

animal

www.vancouverhumanesociety.bc.ca
VOLUME 84 SPRING 2024

WRITES



Stella's story

pg 3



Action continues
for farmed animals

pg 5



Helping pets &
their guardians

pg 7



Race horse deaths and injuries prompt concern and calls for change

In 2023, the Vancouver Humane Society sounded the alarm following a spate of horse deaths and incidents at B.C. racecourses.

In just over one month last summer, five racehorses died at Vancouver's Hastings Racecourse. By the end of 2023, a total of 11 deaths and two injuries were reported at Hastings Racecourse and Surrey's Fraser Downs Racetrack.

B.C.'s Gaming Policy and Enforcement Branch, which oversees horse racing in the province, reported eight racehorse deaths in 2022, prompting concern from the VHS and horse advocates about the safety and welfare of horses used in B.C.'s horse racing industry.

A majority of the incidents in 2023 occurred during races or training sessions, with several of the fatalities due to leg fractures. In addition to deaths and injuries, there are also welfare concerns around the stress racehorses experience as a result of aversive training tools and practices, including whips and mouth bits that are meant to strictly control their movements.

CONTINUED ON P. 2

CONTINUED FROM P. 1

Concerns from the VHS were covered in 19 media outlets including Global News, City News Vancouver, The Aldergrove Star, and Victoria News. An opinion piece from the VHS was published in the Daily Hive to raise awareness about the dangers posed to racehorses and to call on Vancouverites not to attend racing events.

Following media coverage around four horse deaths in just three weeks at Hastings Racecourse, local advocates held a protest at a live racing event in August.

With the 2024 horse racing season set to begin in February at Surrey's Fraser Downs

“Unlike human athletes, racehorses are not given a choice of whether to participate ... Their so-called ‘careers’ are short and marked by fear.”

OPINION: AFTER YET ANOTHER DEATH, VANCOUVER SHOULD NOT SUPPORT HORSE RACING; PUBLISHED IN THE DAILY HIVE

Racetrack and in April at Vancouver's Hastings Racecourse, the VHS plans to engage decision-makers around the issue of horse safety and welfare. In the meantime, the VHS has launched a pledge that the public can sign to reflect their concern about recent horse fatalities and incidents and to sign up to receive updates about the VHS's upcoming campaign to advocate for horses made to perform and race. To date, more than 870 people have pledged to boycott inhumane horse races and signed up to receive updates for further action.

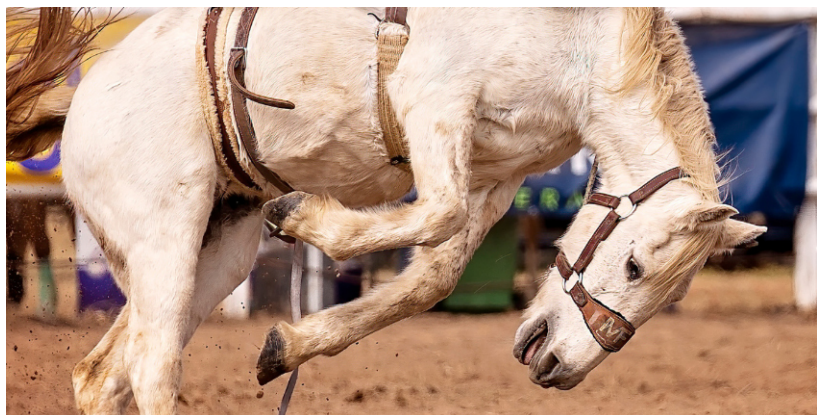
For more information and to take the pledge, visit www.vancouverhumane.ca/horse-racing.

Growing calls to end rodeo cruelty

Following last year's expanded rodeo campaign, the VHS continues to advocate for an end to inhumane rodeo events. In January, the VHS wrote to B.C.'s Minister of Tourism, Lana Popham, concerning the Ministry's decision to provide hundreds of thousands of dollars in funding to events that include rodeos.

The VHS shared with the Minister the recent footage taken at B.C. rodeos, including several which received government funding. The footage shows animals being roughly handled, deliberately agitated, and exhibiting signs of stress and suffering. Animals are seen being hit and kicked and having their ears and tails harshly pulled and twisted while in the chute.

A number of videos also show animals being put at risk of serious injury, including animals



running into or jumping over fences, calves being choked and dragged by the rope around their neck, and frightened animals thrashing in chutes and resisting handlers. The VHS also submitted a cruelty complaint with the footage to the BC SPCA, which is currently being investigated.

The request from the VHS and more than 4,500 concerned

British Columbians to end government funding of inhumane rodeo events was reiterated to Minister Popham.

As rodeo organizers plan for the upcoming 2024 rodeo season, the VHS will continue to advocate for municipal rodeo bylaws and an end to the use of taxpayer dollars to fund inhumane rodeo events.

Animals getting the urgent care they need

An update from the McVitie Fund



Stella is back home

Stella, a lively 7-year-old cat, recently had a critical health scare. Her devoted guardian, Clifford, noticed she had a swollen stomach and immediately rushed her to the only vet in their remote area of Northern British Columbia.

After initial testing, it was determined that Stella was suffering from a pyometra infection, which is a thickening of the uterine lining, leading to bacterial infection. Without treatment, it is a fatal condition.

The costly surgery was beyond Clifford's means as a senior on disability assistance. That is when he reached out to the Vancouver Humane Society for support.

Thanks to the generosity of our community, Stella was able to get the surgery and care she needed and is now back home, being doted on by Clifford.

Clifford told the VHS, "Stella means everything to me. She keeps me company and helps with my mental health every day." Could you donate at www.vancouverhumane.ca/urgentcare to help more animals like Stella get back on their paws?

Saying goodbye to Helping People & Pets in Crisis

Since its inception in 2020, the VHS' Helping People & Pets in Crisis Program (formerly known as Helping Women & Pets in Crisis) provided urgently needed preventative veterinary care for pets of those who do not have a permanent place to live. This includes those who are sheltering outside, those fleeing violence, and those staying in temporary shelters, transition homes, and recovery houses.

During these times of transition and precarity, the program's applicants frequently reported having little or no income to rely on. They faced financial barriers in accessing the mandatory veterinary care needed to secure a space in a shelter or permanent housing, such as having their pet spayed/neutered, vaccinated, dewormed, and free of fleas. Helping People & Pets in Crisis covered the full cost of this care so that pets could remain with loving guardians despite unpredictable circumstances.

Throughout its three years of operation, the program made it possible for 313 guardians to access shelter or permanent housing and for 360 pets to stay united with their beloved companions. The program provided 181 spays/neuters, 228 vaccinations, 62 deworming treatments, and 64 flea treatments.

However, for a small non-profit, operating two veterinary assistance programs presents genuine challenges. The volume of applications for life-saving care received by the McVitie Fund Program consistently grows year after year. After careful deliberation and exploring alternatives, the VHS ended the Helping People & Pets in Crisis Program effective December 31st, 2023. While it was a very difficult decision, this will enable the VHS to continue to provide as much financial support as possible through the McVitie Fund to save pets' lives and keep them together with their families.

The VHS's team is proud of the work the Helping People & Pets in Crisis Program has accomplished, and grateful for the generous donations that enabled hundreds of people to find housing with their beloved pets.

New law changes recognize animal well-being

At the federal level, a ban on cosmetic testing on animals took effect December 22, 2023. Under the new regulations, companies can no longer test cosmetics on animals in Canada or sell new cosmetic products that rely on animal testing to prove their safety. Canada joins more than 40 countries that have restricted or ended cosmetic animal testing.



B.C. family law has also recognized companion animals' safety, well-being, and place as part of the family with a recent change. Family courts in the province will no longer treat pets as "property" in divorce and separation proceedings. This positive change "breaks new legislative ground for treating companion animals as valued family members," said V. Victoria Shroff of Shroff Animal Law.

Giving Tuesday makes a difference

This past fall, compassionate supporters of both the Happy Herd and the VHS helped raise \$23,532 through our joint Giving Tuesday campaign. This makes 2023 the most successful year of this campaign to date!

Generous supporters of Giving Tuesday helped provide funds...

...to cover food for all the cows of the Happy Herd for eight months

...AND for fourteen vet visits to the Happy Herd

...AND to cover food costs for all 22 goats at the Happy Herd for six months

...AND for lifesaving tests for 35 pets in need through the VHS's McVitie Fund

...AND to reach 156,922 animal allies to advocate for meaningful policy changes that will improve animal lives!

Thank you to everyone in the community who shared about the event, purchased a plant-based pizza from Panago on November 28th, or gave a gift to help animals.



NOODLES AND SPARKY AT THE HAPPY HERD

The VHS and the Happy Herd are especially grateful to major Giving Tuesday sponsors:

FRASER HALL

PANAGO

**SPEARHEAD
TRUCKING
CONTRACTORS**

VICKY RESHETYLO

New footage from Excelsior Hog Farm prompts action for farmed animals

The VHS is once again calling for better protections for farmed animals after disturbing new undercover footage, allegedly filmed at Excelsior Hog Farm in Abbotsford between April and June 2023, was released by Animal Justice. The footage shows cruel handling practices, including pigs being kicked in the stomach and face, and injured and dead pigs in filthy conditions.

This comes after a previous undercover investigation at the same farm in 2019 also showed concerning on-farm conditions and treatment of pigs. Though the farm has faced no

consequences for overwhelming evidence of animal suffering, two activists who exposed the cruelty face jail time from being convicted of break and enter and mischief—the only known jail sentence in Canadian history for peaceful protest.

Meaningful action is needed to protect animals, including government-mandated and proactively enforced farmed animal welfare regulations; publicly available reports of independent, third-party audits on farms and in slaughterhouses; consistent video surveillance; and

appropriate deterrents to prevent animal cruelty, including unannounced inspections and effective penalties for industry stakeholders who are found guilty of animal cruelty.

You can contact B.C.'s Minister of Agriculture, Hon. Pam Alexis, at 250-387-1023 to express your concern for farmed animal well-being, or use the VHS's quick action tool to send a message to the Minister and other provincial decision-makers at www.vancouverhumane.ca/pig-farm.

Progress to ban the live export of horses for slaughter

Last year, the VHS joined animal protection organizations across the country to raise awareness of and opposition to the inhumane live horse export industry, which ships gentle draft horses on long and stressful journeys overseas for slaughter.

The VHS team partnered with the president of the Canadian Horse Defence Coalition (CHDC) to release an episode of The Informed Animal Ally podcast, Live horse exports with Sinikka Crosland. The VHS also submitted a letter with animal organizations nationwide that led to a meeting with government officials.

Thanks to the efforts of advocates across the country, two bills were introduced to ban the industry. Senate Bill S-270, the Horse Protection Act, was introduced by Senator Pierre Dalphond and singer-songwriter Jann Arden, while Bill C-355 was introduced in the House of Commons by Liberal MP Tim Louis. On January 31st, 181 Members of Parliament voted yes at the second reading of Bill C-355, meaning that the bill to prohibit this cruel practice will advance to the Agriculture Committee.



PHOTO: CANADIAN HORSE DEFENCE COALITION

Thank you to our donors

Thank you to the following, who remembered loved ones with a gift to help animals:

Christina Kosainc in memory of Nermal Kitty
Theodora Carroll in memory of Cleo and Theodora's 9 other rescued dogs, 3 cats, 1 horse, and 1 guinea pig
Anton Cavelti in memory of Mary Auerbach
Melanie Barry in memory of Bob Barker
José Navarro in memory of Roland G. Verne
Patricia Creed in memory of Shyla the dog
Toby Fouks in memory of Penny
Ed Graham in memory of Samuel Graham
Shoshana Somerville in memory of Dusty Rose Bud & Rosabella
Barbara Pope in memory of Joyce Pearkes
Toby Fouks in memory of Kobe
Katie Eliot in memory of Mikey
Don & Maggie Flintoff in memory of Kiwi
Donald DesRoches in memory of Minou
Jacqueline Adler in memory of Chintzy
Teri Matthews in memory of Kiki
Johanna Hickey in memory of Rosie
Caroline Cassel in memory of Guinness
Cathy Spence in memory of Baby Doll
Elizabeth Tait in memory of Minnie and Mousie
Mike Carlson in memory of Calvin
Judy Werts in memory of Ivy
Fales
Gail Spencer in memory of Rufus Keevil
Nikki Pohynayko in memory of Whistler
Veronica Yeoh in memory of Enzo Kennedy
Marelyn Rugg in memory of precious and beloved Hamish

Thank you to the following, who honoured others with a gift for the animals:

Chenxing Shou in honour of Jimmy Shou
Olivia Suddaby in honour of Raven Sky

Mimi Allen in honour of Atlas Allen
Nadene Morton in honour of Morgan
Celine Lopez in honour of Alexane Lion-Lopez
Gary Schnell in honour of Maverick
Lauren Hollis in honour of Joana
Leah McNeil in honour of Lorraine Bell
Catherine Tam in honour of Judy Lerner
Karoline Eilers in honour of Janie Chang
Joanne Pagnucco in honour of Joanne's best friend, Roxy
Arthur Leung in honour of Aliyah Tran
Lola Merenda in honour of Mrs. Barbara Wrinkle
Paul Hollingshead in honour of Nicole Adams & Jason Lee
Kathy Feys in honour of Julie Haubrich
Ron Morse in honour of Douglas and Jennifer Morse
Ron Morse in honour of Jeffrey and Robin Morse
Michele Manthey in honour of Jeffrey Joudrey
Elizabeth Tait in honour of Susan Jackson
Cindy and Chris Eckert in honour of Kay and Pat Choquette
Dayna Winter in honour of Carter Smith

We thank those who have generously left a gift to VHS in their will. Their memories will live on in our work for animals:

Irene Horne
Lynne Joan McNicholls

Thank you to the following businesses and organizations that support our work:

All of the businesses that supported the 2023 VHS silent auction
All of the businesses that supported Giving Tuesday
A special thanks to Panago Pizza
JIF Law Corporation

We would like to sincerely thank the following foundations for their generous funding through grants:

Rob and Leanne McConnachie through Conam Charitable Foundation in memory of Ernie Smith
Andre & Trudel Kroecher Fund, held at Nicola Wealth Private Giving Foundation
Withers Family Fund, held at Nicola Wealth Private Giving Foundation
The Carol & Don Lyster Foundation, through Benefaction Foundation
Faigen Family Fund, through Jewish Community Foundation of Greater Vancouver
The Barbara Claire MacKenzie Foundation through Aqueduct Foundation
North Shore Community Foundation
Dr. Hinda Avery Foundation, through Vancity Community Foundation in memory of Mary Auerbach
Eden Conservation Trust
Donner Canadian Foundation
Peter & June Young Legacy Fund, through Vancouver Foundation
Provincial Employees Community Services Fund

We are truly grateful to our amazing volunteers, who give their time to support our work.

Our monthly donors are our heroes. Thank you to all of you, from the bottom of our hearts!



Mark your calendar; the VHS's biggest fundraisers of the year are back!

Because They Matter

The VHS is excited to announce that the 'Because They Matter' fundraising event will return for the fourth year running on Sunday July 21st! You can join the VHS team in supporting animals and their guardians who spend their days on the streets of Vancouver's Downtown Eastside by participating or donating!

More details will be available on the VHS website this spring at www.vancouverhumane.ca/because-they-matter.



If you have any questions about either event, please contact the VHS's Development Coordinator Katrina Leppänen by email at katrina@vancouverhumanesociety.bc.ca or phone at 604-266-1012.

Online silent auction

The VHS online silent auction is returning October 17-27! Every purchase of unique, local, plant-based and animal-friendly items/experiences helps to support the VHS's work creating a more humane world for animals. More information will be available on the VHS website this summer.

The VHS is also looking for donations of items! If you have an item or experience that you'd like to donate for the auction, please get in touch.

Improving outcomes for animals across Canada



VHS is expanding its educational initiatives and fostering collaborative partnerships with the Trauma-Informed Training program, which has now reached 1,943 online enrollments. The program offers invaluable guidance to animal service workers and organizational leaders on implementing trauma-informed and culturally safe approaches while addressing compassion fatigue and burnout. Strengthening its

impact, VHS has partnered with 13 organizations for remote and in-person workshops, including collaborations with four BC-based organizations.

VHS also hosted two webinars in 2023, and both are available online for free on the VHS's YouTube channel. Empowering change: Trauma-Informed Leadership in the Animal Services Sector sheds light on the ways leaders can integrate trauma-informed care into their organizations to positively

impact the animals they serve, the well-being of the people who care for them, and the staff who interact with both animals and guardians. Exploring Veterinary Social Work in Animal Services provides insights about the intersection of veterinary practice and social work.

Learn more about the Trauma-Informed Training Program at www.vancouverhumane.ca/training.

LEAVE A LEGACY FOR ANIMALS

A MEANINGFUL GIFT IN YOUR WILL

Your love of animals can extend beyond your lifetime. A gift in your will ensures the VHS can continue creating a kinder future for all animals.

Find more information and sample bequest wording by visiting: www.vancouverhumane.ca/leave-a-legacy

CONTACT US:

For more information, please contact the VHS's Development Coordinator, Katrina Leppänen.

Tel: 604-266-1012

Email: katrina@vancouverhumanesociety.bc.ca



A gift in your will means the VHS can continue providing life-saving care to animals like Lucky through the McVitie Fund for years to come.

Try it at home: Classic tomato soup

INGREDIENTS:

- 1/2 onion
- 5 cloves garlic
- 2 tsp paprika
- 2 cups vegetable broth
- salt and pepper (to taste)
- 1/2 tbsp sugar
- 1 tsp basil
- 1/2 tsp thyme
- 1 can crushed tomatoes (796 ml)
- 1 can coconut milk (400 ml)

DIRECTIONS:

Chop the onion and sauté for about 3 minutes in olive oil. Add diced or crushed garlic and sauté for another minute. Stir in paprika and cook for about 30 seconds. Add crushed tomatoes, salt, pepper, sugar, basil, and thyme and cook covered on medium-low for 20 minutes. Add coconut milk and cook uncovered for 8 minutes. Remove from heat and blend.

This recipe was brought to you by the VHS's PlantUniversity platform. Find more plant-based recipes at www.plantuniversity.ca and see how you can stand up for animals every time you sit down to eat!



VANCOUVER HUMANE SOCIETY
HELPING PEOPLE HELP ANIMALS

#303 – 8623 Granville Street
Vancouver, B.C. V6P 5A2
Charity No. 8897 13178 RR 0001
*Listening, learning, and unlearning on unceded
xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), skwxwú7mesh
(Squamish) & selilwiltulh (Tseil-Waututh)
territories.*

Web: www.vancouverhumanesociety.bc.ca
Email: info@vancouverhumanesociety.bc.ca
Phone: 604.266.9744

Board of Directors:

Ryan McCracken, *President*
Danielle George, *Vice President*
Rob Monteverde, *Treasurer*
Angela Yadav, *Director*
Chris Morcom, *Director*
Dean Yano, *Director*
Shannon Wong, *Director*
Tessa Vanderkop, *Director*
Dan Fine, *Director*
Kristi Kral, *Director*

Staff:

Amy Morris, *Executive Director*
Chantelle Archambault,
Communications Director

Emily Pickett, *Campaign Director*
Katrina Leppänen, *Development
Coordinator*
Brooklyn Fowler, *Program Manager*
Sareeta Lopez, *Program Manager*
Heather Whitehead, *Program Manager*
Ishtmeet Bhoey, *Program Coordinator*

Editors:

Chantelle Archambault
Amy Morris

Printing: *Vancouver Graphics Group*



Printed on recycled paper
with vegetable-based ink.