

Helping animals ... and their people



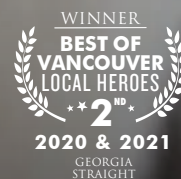
Tofino

RAPS CAT SANCTUARY

*Tofino came to RAPS from
a rescue on Vancouver Island.
She loves to explore and prefers
cats to human company.*

2025 ANNUAL REPORT

THIS YEAR,
RAPS CARED FOR
5,780
ANIMALS





LOOKING BACK: 30 YEARS OF SAVING LIVES

REPORT FROM
THE PRESIDENT



Thirty years ago, RAPS was a dream—a vision born of the conviction that every animal's life is a precious gift and that a few people could reshape the animal rescue world. Today, that dream has not only been realized but, thanks to you in part, has grown into something extraordinary.

I look back with awe at what we have built together. Thousands upon thousands of lives saved. Families changed forever by the love of an adopted companion. A Cat Sanctuary unlike any other in North America—where the “unadoptable” are cherished, not discarded. And a community-owned RAPS Animal Hospital that defied convention by putting care ahead of profit, proving that access and excellence can walk hand in hand.

These are not just achievements. They are acts of defiance against indifference, declarations of hope in the face of despair. They are the living proof that when a community refuses to compromise its values, it can accomplish what might have seemed impossible.

Chance
RAPS CAT SANCTUARY



What moves me most is not only the numbers—the adoptions, the rescues, the spay-and-neuter surgeries—but the faces: every whiskered nose, every wagging tail, every family whose lives are richer because RAPS was there. These stories are the soul of our work.

As President, I could not be prouder of what has been accomplished over three decades. But more than pride, I feel gratitude—toward the volunteers who give of themselves tirelessly, the staff whose dedication is boundless, the donors whose generosity fuels our mission, and every supporter who believes in a world where animals are cherished, not cast off.

The first 30 years have laid the foundation. The next 30 will build upon it. Together, we have proven what compassion can achieve. And together, we will carry this spirit forward into a future even brighter than our past.

With deepest gratitude and unshakable faith in what is to come,

Catherine Ellsmere

CATHERINE ELLSMERE, PRESIDENT



RAPS CAT SANCTUARY



EYAL WITH DOGTOR LEVI

LOOKING AHEAD: A BRIGHT FUTURE FOR ANIMALS AND PEOPLE

REPORT FROM THE
CHIEF EXECUTIVE
OFFICER



Standing at the threshold of RAPS' next chapter, I am filled with boundless excitement for what lies ahead. Our first 30 years have been defined by courage, innovation, and love—qualities that will continue to propel us forward into decades of even greater impact.

The world is changing, and with it, the challenges faced by animals and the people who love them. Economic pressures, housing instability, and other factors put pets and people at risk as never before. Yet at this moment, RAPS is uniquely prepared—not just to respond, but to lead.

We have proven that a community can create miracles. Our no-kill RAPS Cat Sanctuary is a sanctuary not only for animals but for hope itself. Our RAPS Animal Hospital has rewritten the rules of veterinary care, proving that affordability and excellence can coexist. Our adoption and foster programs have transformed countless families. And our partnerships with government, business and community leaders show that systemic change is possible when compassion is the compass.

Now we set our sights higher. We will further grow our hospital into a world-class centre for excellence in accessible veterinary medicine. We will expand our facilities and resources to meet the ever-increasing demand for rescue, care, and sanctuary. We will pioneer new approaches that keep families and pets together, even in the toughest times. And we will share the RAPS model across Canada and beyond, because what works here can inspire communities everywhere. The fact that RAPS recently won an international award as a “Champion of Change,” out of 1,600 charities, is a testament to the work we are doing!

The future we envision is no small dream. It is bold. It is daring. It is a future where no animal is abandoned, where no family is forced to surrender a beloved pet for lack of resources, where compassion reshapes not just animal welfare but the very fabric of our society.

To all who share this vision, I invite you: walk with us. Stand with us. Build this future with us. The next 30 years will be extraordinary. Together, we will change the world.

With passion and determination,

EYAL LICHTMANN, CEO



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT TRAINING, RAPS ANIMAL HOSPITAL

RAPS BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2025

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*President and
Executive Board Member*

Fearn Edmonds
*Vice-President and
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Board Member

Daniel Lay
Board Member

Theo

SHUSWAP RESCUE,
RAPS ADOPTION CENTRE



THIRTY YEARS: HELPING MORE ANIMALS & REACHING BEYOND



1995

Richmond Homeless Cats is first registered as a nonprofit organization under BC Societies Act

1999

RAPS leases land to build the Cat Sanctuary

2005

Richmond Homeless Cats changes its name to Richmond Animal Protection Society

2005

RAPS opens its first Thrift Store on Granville Avenue in Richmond

2005

RAPS helps establish a bylaw in Richmond mandating the spaying/neutering of cats

2007

RAPS takes over operation of the City of Richmond Animal Shelter under contract and implements a no-kill policy

2010

City of Richmond bans sale of rabbits in pet stores, with RAPS playing a key role

2011

RAPS successfully advocates to ban the sale of dogs & puppies in Richmond pet stores

2017

RAPS begins on-site vet care at the Richmond City Shelter while the RAPS Animal Hospital is under construction

2018

RAPS Animal Hospital opens

2018

RAPS opens a second Thrift Store on Francis Road in Richmond

2019

RAPS Animal Hospital acquires Canada's only veterinary Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy chamber

2021

RAPS' contract to run the Richmond City Shelter ends

2021

Richmond City Council re-zones the location of the RAPS Animal Hospital from temporary to permanent usage

2021

RAPS launches a petition calling on the government of Canada to make veterinary fees tax-deductible as a result of a report on "economic euthanasia"

2022

RAPS TV Show "Pets & Pickers" premieres in Canada on Discovery Channel

2024

RAPS opens a third retail store – Mama Karen's Korner – in Cloverdale

2025

Mama Karen's Korner moves to huge new location on Cook Road in Richmond

2025

RAPS celebrates its 30th anniversary, honouring Applewood Auto Group at a glittering gala event

Plateau

RAPS CAT SANCTUARY

Plateau is one of the trapped strays from the commuter cat colonies RAPS rescued in 2025. He is scared of human contact.



OUR MISSION

Helping Animals and Their People

OUR VISION

A community committed to providing a safe life and affordable care for animals.

LARGEST IN CANADA — A KITTY “CLUB MED” THE RAPS CAT SANCTUARY



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

That is our no-kill promise. Allowing us to keep that promise is the commitment of thousands of dedicated animal allies who make possible everything we do.

The RAPS Cat Sanctuary is the heart of the RAPS Model of comprehensive animal wellness.

Far too often, animals with chronic but manageable health conditions or behavioural idiosyncrasies can find themselves homeless and, in too many other jurisdictions, will be euthanized. Not at RAPS!

The RAPS Cat Sanctuary exists to provide a forever home where these mostly unadoptable animals live out their lives surrounded by all the medical treatment they need and the care and attention they crave (or don't, depending on their personality)!

More than ever, our Sanctuary has saved lives by allowing us to welcome animals from partner rescue agencies around the province and even further afield. These are wonderful organizations that do not have the capacity we do to care long-term for animals like these.

More than this, since the opening of the RAPS Animal Hospital, in 2018, we have been able to assist even more animals beyond our traditional geographic reach. With an in-agency vet clinic, we are able to welcome animals who require extraordinary veterinary care that smaller agencies in outlying communities are not able to accommodate.

Similarly, our Cat Sanctuary always has room for more. Unlike traditional shelters, where animals are mostly kept in kennels, our Sanctuary provides a range of areas catering to the unique needs of every animal. We have areas for those with feline leukemia, another for those with feline immunodeficiency virus (feline AIDS) and we have diabetic cats and others who require regular, routine medications or treatments.

We take great pride in the fact that every animal in our care is treated as an individual. We are able to do this because we have the support of hundreds of volunteers, who do so much for so many — and who ensure that we squeeze every penny out of a donated dollar. Volunteers allow us to deliver the maximum direct care to the animals while minimizing overhead costs.

The Newton Horde
PEN 6, RAPS CAT SANCTUARY



DRY CAT FOOD
13,000
LBS PER YEAR
APPROX 685 BAGS



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

12

HYPERTHYROID
MEDICATION

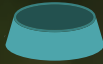
6

ASTHMA PUFFERS

6

ANTI-ANXIETY

7



WET CAT FOOD
300-400
CANS PER DAY



APPROXIMATE COST
TO RUN THE
RAPS CAT SANCTUARY

\$3,500
PER DAY



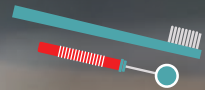
CAT LITTER
72,000
LBS PER YEAR
APPROX 1800 BAGS



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



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



Akiva

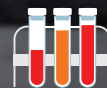
RAPS CAT SANCTUARY

RAPS CAT SANCTUARY
The Purrfect Community

**DAILY CAT
SANCTUARY CARE**



INSULIN INJECTIONS
10
PER DAY



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

EMERGENCY UPGRADES

This year saw numerous essential upgrades to the RAPS Cat Sanctuary.

Thousands of cats can really lead to wear and tear on a place!

After a couple of decades of scratching, soiling and general usage, the facilities at the RAPS Cat Sanctuary are showing their age. This summer – while weather permitted – a vast range of renovations took place at the Sanctuary, the Adoption Centre and the surrounding area.

New electrical and fiber-optic lines were run 800 feet from the street to our facilities. This has tripled the available power on-site, which permits us to do everything we needed to do – including heating every building in winter, cooling them in summer, enhancing the security systems, providing for more computers, lighting and much more. A new designated electrical room was constructed.

This big increase in power finally allows us to install industrial washers and dryers, which were desperately needed. You would be surprised at the amount of laundry hundreds of cats produce in a day!

The fiber-optic cables will bring our phones, internet and security infrastructure into the 21st century.

In the course of doing all this underground work, we were able to upgrade the parking lot – another overdue improvement. We've increased parking capacity by a whopping 50% and improved access for those with mobility challenges!

Inside the facility, almost every aspect of the Sanctuary has been enhanced this year.

Thanks to an extremely generous contribution from her family in memory of Marcia Elizabeth Hauser, and celebrating her lifelong love for cats, major upgrades were provided to the “Double-Wide.” This structure, which has been on the site for about a quarter-century, serves as the intake centre for new arrivals, as well as a recuperation station for animals returning from the hospital or who need a little respite from the excitement of the larger Sanctuary. It is a vintage building with a lot of needs! It is now a fully upgraded facility – renamed The Hauser House.

All flooring, wall coverings and ceilings have been replaced. The building was fumigated and made sanitary again, with antibacterial cork under-flooring, new insulation, improved lighting and fresh fixtures. An upgraded medical unit has been integrated into the building, providing an on-site clinic for the Sanctuary medical staff, as well as the RAPS Animal Hospital doctors and staff who come to the Sanctuary to provide on-site medical care.

Other buildings have seen similar upgrades – if not quite as comprehensive – including new roofing to withstand the West Coast weather.

For safety and for esthetic improvements, the landscaping and paving stones have been redone throughout the Sanctuary, making it safer for everyone.



All of these major capital infrastructure projects have been made possible through the generous contributions of a number of families and individual donors. We are especially grateful to the Hauser family for the Hauser House upgrades, which are the most comprehensive renovation. These have been significant, necessary improvements that will continue as necessary. Support for future upgrades is welcome and recognition opportunities are available.



TRENCHES FOR FIBRE-OPTIC
& ELECTRICAL UPGRADES



NEW ROOF INSTALLATION



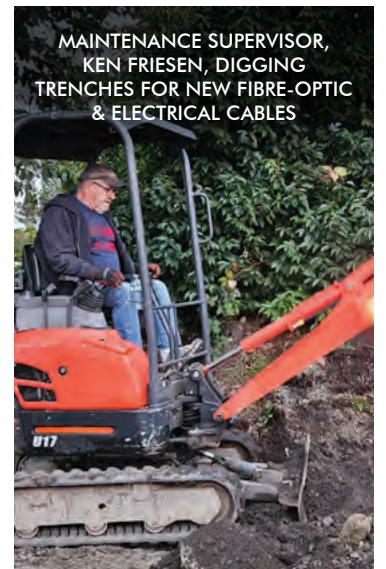
VOLUNTEERS
BUILDING CAT CAGES



ANGELA HAUSER & JESSICA HAUSER



MOZART,
CAT SANCTUARY RESIDENT



MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR,
KEN FRIESEN, DIGGING
TRENCHES FOR NEW FIBRE-OPTIC
& ELECTRICAL CABLES

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



ANGELA HAUSER & JESSICA HAUSER WITH
LONGTIME VOLUNTEER, DEBBIE WOLANSKI

RAPS IMPACT STORIES

Fletcher
RAPS CAT SANCTUARY



DIARY OF A MAD CAT

Hi. It's me. *Marilyn.*****

One resident of the RAPS Cat Sanctuary went viral on social media this year. Marilyn, a feline with a very particular personality, caught the attention of social media watchers and even the news media with her malignant messages.

RAPS agreed to release communications from Marilyn Monhiss, who expressed severe dissatisfaction after being unwillingly rescued from the wild. She didn't ask to be rescued. She didn't like being rescued. She hates her foster family and she doesn't care who knows it.

Marilyn had made her displeasure well known to any human in her orbit but she demanded wider awareness of her plight. Her daily diatribes of disgruntlement had social media watchers awaiting the next miserable missive.

These statements, which do not reflect the opinions of the Regional Animal Protection Society, its directors, employees or volunteers, have been compiled and can be found at catsanctuary.ca/blog/hi-its-me-marilyn.

SAFE AT LAST

"Commuter Colony" Cats

A colony of abandoned cats was struggling to survive near a busy bus stop.

Some had been hit by cars before RAPS was notified and began a rescue operation.

We trapped more than a dozen cats and – as is almost inevitable in such situations – some were pregnant.

These cats aren't completely feral—just scared. After coming to RAPS, they were socialized. The cats that gave birth increased the intake to 30 cats and kittens. Six of the grown cats and all of the kittens (18 of them) found forever homes! And the rest of the cats have adapted nicely to live out their lives at the RAPS Cat Sanctuary ("Kitty Club Med.")

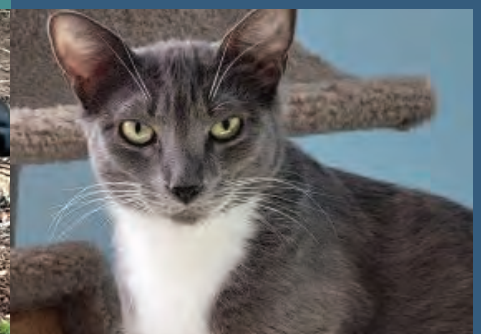


CAPITAL CATS

Eleven mostly feral cats from Victoria

A remarkable animal organization on Vancouver Island rescued 300 cats from a shocking hoarding situation in the provincial capital. Miraculously, the small but mighty rescue group found forever homes for all but a few of these desperate animals.

We were honoured to welcome 11 cats to our facilities. RAPS has always collaborated with animal organizations in BC and elsewhere but, since 2018, when we opened the RAPS Animal Hospital, we have been able to help more animals from more places than ever before.



KITTY COMFORTERS: RAPS' SUPER-POWER

Not every cat comes to RAPS domesticated. Not every cat is fearless. Not every cat will become a lap cat. Some will never curl up beside us or purr contentedly in our laps. And that's okay. What matters most—for their own health and peace of mind—is that they never live in fear of us. Fear creates stress, and stress is no environment for healing, comfort, or happiness.

Some cats, especially those who were once feral, eventually learn to trust humans. Slowly, cautiously, they come around—sometimes even surprising us by finding homes with families who fall in love with them.

Most cats rescued from hoarding or crisis situations, however, fall somewhere in between. They adapt to having people around, but may prefer to keep us at arm's length. For them, the RAPS Cat Sanctuary—our “Kitty Club Med”—is the perfect forever home. Here, they are safe, cared for, and free to make their own choices about how close to get to humans.

And the bridge between fear and trust, between isolation and connection, is often built by a remarkable group of volunteers: **the Kitty Comforters.**

These extraordinary individuals are patient beyond measure. They sit with nervous or frightened cats for hours—sometimes reading softly so the cats grow accustomed to the rhythm of a human voice, sometimes simply being a quiet, non-threatening presence. Progress often starts small: a cautious sniff, a tentative touch, the acceptance of a single pat. Sometimes it ends there. Sometimes it blossoms into a cat who once hid in the shadows becoming a magnet for human affection.

Every cat moves at their own pace. Kitty Comforters understand this—and they respect it. Some cats will never cross that invisible line toward affection, and that's fine. Others tiptoe back and forth, trying it out on their own terms. And some leap beyond every expectation, embracing the companionship they once resisted.

Whatever the outcome, the Kitty Comforters are there. They provide the opportunity for connection, the possibility of friendship, without pressure or expectation. They know that trust is a gift that can never be rushed.

This quiet, patient work may not always be visible. But it is transformative. It allows RAPS to keep our promise to every cat: that here, they will be safe, respected, and given the dignity of choice.

The Kitty Comforter program is not just about socializing cats. It is about healing, patience, and love. It's about showing every cat, no matter their history, that they matter. And sometimes, against all odds, it opens a door to a future no one dared imagine.

Because of the Kitty Comforters, countless cats have stepped through that door—and into the arms of love. Our supporters provide a safe haven, specialized care, and the freedom for cats to choose the life they want to live. With your help, we can continue to train, support, and expand our Kitty Comforter program — so that every cat, no matter their history, is given a chance to heal, to trust, and to thrive.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY RAPS CAT SANCTUARY

SINGLE WIDE RENOVATION
TO HOUSE OUR SENIOR CATS

\$150,000

Scan the QR code
to support **RAPS 2025**
Annual Campaign



Brigid & Elvis
RAPS CAT SANCTUARY

WHERE HAPPY ENDINGS HAPPEN: RAPS ADOPTION & EDUCATION CENTRE



For cats and kittens who desire a forever home and who seek a human family, we have the RAPS Adoption Center. This is a place of joy, where inter-species bonds are cemented. So many happy endings have taken place in this space.

This year saw an unprecedented number of cats saved by RAPS, with vast rescue operations, in multiple locations, bringing scores of kittens, adolescents and adult cats into our care. We accept surrenders, we trap feral colonies, we rescue cats in hoarding situations and we take in cats from other rescue organizations. We also work directly with people who want to leave their animals to RAPS in their wills in the event of their passing.

Many of these animals came to us ready for adoption, while others were socialized by our Kitty Comforters, volunteers and staff in preparation for family homes. Those who seemed less likely to adapt to human homes are integrated into the RAPS Cat Sanctuary. Or are in foster care preparing for the next phase of their lives.

That is what makes RAPS unique: no animal is euthanized because they are not adoptable. We consider our adoption processes to be best-in-sector, ensuring that the individual need of the animal is always our top priority. For example, in general, cats enjoy life better in homes with at least one other feline companion, so we generally have a policy of adopting in pairs if a home does not already include another cat. There are exceptions to this rule, of course. Cats being the distinctive characters they are, there are always some who want to be the sole monarch of their domain. We get to know each one individually and ensure that their needs and wants are met.

**EVERY LIFE
MATTERS**



DOZENS OF KITTENS & CATS,
RAPS ADOPTION CENTRE

RAPS IMPACT STORY

Rescue from Catastrophe

Family members contacted RAPS to intervene in a hoarding situation.

"What we discovered was unlike anything most of us had seen in decades of animal welfare work," says Valerie Wilson, former manager of the RAPS Cat Sanctuary and the RAPS Adoption Centre.

Kittens and cats were everywhere throughout the house, which was festering with urine and feces. The stench was unbearable – even to seasoned rescuers like our team.

A nursing mom was so unhealthy she couldn't care for her kittens. One cat had an untreated ulcerated eye. There were no litter boxes in the home. It appeared that none of the cats had experienced veterinary care.

Things got worse before they got better, however. In between our team's rescue visits to the home, the resident apparently attempted to address the massively unhygienic situation by pouring bleach throughout the home. This mixed toxically with the urine, burning the paws and skin of remaining cats. It also caused neurological damage in some of the animals.

In all, we rescued 35 cats and kittens, including numerous pregnant mamas that exponentially increased the number of kittens. Because of the medical challenges around their disastrous early lives, not all pregnancies were successful and included some stillborns and kittens with health challenges. A couple required compassionate euthanasia because their conditions were too severe for recovery. However, most of the cats, as well as the kittens who have been born since the rescue, are doing well and adapting to life.

Most of these cats have behavioural or medical conditions – or both – but every one has been treated as the individual they are, with all their medical, rehabilitation and socialization needs met. A great many have adapted magnificently, exemplifying the resilience typical of even those animals who have come from the worst situations.



MEDICAL CHALLENGES IN
MASSIVE HOARDING SITUATION

RAPS IMPACT STORY

Bright Beginnings for Lady G

Lady Ginger Spice of Clawingham – familiarly called "Lady G" – was found in the basement of a rental unit when the tenants moved out and left her behind.

She was brought to the RAPS Adoption Centre by the landlord who found her. A physical exam at RAPS Animal Hospital showed she was pregnant. She was a very young mother, estimated by our team to be a year old at the most!

Lady G immediately went into home foster care with Kati, our most experienced pregnant cat and kitten volunteer who fosters pregnant mamas and new-borns, giving them the best chance at a healthy start.

Lady G was a success story – she had five kittens, one of whom tested positive for feline leukemia and all five of her kittens have been adopted into loving family homes.



Lady G

RAPS ADOPTION &
EDUCATION CENTRE

SPLITTING UP FERAL KITTIES

RAPS has a policy of adopting kittens and cats in pairs (unless there is already an existing pet pal in the home). There are exceptions, of course. Some felines prefer being the only cat in the family.

There are other exceptions. Counterintuitively, we sometimes split up siblings. That's the case with Salt and Pepper (whose very names imply a duality or symbiosis!).

These (approximately) three-month-old bros were feral kitties who were trapped by our master trappers.

Although they were feral, kittens usually have a great chance of being socialized and becoming awesome members of a human household. However, getting them used to bipeds can be a challenge. That's certainly the case with this piquant pair.

In situations like these, the kitties can feed off each other's nervous energy. Felines are social and are always seeking comfort and socialization from their peers. When we separate them from their siblings, they are forced to socialize with their human caregivers, and so they are more likely to appreciate snuggles from bipeds. That's why it's sometimes best, depending on the individuals, to temporarily separate them, so they can't reinforce each other's us-against-the-humans tendencies.

So these two went to separate foster homes, being coaxed to love us! They were subjected to "burrito-wrapping" to feel secure in human arms. They were treated with the cautious, loving, reassuring presence that helped turn them into awesome companions for people who don't like being hissed at!

Eventually, once they had gained confidence individually, they were reunited and adopted together to an awesome family home!

This is the sort of individualized care RAPS specializes in. We recognize that every animal is a unique character (and what a character some of these beasts are). Your support makes every rescue, every rehabilitation and every happy ending possible. Thank you!

WHAT DOES "UNADOPTABLE" MEAN?

The hundreds of cats who reside at the RAPS Cat Sanctuary are often called "unadoptable." But that word doesn't really have a strict definition.

Sometimes it's simply supply and demand. With so many cats seeking homes, those with chronic but manageable health conditions—or quirky personalities—are often passed over for younger, healthier, or more "easy fit" companions. Those cats come to live at the Sanctuary, which makes RAPS unique.

Here, you'll meet cats with three legs instead of four, those living with FIV, FeLV, or diabetes, and cats who hiss, swipe, or refuse to use a litter box. Some are what we lovingly call "Garbo cats"—they prefer to be left alone with their feline friends. Every cat has a story, and every one of them matters.

And sometimes ... "unadoptable" doesn't stick.

Take Nala, an 11-year-old calico with a reputation for unpredictability. She bounced between homes and our Adoption Centre, her chances of placement uncertain. Then she met Robert, a frequent Sanctuary visitor. Against all odds, Nala chose him—and now she has the forever home she deserves.

Or Augustus ("Goose"), who came to RAPS with FIV. Affectionate with humans but intolerant of other cats, he longed for a kingdom of his own. Today, he's thriving as the sole feline in a loving household.

Stories like Nala's and Augustus' remind us that "unadoptable" is not a label but a moment in time. At RAPS, we treat every cat as an individual—and sometimes, with patience and love, even the most unlikely cats find homes of their own.

Goose
RAPS ADOPTION &
EDUCATION CENTRE

THIS YEAR,
RAPS CARED FOR
5,780
ANIMALS

FERAL KITTEN,
RAPS ADOPTION &
EDUCATION CENTRE



COMMUNITY OUTREACH EVENTS
MANDY LICHTMANN,
MANAGER, COMMUNITY RELATIONS

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY RAPS ADOPTION & EDUCATION CENTRE

COMMUNITY CLINICS AND
SPAY & NEUTER PROGRAM

\$50,000

Scan the code
to support
**RAPS 2025
Annual
Campaign**



VALERIE WILSON, MANDY LICHTMANN,
JEMMA READ (INTERN) & ALISON BRADY
COMMUNITY FOOD BANK



MANDY LICHTMANN & RAPS' CEO EYAL LICHTMANN
COMMUNITY OUTREACH, MAIN CAR FREE DAYS

LEADING VOICE IN ANIMAL WELFARE: LEARNING AND OUTREACH

The RAPS Adoption and Education Center includes
a vital component of public awareness and advocacy.

Our team is bringing animals into seniors' homes, community buildings, schools and other venues where we provide kitten therapy and education on animal care while also welcoming groups like adolescents with special needs or workplace volunteer teams into our facilities to experience hands-on the joys and responsibilities of animal companionship.

In addition, we are committed to being a voice for those who cannot advocate for themselves. On issues like animal-affirmative housing policies, "economic euthanasia," and including families with companion animals in corporate and institutional benefits packages, RAPS is an innovation leader in advancing policies that support animal welfare.



KITTEN,
RAPS ADOPTION &
EDUCATION CENTRE



RAPS ANIMAL HOSPITAL TEAM AT WORK



Dr. Vasilescu
SENIOR MEDICAL
DIRECTOR,
RAPS ANIMAL
HOSPITAL



Dr. Schwartz
VETERINARIAN,
RAPS ANIMAL
HOSPITAL

TAKING PROFIT OUT OF VET CARE: RAPS ANIMAL HOSPITAL



The most transformative moment in the 30-year history of the RAPS organization took place in 2018, with the opening of the RAPS Animal Hospital. Until then, third-party veterinary care was among the largest budget line items in our annual expenditures, creating nearly one million dollars in operational debt for the organization. Not only did RAPS eliminate almost all external veterinary expenditures, we also dramatically reduced the costs of care for RAPS animals by bringing vet care in-house.

In addition, the RAPS Animal Hospital was created as a social enterprise that allows us to deliver affordable veterinary care to the public, generating revenue that is 100% reinvested back into the community and RAPS programs.

That's not all. As a nonprofit veterinary hospital, we are able to offer the most competitive pricing, especially on the most expensive procedures, like major surgeries, which can save a family thousands of dollars. On top of this, we have British Columbia's only no-interest veterinary payment plan, helping to ensure that no one is forced to make life-and-death decisions based on ability to pay. It is also a point of immense pride for us that our hospital has allowed us to assist countless rescue organizations across British Columbia (and in other provinces) to deliver care to animals who might otherwise have faced euthanasia. It is no overstatement to say that the RAPS Animal Hospital has changed the world — for us, for the animals we care for, and for countless families who have been able to remain happily together without fear of losing a beloved family member because of unaffordable vet care.

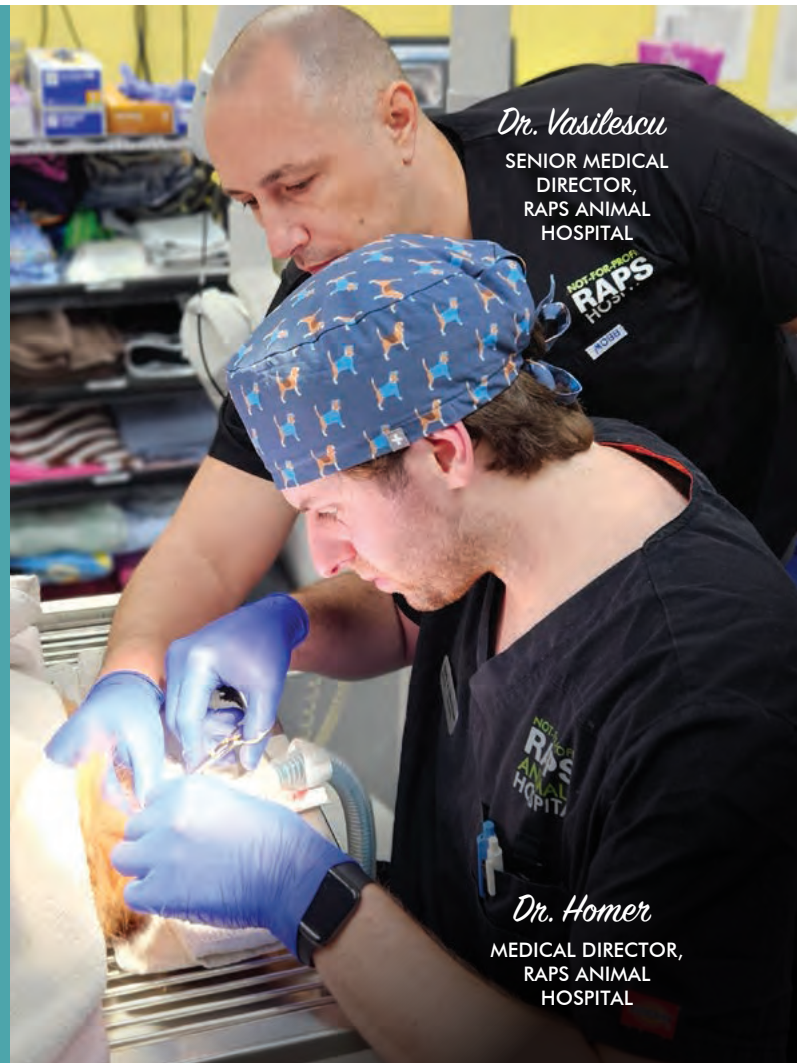
EXCITING NEWS!

DENTAL SPECIALIST COMING TO RAPS ANIMAL HOSPITAL

We are excited and proud to announce that **Dr. Judy Rochette** is joining the RAPS Veterinary team. Dr. Rochette is Board Certified and has been providing referral dentistry, advanced oral surgery, orthodontics, oral pathology and other dental services to the Lower Mainland of BC for approximately 25 years. Join us in welcoming Judy to the RAPS family.



Dr. Rochette
DENTAL SPECIALIST,
RAPS ANIMAL
HOSPITAL



Dr. Vasilescu
SENIOR MEDICAL
DIRECTOR,
RAPS ANIMAL
HOSPITAL

Dr. Homer
MEDICAL DIRECTOR,
RAPS ANIMAL
HOSPITAL

SPECIALIZED SERVICES

Not-for-profit means reinvesting back in to your community. It means better services and better equipment.

RAPS Animal Hospital is profoundly well-equipped, with some of Canada's most advanced technologies and modalities. RAPS received close **\$1 million in new technology equipment** and software donations. Yes, you heard it right – close to \$1 million in the most diverse set of equipment for the treatment of your pets. We have the only **hyperbaric oxygen therapy** in Canada, **two dental machines, dental x-rays, full body x-rays, class 4 lasers, cytology analysis, GE ultrasound, fluorescent light therapy, and integrative medicine.** We also have supplemental treatments, including care for **"exotics"** — birds, reptiles and other patients.

We offer a range of services, with state-of-the-art technology and equipment that even rivals some emergency hospitals. We provide same-day appointments for urgent care walk-ins and we focus on healthcare outcomes for your pets.

Imagine millions of dollars in new technologies and systems RAPS will attract in the near future to provide your pet the ultimate healthcare and best experience.

At RAPS Animal Hospital, our clients are like family and that is why **RAPS is consistently voted by the public as the #1 veterinary clinic.**

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY RAPS ANIMAL HOSPITAL

NEW DIAGNOSTIC EQUIPMENT
\$50,000

Scan the code
to support
**RAPS 2025
Annual
Campaign**



Angela
OFFICE MANAGER,
RAPS ANIMAL
HOSPITAL

RAPS ANIMAL HOSPITAL HAS SEEN
16,675 PATIENTS
SINCE OPENING



Dr. Cruz-Mendez
VETERINARIAN,
RAPS ANIMAL
HOSPITAL

RAPS ANIMAL HOSPITAL: IMPACT STORY

RAPS ANIMAL HOSPITAL HAS
PROVIDED APPROXIMATELY

\$7,000,000

IN SUBSIDIES TO THE COMMUNITY
SINCE OPENING

COMMANDER'S COURAGEOUS COMEBACK

Commander and his human were struck by a taxi in the early hours of the morning.

Commander, a 17-month-old, 47-kilo (110-pound) Bull-mastiff-Rottweiler cross, was living in a tent in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside when he was hit and dragged by a car.

Commander was stuck under a rear tire and the driver refused to back up or get out of the vehicle, forcing four people to lift the car off the dog. A bystander prevented the driver from leaving the scene.

Commander's person was not severely injured, but Commander's injuries were life-threatening. They were turned away from numerous emergency veterinary hospitals due to their lack of funds. No one stepped forward to help.

They were then told about RAPS Animal Hospital and arrived with Commander in critical condition. Despite a full roster of patients that day at the hospital, RAPS' doctors immediately took Commander in, addressed his pain and set about assessing his injuries. Once Commander was stabilized, it was clear his front left leg had been totally shattered by the car accident and could not be saved.

Commander required extensive surgery, hospitalization, rehabilitation, a prosthetic leg, and numerous medications. Despite the growing costs, RAPS was solely focused on Commander.

Animals are extraordinarily resilient and many get along just fine on three legs. The problem for Commander is that he is a huge guy – and very front-loaded. His massive head and shoulders mean a lot of weight on his remaining leg, which would cause issues to his entire chiropractic health.

So we fitted him with a prosthetic leg. It was a long process, being fitted and then having the new leg fashioned and shipped to him. In the meantime, Commander adapted beautifully to a new family.

RAPS ANIMAL HOSPITAL
HAS TREATED

7,895 **8,463**

DOGS AND CATS
SINCE OPENING



Zoe & Commander
VETERINARY TECHNICIAN,
RAPS ANIMAL HOSPITAL

RAPS IMPACT STORY

Everest Reaches Summit of Health

Everest is one of seven feral and stray cats the RAPS rescue team saved from a dangerous situation. The other six have all “landed on their feet” but Everest came to us with severe health challenges.

A left hind toe was infected so severely that the infection seeped into his bones. But that’s not even the worst of it. His scrotum was ripped open, leaving one of his testicles exposed. He was in excruciating pain, and we performed an emergency neuter at the RAPS Animal Hospital.

Having apparently had little or no positive interactions with humans in the past, Everest was terrified. It appears he has never known safety or kindness.

Every day, we see the resilience of animals like Everest. Once his health conditions were successfully dealt with, we began socializing him and he joined his siblings in a range of happy endings.

His brother Kirby has feline leukemia – and the RAPS Cat Sanctuary has expertise in caring for animals with this manageable condition, so he really came to the right place!

Two boys, Chatter and Twister, were adopted together. Tonka has also been adopted. Slinky is in foster-to-adopt.

All of these cats have “landed on their feet” but Everest needed an extra boost. With the help of our community, he reached the peak of wellness and finally went to a forever home with an experienced cat expert!

Everest

RAPS CAT SANCTUARY



RAPS IMPACT STORY

Astonishing Reunion

Microchipping is a vital way to reunite lost pets with their people. But here is a mystery you won't believe.

A beautiful tuxedo cat, Jomeo, disappeared from his home in south Surrey seven years ago. After desperately searching for him, Jomeo's people eventually had to give up and assume the worst.

Fast forward years later and 40 kilometres north. Two different neighbours in the Brentwood area of Burnaby were feeding a stray tuxedo cat. One of those people was the girlfriend of Ben, who had lost Jomeo all those years ago. The other “feeder” was a volunteer at RAPS, who decided to take the cat in to the RAPS Animal Hospital to see if he had a microchip.

This is where the threads of the story come together in the most unbelievable way. The microchip said it was Jomeo – Ben's cat. And when they contacted him, they realized this was the same cat his girlfriend has been feeding all along. Jomeo was the only one who was not stunned.

“Well, he's a cat,” says Ben. “He didn't wag his tail. I figure he's just maybe ‘Where were you all these years?’”

Microchipping is the quickest and most reliable way of reuniting people and animals when they become separated. There have been thousands of happy endings thanks to this simple technology – though few quite as mysterious and coincidental as Jomeo's.

EMBRACING THE THRIFTING ECONOMY: RAPS THRIFT STORES



RAPS Thrift Stores began as a modest attempt to generate revenue in support of the RAPS Cat Sanctuary. Little did we know of the centrality that this social enterprise would come to play in financially catapulting the Regional Animal Protection Society into one of Canada's largest and most innovative animal-serving organizations.

We now operate a chain of three thrift stores — with the occasional pop-up special retail outlet — raising hundreds of thousands of dollars a year for our work. That work is now world-renowned — thanks to the heartwarming, funny, dramatic and sometimes edge-of-your-seat TV reality show about RAPS — *Pets & Pickers*. (See more on page 24)

As an animal rescue organization, we are proud of the profound environmental impacts that our thrift stores provide. We divert thousands of pounds of textiles and other materials from landfills every year. This has great positive impacts on the environment.

**VOLUNTEERS PROVIDE 8,100 HOURS
OF WORK PER MONTH ACROSS
THREE STORES**

There are other tangible positives associated with the thrifting economy. In one of the world's most expensive places, our thrift stores can be a lifeline for households struggling to make ends meet. We are a destination for clothing, housewares, furniture, decorative items and practically everything a family could need (as well as some other treasures they didn't know they needed)! RAPS is honoured that we have been able, on many occasions, to assist households in crisis, whether families who have lost their home to fire, those experiencing homelessness, who are escaping domestic violence, or for other reasons need a hand up. We are honoured to provide, free of charge, everything people need in emergency situations. All of these impacts are possible because we have the support of people who donate to and shop at our retail outlets.

Donating to thrift stores is a way that even people with limited financial capabilities can have a significant philanthropic impact. Choosing to contribute to RAPS Thrift Stores makes a dramatic impact on the world in so many ways — and it's something anyone can do.



Karen Kamachi
DISTRICT MANAGER
RAPS THRIFT STORES

VISIT THE NEW MAMA KAREN'S KORNER

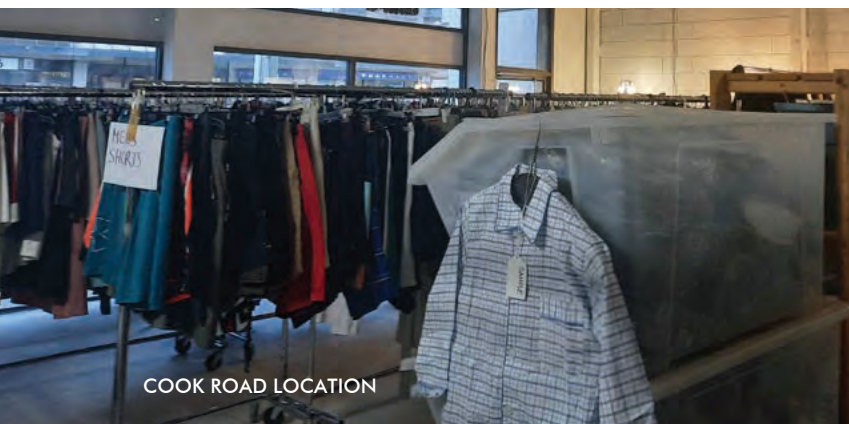


In addition to the two beloved RAPS Thrift Stores, serious shoppers have a new destination.

Mama Karen's Korner is RAPS' destination for jewelry, collectibles, heirlooms, high-end clothing and other treasures. This boutique brings together the finest items that come across the RAPS retailing threshold, including new furniture, top-of-the-line vintage items and sought-after treasures.

Originally opened in Cloverdale, Mama Karen's Korner relocated late this year to a much larger space in a high-traffic location near Richmond Centre – at 8160 Cook Road, Richmond.

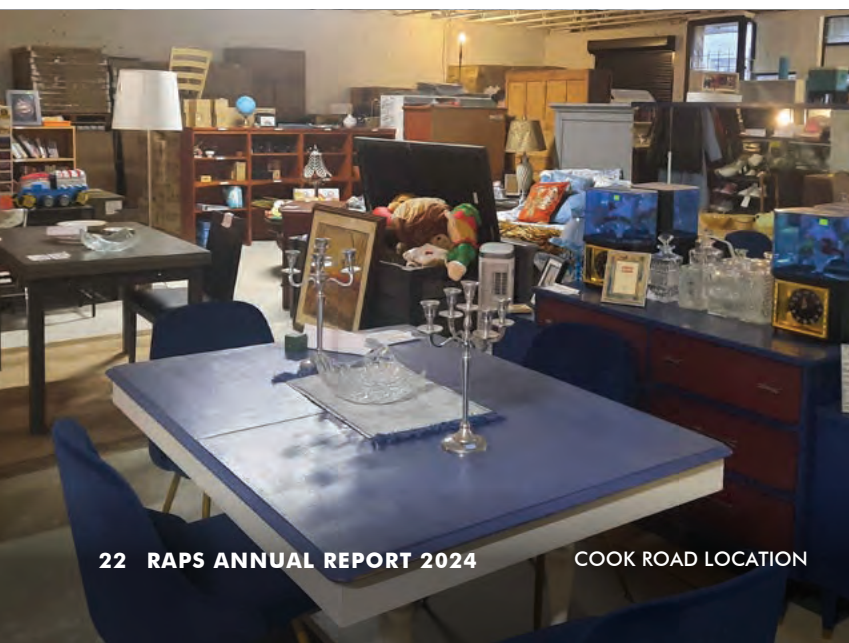
Mama Karen's Korner is a dramatic new spot on the map for antique and collectible aficionados. If you have special items that you are looking to part with, consider making a meaningful contribution to animal welfare by donating them to Mama Karen's Korner. And if you are someone who appreciates the finer things in life, this is your new favourite destination.



COOK ROAD LOCATION



COOK ROAD LOCATION



FUNDING OPPORTUNITY RAPS THRIFT STORES

NEW STORE RENOVATIONS
AND ELECTRICAL UPGRADES

\$25,000

Scan the QR code
to support **RAPS 2025**
Annual Campaign



RAPS THRIFT STORES ARE KILLING IT ON SOCIALS

Be sure to check us out.



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www.tiktok.com/@rapsthift



INSTAGRAM |
www.instagram.com/rapsthift/



FACEBOOK |
www.facebook.com/rapsthiftstore

VOLUNTEERS



The Humans Who Make it All Happen

RAPS is a volunteer-dependent organization and they are the heart of our work. The small armies of volunteers who run our thrift stores, care for the hundreds of animals at the RAPS Cat Sanctuary, support our team at the Adoption and Education Center, serve on the Board of Directors, provide support for ad hoc projects throughout the year, who foster animals, and even assist with supplemental tasks at the RAPS Animal Hospital, help us keep costs down so we can maximize the care for the animals.

So many of our volunteers tell us that this is one of the most cherished experiences in their lives, an opportunity to connect with animals and other people, to gain experience as new Canadians or young people looking to build their resumés, seniors looking for a meaningful way to contribute to society and stay active, and for people who just love hanging out with animals.

To everyone who volunteers for RAPS:

THANK YOU!



ARIEL LIOZNYANSKY,
MARGARET LEATHLEY &
CATHERINE ELLSMERE
RAPS BOARD MEMBERS

VOLUNTEERS ALWAYS WELCOME!

The Regional Animal Protection Society depends on you. No matter what your skills or interests, we can find a role that allows you to make a meaningful contribution to our work.

rapsbc.com/volunteer-at-raps/



RAPS VOLUNTEERS

BRIGID COULT

BARBARA TROTSKI

LINDA DOUGLAS

JUSTIN SAINT

DEBBIE WOLANSKI

VAL LEINTZ

MARGARET GRAHAM

KATI DEGRAAF

CAROL PORTEOUS

SCAN
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VOLUNTEER
APPLICATION



RAPS RECEIVED
880
VOLUNTEER
APPLICATIONS
RAPS CURRENTLY
HAS
360
ACTIVE
VOLUNTEERS

ESTATE PLANNING

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

Legacy Giving is one of the best ways to make sure the things that are important to us in life continue to thrive after we are gone.

A bequest to RAPS in your will can advance animal welfare after your lifetime, and it can be as simple as adding a single line (or a codicil) to your existing will.

Planned gifts can also be structured to maximize tax benefits. RAPS offers no-cost conversations with volunteer professionals—lawyers, tax and estate planners—who can help you explore strategies that support animals while meeting your financial goals. We encourage donors to let us know about their plans so we can honour intentions and ensure funds are used exactly as they wish.

Beyond wills, supporters can give through gifts of securities or life insurance. Naming RAPS as a beneficiary (in full or in part), transferring ownership of a policy, or combining approaches can significantly increase the impact of a gift with minimal current cost.

Every legacy gift strengthens our work with animals – and ensures that what matters to you now is empowered in perpetuity.

To learn more or to discuss your legacy, please contact jonathan@rapsbc.com.

**FOREVER
HOMES NEED
FOREVER
HEROES**



IMPACT STORY

Howdy, Tex! Planning Ahead Ensures Well-Being of Pets

The RAPS team travelled to Texas this year to transport 10 cats to Canada!

RAPS came to the rescue for these 10 felines when their person went into hospice care. But this was quite some time in the planning.

A wonderful woman in Texas made arrangements in advance so that her beloved pets would be cared for should she be unable to do so. She researched animal organizations across North America and chose RAPS, making provisions in her will for their transportation and care.

Often, RAPS steps in when an animal's person is incapacitated or passes away. These are the lucky ones. Sadly, in far too many instances when people do not make provisions for their pets, the results can be tragic.

RAPS has resources and experts on hand to assist people in making advance estate planning for their pets. We also have webinars, presentations and materials to help people ensure that the things that matter to them can live on even after they are gone. In some cases, we are able to provide tax benefits to the individual now, with the animals benefiting later.

If you would like to discuss advance directives for your pets or estate planning, please contact jonathan@rapsbc.com.

**SCAN
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LEARN MORE**



AS SEEN ON TV: PETS & PICKERS

RAPS has an incredible story to tell. And thanks to Pets & Pickers, the world is hearing it.

This innovative docu-series, now three seasons strong, blends the drama of life in the animal ER with the quirky adventures of the thrift economy. Viewers follow our RAPS Thrift Store teams as they uncover the surprises hidden in mystery bins—then pivot to the RAPS Animal Hospital, where animals and their people face urgent, often life-or-death medical challenges.

The result is gripping, heartfelt television—sometimes hilarious, sometimes tense, always moving.

But the impact goes far beyond entertainment. **Pets & Pickers** has put RAPS on the global stage, attracting the attention of some of the world's leading veterinary technology companies. Impressed by our model, they have contributed more than \$1 million in cutting-edge diagnostic equipment to the RAPS Animal Hospital.

*If you haven't tuned in yet, now's the time. **Pets & Pickers** is available anytime in Canada, the U.S., and the U.K.*

Visit rapsbc.com/pets-and-pickers to catch up!



**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 **CTV wild CHANNEL**

ROKU



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Dr. Marius Vasilescu
SENIOR MEDICAL DIRECTOR
RAPS ANIMAL HOSPITAL

OUR MOST POWERFUL RELATIONSHIP: APPLEWOOD AUTO GROUP

In these pages, you've read about the extraordinary advancements RAPS has achieved this year. Almost all of it can be traced back to one unparalleled relationship.

Nearly a decade ago, RAPS made new friends in the Applewood Auto Group. Applewood presented us with the opportunity to utilize 6,000 square feet of space—rent-free for 15 years—to create the RAPS Animal Hospital.

That gift alone was extraordinary. Valued in the millions of dollars, it provided the foundation for everything that followed. Like yeast, it allowed RAPS to rise beyond what once seemed possible. It eliminated crushing external veterinary expenses, empowered us to save exponentially more animals, and gave us the capacity to support smaller rescues throughout B.C. and beyond—sending out infinite circles of compassion and lifesaving care.

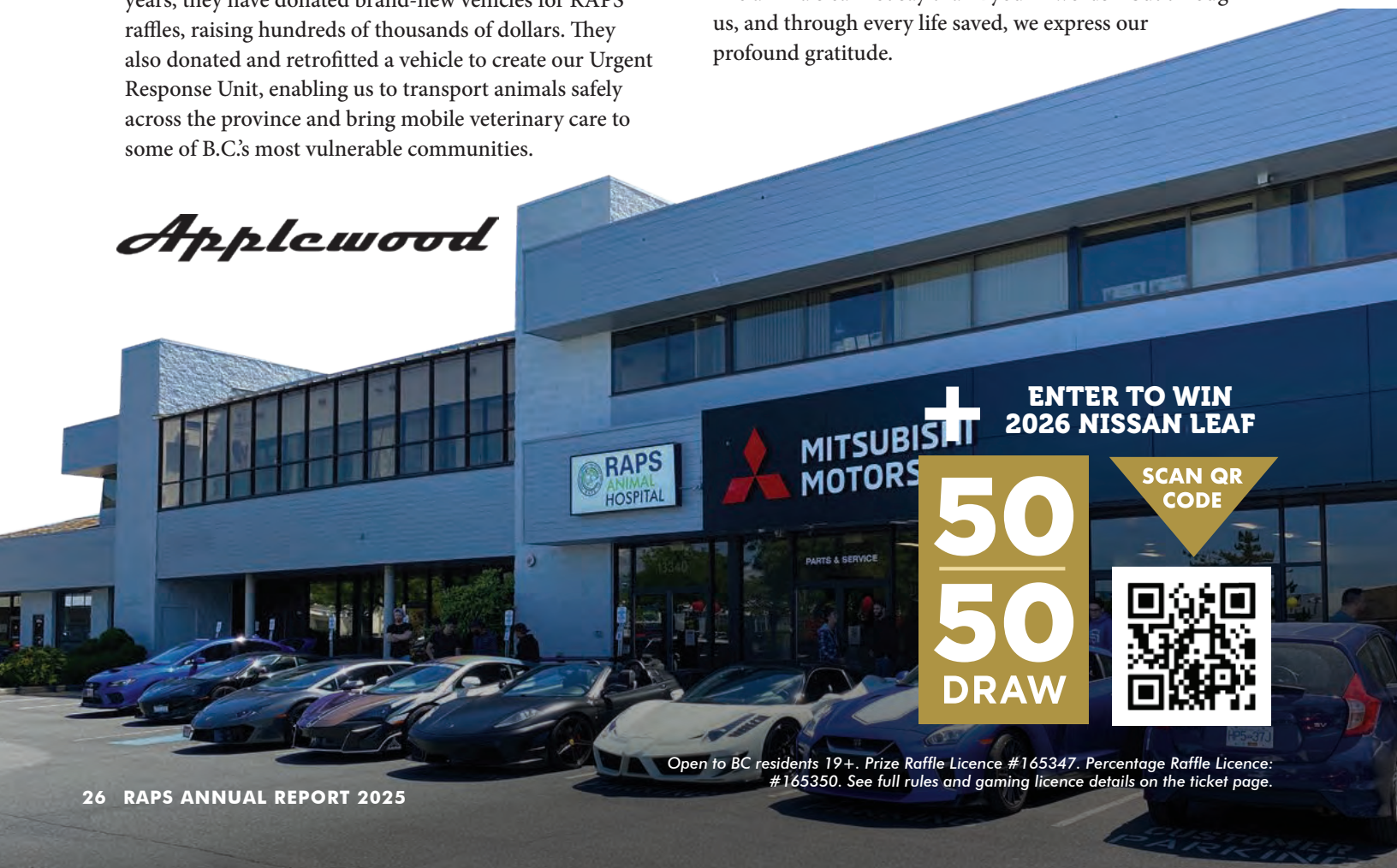
And Applewood did not stop there. For three consecutive years, they have donated brand-new vehicles for RAPS raffles, raising hundreds of thousands of dollars. They also donated and retrofitted a vehicle to create our Urgent Response Unit, enabling us to transport animals safely across the province and bring mobile veterinary care to some of B.C.'s most vulnerable communities.



RAPS has no greater ally than Applewood Auto Group. Few charitable organizations are fortunate enough to have a friend as steadfast, visionary, and generous.

That is why, at our 30th Anniversary Gala, we were honoured to recognize Applewood for their unparalleled contributions. The animals cannot say thank you in words—but through us, and through every life saved, we express our profound gratitude.

Applewood



THANK YOU TO OUR GALA SPONSORS



HONOUREE



GOLD SPONSOR



SILVER SPONSOR



BRONZE SPONSORS



Boehringer
Ingelheim



MEDIA SPONSOR



GALA TABLE SPONSORS & DONORS

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KAREN BIER | CAROL DILLMAN & IRENE SCARTH | EBLOCK | LICHTMANN FAMILY
TEAMSTERS LOCAL UNION NO. 155 | CUPE 718-03

SPECIAL THANK YOU

GARY & NANCY SEGAL | NORMAN & SANDRA MILLER
HELEN & BRIAN CANTRELL, NATURALLY FRESH | ANIPET | BAAN LAO FINE THAI CUISINE

THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS



RAPS' 30TH GALA EVENT HONOURING
APPLEWOOD AUTO GROUP



FINANCIALS

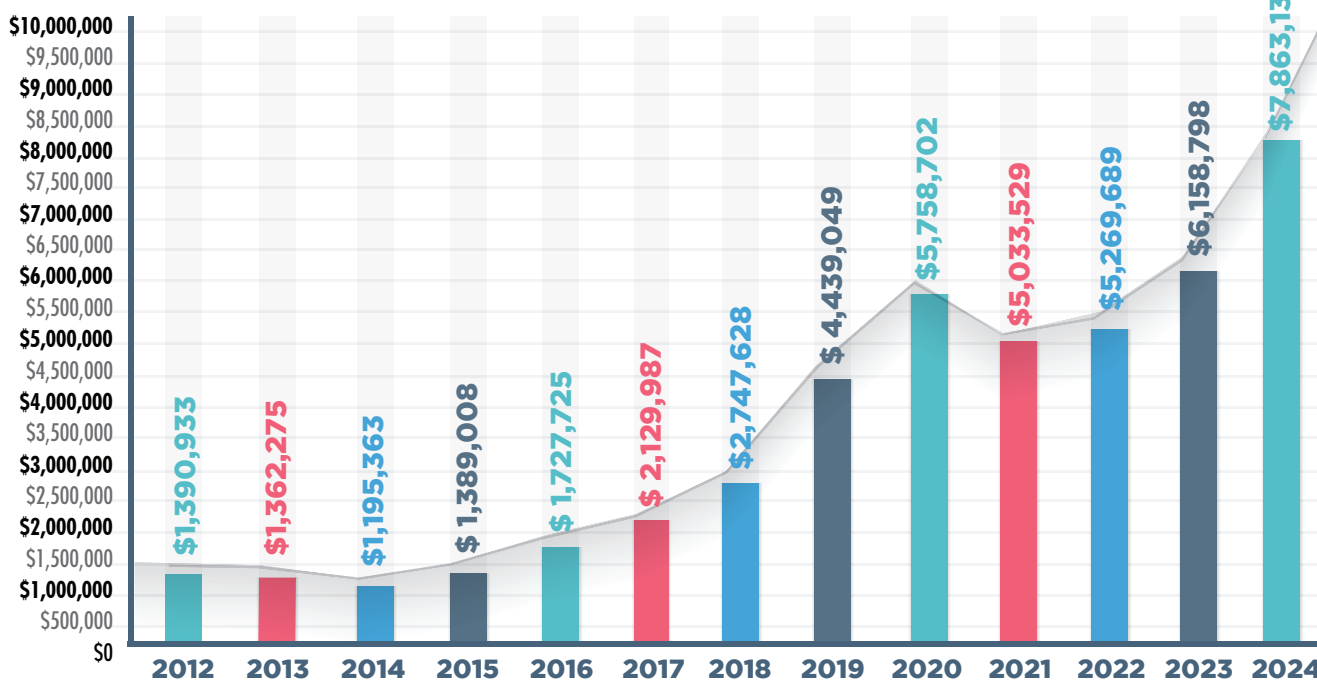
REGIONAL ANIMAL PROTECTION SOCIETY

Statement of Operations

For the year ended 31 December 2024

	Cat Sanctuary Operating Fund	Animal Hospital Fund	Adoption Centre Fund	2024	2023
Revenues					
Hospital charges	\$ -	\$ 4,484,498	\$ -	\$ 4,484,498	\$ 3,768,880
Donations	1,600,513	295,197	558	1,896,268	1,105,643
Thrift store revenue	751,546	-	-	751,546	668,930
Grants	199,655	150,000	-	349,655	459,913
Miscellaneous income	165,845	104,016	4	269,865	82,478
Adoptions revenue	535	-	110,798	111,333	72,954
	2,718,094	5,033,711	111,360	7,863,165	6,158,798
Expenses – Schedule 1	3,640,523	3,997,805	1,527	7,639,855	6,105,598
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses for the year before other income (expenses)	(922,429)	1,035,906	109,833	223,310	53,200

RAPS REVENUE 2012-2024





RAPS
ANIMAL 
HOSPITAL

If the stories you have read in this report to our community have inspired you, you should take pride in that. Because everything we have achieved this year has been possible because we have the support of committed animal allies like you.
Every accomplishment is your achievement.

When you support RAPS, you are helping us save and improve the lives of animals. You are building a better future, where every animal is protected, valued, loved and has the best chance possible for a life of safety, security and joy.

Our success is possible only because of you.

THANK YOU

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 **50/50 draw** and **car raffle!**
- Become a **monthly contributor**
- **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"**

Deelia
RAPS CAT SANCTUARY





RAPS | Regional Animal
Protection Society

RAPS
ANIMAL
HOSPITAL

CONTACT US

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catsanctuary.ca

RAPS COMMUNITY THRIFT STORE

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RAPS "MAMA KAREN'S KORNER" DISCOUNT STORE

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RAPS SATELLITE OFFICE

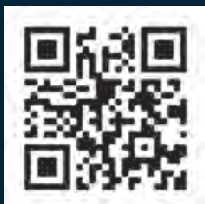
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vancouverisland@rapsbc.com
rapsbc.com

**HELP RAPS DO
MORE IN 2026**

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Raisin

RAPS ADOPTION &
EDUCATION CENTRE



RAPS | Regional Animal
Protection Society

RAPS
ANIMAL
HOSPITAL

Bear

RAPS CAT SANCTUARY

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HELP US DO MORE IN 2026

We acknowledge the financial support of the Province of British Columbia.

