can be leveraged to help us continue to expand and grow the work of the Society.

Tanya Mullally

President, Board of Directors for the PEI Humane Society

# Executive Director's Message

This year, we have started to see animal shelters begin to envision what is possible for animals when we think beyond the concept of sheltering as four walls and a roof. When we focus on a physical structure or building rather than an idea, we limit our thinking of what an animal shelter can be.

Animal shelters are not, and never should have been, a physical “drop box” for animals. Pets are part of our families, part of our communities. That means caring for them and keeping them safe is our collective responsibility.

In a community-driven sheltering model, networks of service providers such as: trap and release teams, rescue groups, veterinarians, community cat caregivers, dog walkers, local businesses, neighborhood groups, and human shelters work together to save and support pets and people, rather than letting that responsibility fall solely on animal shelters.

Collaboration with community organizations has been promoted as an effective way to increase the number of animals' lives saved. Animal welfare is connected to larger systemic challenges for people and pets and companion animal sheltering and welfare organizations play a critical role in advancing human, animal, and environmental health, and welfare in our communities.

Integrated public health initiatives that support and encourage collaboration across human, animal, and environmental service providers to better serve the most vulnerable populations in the community is our goal.

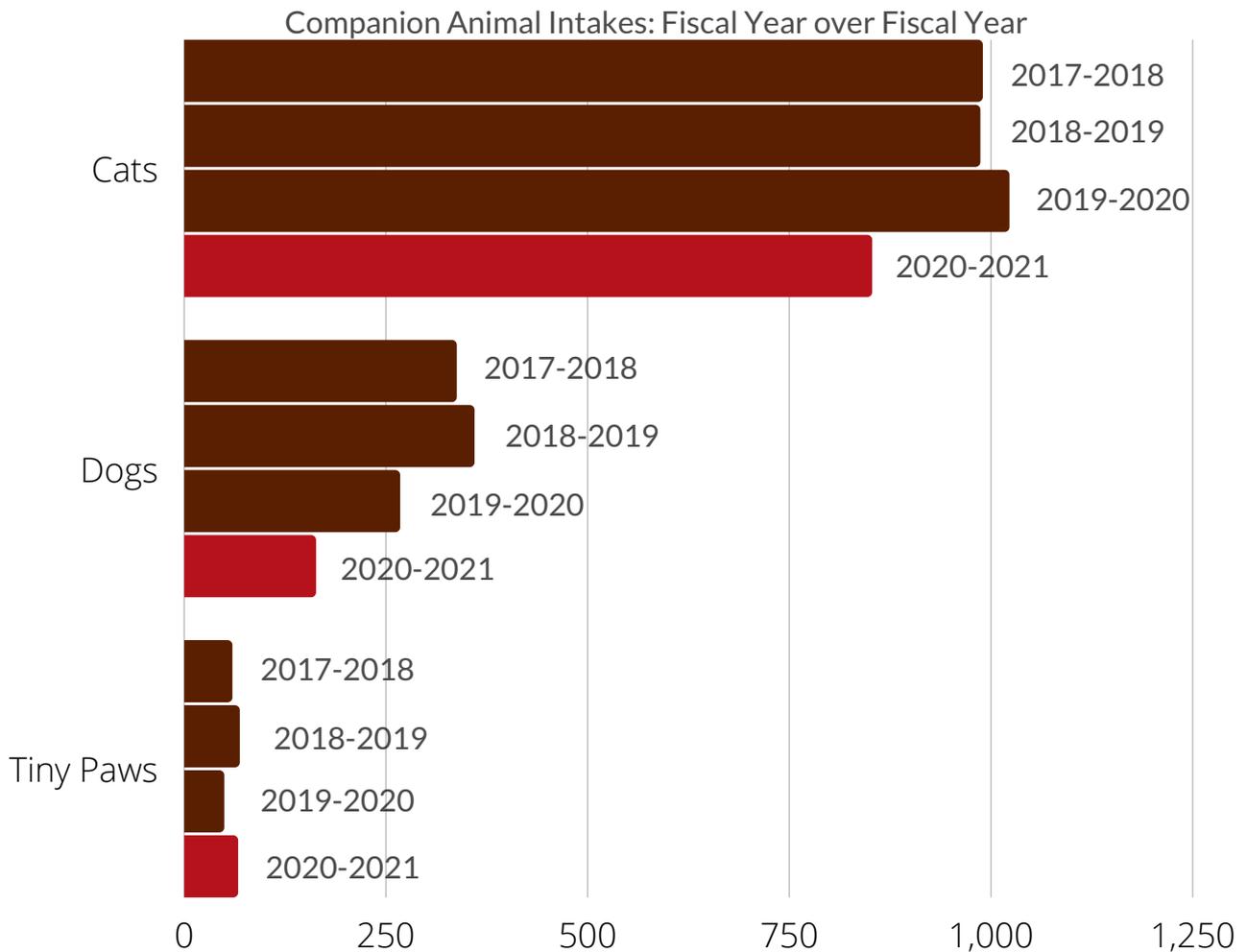
Animal welfare is an industry of compassion and care, and policies that divide should no longer have a place. Animals are companions to people and policies should reflect a desire and goal to keep families and their pets together.

Just as adoptions are a permanent line item in any shelter's budget, so should be community outreach and extending resources to underserved areas. As long as poverty exists, there will be a need for subsidized services including spay/neuter, general wellness care, supplies, adoptions, and much more.

Shelters will always be necessary safe havens for pets who truly do not have a home, but that is not where the conversation ends.

Carolyn Thorne  
Executive Director for the PEI Humane Society

# Animal Care During COVID-19



Intakes of many species of animal decreased in the 2020-21 Fiscal Year.

This is due to several factors coming as a result of the covid-19 pandemic's impact on the delivery of programs and services. Chiefly, we saw an increase in demand for adoptions but a decrease in intakes.

In the 2020-21 Fiscal Year, the PEI Humane Society saw:

- 🐾 517 Surrenders
- 🐾 20 Seizures by Animal Protection Officers
- 🐾 440 Strays
- 🐾 35 Transfers

# 2020-21 BY THE NUMBERS

## ANIMAL INTAKES

1081

CATS: 852  
DOGS: 163  
TINY PAWS: 66

## MEALS SERVED

43,392

AVERAGE LENGTH OF STAY: 20 DAYS

## SURGERIES

2624

## SPAY/NEUTER

559

\*THESE STATISTICS ARE NOT EXHAUSTIVE OF ALL ANIMALS THAT RECEIVE CARE AND HOUSING FROM THE PEI HUMANE SOCIETY.



# PEIHS & AVC



The PEI Humane Society and the Atlantic Veterinary College worked closely together this Fiscal Year. By assisting with research, advancing behavioural training programs and using every opportunity to teach and train one another, we have found great success in this partnership.

In in the 2020-21 Fiscal Year, the PEI Humane Society began looking at taking on transfers both into and out of our shelter. In total, we saw 35 transfers in and facilitated 3 transfers out of the shelter.



Early in 2021, in partnership with the Nova Scotia SPCA, we took in 14 under-socialized and anxious dogs from a large seizure in Cape Breton.

Thanks to the AVC Behaviourist Program, we were able to offer these pups a customized support program, helping them discover what it means to be a dog. We have also been able to offer adopters assistance in training once the dogs left our care thanks to their support.

# The Nova Scotia Dogs

In March of 2021, the PEI Humane Society was contacted and asked if we would consider taking on a transfer of 14 dogs from Nova Scotia. These dogs were part of a larger seizure by the Nova Scotia SPCA from a property in Cape Breton.

The dogs brought to PEI were severely under-socialized, having not had much interaction with human beings. As with most rescues, these dogs needed socialization and rehabilitation before they could begin searching for their forever homes.

Taking in 14 hungry, under-socialized dogs was no small task, but our team jumped at the chance to be part of the story for these wonderful animals. We were able to rely on our relationship with the Atlantic Veterinary College and began working closely with the Behavioral Medicine Service and the AVC's Humane Dog Training program to assist in the rehabilitation process.

While some of the dogs were able to be fostered earlier than others, several remained in the shelter much longer, needing more regular interaction and socialization.

Thankfully, all 14 were adopted but not without many struggles along the way. Our shelter team continues to offer support to the families of these pups, advising them on training techniques and checking in regularly to see how the animals are adjusting to their new lives.



# Animal Protection

The PEI Humane Society's Animal Protection department provides essential services to the Island's companion animals. They improve animal welfare on PEI by providing enforcement of the PEI Dog Act and the Animal Welfare Act. An Animal Protection Officer is on duty 24 hours per day, 7 days per week to handle animal welfare emergencies and enforce municipal bylaw.

## Humane Education

Animal Protection Officers provide humane education services and conduct targeted education Island-wide. The majority of the work Animal Protection Officers do in Island communities is centered around educating animal owners about proper animal treatment and care and the consequences resulting from the failure to comply.

## Enforcement

Thanks to a renewed focus on reporting in 2020-21, Animal Protection Officers were kept well informed of situations requiring enforcement this Fiscal Year.

It's important to remember that not all cases opened will be closed within the same Fiscal Year. Several of our Animal Protection cases span several years and involve multiple complaints from several sources.



# ANIMAL PROTECTION CASE BY TYPE: 2020-21

## HUMANE CASES

409

HUMANE CASES INCLUDE ANY COMPLAINT INVOLVING A COMPANION ANIMAL BEING POTENTIALLY IN DISTRESS.

## BITES THAT BROKE THE SKIN

72

THIS STATISTIC IS INCLUSIVE OF 55 DOGS AND 17 CAT BITES

## DOG ACT CASES

137

## OPEN CASES

831

## BYLAW CASES

154

## CLOSED CASES

793

# ANIMAL PROTECTION STRAY CASES: 2020-21

STRAY DOGS

52

DOGS RETURNED TO OWNER

50

STRAY CATS

370

CATS RETURNED TO OWNER

71

STRAY BIRDS

2

BIRDS RETURNED TO OWNER

0

STRAY TINY PAWS

8

TINY PAWS RETURNED TO OWNER

0



# Lester & Bibbs

These two are such an unlikely pair.

Bibbs (orange) was found in Miscouche, PEI. He was located at a waste disposal site and was found with other kittens his same age. When he came into our care he was terrified and didn't understand how to trust people. Through socialization with other cats and with our staff and volunteers, we were able to get Bibbs to come out of his shell and show us his funny, playful personality!

Lester (dark tabby) had a rough start to life as well. He was found in a lobster trap with rope tied around his leg. He had a broken toe and an injury to one of his hind legs. Eventually, Lester had to have his toe amputated but was friendly and playful right from the beginning. With everything he had been through, we knew Lester needed a pal and we ended up pairing him up with Bibbs to allow them both to socialize.

Though these two came from very different backgrounds, they bonded to one another right away. For this reason, we chose to adopt them as a duo, taking these two little misfits and pairing them together forever. We are happy to say that they were adopted in November of 2020 and are living happily ever after in their new home.

# FUNDRAISING 2020-21

CUPCAKE & BAKE DAY

\$28,681

SUMMER PET PHOTO CONTEST

\$31,497

KITTEN SHOWER

\$7995

ANNUAL CAMPAIGN

\$106,068

# Fundraising

Fundraising for a non-profit like the PEI Humane Society during a global pandemic was challenging. But what was most remarkable, was the community's willingness to come through and support our shelter

Though we did make the tough decision to cancel our annual golf tournament, we were able to come up with a new and exciting fundraiser for the summer months: A Summer Pet Photo Contest!

We noticed that fundraisers that centered around in-person events were the most impacted by the pandemic. Cupcake Day, in early March, was most affected, with a sharp decline in funds raised.

For this reason, we chose to focus on online fundraisers such as the Photo Contest, which took the place of the annual golf tournament, usually held in the summer. The Photo Contest was a tremendous success, raising **\$31,497** in its first year! For this reason, we have chosen to permanently replace the golf tournament with the Photo Contest.





# In-Memory & Bequest

 \$43,434 - donated In-Memory this Fiscal Year

In-memory donations are a staple in our annual fundraising. Though these funds are never expected, they make a sizeable impact on animal care. We thank our many donors who donate to us in memory of passed loved ones - your contributions to our work are all the more meaningful when made In-Memory.

 \$1,728,823 - donated via Bequest this Fiscal Year

This Fiscal Year marked a significant up-swing in October when an Anonymous bequest of \$1.1 Million was received. We were floored by this incredibly generous donation and immediately put the funds toward our Capital building project.

Donations of this sort are known as Legacy gifts. The person who chose to leave this gift has left a legacy at the PEI Humane Society that accelerated our fundraising for our capital build by several years.

To learn more about how you can have a lasting impact at our shelter by leaving a legacy of your own, email Ashley Travis: [atravis@peihumanesociety.com](mailto:atravis@peihumanesociety.com)



# Expanding our Paw Print

## Project delayed until 2022

The covid-19 pandemic continues to put further delays on our capital building project.

Not only has the pandemic caused delays, but after sitting down with our construction team to begin the process of designing our new shelter, it was discovered that many of the spaces that had been planned for would not be large enough to accommodate as many animals as originally intended.

This means that we needed to re-design the building to meet our needs, safety requirements and recommendations from both Humane Canada and the Canadian Kennel Club.

Thankfully, we have been able to continue planning and are ready to begin construction in 2022. We hope to have begun construction before the end of the next Fiscal Year, though the pandemic continues to create issues around construction and timelines could get longer in future.

# Fundraising Challenges: Community Support

Special thanks to our wonderful community partners!



Sir James Dunn Foundation

# Partners

Our partners support our work and share our message. We are thankful to our partners for providing awareness in the community and helping us to help PEI's companion animals.

- 🐾 Cat Action Team
- 🐾 City of Charlottetown
- 🐾 Keeping Cats Homed
- 🐾 Humane Canada
- 🐾 PEI Violence Link Coalition
- 🐾 Province of Prince Edward Island
- 🐾 RCMP and City Police
- 🐾 Southport Animal Hospital
- 🐾 Spay Aid PEI
- 🐾 Town of Cornwall
- 🐾 Town of Stratford

