

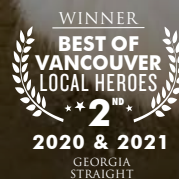
Helping animals ... and their people



Basil

RAPS CAT SANCTUARY

2024 Annual Report





WE DID MORE IN '24! HELP US THRIVE IN '25!

REPORT FROM
THE PRESIDENT 

As I reflect on this past year at RAPS, I'm overwhelmed with gratitude for what we've achieved — and the remarkable community that made it all possible.

At the heart of every milestone is your generosity, volunteerism and belief in our mission. Thanks to your ongoing support, RAPS continues to transform the lives of animals and their people in ways that are beyond what was imaginable when a small team of dedicated volunteers started this organization almost three decades ago.

RAPS has grown into one of Canada's largest and most innovative animal-serving agencies. What began with a Cat Sanctuary – now Canada's largest! – has evolved and expanded into a multifaceted agency with an Adoption and Education Centre, a fostering network, an advocacy arm, a chain of three social enterprise thrift stores and, most life-changing, the community-owned RAPS Animal Hospital. This paradigm-shifting clinic has transformed veterinary care. We have removed the profit motive, saved lives and, since opening in 2018, provided more than \$6 million in partially or fully subsidized care to animals and people facing challenges.

Additionally, the growth of the RAPS Animal Hospital this year has been nothing short of transformative. With nearly \$600,000 in donated equipment and cutting-edge technology, we've doubled our diagnostics capacity, reduced wait times, and ensured faster, lifesaving treatments for pets in critical need. By taking the profit motive out of veterinary care, as well as adding these new advancements in technologies, introducing a range of integrative treatment options like physiotherapy and fluorescent light therapy, RAPS Animal Hospital is truly a game-changer for animal welfare in our region.

None of this would be possible without your unwavering support. Your donations, volunteer hours, and community engagement are the backbone of everything we do. Choosing the RAPS Animal Hospital for your vet needs is crucial. Shopping at our RAPS Thrift Stores helps animals and the environment. Visiting and volunteering at the RAPS Cat Sanctuary builds community.

This year, you helped RAPS save and improve the lives of even more animals! In these pages, you will see a few of the stories that animal allies like you have made possible. 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 has made possible.

As we look ahead, I want to extend my deepest thanks for standing by us on this journey. Your belief in RAPS continues to make an extraordinary difference, and we're excited for what we can achieve together in the coming year.



CATHERINE ELLSMERE,
PRESIDENT





ALL ABOUT COMMUNITY

REPORT FROM THE
CHIEF EXECUTIVE
OFFICER



The Regional Animal Protection Society is one of Canada's most advanced, entrepreneurial and sustainably growing nonprofit organizations.

Our goal is to save and improve the lives of as many animals as possible. To do this, we know we have to innovate – that's what we've done and continue to do.

Especially in challenging economic times, we know that there is a limited well of philanthropic funds. We are responding to this reality with two approaches.

First, we are building on our profoundly successful foundation of social enterprise. Philanthropic giving is an irreplaceable component of Canada's charitable sector. Successful nonprofits, however, are increasingly adapting to the reality that we need to provide more than just the good feeling that comes from giving. Through social enterprise, charities like RAPS are engaging in a deeper and broader engagement in the economy and doing more for the people and animals we serve.

For example, the RAPS Thrift Stores heal the environment, support budget-conscious consumers and, most important of all, save the lives of animals. These beloved community destinations invite more people to have greater impact on our collective good – by volunteering, donating and shopping, all of which help RAPS meet our mission.

The RAPS Animal Hospital has catapulted our social enterprise ethic into the stratosphere. In the nearly seven years since we opened, this community-owned clinic has delivered more than \$6 million in partially and fully subsidized care to animals whose people are facing economic and other challenges. Clients know that by choosing the RAPS Animal Hospital, they are getting quality vet care while their fees are reinvested to help less fortunate animals. Every visit to our clinic helps RAPS meet our vital community mission.

Second, we are proud to have streamlined, modernized and professionalized every component of our organization's operations in the past decade. While diversifying our revenue streams through social enterprise, we have also fortified the confidence of our donors. Individuals, foundations and socially responsible businesses know that RAPS adheres to the highest standards of financial management, professional oversight and sector-leading business practices. Whether it is a local school donating the proceeds of a fundraiser, a philanthropic foundation granting for a specific initiative or a major corporation providing a gift-in-kind, all RAPS' supporters can be assured that every penny from a donated dollar is maximized for the greatest benefit to animals. Everything we do is targeted to this solitary end.

In the following pages, you will learn more about the profound impacts your support for RAPS is having in our community and our world. You will learn about the exciting changes and growth RAPS has experienced in the past year. Most importantly, you will meet some of the animals and people whose lives have been changed thanks to your allyship.


EYAL LICHTMANN, CEO



MAIN STREET CAR-FREE DAY,
WITH KEVINGTON BUILDING

RAPS CAT SANCTUARY



The RAPS No-Kill Commitment: Transforming Lives Together

At RAPS, our commitment is simple yet profound: Under our care, no animal is ever euthanized due to lack of space, treatable illness, physical defect, age, behavioural or socialization issues.

Animals do not recognize human-made boundaries. We believe that *where* an animal lives should not determine *whether* an animal lives. More than ever before, RAPS is rescuing animals from all over British Columbia and beyond.

Increasingly, as we have grown, and especially since we opened the RAPS Animal Hospital, other rescue organizations across the province reach out to us when they are confronted with insurmountable challenges. Whether it is veterinary needs they cannot afford or because they have reached capacity and need our help accepting animals, RAPS is a lifeline for rescue organizations doing great work but who need a hand. In this way, we are also ensuring the long-term well-being of animals who might have faced euthanasia in other places.

We are also a backstop for smaller rescue groups with especially challenging cases. Our reputation as a centre for excellence in caring for animals with special needs, such as feline immunodeficiency virus (FIV or “feline AIDS”), leukemia, diabetes and behavioural challenges, has led other agencies to contact us to take in these exceptional animals.

In so many ways, RAPS provides a lifeline and a last-chance reprieve for animals across our province. We serve as a safety net for animals across BC.

This comes at a cost, of course. Thanks to a small army of dedicated volunteers, we are able to deliver individualized care to the animals with minimal paid staff. Nevertheless, running the RAPS Cat Sanctuary – food, litter, supplies, maintenance and operations – runs to about \$750,000 per year. That is a daunting budget item. We are grateful for the support of our community for sustaining this vital, lifesaving institution.

We are now facing major infrastructural expenses as well. Thirty years of feline frolicking have taken their toll on the facilities – but cosmetic upgrades are the least of our current needs.

Structural upgrades and improvements are becoming desperately necessary. Climate-related weather fluctuations make it ever more essential to keep animals cool in summer and warm in winter. For this, we require complicated and costly electrical upgrades. These will have the added benefit of allowing us the long overdue acquisition of industrial washers and dryers. Most people cannot fathom the volume of dirty laundry that hundreds of cats generate in a week! These new appliances will also necessitate a long-overdue upgrade of antiquated plumbing on the premises.

Beyond these less visible infrastructural upgrades, there are fences that require mending, cages and kennels that demand replacement, buildings that need maintaining and upgrading, and pathways and walking areas that need repair both for esthetic reasons and the safety of our human employees, volunteers and visitors.

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

Valerie Wilson
MANAGER,
RAPS CAT SANCTUARY



Winston
RAPS CAT SANCTUARY



DRY CAT FOOD
10,200
LBS PER YEAR
APPROX 525 BAGS



WET CAT FOOD
350-500
CANS PER DAY



CAT LITTER
65,000
LBS PER YEAR
APPROX 1625 BAGS



TOP NOTCH
VET CARE
\$550,000
SPENT PER YEAR
ON RAPS CATS



CATS WITH
FELINE AIDS

38

REQUIRING EXTENSIVE
MEDICAL & DENTAL CARE
DUE TO WEAKENED
IMMUNE SYSTEMS
(located in two compounds)



CATS WITH
FELINE LEUKEMIA

10

NEEDING DAILY
MEDICAL CARE
(only shelter where FeLV cats
are not routinely euthanized)

MEDICATIONS
PER DAY



SUPPLEMENTS
FOR SUPPRESSED
IMMUNE SYSTEMS

90

SUB-Q FLUIDS

10

HYPERTHYROID
MEDICATION

6

ASTHMA PUFFERS

6

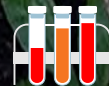
ANTI-ANXIETY

7



INSULIN INJECTIONS

20
PER DAY



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

DAILY CAT SANCTUARY CARE

Cassidy

RAPS CAT SANCTUARY



FLEA
TREATMENTS
500+
CATS PER MONTH



DENTAL
TREATMENTS
80
CATS PER YEAR

MEDICATIONS
PER DAY



25
ANTIBIOTICS
FOR EYE ISSUES,
UPPER RESPIRATORY
INFECTIONS,
PUNCTURES, ABSCESSES,
& OTHER ISSUES



20
FOR ALLERGIES OR
CHRONIC PAIN

10

BLOOD, LIVER,
METABOLIC ISSUES

10

FOR ARTHRITIS

More Than Just a Sanctuary for Cats — A Destination for People Too



The RAPS Cat Sanctuary is a haven for cats. But it is also a beloved destination for people.

Hundreds of families visit regularly, and more discover it every week. It's become a cherished tradition for those who can't have pets of their own, offering them the joy of spending time surrounded by the soothing company of cats.

Volunteers of all ages find meaning and companionship – human and feline – through engagement at the Sanctuary.

Youth at risk, people experiencing loss and grief, individuals confronting life-threatening health conditions and other challenges find a place of refuge and respite at the RAPS Cat Sanctuary.



Hank
RAPS CAT
SANCTUARY

One of our important goals for the RAPS Cat Sanctuary is to make it even more of a destination than it already is. In future, we hope to be open to visitors year-round, with expanded hours. We want more private tours, special events, family functions and group activities. These are important sources of revenue that help in the operations of the facility. To maximize these potentials, we need to improve and maintain the gardens and make this already idyllic destination even more appealing. Welcoming more guests also means improving the parking facilities.

While all of this suggests a daunting budgetary demand, we are extraordinarily fortunate. A profoundly generous animal ally has stepped forward with a matching gift to make these infrastructural and operational upgrades possible.

This foundational gift is an unprecedented opportunity to realize a once-in-a-generation revitalization of one of Canada's most unique animal facilities.

We are actively reaching out to our community to raise the additional funds to complete these ambitious plans.

MATCHING GIFT OPPORTUNITY RAPS CAT SANCTUARY & ADOPTION CENTRE

OPERATIONS

FOOD, LITTER, SUPPLIES,
MAINTENANCE & STAFFING

\$750,000 PER YEAR

RAPS has received a matching gift opportunity from an anonymous donor for the following infrastructure upgrades:

INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADES

- MAJOR STRUCTURAL UPGRADES & IMPROVEMENTS
- ELECTRICAL UPGRADES
- PLUMBING UPGRADES
- NEW & REPAIRED CAGES & KENNELS
- SAFETY UPGRADES TO PATHWAYS & WALKING AREAS

*Scan code to double
your impact until
December 31st, 2024!*





RAPS' Secret Weapon: Kitty Comforters

Many cats come to the RAPS Cat Sanctuary from the wild. Others are surrendered because they do not fit well into family homes.



As with so many cats with physical challenges, those with behavioural challenges – even simple unfamiliarity with two-legged creatures – can lead to euthanasia in far too many places. Most animal rescue groups do not have the space or human resources to socialize the most difficult feral or stray animals.

This is where RAPS' greatest secret weapon comes in. Our Kitty Comforters are among the most patient, loving, tender individuals in the world! At some risk to their physical safety, these dedicated volunteers can coax the lap cat out of even the fiercest feral. (Individual results may vary.)

While these cats are being “tamed,” they often require special accommodations. Their relationships with other felines is often as tumultuous as their connections with humans.

We need to upgrade the kennels that house those who are in the process of adapting to their new accommodations. As many as 20 or 30 cats may need segregating at any given time and this is a significant physical burden. This is another component of our renovations and upgrades.

Supporting the most challenging cases is at the heart of the RAPS no-kill promise. Our Kitty Comforters are on the frontline of this vital work. We need to provide the physical infrastructure to support their one-on-one socialization efforts.

RAPS ADOPTION & EDUCATION CENTRE

Discover the RAPS Adoption & Education Centre: Where Families and Pets Find Their Perfect Match

At the heart of the Regional Animal Protection Society lies our Adoption & Education Centre, a bustling hub of life, love, and opportunity. This is where animals in need of a forever home meet families eager to welcome a new member into their lives. It's not just about placing pets with people—it's about making lasting, meaningful connections that enrich the lives of both animals and humans.

It's a Win for Humans and Other Animals!

For families, adopting a pet from RAPS means gaining a loyal companion who brings joy, love, and meaning into the home. Whether it's the quiet comfort of a senior cat, the playful antics of a kitten, or the loyal companionship of a rescued rabbit, dog or guinea pig, pets transform homes, families and lives. They teach us patience, love, and responsibility. And the bond that forms between a family and their pet is truly life-changing – for humans and other animals!

For the animals, it's often a second chance at life. Many come from difficult situations—neglect, abandonment, or homes that simply couldn't care for them. In some cases, pets have lived wonderful lives and suddenly their human passes away or is no longer able to care for them. This upheaval is traumatizing. In other cases, we place rambunctious kittens with suitably accommodating homes. Whatever the needs of the animal, we ensure we match them with an appropriate home.

At the RAPS Adoption and Education Centre, they receive the care and compassion they deserve while they wait for their perfect match. When they are adopted, they are given the opportunity to thrive in a loving environment, fulfilling their potential as cherished companions.

A Commitment to Education: Shaping Compassionate Pet Guardians

RAPS isn't just about finding homes for animals—we're deeply committed to educating the community about the responsibilities of pet ownership. Our Education Centre plays a vital role in shaping the next generation of compassionate, responsible guardians.

We take special pride in working with young people, inspiring them with hands-on learning experiences. School visits, community programs, and volunteer opportunities allow children and youth to interact with animals, fostering empathy and understanding. They learn about the importance of proper care, the responsibility that comes with having a pet, and the rewards that come with adopting an animal in need. By starting early, we're cultivating a society that values and respects all living beings.



**WHEN YOU GIVE,
THEY LIVE!**

The RAPS Difference



At the RAPS Adoption & Education Centre, we're not just matching pets with people — we're creating a future where every animal is loved, cared for, and given the opportunity to thrive. And it's all thanks to the community of supporters and adopters who make this life-saving work possible.

Asher

RAPS ADOPTION &
EDUCATION CENTRE



TWISTY ASHER



Asher came to us from a rescue organization in Calgary because he has radial hypoplasia. RH is caused by a rare mutation related to polydactylism and it is a deformation of the legs. Cats with RH are sometimes called twisty cats, squittens, or kangaroo cats.

While these are funny names, the condition is extremely serious. Depending on the degree of disfiguring in the legs, the cat can have severe difficulties walking, climbing stairs or performing other routine movements.

Even so, we know how resilient cats (and other animals) are. Asher, who was just a couple of months old when he came to us, may have trouble walking, but we are determined to give him the best life possible. That may eventually mean a forever family or it may mean a life of love and care at the RAPS Cat Sanctuary.

Asher is just one of the special needs animals we serve. Treating each one as an individual is central to who we are. All of this is possible because we have the support of a strong community, including volunteers who deliver the individualized care these unique animals need.

Fostering Fundamentals

Kittens and mamas are fostered until they are ready for whatever the future holds. At any given moment, we have scores of felines in foster care. This is another irreplaceable part of our work and another way our small armies of volunteers allow us to deliver individualized care to so many animals, no matter their special needs.

While our fostering program is founded on the superhuman patience and devotion of volunteer fosterers, this is still a major budget expense for RAPS. Our organization pays for all the medical care, food and litter costs for the animals in our care, including those in our foster program. Fostering does have an added benefit of reducing the burden on our Adoption & Education Centre, freeing up capacity to welcome more animals.

Transitioning a kitten or cat from the street or from a previous home to a temporary shelter can be traumatic and challenging. Fostering is an ideal alternative for the most vulnerable – those who are young, especially shy, who have health challenges and, of course, pregnant cats and mothers with newborns.

MATCHING GIFT OPPORTUNITY RAPS CAT SANCTUARY & ADOPTION CENTRE

RAPS has received a matching gift opportunity from an anonymous donor for the following infrastructure upgrades:

INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADES

- MAJOR STRUCTURAL UPGRADES & IMPROVEMENTS
- ELECTRICAL UPGRADES
- PLUMBING UPGRADES
- NEW & REPAIRED CAGES & KENNELS
- IMPROVED & EXPANDED PARKING

*Scan code to double
your impact until
December 31st, 2024!*



Synergies Abound

In recent years, RAPS transitioned the Adoption & Education Centre onto the property adjacent to the RAPS Cat Sanctuary. This has allowed synergies, including shared volunteers, staffing, resources and utilities.

As a result, the major upgrades planned for the Sanctuary will benefit the Adoption Centre as well.

New electrical infrastructure will permit heating and air conditioning upgrades to the facility. Improved parking will facilitate more scheduled meet-and-greets, resulting in streamlined adoptions.

Visiting veterinarians from the RAPS Animal Hospital save time and maximize resources by providing care at both facilities. Fully 20% of the RAPS Animal Hospital's time and resources are dedicated to animals at the RAPS Cat Sanctuary, at the RAPS Adoption & Education Centre and in our fostering network.

Residents at the Cat Sanctuary and animals temporarily accommodated by RAPS receive top-notch preventative and responsive care from dedicated veterinary staff.

Community Connections

More than ever before, RAPS has built strong relationships with pet supply stores across Metro Vancouver. Special “pop-up” adoption events at stores introduce animals to new families.

We are grateful for the friends we have developed in the community, who share our commitment to matching human households with companion animals who complete their families.



Animal Rescue: Still at Our Heart



RAPS began almost 30 years ago as a tiny group of amazingly dedicated individuals feeding feral cats. This crew expanded to trapping, spaying and neutering. Then we opened the RAPS Cat Sanctuary to give animals a safe, loving, forever home.

RAPS has grown a lot since then. We opened thrift stores, ran the city shelter and now operate our own Adoption and Education Centre. We have a robust fostering network. In 2018, we opened the community-owned, nonprofit RAPS Animal Hospital.

But when animals need rescuing, we go right back to our roots!

This year, keen-eyed workers at an auto wrecker found four very young kittens in a vehicle that was about to be crushed. They rescued the four and sent them to us. We went back and found mom! They were reunited and are now living happy, healthy, safe lives!

We rescued Grayson, a cat with a horrific, painful eye injury. He has made a complete recovery from his eye removal surgery at RAPS Animal Hospital and very quickly went to a perfect forever home, which he shares with other rescue kitties.

We even rescued guinea pigs that had been abandoned by their people—at great risk to the lives of the animals.

And our team doesn't limit our work to dry land! This year, we rescued a mama and her two young ones from a Richmond marina, where they were living aboard ship! The kittens—Scampi and Shrimp—and their beautiful mama Takulli (named after the boat they were living on) are safe and gaining their land legs.

We also depend on Good Samaritans to help us save lives. One animal ally this year found Bellamy, a beautiful boy who had been tied to a post in Richmond – an extremely vulnerable situation that could have had a tragic ending.

Rescued from Further Afield

We believe emphatically that *where* an animal lives should not determine *whether* an animal lives. As RAPS has grown, our increased capacity has allowed us to help other animal rescue organizations throughout British Columbia and even in other provinces and countries!

For example, Picasso came to us two years ago after tragically spending the winter in subarctic Manitoba weather. His extremities were frostbitten and so his ears and tail aren't what they once were. His genitals were also affected, making him incontinent. Now he's with his forever family!

We brought six cats from an overwhelmed animal shelter in Kitimat and a huge influx of 13 kittens and two mamas from a rescue organization in the Shuswap.

The list goes on and on.

Then there are the cats who come to us because we are a destination for cats with conditions like FeLV (feline leukemia), FIV ("feline AIDS"), diabetes or behavioural issues that make them difficult to adopt and therefore put them at risk of euthanasia. At the RAPS Cat Sanctuary, these animals get all the care, affection and veterinary attention they need and want.

Big Dave came to the RAPS Cat Sanctuary from northern Vancouver Island. This tubby tabby, who is about 3 years old, tested positive for feline leukemia (FeLV) and was going to be euthanized.

We rescue more than cats, too!

Four absolutely magnificent pups came to us from northern Manitoba, where they somehow survived the hostile winter without shelter. The youngest, brothers Loki and Thor, arrived at a very tender age of six weeks. All four were nursed to health and went to ideal homes.

These are just a few of the dogs, bunnies, guinea pigs, kittens and cats whose lives were saved this year because of RAPS' expertise in rescue!

Big Dave
RAPS ADOPTION &
EDUCATION CENTRE



Special Needs Meet Special Peeps

RAPS treats every animal as an individual. Every animal, like every human, is unique. We are a destination for animals with special needs. That can take many different forms – but we are ready for them, no matter what they require.

Marble
RAPS CAT
SANCTUARY



THREE-LEGGED WONDER CATS

Trooper miraculously survived a Saskatchewan winter with a steel trap cruelly attached to his leg. He's now a three-legged Trooper living a happy life. He has FIV—“feline AIDS”—so he lives at the RAPS Cat Sanctuary, where his personality is really shining. He even spends time catching bugs, which is a real accomplishment for a guy with only one front leg.

Jelly, Chutney and Marmalade are a trio of tripod (tri-paw'd?) cats who are missing a limb. These three cats have nine legs between them. And Jelly is yet another case of a feral cat who turned into a people-loving attention hog!

Frantic reports on social media this year alerted us to an injured cat limping around Richmond. The assumption was that he had a broken leg. We sent our intrepid trappers out and we caught this guy—now named Guacamole. It turns out, though, that his leg wasn't broken. It was partly missing! Veterinarians suspect he lost part of his limb in a fight with a larger animal, maybe a coyote. To say this guy is resilient is an understatement.

RAPS HAS SAVED

200%

**MORE KITTENS THIS YEAR
THAN LAST YEAR**

LEVI GETS A HELPING HAND

Leviathan—a little pup familiarly called “Levi”—came for dental work at the RAPS Animal Hospital. Levi's human was doing her absolute best to care for Levi while they both experienced insecure housing after overcoming a period of homelessness. Sometimes both the animal and their human need a little help. That's why we say RAPS helps animals ... *and their people.*



Trooper
RAPS ADOPTION &
EDUCATION CENTRE



RAPS ANIMAL HOSPITAL



RAPS Animal Hospital: Revolutionizing Veterinary Care for the Community

The RAPS Animal Hospital is a game-changer for both the organization and the community we serve. By eliminating the profit motive from veterinary care, RAPS is not just providing essential services to pets—we're creating a future where no one is forced to make heartbreaking choices about their animals' lives based on their ability to pay.

A New Model of Veterinary Care

For far too long, pet guardians have had to face the devastating reality of balancing their love for their animals with the often-overwhelming cost of care. RAPS Animal Hospital is changing that. As a nonprofit, every dollar that comes in from veterinary services goes right back into the community, helping animals in need and making care more accessible for everyone. **Since opening, the hospital has provided over \$6 million in partially and fully subsidized care**, saving lives that might otherwise have been lost.

The RAPS Animal Hospital isn't just about affordability—it's about redefining what veterinary care should be. We offer BC's only no-interest payment plan, ensuring that financial barriers don't stand between pets and the care they need. This model has proven to be a lifeline for countless families, empowering them to seek the best possible treatments without the crushing weight of financial pressure.

A Thriving Community of Care

What sets the RAPS Animal Hospital apart is the elimination of the profit motive. Veterinary professionals are drawn to RAPS because we prioritize the well-being of animals over corporate enrichment.

In an era where veterinarians and support professionals are in short supply, the hospital stands out as a place where the focus is on healing and saving lives, not generating revenue. That means veterinary professionals seek us out as a socially conscious employer.

We are also eliminating barriers to access. We live in one of the world's most expensive places and any unanticipated expense can have a desperate impact on a family's budget.

RAPS Animal Hospital offers BC's only no-interest payment plan. You may have heard of predatory lending practices where people in moments of desperation around the fate of their beloved pet find themselves beholden to third-party lenders who entrap them into spiralling interest rates and increasing debt. RAPS Animal Hospital clients never need to worry about this. Our in-house, no-interest plans allow clients to spread payments over time, making a difficult moment a little easier.

We also offer VIP memberships to first responders, seniors, union members, students and members of other groups, providing significant discounts for veterinary care.

Dr. Cruz-Mendez
VETERINARIAN



71%

**OF CANADIANS CONSIDER THEIR PETS
AN IMPORTANT PART OF THE FAMILY**

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



RAPS ANIMAL HOSPITAL
HAS NEARLY
5,000
ACTIVE CLIENTS
AT ANY
GIVEN TIME

Dr. Schwartz
VETERINARIAN



Dr. Vasilescu
SENIOR MEDICAL DIRECTOR
& CHIEF MEDICAL ADVISOR



Dr. Homer
MEDICAL DIRECTOR

RAPS ANIMAL HOSPITAL
HELPED OUR
20,000TH
CLIENT
IN 2024

Innovation at the RAPS Animal Hospital

RAPS Animal Hospital delivers individualized care to every animal. In addition to conventional veterinary services, we now offer integrative therapies to ensure pets live their best, healthiest, happiest lives.

Our services now include **physiotherapy, acupuncture, laser therapy, hyperbaric oxygen therapy (HBOT), fluorescent light therapy, and pulsed electro-magnetic field therapy (PEMF).**

These treatments can help manage pain, promote healing, and address chronic conditions such as arthritis, kidney disease, allergies, and more. Whether your pet is recovering from surgery or struggling with ongoing issues, these scientifically supported therapies are designed to complement or replace traditional treatments.

Our commitment is to provide your pet with the most comprehensive care possible, tailored to their unique needs. Explore the world of integrative medicine with us and discover new pathways to well-being for your beloved family members

A Future of Compassionate, Accessible Care

The RAPS Animal Hospital is more than a medical facility—it's a symbol of hope for families who might otherwise struggle to afford the care their pets need. By eliminating the profit motive, we're building a future where no pet suffers because of financial hardship. With each visit, every family who chooses RAPS knows they're not just helping their own pet—they're contributing to a larger mission to save lives and support animals in need.

Dr. Pearlstein
VETERINARIAN



**PHOVIA®
FLUORESCENT
LIGHT THERAPY**



Cutting-Edge Care: RAPS Gets a Big Tech Upgrade

The RAPS Animal Hospital has received approximately \$600,000 in donated equipment from leading veterinary technology companies.

RAPS reps attended a major industry trade show and technology company leaders were impressed with RAPS' nonprofit, community-based model of care and our socially entrepreneurial approach to animal welfare.

ULTRASOUND TRAINING

Dr. Kasey
VETERINARIAN



This support comes at a crucial time, as patient demand at the RAPS Animal Hospital is growing rapidly. The new equipment, including hematology, biochemistry, and urinalysis machines, will double the hospital's testing capacity, reducing wait times for results and enabling quicker diagnoses. This means animals can receive treatments sooner, or, if healthy, go home faster.

One notable addition is the IDEXX VetStat Electrolyte and Blood Gas Analyzer, which provides almost immediate data on blood acidity and electrolyte levels. This is vital for diagnosing conditions like diabetic ketoacidosis (DKA), a life-threatening complication in diabetic animals. Having access to these results so quickly can make the difference between life and death for critically ill pets.

These advancements underscore RAPS' commitment to delivering high-quality care and improving outcomes for animals. By enhancing testing speed and capacity, RAPS can respond faster in critical situations, offering more efficient, life-saving treatments. The hospital's ability to care for more animals, more effectively, highlights the significance of this generous support.

Dr. Cruz-Mendez
VETERINARIAN





POPUP CLINICS FOR THE MOST VULNERABLE



RAPS Animal Hospital has been honoured to provide “Popup Veterinary Clinics” to help the animals in some of Canada’s most economically vulnerable households.

We have operated several clinics in Vancouver’s Downtown Eastside and, this year, delivered one to economically challenged families in Surrey, in partnership with Surrey Police.

These clinics have been made possible through funding provided by the Leo and Frances Longo Fund for Charity to Animals held at and administered by Vancity Community Foundation, as well as supplies donated by Anipet, Boehringer-Ingelheim and Dechra.

RAPS understands that helping animals often means helping their people too!

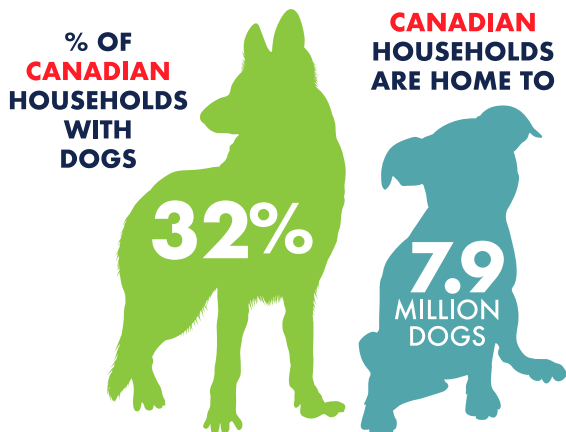
Comfort in the Hardest Moments

There comes a time when we must say goodbye to a beloved member of our family. In those final moments, when love and grief collide, it’s so important that the farewell be as gentle, comforting, and peaceful as possible—for both the animal and the people who love them.

RAPS is honoured to provide compassionate euthanasia services in the privacy of the home. End-of-life care, in the place where the pet and the family are most comfortable, is a service that offers immeasurable consolation during one of life’s most difficult moments.

For countless families, this service is more than just a convenience—it’s a final act of love. To allow their cherished companion to spend their last moments in familiar surroundings, immersed in the love of those who have cared for them throughout their lives, brings a sense of peace that cannot be measured. The pet is soothed by the presence of their favourite people, their familiar smells and spaces, while the family is given the gift of being together, holding their loved one close as they say their goodbyes.

This quiet, intimate farewell allows for a gentle passing—a moment shared in love and grace, where the final journey is taken together, as it always should be.



* <https://www.hepper.com/ca/dog-statistics-canada/>



Dr. Ward
VETERINARIAN,
RAPS ANIMAL HOSPITAL

Meeting our Community's Demand

The RAPS Animal Hospital is expanding to meet demand!

In addition to the significant upgrading of existing equipment and the acquisition of new technologies, we are doubling the number of exam rooms and creating new procedure spaces and dental bays.

This major expansion will double our capacity for exams, reducing backlogs and ensuring the most responsive care possible.

By taking the profit motive out of veterinary care, the RAPS Animal Hospital has built a community of profoundly devoted clients – and our community keeps growing. We are gaining new clients at an incredible rate. We're seeing more new patients in a month than most hospitals see in a year!

This expansion has been made possible by a major grant from PetSmart Charities of Canada, which is funding half the cost of this superb initiative. We are counting on our community to complete this project!



**RAPS ANIMAL HOSPITAL
SEES, ON AVERAGE,
200-300
CLIENTS
EVERY MONTH**

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES RAPS ANIMAL HOSPITAL

We are expanding and we depend on our community to help complete this major initiative!

We have extensive opportunities for sponsorships and donor recognition. Consider a gift to help us ...

MAJOR INITIATIVES

- COMPLETE THE EXPANSION OF THE RAPS ANIMAL HOSPITAL
- CONTINUE UPGRADING AND EXPANDING OUR TECHNOLOGICAL CAPACITIES
- PROVIDE MORE NO-INTEREST PAYMENT PLANS TO EASE THE BURDEN ON FAMILY BUDGETS
- DELIVER VETERINARY SUPPORT TO VULNERABLE POPULATIONS AND THE ANIMALS AT OUR CAT SANCTUARY, IN OUR ADOPTION CENTRE, AND IN OUR FOSTERING NETWORK

*Scan the code to
support RAPS 2024
Annual Campaign*



**RAPS HAS PROVIDED
APPROXIMATELY**

**\$6
MILLION**

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

Helping animals ... and their people!

Good value. Good values!

RAPS THRIFT STORES

Humble Beginnings to Humblebrags

What began as a modest second-hand store has burgeoned into a chain of destination thrift stores – and a continent-wide TV extravaganza! Yeah, we feel like we have a right to brag about turning one person's unwanted stuff into another person's treasure – which then turns into veterinary care, food and housing for animals in need!

It may seem unlikely that thrift shops on the fringes of the West Coast would garner such attention, but thanks to the hit show *Pets & Pickers*, these lively spaces have become iconic across North America. The show has highlighted the hard work of the RAPS Thrift Stores team, turning them into unexpected stars. While these volunteers and staff might seem like ordinary people, their work has an extraordinary impact. In the rapidly expanding world of recycling and reusing, RAPS Thrift Stores stand out—benefiting not only animals but the entire community through economic, social, and environmental contributions.

Economic Relief and the Thrill of Discovery

Metro Vancouver is one of the most expensive regions to live in, and for many households, thrift stores are a much-needed resource. They offer affordable essentials, from clothing and home goods to school supplies and furniture, helping people stretch their dollars.

We aim to do even more of what the RAPS Thrift Stores do best – selling awesome stuff at ridiculously low prices. Turnover is the secret of our success. We keep prices low. That keeps customers coming back. That keeps items flying off the shelves. And our devoted community of supporters keep the quality, previously enjoyed items coming in the door.

We are always looking for more donations of quality used housewares, clothing, small appliances and collectibles.

We are also aiming to expand our retail space to accommodate more furniture and to allow even greater selection of stock for our customers. We are on the lookout for significant retail and warehouse space.

E-commerce is another area we are aiming to expand. Online shopping is more popular than ever and making our stock available to customers from the comfort of their home is one of the ways we are increasing convenience and maximizing the impact of our work to generate revenue that saves and improves the lives of animals.



For those who love hunting for hidden gems or simply enjoy saving money, thrift stores offer excitement and value. What makes RAPS Thrift Stores truly unique, though, is their mission. Unlike larger chains that donate only a tiny fraction of their earnings to charity, 100% of the proceeds from RAPS Thrift Stores go directly into supporting programs that benefit animals and their people. Our philosophy is simple: keep prices low to keep inventory turning over, ensuring satisfied customers return again and again. Shoppers can expect to find items for a fraction of what they would pay at for-profit “thrift” stores, often saving 50% to 90%.

FOLLOW RAPS THRIFT STORES ONLINE!

You need to meet us there. Why? Two reasons! We are posting hilarious, fun, informative videos EVERY DAY.

Plus, if you are a smart shopper, our socials are where you are going to find the latest sales.

facebook Instagram TikTok



FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES RAPS THRIFT STORES

INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADES

- EXPAND OUR RETAIL SPACE TO ACCOMMODATE MORE FURNITURE
- INCREASE DONATIONS OF QUALITY USED HOUSEWARES, CLOTHING, SMALL APPLIANCES AND COLLECTIBLES
- EXPAND E-COMMERCE CAPACITY

*Scan the code to
support RAPS 2024
Annual Campaign*



Community-Building Through Volunteerism

Beyond providing goods, RAPS Thrift Stores are community-driven spaces where people come together to make a positive difference. Operated by volunteers, these stores offer invaluable opportunities for personal growth and connection. For newcomers to the country and young people entering the workforce, RAPS Thrift Stores are an ideal place to gain practical work experience and boost their resumes. Seniors find fulfilment and companionship during their shifts, as they help sort donations and restock items. People of all backgrounds and abilities come here to contribute, knowing that every hour of volunteering supports the lifesaving work RAPS does for animals in need.

A Different Kind of Philanthropy

Not everyone has the ability to write large checks to support their favourite causes, but that doesn't mean they can't make a meaningful contribution.

In British Columbia, where a significant portion of income goes toward housing and living expenses, donating gently used items like clothing, furniture, and household goods is an easy yet impactful way to give back.

These donations provide much-needed inventory for RAPS Thrift Stores, and the proceeds help fund critical animal care.

By giving items a second (or third, or fourth) life, donors and shoppers alike support a cause they believe in while making the most of limited disposable income.

Environmental Champions in Action

Can the simple act of donating, shopping, or volunteering at a thrift store make someone an environmental hero?

Absolutely.

In today's world, where the health of our planet is under threat, every small action counts. By supporting the thrift economy, individuals help reduce waste, conserve resources, and prevent unnecessary items from ending up in landfills.

It's a simple way to contribute to environmental sustainability and reduce the harmful effects of consumerism. Participating in the reuse economy is a straightforward, yet powerful way to take part in preserving the planet for future generations.

On top of all this social good, by supporting the RAPS Thrift Stores, you help save and improve the lives of animals!



ADVOCACY & STRATEGIC PLANNING

RAPS staff and Board of Directors engaged in a valuable and illuminating day-long strategic planning session this fall. The opportunity to step back and assess the big picture is an important part of ensuring everything we do is methodical, well-planned and instituted in ways that meet our mission.

Igniting a Movement for Animals and Their People

RAPS has always been the boots on the ground – rescuing, rehabilitating, and providing lifelong care to animals who depend on us.

While direct care to animals in need is at the core of our mandate, our mission doesn't stop there. We are a powerful voice for the voiceless—driving systemic change, challenging obsolete norms, and advocating for policies that uplift both animals and the people who love them.

Imagine a world where every household—regardless of income—can afford to care for their pets. A world where housing policies support, rather than inhibit, the well-being of animals. Where veterinary care is not a luxury, but an accessible service for all.

We're also mobilizing communities, working with governments, and shaping laws that put animals and their families at the heart of healthier, happier, and more compassionate societies. From advocating for tax-deductible veterinary expenses, fighting economic euthanasia and promoting animal-friendly housing, RAPS is driving change at every level.

We are also educating people of all ages about the joys and responsibilities of companion animals, certain in the knowledge that animals make our lives, families, neighbourhoods and communities safer, healthier and happier.

RAPS is a movement that recognizes the undeniable connection between human well-being and the welfare of animals. A movement that educates, empowers, and transforms the way we think about companion animals and their role in our lives. Join us as we build a future where animals are not just pets but partners in building vibrant, resilient communities.

***Together, we're not just saving lives.
We're changing the world.***

Setting the Foundation for an Even Stronger Future

Having the greatest impact possible requires RAPS to focus inward as well as outward.

For almost a decade, we have been engaged in a major process of professionalization and expansion. We are solidifying successes and laying the foundations for future achievement!

Streamlining operations and ensuring best organizational practices is crucial and we have a team of staff building these foundations and a board of directors who are guiding everything we do with wisdom and fiduciary oversight.

Everything we do is possible because of solid financial footing, which we have maximized through diversification of support. We have built outstanding partnerships with socially responsible businesses. We have been fortunate to nurture existing and develop new connections with philanthropic foundations. The massive expansion of our endeavours in social enterprise are ensuring that our budgets are less susceptible to the winds of economic change.

The rapid but sustainable growth of the RAPS Animal Hospital is a foundational piece of our organization's successes. The community support this clinic has attracted is a testament to the appreciation people have for community-owned, nonprofit veterinary services.

Physical and infrastructural improvements to the RAPS Cat Sanctuary and the adjacent RAPS Adoption Centre are sustaining our facilities for decades to come. These projects will enhance thousands of lives.

The beloved RAPS Thrift Stores continue to grow, which benefits consumers, the planet and, most importantly, the animals. We have big plans to continue expanding this important component of our operations.

Our online presence is being upgraded in terms of visual appeal, ease of accessibility and value of content. We are sharing our story even more effectively than ever.

VOLUNTEERS

The Human Heart of RAPS: Volunteers

The incredible, individualized care RAPS provides to animals – and everything else we do to meet our mission – is only possible because of dedicated volunteers.

The RAPS Cat Sanctuary, which houses hundreds of “mostly unadoptable” cats, is a testament to volunteer power. These volunteers ensure that each cat, no matter how challenging or demanding, receives the individualized care and attention they seek and deserve. Whether it’s providing daily care, giving affection, or managing the Sanctuary’s operations, these unsung heroes make our no-kill commitment possible.

At the RAPS Adoption & Education Centre, volunteers play a critical role in helping prepare animals for their forever homes. Volunteers assist with caring for animals as they await adoption and educate the public on responsible pet guardianship. Their efforts help match pets with loving families, transforming the lives of both humans and animals.

In the RAPS Animal Hospital, volunteers are crucial to our nonprofit veterinary model. Their support in some of the tasks frees up vet techs and other staff to maximize personnel and resources for critical medical services, ensuring no family has to choose between financial hardship and their pet’s health.

Volunteers also run the RAPS Thrift Stores, where proceeds go directly toward animal care. Their hard work in sorting donations, assisting customers, and maintaining the stores allows us to offer veterinary care, shelter, and a second chance for so many animals.

Simply put, the volunteers at RAPS are the heart of everything we do. Their dedication transforms lives and, together, we create a world where every animal is loved, cared for and given the chance to thrive.

WE ALWAYS WELCOME NEW VOLUNTEERS

If you can dedicate just a few hours of your week, we need volunteers to work directly with animals, to participate in vast amount of cleaning, assist in every area of operations and to help at our Thrift Stores.

Volunteering with RAPS is a meaningful way to make a tangible contribution to the lives of animals!



SCAN
QR CODE
VOLUNTEER
APPLICATION



RAPS HAS
500
REGISTERED
VOLUNTEERS
AND
250
ACTIVE
VOLUNTEERS
EACH MONTH

STUDENTS SAVE LIVES



The students of William Bridge Elementary raised a mouthwatering \$1,780.50 for RAPS by organizing a Pi(e) Day on March 14. (Pi = 3.14, so "Pi Day" is March 14. See how that works?!)

Their fundraiser, in which students raffled off pies and cookies to raise money, tripled the original goal!

To top it off, the class that sold the most tickets got to "pie" a teacher and the principal!

To all the students, teachers, parents and supporters who made this astonishing day successful, the animals thank you!

We are so honoured to have student groups, workplaces, crowds of friends and other assortments of humans who come together to make our work possible. It is especially heartening to see the dedication the youngest generations have to saving and improving the lives of animals.



ELVIS WAS IN THE BUILDING



Everyone who takes the time to visit the RAPS Cat Sanctuary is a celebrity to us!

But then ... we have some famous faces who occasionally drop by.

Elvis Stojko, Canadian skating icon, seven-time Canadian champ and two-time Olympic silver medalist, came by to meet a few hundred cats this year. He was joined by Gladys Orozco, who is his wife and also a national medalist and record-holder, in her native Mexico!

Elvis and Gladys were swarmed by hundreds of feline fans. It's amazing how many figure-skating aficionados there are in the cat community!

RAPS is always thrilled to welcome animal allies to our facilities.



Winner, Winner!

This year, two incredible contests brought excitement and joy to the RAPS community – especially to two lucky animal allies – while raising much-needed funds to help us save and improve the lives of animals.

Karen Mae Urbano, a first-time car owner, drove away with a brand-new Nissan Rogue Platinum, thanks to the Applewood/RAPS Vehicle Lottery. Karen purchased 50 tickets, and one of those made her dream of owning a car come true. She was thrilled, surrounded by family and friends, including an excited dog named Loki. With this car, and its pet-friendly package, Karen's win was more than a personal victory—it raised \$112,125 to support RAPS' mission. Special, unparalleled shout-out to our extraordinary community partners at Applewood Auto Group for donating this vehicle!

Meanwhile, Evelyn Monroe's touching story that led her to participate in the RAPS 50/50 contest was even more poignant. In memory of her recently deceased and much beloved cat Milo, Evelyn entered the contest, never really expecting to win. Her \$21,600 prize came at a critical moment in Evelyn's life – and she believes it was Milo's "paw of fate" guiding her. Evelyn's win, like Karen's, means more than just a happy win for them—it is a win-win that helps RAPS continue saving lives!

In the end, everyone is a winner when we come together to help animals!

Applewood Auto Group is RAPS' foremost corporate community ally. Always going above and beyond, Applewood donated the vehicle that Karen won! Even more than this, Applewood contributes – free of charge – the space that houses the RAPS Animal Hospital and the organization's administrative centre. We could not ask for better friends than Applewood!



PETS & PICKERS

Pets & Pickers is the RAPS TV show!

This quirky, addictive, sometimes hilarious, often emotional reality program follows the characters who “pick” through treasures (and much else!) at the RAPS Thrift Stores, striving to generate the funds to save the lives of animals in the most precarious situations. Then the camera swings over to the RAPS Animal Hospital, where those funds permit surgeries and other procedures on pets whose parents might not otherwise be able to save them!

The series, which just finished airing its third season, showcases the compassionate efforts of veterinarians and animal-loving RAPS volunteers and staff. Then there are the humans who come to us with their most desperate cases. The real stars of the show, of course, are the animals – whose resilience, trust, unique character and devotion to their people steal our hearts every single episode.

Google Pets & Pickers to see how you can watch every episode.

WATCH OUR #1
AWARD-WINNING
TV SHOW



Pets & Pickers

STREAM ANYTIME IN CANADA,
USA & UNITED KINGDOM

Bell Media Discovery WB

CTV Crave animal planet

YouTube Roku CTV wild CHANNEL



THANK YOU TO RAPS SPONSORS



Anipet



petvalu

GoPaws!



SUNTECH



PLANNED GIVING

**You can change the world.
Even after you leave this world.**

In 2024, RAPS held a special webinar with top experts in estate planning and financial wellness to provide education on the topic of Legacy Giving. The webinar, titled Charitable Giving In Planning Your Estate: Maximizing Impact and Tax Benefits, was delivered by Audrey Chan, Licensed Life Agent, World Financial Group, and Zachary Murphy-Rogers, Lawyer, Partner, Clark Wilson LLP.

This online seminar focused on how the positive effects we have had in the world can continue even after we are gone. There are many vehicles for providing legacy gifts, including estate assets and insurance.

The webinar is free for anyone to view, and RAPS would be honoured to connect you with the experts featured in the presentation.

**To view the webinar, visit: <https://bit.ly/4ezOVim>
To learn more about legacy giving as a topic,
please visit: rapsbc.com/planned-giving/**

Estate planning is one of the most effective ways to advance the things that are important to us in this world. Considering a bequest to the Regional Animal Protection Society can make a world of difference.





RAPS
ANIMAL 
HOSPITAL

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

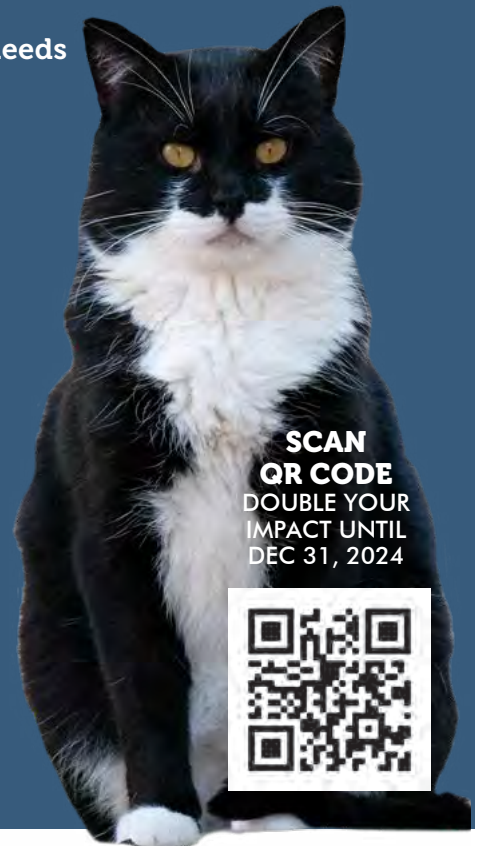
When you support RAPS, you're not just saving lives—you're creating a future where every animal is valued, loved, and given the chance to thrive. Together, we can continue to expand this life-saving mission and ensure that no animal is left behind. Join us in transforming the future for animals and their people. Your generosity makes all of this possible.

THERE ARE SO MANY WAYS TO HELP RAPS!

The easiest way is through your financial gift!
Donate today and get your valuable tax receipt!

- **Choose the RAPS Animal Hospital** for your vet care needs
- Participate in our annual **50/50 draw** and **car raffle!**
- Become a **monthly contributor**
- **Double your impact with a gift before Dec 31**
– a generous donor will match your contribution
- **Donate** to and **shop at the RAPS Thrift Stores**
- **Sponsor a Cat** Sanctuary resident
- **Buy your food and supplies at our online store**
– myvetstore.ca/raps
- **Donate securities or leave a legacy gift**
– both have tax benefits!
- **Associate your brand with ours**
– talk to us about corporate partnership opportunities
- Watch our top-rated TV show **"Pets & Pickers"**

**HELP RAPS DO
MORE IN 2025**



**SCAN
QR CODE**
DOUBLE YOUR
IMPACT UNTIL
DEC 31, 2024



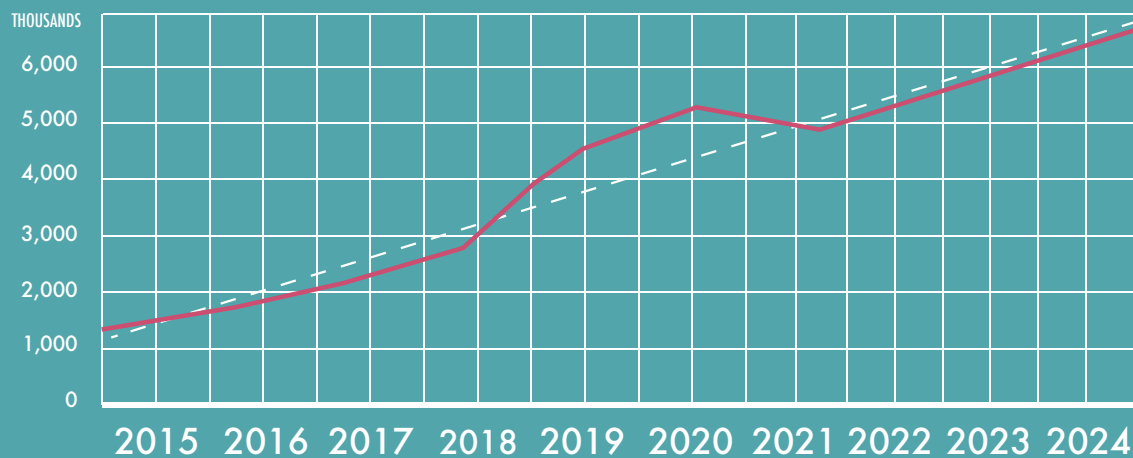
REGIONAL ANIMAL PROTECTION SOCIETY

Statement of Operations

For the year ended 31 December 2023

	Cat Sanctuary Operating Fund	Animal Hospital Fund	Adoption Centre Fund	2023	2022
Revenues					
Hospital charges	\$ –	\$ 3,768,880	\$ –	\$ 3,768,880	\$ 3,094,794
Donations	1,097,157	–	8,486	1,105,643	1,123,428
Thrift store revenue	668,930	–	–	668,930	605,618
Grants	209,913	250,000	–	459,913	269,178
Miscellaneous income	34,507	44,071	3,900	82,478	134,710
Adoptions revenue	1,450	–	71,504	72,954	41,961
	2,011,957	4,062,951	83,890	6,158,798	5,269,689
Expenses – Schedule 1	2,563,929	3,394,383	147,286	6,105,598	5,399,308
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses for the year before other income (expenses)	(551,972)	668,568	(63,396)	53,200	(129,619)

Revenue Growth



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



RAPS

Regional Animal
Protection Society

RAPS
ANIMAL
HOSPITAL

Thank you for your support.

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**BRITISH
COLUMBIA**

Supported by the Province of British Columbia