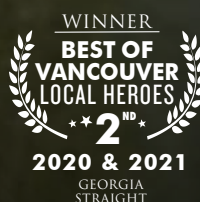


Helping animals ... and their people



Picasso
RAPS CAT
SANCTUARY

2023 Annual Report





The Preciousness of Life

REPORT FROM
THE PRESIDENT



For almost three decades, RAPS has been saving and improving the lives of animals. For most of that time, Fearn Edmonds led the organization, as president of the board.

This is my first full year at the helm – but Fearn is still deeply engaged as vice-president, and I rely on her wisdom and institutional memory in continuing the work she and so many began. The RAPS board has always taken a collaborative approach, so hierarchical titles like “president” don’t mean as much as they do in some other situations. Transitioning into my new role has been fairly easy, in part because of Fearn’s continuing support and also because we have been a team for so long.

This transition in part mirrors the changes in the organization at large. The more things change, the more, in some ways, they stay the same. RAPS has seen enormous changes in recent years: The opening of the RAPS Animal Hospital. The professionalization of systems and structures of operation. An exponential growth in the number of animals and people served. The advent of a hit TV show based on our work.

But the most important things don’t change. Everything we do is still, as it always has been, based on the principle that every animal deserves a chance at a happy, healthy life. We are a no-kill animal-serving organization. This is a promise we make to the animals we care for and to the people who support us. Animals who would face euthanasia in other places find a forever home with RAPS. That’s why other rescue organizations from across B.C. and even further afield contact us and we welcome animals who have nowhere else to go.

All of this has a cost. Many of the animals we care for have specific health conditions that require ongoing monitoring or interventions. Even the healthiest animals require routine wellness regimens, as well as food, shelter and individualized care! For everything we do, we depend on individuals like you.

Throughout the year, we come to our supporters with requests for urgent support. Each time we have an emergency case or a special rescue operation, we issue a plea for you to help us save lives! We ask a lot – we know that. And our community always comes through! We trust you to understand that these requests are the only thing that makes possible all our lifesaving work.

In these pages, you will see a few of the stories that you and animal allies like you have made possible this year. As you read along, know that these animals are safe, healthy and happy because of you. These are the good news stories that your generosity make possible.

The animals can’t thank you in words. So, on their behalf (and on behalf of the humans too!) THANK YOU!

CATHERINE ELLSMERE, PRESIDENT





Coming Together!

REPORT FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



For the first time in more than five years, the RAPS family came together this year as a community! Dine Among the Stars – the 2023 RAPS gala celebration – was a glittering celebration of all we have achieved.

The magnitude of that achievement cannot be understood without context. The pandemic was difficult for everyone, worldwide. For RAPS, the global health crisis presented some unique challenges. Delivering care to thousands of animals throughout one of the most unprecedented periods in human history demanded some very strategic approaches.

Perhaps most astounding is the progress we made as an organization despite the hurdles cast in our way by the pandemic. Even in the face of all the difficulties, every year we have increased the impact of our work. We are helping more animals and people than ever before.

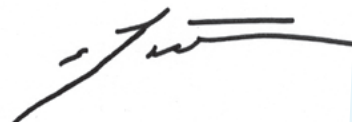
RAPS Animal Hospital had been operating for almost exactly two years when the pandemic hit. This is a critical moment in the history of any undertaking, a time of continued solidification of processes and routines. We put in place standards of operation that ensured the safety of humans and, of course, animals (who, thankfully, are not at risk for COVID). During this challenging period, we continued to build strong relationships in the community. We were even voted “Community Heroes” – second only to nurses, who truly deserve that venerable designation!

Amid all this – it’s almost funny to imagine in retrospect – we decided to share the RAPS story with global audiences through the TV show *Pets & Pickers*. We are now in production for Season 3. So many heartwarming, hilarious, dramatic, nerve-racking and uplifting stories have already been shared. But we have so many more stories to tell!

Each story shared on TV is a tip of the iceberg that only hints at the impact we have as an organization. While the RAPS team that appears on TV is the face of the organization to viewers, the real stars are YOU.

Everything we achieve – every life we save and improve – is possible because you have chosen to support RAPS.

I echo Catherine’s gratitude to you for your kindness and commitment to animals and urge you to take pride in every achievement you read in these pages. Because YOU made them happen!



EYAL LICHTMANN, CEO

WATCH OUR #1
AWARD-WINNING
TV SHOW



RAPS Cat Sanctuary



The RAPS no-kill promise:

Under our care, no animal is ever euthanized due to lack of space, treatable illness, physical defect, age, behavioural or socialization issues.

RAPS was founded 27 years ago on the belief that every animal has the right to a safe, healthy and happy life.

Over the succeeding quarter-century, much has changed. The organization has grown exponentially. We care for all kinds of animals – not just cats – and our mission has expanded to recognize that helping animals often requires helping their people, too.

But one thing has not changed: *Our commitment to this foundational no-kill promise.*

The RAPS Cat Sanctuary represents this promise in action. In Canada and around the world, cats are euthanized far too often simply because the organizations that would care for them do not have the space to do so. Our sprawling, farm-like setting – this “Kitty Club Med” as we call it – always has room!

Len & Lloyd
RAPS CAT
SANCTUARY



**EVERYTHING WE
DO IS POSSIBLE
BECAUSE OF YOU**

What does “unadoptable” mean?

We often say that the hundreds of residents at the RAPS Cat Sanctuary are “mostly unadoptable.” This is a simplification of the complex reality. Sometimes cats do get adopted from the Sanctuary. And lots more could go to family homes. The reality is simply that most of these residents have an “issue” – either a physical or behavioural condition – that makes adoption less likely. Most of these conditions are entirely manageable – like FIV, feline leukemia or diabetes – but the number of available cats looking for homes and the availability of cats that are unlikely to require, for example, daily insulin shots, make the likelihood of these cats getting adopted remote. Behavioural issues, like incontinence, are likewise red lines for most adoptive homes! Some cats just prefer the company of other cats to humans and so the Sanctuary is the best place for them. (This is also true of some of our volunteers!)

Whatever their quirks or conditions, these cats are catered to everyday by our staff team and a small army of volunteers who provide every bit of care and attention the cats need and want.

A place for people

The RAPS Cat Sanctuary may be a “Kitty Club Med” but it is also a beloved destination for bipeds! Hundreds of families make excursions to the Sanctuary a tradition – and more people are discovering it every week!

People who are not able to have pets of their own come to immerse themselves in the presence of feline company.

*If you haven't visited
the Sanctuary yet, make
it a new family tradition!
The humans and (most of)
the cats will be thrilled
to see you!*





CAT LITTER
65,000
LBS PER YEAR



CATS WITH
FELINE AIDS
38

REQUIRING EXTENSIVE
MEDICAL & DENTAL CARE
DUE TO WEAKENED
IMMUNE SYSTEMS



CAT FOOD
350-500
CANS PER DAY



CATS WITH
FELINE LEUKEMIA
9

NEEDING DAILY
REVIEW OF MEDICAL
CONDITION



TOP NOTCH
VET CARE
\$525,000
PER YEAR
ON RAPS CATS



FLEA
TREATMENTS
380+
CATS PER
MONTH



DENTAL
TREATMENTS
75-80
CATS PER YEAR



HYPER THYROID
MEDICATION
5
PER DAY

SUPPLEMENTS FOR
SUPPRESSED IMMUNE
SYSTEMS
40-45
TWICE PER DAY

SUB-Q FLUIDS
8
PER DAY

ASTHMA PUFFERS
8
PER DAY

ANTI-ANXIETY
7
PER DAY



INSULIN
5
TWICE PER DAY



BLOOD WORK
25-30
TO MONITOR KIDNEY
DISEASE / EVERY
3-6 MONTHS



MEDICATION
10
BLOOD, LIVER, METABOLIC
ISSUES / PER DAY

MEDICATION
15-20
FOR ALLERGIES OR
CHRONIC PAIN /
PER DAY

MEDICATION
10+
FOR ARTHRITIS
/ PER DAY



ANTIBIOTICS
15-25
FOR EYE ISSUES, UPPER
RESPIRATORY INFECTIONS,
PUNCTURES, ABSCESSES,
AND OTHER ISSUES

DAILY CAT SANCTUARY CARE

The definition of “Sanctuary”

This year, we integrated the RAPS Adoption Centre into the larger RAPS Cat Sanctuary.

The term “sanctuary” usually denotes a place where animals live for the rest of their lives. A “shelter” is usually a place where animals reside while awaiting a forever home. These terms do apply in the RAPS context – but reality is rarely so black-and-white. We usually say that the RAPS Cat Sanctuary is home to “mostly unadoptable” cats. This is true – but the term “unadoptable” needs some clarification. Many of the cats who live at the Sanctuary are entirely suited to living in a family home. But, as we mentioned earlier, they have behavioral quirks or physical differences that mean they are unlikely to be adopted.

The integration of the adoption sector into the Sanctuary reflects the fluidity of these definitions. What is absolutely clear is this: RAPS cares for every animal – whether they are with us for a week or a lifetime – with individualized care and all the emotional and physical support they require.

Cornelius & Mercury
RAPS CAT
SANCTUARY

 **% OF CANADIAN
HOUSEHOLDS
HAVE A CAT***

38%

**AVERAGE ANNUAL COST OF
CARING FOR A CAT IN CANADA
IS APPROXIMATELY***

\$3,700

& THAT OF A DOG IS ABOUT**

\$4,000

**WHEN YOU GIVE,
THEY LIVE!**

RAPS Adoption & Education Program



Maximizing the delivery of services to the most animals and people possible on the most efficient budgets is a RAPS priority.

This year, we streamlined the operations of our cat and kitten adoption processes by integrating the standalone RAPS Adoption and Education Center into the larger, existing RAPS Cat Sanctuary facility.

In addition to reducing duplication of efforts among staff and volunteers, this has the added benefit of providing more space for adoptable cats and greater opportunities for socializing with other animals. It also allows staff and volunteers to more effectively and efficiently monitor the behaviour of cats in an environment that is more natural than a kennel-based facility.

Valerie Wilson

ASSISTANT MANAGER,
RAPS CAT SANCTUARY

PETCUREAN HELPS RAPS KEEP PETS HAPPY AND HEALTHY



Elvis was destined for Heartbreak Hotel when he was discovered in a remote coastal community. He had probably been hit by a car and he was in very bad shape.

His mouth was particularly affected, his gums irritated and swollen. He had broken and fractured teeth.

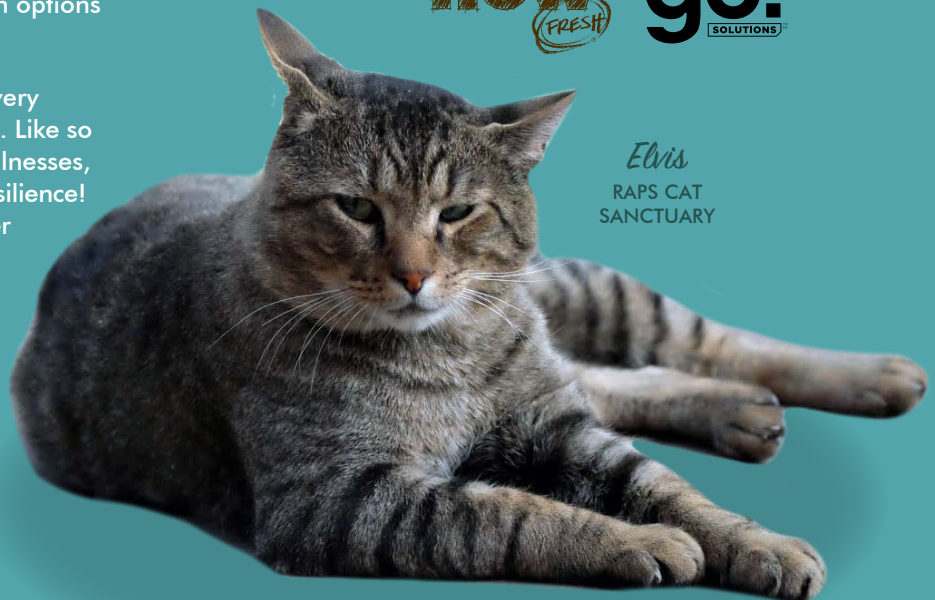
A series of veterinary hospitals that didn't have the capacity to help Elvis contacted the RAPS Animal Hospital. As a nonprofit hospital operated by a no-kill organization, RAPS is often called upon when options run out for a desperate animal.

Elvis got the dental work he needed and a very substantial range of other medical treatments. Like so many animals who have faced very serious illnesses, injuries or disabilities, he showed amazing resilience! He was recently adopted into a loving forever home – an extraordinary happy ending to a very challenging story.

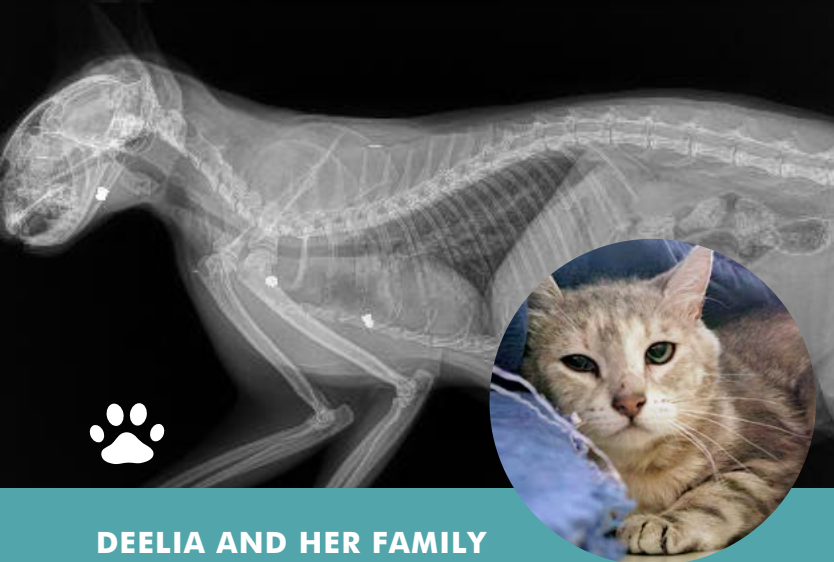
For a cat who has suffered like Elvis has, recovering full health means getting the nutrition he needs. This can be especially difficult when an animal has a major injury to his mouth, jaw and teeth, as Elvis had. Getting adequate nourishment is a cornerstone to recovery.

Fortunately, the residents at the RAPS Cat Sanctuary receive some of the finest, tastiest, scientifically balanced, nutrient-rich foods – **Petcurean's Now Fresh** brand, in flavours like wild salmon pate and minced chicken recipe – which Elvis loves.

RAPS exists to save the lives of animals like Elvis who, in other circumstances, might not have had the chance. We depend on amazing allies like our friends at Petcurean, makers of premium pet foods including Elvis' fave, Now Fresh, to keep the animals in our care healthy and happy!



Elvis
RAPS CAT
SANCTUARY



DEELIA AND HER FAMILY

Mama (and grandma) Deelia was shot. Deelia and her four-week-old kittens were surrendered to Sammy's Forgotten Felines, a rescue agency we work with in the Kamloops area. Deelia and her five kittens – plus Deelia's adult daughter, Lydia, who was pregnant! – came to us this year.

Our friends at Sammy's were concerned about Deelia's breathing. She also seemed bloated. They took her to the vet and discovered she had been shot.

Lydia gave birth to four baby boys on May 8. The whole extended family were transferred to RAPS on May 21.

Deelia went to RAPS Animal Hospital on June 8, where she received full body X-rays that showed three bullets, which were removed in surgery.

After experiencing the inhumanity that some bipeds are capable of, Deelia, Lydia and their extended family are luxuriating in the care and love that they missed out on earlier.

The kittens have gone to live with forever families, while Lydia and Deelia will be assessed for their level of socialization. Cats that have been homeless for a long time are sometimes hard to accommodate in human homes – but these are both young cats and we hope they will find individual homes. If not, they will live forever in our "Kitty Club Med," the RAPS Cat Sanctuary.



Singles or Pairs?

Always what's best for the animal

RAPS judges every potential adoption on a case-by-case basis and what is best for the animal. In general, though, we favour adopting kittens or cats in pairs, if there are not already cats in the home. Here's why ...

Jinx and Whiskers are six-year-old cats who came to RAPS recently. They have been together their whole lives, are completely bonded and are distressed when apart.

These two are an example of an informal policy RAPS has of adopting cats in pairs. But even cats who are not so firmly bonded as these two will generally be adopted in pairs – based on the latest research in animal welfare.

Of course, every cat has a distinctive personality. Some just don't get along with other felines and obviously RAPS will place these animals in a home with only human companions. It is always on a case-by-case basis.

Single Kitten Syndrome is an acknowledged phenomenon in which kittens who are raised with other kittens and cats, then adopted into a home by themselves, can become aggressive, anxious, stressed and, in extreme cases, develop issues like chewing, scratching, or inappropriate litter box behaviours. They can become depressed, too.

Humans can be great companions, but we are not a replacement for their own species.

That's why we have a policy of adopting in pairs – but it's a policy, not a law. Every case is considered on its merits.

RAPS HAS SAVED
200%
MORE KITTENS THIS YEAR
THAN LAST YEAR

Thank you PetSmart Charities!

Partnering with PetSmart to Save More Lives!

The RAPS team was thrilled to be approved in late 2022 to start the PetSmart Charities Canada Accelerator Grant.



Accelerator is a multi-year grant designed to help expand nonprofit, low-cost, financially sustainable veterinary clinics serving the estimated 50 million companion pets that do not receive adequate vet care in the United States and Canada, primarily due to economic constraints.

Phase 1 began in 2023 with a grant to prepare and plan for an expansion of both the space and operating hours of the RAPS Animal Hospital.

Phase 2, now underway, is seeing the infrastructure at our hospital expanded to serve more animals and their people.

RAPS is working together with PetSmart Charities Accelerator Grant recipients from Canada and the United States to learn more about and share best practices in the nonprofit veterinary space. This includes monthly meetings and workshops, in addition to the vital financial support PetSmart Charities Canada is providing!

"I cannot recommend RAPS enough. They stepped up to help a seriously injured cat that was found in distress, and needed specialized surgery. She may not have made it without them, and now she has a second chance. This agency definitely deserves all the support they can get."

– GOOGLE REVIEW

**RAPS IS HELPING
30%**

**MORE ANIMALS YEAR ON YEAR
THESE ARE HUGE GROWTH RATES!**

COLLEGE OF THE ROCKIES



This year, RAPS welcomed 14 cats rescued from a semi-managed colony at Cranbrook's College of the Rockies. They had lived together on campus, some of them for 10 years. They are healthy, have names, individual personalities, and are strongly bonded to one another. They have been spayed or neutered and were depending on the food, water and shelter provided to them through the volunteer colony caretaker.

While these cats were cared for, this was clearly not an ideal situation for them. The weather and other dangers, such as predators, made the RAPS Cat Sanctuary a better forever home for these animals.

They are now safe and cared for at the RAPS Cat Sanctuary!

FROM STREET LIFE TO SAFE LIFE



HAPPY ENDING FOR BROOKE

As part of a larger rescue operation, RAPS saved a cat who, according to witnesses, had spent about a year with a rope wrapped around her head and shoulder. The cat, who we named Brooke, was fortunate to have no permanent nerve damage.

In total, five adult cats and three kittens have so far been rescued from an industrial site on Shell Road in Richmond.

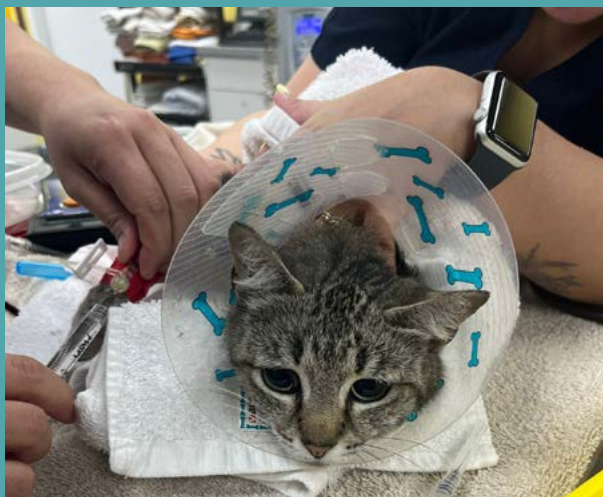
An on-site video camera captured a harrowing scene in which a kitten was chased by a raccoon. When RAPS staff didn't see the kitten for several days, they feared the worst. A celebration erupted when the baby, now named Ensalada, was trapped and is now safe.

Neighbours in the area had been putting out food for the cats, but they needed to be rescued.

"Cats and kittens in these situations are never OK," says Valerie Wilson, assistant manager of the RAPS Cat Sanctuary. "Their life expectancy is short and their quality of life is negligible. They must be rescued and given the protection, veterinary care and safe housing they need."

The rescued cats have a range of physical conditions and received the care they needed at the RAPS Animal Hospital. They were SNAP tested for FIV and FeLV, spayed or neutered, and vaccinated.

As for Brooke, she is doing well at the Cat Sanctuary. Wilson suspects that Brooke had been tied to a fixture by a human and escaped. Despite this trauma, Brooke is remarkably docile and adores attention. She's fitting in perfectly with the residents at the Sanctuary!



56%

OF DOG
PARENTS
ACQUIRED
THEIR
DOG AS
A PUPPY

Nikita
RAPS ADOPTION
& FOSTER
PROGRAM

Doggy Dreams

The Cat Sanctuary is a dream come true for animals who would have faced euthanasia in other jurisdictions but who live out their lives in luxury thanks to RAPS!

We want to construct a state-of-the-art RAPS Dog Sanctuary, a facility where dogs will be immersed in all the socialization, training, rehabilitation and care they need to become the dogs we know they can be. The aim will be that, no matter how long it takes, these dogs will eventually find themselves at the heart of a loving forever family.

Shena Novotny
MANAGER,
RAPS CAT
SANCTUARY

Blueberry
RAPS ADOPTION
& FOSTER
PROGRAM



RAPS Animal Hospital

RAPS
ANIMAL 
HOSPITAL



The RAPS Animal Hospital has catapulted the organization's impact, exponentially increasing the number of animals we serve.

With the double impact of eliminating external veterinary expenses (which were once among our most daunting expenditures) and generating revenues from services to the public, the hospital is foundational to our success and our potential.

We believe that nonprofit veterinary care is the way of the future – and plenty agree!

Clients agree – the knowledge that the cost of necessary care for one's animals is being reinvested to help less fortunate animals is why so many people are choosing the RAPS Animal Hospital.

Veterinary professionals agree – in a time of disastrous labour shortages among veterinarians and support professionals all across North America, RAPS Animal Hospital has doctors and technicians reaching out to us because our nonprofit model prioritizes the well-being of the animal over profits ... and that makes it a great place to work!

Pets and their families agree – because, too often, in the for-profit sector, people are forced to make life-and-death decisions based on ability to pay. RAPS Animal Hospital has B.C.'s only no-interest payment plan and we have provided more than \$5.5 million in partially and fully subsidized care since we opened! These are lives saved!

Our hospital continues to innovate and lead the sector, with Canada's only hyperbaric oxygen therapy facility for companion animals, fluorescent light therapy and in-house diagnostics, among other innovations.

**RAPS HAS PROVIDED
APPROXIMATELY**

**\$5.5
MILLION**

**IN SUBSIDIES TO THE COMMUNITY
SINCE OPENING IN 2018**

HELPING ANIMALS ... AND THEIR PEOPLE



ONLY 
46%
OF CAT
PARENTS IN
CANADA
TAKE THEIR
PETS TO
THE VET*

Dr. Schwartz
VETERINARIAN,
RAPS ANIMAL
HOSPITAL

* <https://petkeen.com/pet-ownership-statistics-canada/>

Canada's Destination for Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy

Used for decades in human medical care, veterinary application of hyperbaric oxygen therapy is a comparatively new approach, available at some of the most advanced veterinary practices in the United States.

The RAPS Animal Hospital is proud to be the only hyperbaric oxygen therapy provider in Canada serving cats, dogs and other companion animals.

Hyperbaric oxygen therapy (HBOT) can deliver anti-inflammatory, anti-microbial and tissue-healing benefits, accelerating healing dramatically, especially in conditions involving an oxygen deficit.

Generally, hyperbaric oxygen therapy may result in reduction in swelling, stimulation of new blood vessel formation into the healing/swollen tissue, a reduction in pressure caused by head or spinal cord injuries, improved wound healing, and improved infection control.

Hyperbaric oxygen therapy can be of great help to veterinary patients by speeding up the healing process and may reduce or eliminate the need for more invasive procedures such as surgery, oftentimes resulting in a net savings of time and cost of treatment for pet owners.



Fluorescent Light Therapy

Fluorescent light therapy, which RAPS Animal Hospital began offering this year, can help reduce inflammation in injured tissues. It has been observed to decrease the production of pro-inflammatory mediators while promoting the release of anti-inflammatory substances.

By reducing inflammation, the therapy can alleviate pain, swelling, and discomfort associated with injuries. The application of fluorescent light can improve blood circulation in the treated area. This increased blood flow can enhance the delivery of oxygen and nutrients to the injured tissues, as well as facilitate the removal of metabolic waste products. Improved circulation helps support the healing process by supplying essential resources to the cells and promoting tissue regeneration.

Fluorescent light therapy has been shown to stimulate the production of collagen, a protein that plays a crucial role in wound healing and tissue repair. Collagen provides structural support and promotes the formation of new blood vessels and healthy tissue. By accelerating collagen synthesis, the therapy can aid in the regeneration of damaged tissues and the closure of wounds.

54% OF MILLENNIALS VIEW
THEMSELVES AS "PET PARENTS"

AT-HOME EUTHANASIA



It is not something that any of us like to dwell on. But when the time comes, the last moments of our relationship with a beloved member of our family deserves to be as peaceful, meaningful and comforting as possible.

This year, RAPS received authorization from the College of Veterinarians of British Columbia to provide euthanasia services at private residences. This means we are now offering compassionate at-home end-of-life services for clients.

For so many families, this small gesture is deeply meaningful as it eases both the animal and the human family at such a sad moment. The animal can be in familiar surroundings, calmed and comforted by all who love them as they take their final journey together.



37%

OF PET OWNERS GO TO
THE VET ONCE PER YEAR

45%

OF PET OWNERS TAKE THEIR
PET TO THE VET TWICE A YEAR



^{*} <https://www.marketwatch.com/guides/pet-insurance/pet-insurance-facts-and-statistics/>

Doubling Our Capacity

We are doubling the capacity of the RAPS Animal Hospital by opening three new exam rooms, to accommodate the demand from our community. Renovations are underway!

Response to our nonprofit vet hospital is so dramatic that we are expanding our client base every day. We need more space to see the animals who need our care!

Thankfully, there is still undeveloped space in the facility that Applewood Auto Group has provided to RAPS rent-free – a value of millions of dollars across years of generous support! Renovations are underway and soon we will be welcoming even more animals and their people!

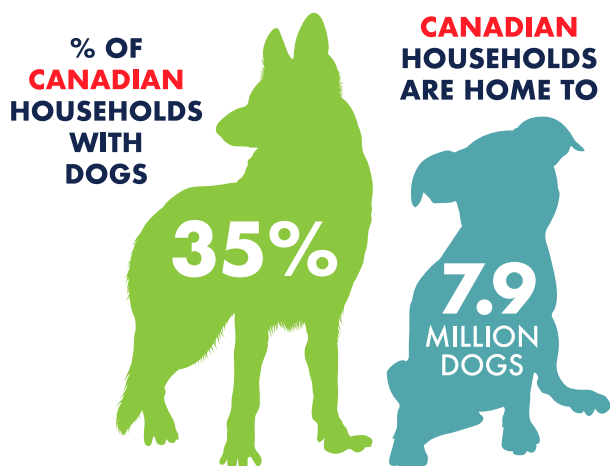
Going 24/7

A pet's health doesn't wait. When an emergency arises, too many people have to go too far to get help. Then, when they find a veterinary facility that is open overnight or after-hours, the cost of care can be much higher than standard rates.

The RAPS Animal Hospital has brought nonprofit veterinary care to British Columbians. Now, we aim to make that care accessible 24/7.

This is not as easy as it may sound. In addition to significantly increased personnel (at a time of staffing crises in the veterinary sector across North America), there are also major equipment and infrastructure requirements to respond to the range of emergency cases.

When operational, though, the 24/7 RAPS Animal Hospital will provide round-the-clock care at affordable rates so that, at a moment of immense anxiety, something clients do not need to confront are vet bills that are possibly orders of magnitude greater than they are used to.



Urgent Transport Unit

All of these advances are enhanced by our new Urgent Transport Unit, which is yet another way our outstanding community partner, Applewood Auto Group, is saving the lives of animals. Applewood donated the vehicle and is retrofitting it too, so we can transport animals to and from the care they need, regardless of the mobility limitations of their people.

Where to Next?

We have proven the concept of sustainable, nonprofit vet care. Our biggest dream now is to share this model across the continent, helping to launch more hospitals like ours so that more animals and their people can benefit!

Nonprofit veterinary care is the wave of the future. Removing the profit motive from animal welfare is good for pets, good for people and good for the wellness of the frontline care providers.

We've shown it can be done.

We're ready to help bring this vision to the world!



Angela Rodrigues
RECEPTION,
RAPS ANIMAL
HOSPITAL



Good value. Good values!

Karen Kamachi
MANAGER,
RAPS THRIFT
STORES

RAPS Thrift Stores



The decidedly humble RAPS Thrift Stores are now the centre of a TV phenomenon. It is an unlikely story. On the face of it, there is very little glamorous about a pair of second-hand stores at the edge of the continent.

But the TV show *Pets & Pickers* has turned these cluttered shops into familiar places for audiences across North America – and made the thrift store team unexpected stars!

If the RAPS Thrift Stores and their staff and volunteers seem like improbable heroes, they really shouldn't.

The recycling and reuse economy is a growing phenomenon – and it has powerful economic, social, philanthropic and environmental impacts.

RAPS Thrift Stores generate crucial revenues that help save and improve the lives of animals. That is the reason we exist.

But there is so much more to it.

Economic Benefits

Metro Vancouver is among the world's most expensive places to live. Thrift stores provide a vital source for affordable housewares, clothing, school supplies, furniture and more for households facing economic challenges – and for people who just enjoy finding treasures or saving money! RAPS Thrift Stores stand out from many in a number of ways. The largest chain of thrift stores, the one many people most associate with thrifting, is actually a for-profit multinational corporation that contributes a tiny fraction of revenues to charity. The RAPS Thrift Stores are run primarily by volunteers and 100% of revenues are reinvested to programs helping animals and their people. More than this, the RAPS Thrift Stores economic model is to keep prices ridiculously low to speed turnover and keep satisfied customers returning every few days. A shirt, a side table or an electric appliance can cost 50%, 75% or even 90% less than a similar item at a competing for-profit store.



Social Connections

Because RAPS Thrift Stores are volunteer-driven, we provide a vital social service. New Canadians and high school students can get their first work experience here and build their resumes to prepare them for a successful launch into the working world. Seniors find structure, social enrichment and meaning in weekly shifts sorting donations or merchandizing at our stores. People of all ages, abilities and backgrounds find fulfilment knowing their volunteer hours help RAPS save lives!

“Awesome staff, great finds for low costs, and a mission to help animals and their people. An awesome organization.”

– GOOGLE REVIEW

Philanthropic Impacts

Not everyone can be a big benefactor. In B.C., a great portion of many households’ incomes go to housing, utilities and other necessities of life. But vast numbers of families make a meaningful commitment to a great cause by donating to RAPS the clothes that kids have outgrown, furniture they no longer need and housewares that might otherwise end up cluttering public landfills. As both donors of goods and purchasers of products, individuals with limited disposable income make outsized philanthropic impacts through the RAPS Thrift Stores.

Environmental Heroes

Is “heroes” too strong a word for people who volunteer at, donate to and shop at thrift stores?

What is the most existential challenge facing human-kind today? The very survival of our planet. There are few more impactful – or easier! – ways to help stanch the degradation of the planet than to engage with the thrift economy.

“Great prices and money goes to a good cause.”

– GOOGLE REVIEW



Advocacy & Education

RAPS is a direct animal-serving organization. We are hands-on in saving the lives of animals and delivering the individualized care they require for as long as they need it.

But we are also a voice for animals and their people. Caring for animals requires the direct services we have been delivering for three decades – but it also demands advocacy.

RAPS educates the public and works with elected officials at all levels to advance policies that support households that include animals.

Animals make our lives, families, neighbourhoods and communities safer, healthier and happier. Studies have shown the powerful health benefits of companion animals. And we recognize that helping animals often means giving their people the hand they need to be able to care for their animals.

So, in addition to providing affordable and subsidized vet care and no-interest financing options, we have undertaken studies and presented to governments and other stakeholders recommendations that can help make life more affordable for families that include pets.

We advocate for animal-affirmative housing policies and against discriminatory practices that harm animals and their people by limiting their housing options in a place where affordable housing is already an oxymoron.

We make veterinary care affordable through our nonprofit model, but we also advocate for a range of steps that can help alleviate the high cost of vet care on a systemic level – including calling on the federal government to make vet expenses tax-deductible.

Beyond these social policy steps, we continue to do what RAPS has always done – educating young people and increasing awareness among people of all ages about the benefits and responsibilities of companion animals and safe interactions with animals.



"Reputable not-for-profit doing awesome things for animal welfare."

– GOOGLE REVIEW

Pets & Pickers

*The smash hit TV show **Pets & Pickers** tells the RAPS story – from the volunteers who rummage through donated storage bins to find the treasures that fund our work ... to the lifesaving, edge-of-your-seat drama of life in a veterinary hospital.*

On the heels of two wildly successful seasons — aired first in Canada and then across the United States on Warner Bros. Animal Planet — the story of our work has now garnered massive international audiences. The extraordinary production team at Tyson Media manages to capture in intimate and gripping ways the intensity of both the commitment to animals demonstrated across the organization and the unbreakable bonds of love between animals and their people.

The idea for the TV show came from a single conversation a couple of years ago about how the seemingly disparate activities of thrift stores and a veterinary hospital could capture the public's imagination. It seemed like an unlikely pairing — the treasure-hunting genre of “pickers” with the intense drama of real life in the ER, but with an animal twist. It turns out, it's a recipe that works wonders. With filming now underway for Season 3, **Pets & Pickers** is destined to share even more inspiring stories about the extraordinary relationships between species — and the often hilarious, unexpected pratfalls of the people determined to raise the funds to save lives! — and the dedication of our veterinary teams to saving and improving the lives of animals.



**#1 INTERNATIONAL
AWARD-WINNING
TV SHOW**



RAPS 2023 Gala Celebration

Dine Stars AMONG THE

The unprecedented pandemic put a halt to almost all major social functions for several years. This obviously had dramatic impacts on everything our organization does. We had not had a full-scale gala celebration since 2017, when our community came together to raise funds to open the RAPS Animal Hospital.

To say we had a lot to celebrate — and a lot of pent-up energy to kick up our heels! — is an understatement. Since we last came together, the RAPS community has grown exponentially, serving more animals and their people than ever before. The creation of the RAPS Animal Hospital has almost completely eliminated external veterinary expenses, which were once the largest budget item after staffing. Not only have we eliminated that expense, we have managed to provide more than \$5.5 million in partially and fully subsidized care to households experiencing low incomes or facing other challenges. This year's gala, which attracted hundreds of people to a red-carpet, Hollywood-glam-style awards ceremony, recognized the humans who make all this possible!

Featuring celebrity impersonator Bonnie Kilroe, the gala was truly a celebration of RAPS and the people who make it all possible. For everyone in attendance, it was truly an unforgettable evening.

Best of all – it generated revenues so we can do even more of this lifesaving work!

Thank You



THANK YOU TO OUR 2023 GALA SPONSORS



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As much as anything, word-of-mouth is the thing that helps RAPS succeed. The more good things people hear about our work, the more public support we build. *Speaking of word-of-mouth...*

Here are just a few of the things that people have said about us in reviews online this year!

RAPS Animal Hospital

4.5 ★★★★★ 566 Google reviews

"These folks are wonderful! We got our beautiful kitten from them a week ago and she is lively, friendly, and well adjusted. 'Thank you RAPS for choosing us!'"

– GOOGLE REVIEW

"They were able to get her in right away and do surgery on her. All the staff were very professional, as well as super helpful through the entire process. The dental specialist was very detailed and explained everything before they took her in (spent about 20 mins on the phone with me)."

– GOOGLE REVIEW

"They are fantastic! Got our cats from them. They help keep the cat population down with their trap/spay/neuter program!"

– GOOGLE REVIEW

THANK YOU TO RAPS SPONSORS!



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Recognitions



The Regional Animal Protection Society continues to rack up accolades! In popular voting of local favourites, British Columbians keep choosing RAPS, the RAPS Animal Hospital and RAPS Thrift Stores!

All of these recognitions are a testament to the network of animal allies who built and sustain this organization. This year alone, RAPS was selected as Best Community Organization in the Richmond News “Best of Richmond” awards, while the RAPS Animal Hospital took top honours as “Best Veterinarian” and RAPS Thrift Stores were recognized as “Best Gift Shop.”

RAPS was voted “Best Local Heroes” (second place after paramedics!) in the Georgia Straight’s Best of Vancouver annual competition this year! We also came second as Metro Vancouverites’ choice for “Best Vintage Market” and (again!) second place across the region for “Best Veterinary Clinic”!

These recognitions build on successive years of similar honours. Over the past several years, RAPS has been repeatedly recognized in these and other public voting opportunities as cherished community institutions.

APPLEWOOD & RAPS VEHICLE LOTTERY

As you have seen repeatedly throughout this report, Applewood Auto Group is one of RAPS’ greatest community supporters! The RAPS Animal Hospital exists because the enormous space housing the hospital (and our administrative operations centre) has been generously donated by Applewood.

Applewood also donated the vehicle that serves as RAPS’ Urgent Transport Unit and is retrofitting it to accommodate the needs of animals.

As if that were not enough ... Applewood has donated a brand new 2023 Nissan Rogue Platinum, which one very lucky RAPS supporter will win when the draw takes place March 8, 2024. (Get your tickets at rapsbc.com/winacar)

We could not be more grateful for all the support Applewood provides.

**Applewood loves animals ...
and RAPS loves Applewood!**

WIN A CAR

2023 NISSAN ROGUE PLATINUM



*Retail for \$45,973 CAD Plus Fees and Taxes

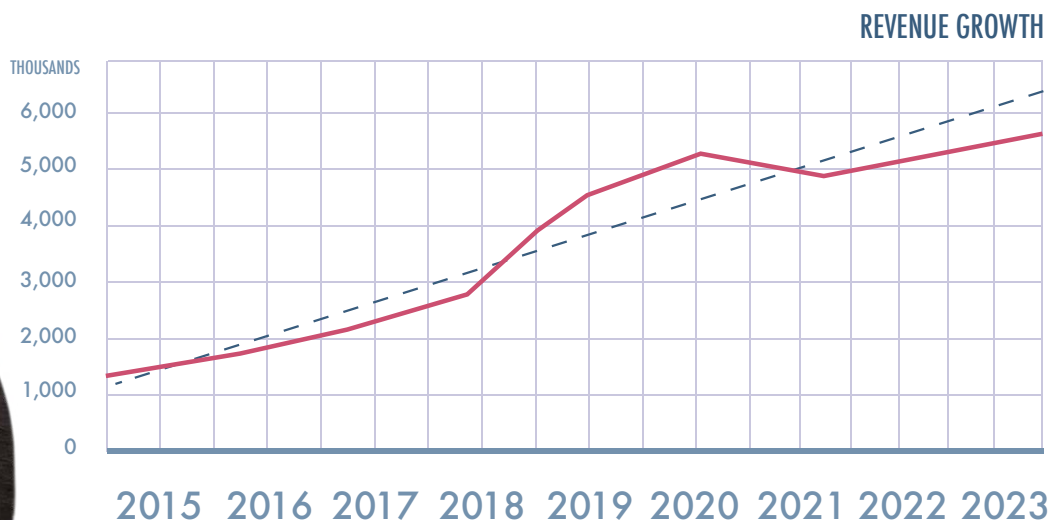
REGIONAL ANIMAL PROTECTION SOCIETY 21

REGIONAL ANIMAL PROTECTION SOCIETY

Statement of Operations

For the year ended 31 December 2022

	City Shelter Operating Fund	Cat Sanctuary Operating Fund	Animal Hospital Fund	Adoption Centre Fund	2022	2021
Revenues						
Hospital charges	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,094,794	\$ -	\$ 3,094,794	\$ 2,620,203
Donations	-	1,122,333	-	1,095	1,123,428	1,225,640
Thrift store revenue	-	605,618	-	-	605,618	544,655
Grants	-	194,177	75,001	-	269,178	169,202
Loyalty recovery	-	-	-	-	-	164,999
Miscellaneous income	-	77,748	49,363	7,599	134,710	87,369
City contract	-	-	-	-	-	42,376
Adoptions revenue	-	-	-	41,961	41,961	40,635
	-	1,999,876	3,219,158	50,655	5,269,689	4,895,079
Expenses – Schedule 1	-	2,293,656	2,768,569	337,083	5,399,308	5,383,566
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses for the year before other income (expenses)	-	(293,780)	450,589	(286,428)	(129,619)	(488,487)
Other income						
Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy	-	-	-	-	-	130,330
Rent Subsidy	-	-	-	-	-	8,120
	-	(293,780)	-	-	-	138,450
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses for the year	\$ -	\$ (293,780)	\$ 450,589	\$ (286,428)	\$ (129,619)	\$ (350,037)



Miller
RAPS CAT
SANCTUARY

**RAPS has grown 400% over the past six years
to become one of the largest animal rescue
agencies in Canada.**

***Everything you have read in this year's report to our
community has been possible because of YOU.***

***RAPS is all about the animals. But everything
we achieve is possible because of a community
of animal allies who provide the funding,
volunteer hours, passion, individualized care
and everything animals need to live the best and
longest lives possible.***

***Take pride in what you have just read.
YOU are the reason RAPS saved and improved
these and so many more lives this year.***

THANK YOU.



RAPS
ANIMAL 
HOSPITAL

**HELP RAPS DO
MORE IN 2024**

DONATE HERE



Thank you for your support.

RAPS CAT SANCTUARY

Celeste



RAPS | Regional Animal Protection Society

RAPS
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