



animal

WRITES

www.vancouverhumanesociety.bc.ca

VOLUME 72 SPRING 2020



Meet our new ED
pg 3



LEIA'S big OP
pg 4



HELP carriage HORSES!
pg 5

VHS REPORT

GREATER VANCOUVER ZOO IS FAILING ANIMALS

Our report calling on the Greater Vancouver Zoo to improve conditions for its animals got a lot of attention when we released it late last year but we're not letting the issue rest there.

The report, commissioned from Zoocheck, found that many animals at the zoo are bored

and frustrated, living in barren, under-sized cages and enclosures that restrict them from engaging in natural behaviours. It also says the zoo does not provide adequate behavioural enrichment for the animals.

Continued on pg 2



*Photo credit:
Meghan Beattie*

Continued from front cover

(Behavioural enrichment involves providing animals with a stimulating environment that allows natural activities such as climbing, foraging or digging and also creates physical and cognitive tasks that simulate challenges animals would find in their natural environment.) The report notes these issues were identified in previous VHS/Zoocheck reports but little has changed.

The report is also critical of the zoo's giraffe enclosure, describing it as unchanged since a 2003 report described it as *"barren and lacking in any stimulation for the animals to engage in natural behaviours."* The report states that giraffes are not suited to B.C.'s climate and suggests the zoo consider constructing a new, larger and climate-controlled enclosure or relocating the giraffes to a more species-appropriate facility elsewhere.

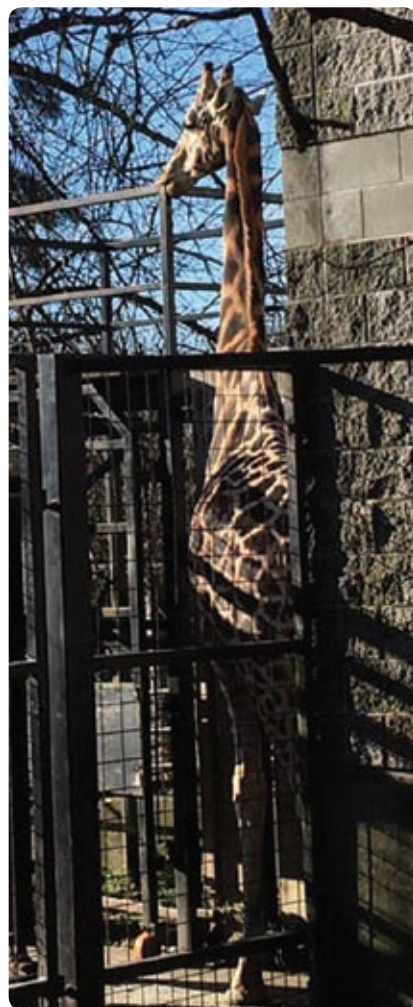
The report cites the zoo's raptor exhibit

(holding kestrels, owls, hawks, etc.) as an example of an under-sized enclosure that denies natural behaviours, stating: *"There was little or no ability for the birds to engage in flight."*

The report recommends:

- That the zoo develop a comprehensive environmental/behavioural enrichment program for all its animals.
- That the zoo stop keeping animals that aren't suited to B.C.'s climate and those it cannot accommodate in a way that "satisfies their physical, psychological and social needs..."
- That inadequate, undersized cages and enclosures be enlarged or removed.

VHS is keeping up the pressure on the zoo to make life better for its animals – and you can help. We're running an e-campaign that allows people to send a message to the zoo, urging its management to address the concerns raised in our report. You can take part through our website at <https://tinyurl.com/take-action>



Join Team VHS for our RUN FOR THE ANIMALS!

You can help us end animal exploitation by taking part in this year's **Run for the Animals** on **Sunday June 28th!** Walk or run the Scotiabank Vancouver 5K or, if you're feeling really fit, run the half marathon and raise money to help us help animals! You'll be part of our special community of runners and walkers, taking on an amazing challenge for animals this summer!

Our very own Executive Director Amy Morris and Development Officer Claire Yarnold, will both be taking on their very first half marathons this year!

To register, visit: <https://tinyurl.com/VHSrunfortheanimals> or email Claire at claire@vancouverhumansociety.bc.ca for more details.

Suggested minimum fundraising target is: \$300

Meet our new Executive Director

AMY MORRIS JOINS THE VANCOUVER HUMANE SOCIETY TO FURTHER OUR STRATEGIC PLAN

We are pleased to announce that Amy Morris has joined VHS as our new Executive Director. Amy has written a note to share with you:

My first best friend was Woody, a loving dog who taught me everything there was to know about social graces. My parents thought it was funny to see me walking around on all fours with every dog I met and took their time to teach me it was socially unacceptable to let them give kisses on my face (that lesson never stuck!)

While communicating with dogs was second nature, it took me time to understand the nuances of human social behaviour. I have always enjoyed the honesty and clear communication a dog provides when we take the time to listen.

By the time I was in university working towards a degree in sociology, I was involved in emergency care for pets being hoarded or bred intensively. Two things became clear to me: 1) animals deserve far better than people were providing for them, and 2) the social structures need to change in order to make that possible.

After university, I worked as an auditor for workers' well-being and ended up in slaughter facilities. I saw first-hand the traumatic acts that workers from other countries were doing, and heard from the owners of the facilities that Canadians were unwilling to do this work. The experience of walking through a doorway and having a deceased pig brush up against me was otherworldly.

I decided to take more steps toward changing social structures and focused on animal welfare while achieving a Master of Public Policy degree at SFU in Vancouver, which led to employment with the BC SPCA for more than

seven years. During that time, I took a short leave to work on farms in New Zealand and identify if the better laws for farmed animals resulted in better treatment on the ground. Unfortunately, I still saw farmed animals suffering during this time, including observing workers 'othering' the cattle they were working with: hitting them, screaming at them and calling them terrible names. I was ashamed to be human, as these beautiful animals, mothers and children, stared at me in fear.

I am so excited to work with the Vancouver Humane Society toward changing attitudes and systems,

making animals' lives better. Over the next few years, we will be working collectively toward our strategic plan goals: to inspire the community to take action for animals, to eliminate animal suffering, and to make cruelty-free the default option. If you'd like to read our strategic plan in full, visit our Mission and Vision page and click on the link under Strategic Plan. <http://www.vancouverhumanesociety.bc.ca/about/mission-and-vision-statements/>

I look forward to getting to know you more, please reach out any time.



*Amy with
her dog Clover*

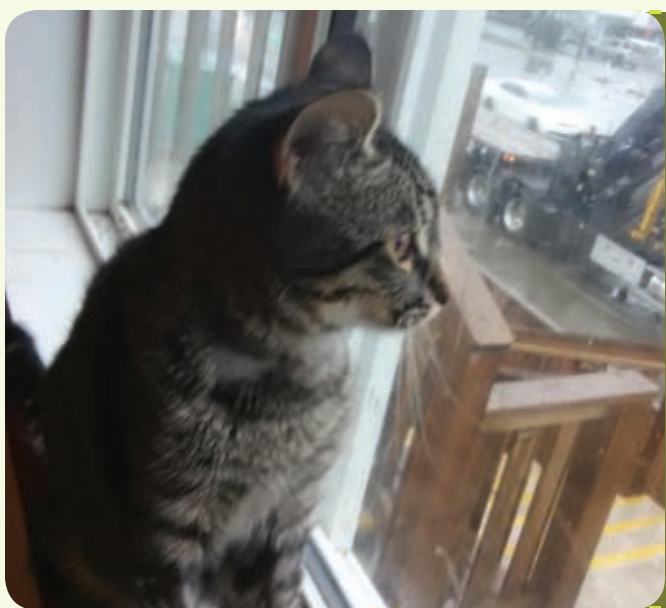
McVitie Fund matching grant:

HELP US RAISE \$8,000 BY APRIL 30TH TO REACH OUR MATCHING GRANT GOAL!

One of our wonderful anonymous donors is continuing to match all donations, up to a total of \$25,000, received towards the McVitie Fund up until April 30th 2020. This means all of the donations we receive will be doubled through our challenge grant, allowing us to help even more animals like Leia and Stinker!

Our McVitie Fund assists low-income pet owners with emergency veterinary expenses, ending their suffering from debilitating injuries and illnesses. Thanks to the generosity of our supporters and our anonymous donor, we are so grateful to be one of the very few organizations offering this service.

So far, our supporters have helped us raise \$17,000! Could you make a donation today towards our McVitie Fund and help us raise \$8,000 to reach our goal? To donate online please visit: <https://tinyurl.com/VHSMcVitieFund> or you can donate via the donation slip enclosed.



STINKER

Stinker, an adorable tabby kitten, is a vital support to his guardian who lives in a homeless shelter. When he adopted Stinker the two became inseparable. *"He just stuck to me like glue and it really cheered me up,"* says his guardian. Last year, on Christmas Day, Stinker suddenly became ill and had to be rushed by taxi to an emergency vet. It emerged that Stinker had eaten something toxic and was gravely ill. Staff at the homeless shelter contacted VHS for help through our McVitie Fund and we were able to cover the cost of treatment. Stinker was successfully treated and is back with his guardian, who contacted VHS to say: *"Thank you for saving my little guy's life."*

LEIA

Leia, an energetic eight-year-old boxer/collie/lab mix means everything to her young guardian, who says, *"I love her with all my heart and consider her my family and best friend."* Recently, Leia developed a growth on her paw. It got bigger and started bleeding so her guardian took her straight to the vet. Leia needed blood tests and ultimately surgery – at a cost of \$900. Her guardian, who is on a low income, and already late with her rent, called VHS. Thanks to our generous donors we were able to help and Leia had the growth successfully removed. She recovered well and is back to her playful self.



VHS launching new horse carriage campaign

VHS CALLS FOR BAN ON ALL COMMERCIAL HORSE-DRAWN CARRIAGES

A near-disastrous incident involving horse-drawn carriages in Vancouver's Stanley Park in 2016 led to renewed calls for an end to the use of horse carriages in urban areas.

The incident happened after a car horn spooked a pair of carriage horses, who ran off the road and across a bike path, hitting a park bench with the carriage before coming to a stop after approximately a hundred metres. In the midst of the situation, the driver fell out and frightened passengers jumped from the carriage.

Thankfully, no one, including the horses, was reported injured, but still today the incident serves as a reminder of the dangers of operating horse carriages in unpredictable urban environments, something other municipalities are beginning to act on. In fact, January 1st of this year marked the end of horse-drawn carriages in Montreal.

Meanwhile, VHS is concerned about

the prevalence of horse carriages on the increasingly busy streets of Vancouver, with carriage rides being offered at a number of local events throughout the year, in addition to regular operations in Stanley Park. VHS has repeatedly written to business associations that have sponsored horse carriage rides at their events, highlighting concerns for the welfare and safety of the animals and the public who they share the road with. We also sent a letter to Victoria City Council, as they deliberated how to address growing concerns surrounding

horse carriages in their city.

So long as horse carriages continue to operate in urban environments like Vancouver and Victoria, it's not a matter of "if", but "when" another incident like the one in Stanley Park occurs. Beyond the immediate risks, we're also concerned about the overall well-being of horses in these settings. This is why VHS is launching a new horse-drawn carriage campaign in 2020. **Stay tuned to our website to learn more about the upcoming campaign!**



Supporter survey enclosed: we'd love your feedback!

PLEASE TAKE 5 MINUTES TO HELP US HELP THE ANIMALS



We're asking our valued supporters to complete our enclosed Supporter Survey, if you haven't already! This survey provides an opportunity to tell us a little bit about yourself, why you support VHS, which animal welfare issues are most important to you and what issues you'd like to see us work on in the future.

The survey only takes five minutes to complete and your feedback will help us improve the way we communicate with our supporters going forward. Once you have completed your survey, please return it to us in the prepaid return envelope enclosed with our latest edition of Animal Writes.

If you'd prefer to take our survey online, please visit:
<https://tinyurl.com/vhssupportersurvey>

DONATIONS & THANK YOUs

THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING, WHO REMEMBERED LOVED ONES WITH A GIFT TO HELP ANIMALS:

Nishan Vijayaratham, in memory of Tigger Vijayaratham
Anonymous, in memory of Ruffle and Finn
Lauren Williamson, in memory of Charlie Dog
Margaret Blom, in memory of Spot, Bowser & Jocelyn
Kathryn Anthonisen, in memory of Finn
Sheryl Smith, in memory of Gypsy
Andrea Kardos, in memory of Tibor Kardos
Brandy May, in memory of Kitty and Missy
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Lazy F Holdings LTD, in memory of Sage E Fanstone
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Helen Schiele, in memory of Tali
Janet Flamand, in memory of Sonny
Janice Bernard, in memory of Scampy
Brenda Clarke, in memory of Katie

THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING, WHO HONOURED OTHERS WITH A GIFT FOR THE ANIMALS:

Grace Buhr, in honour of Patricia Gail Dick
Eva Wong, in honour of Sabrina Chan
Warren Kniepkamp, in honour of Ralphie, Trooper and Tripod
Nathan Monash, in honour of Claire Monash
Anonymous, in honour of Kingston and Bentley Massicotte
Daniel Angrignon, in honour of Aaron Chan
John Sorenson, in honour of Blackie
Gerald Martin, in honour of Mini
Lola Merenda, in honour of Barbara Wrinkle
Katha Kerr, in honour of Diane Mayer
Willow's Wax Bar, in honour of Willow

A SPECIAL THANKS TO NADINE COFFIN FOR MANAGING OUR MEATLESS MONDAY RECIPE LIST.

THANK YOU TO INDIVIDUALS WHO DONATE THROUGH THE BENEVITY COMMUNITY IMPACT FUND:

Amanda Nutbrown Bourdeau
Gillian Stewart
Chelsea Tapanainen
Siddhant Mehta

THANK YOU TO INDIVIDUALS WHO DONATE THROUGH THE UNITED WAY OF THE LOWER MAINLAND AND UNITED WAY TORONTO AND YORK REGION:

Jodi Kelleher
Anonymous

THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING BUSINESSES THAT SUPPORT OUR WORK:

Urban Impact Recycling
Finlandia Pharmacy
Pet Solutions
Kama Natural Soap
TELUS Communications
Best Buy Canada
Microsoft Canada
Pacific Law
TJX Canada
Cambridge Plumbing Systems LTD
Little Paws Animal Clinic
Boundary Animal Hospital
Vancouver East Veterinary Walk-In Clinic
Cypress St. Animal Hospital Vancouver
Night Owl Bird Hospital

THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING BUSINESSES THAT PARTICIPATED IN OUR GIVING TUESDAY CAMPAIGN:

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Chickpea Food Truck & Restaurant
Eat the Dishes
Ergogenics Nutrition
Eternal Abundance
Kayefleur Prints
Kind Café
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Lotus Seed Vegan
Loving Hut Express
Nested Naturals
Nice Shoes
Panago
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Tao Organics
The Pie Hole
TMRW Foods
Tribe Fitness / VGN Outfitters / MeatFreeMaria
Vegan Police Shop
Vegan Yarn Studio
Veronica's Gourmet Perogies
Virtuous Pie
West Point Naturals
Willows Wax Bar

OUR MONTHLY DONORS ARE OUR HEROES. THANK YOU TO ALL OF YOU, FROM THE BOTTOM OF OUR HEARTS!

THANK YOU TO THE LEO AND HILDA STURREY FUND, HELD AT THE VANCOUVER FOUNDATION.

Plant-Based Plates Program Going Strong

VHS COMMITTED TO BUILDING COMMUNITY SUPPORT FOR HUMANE DIETS

Our recently launched Plant-Based Plates program is focused on supporting institutions, including schools, in improving access to humane, sustainable and healthy plant-based options on the daily cafeteria menu.

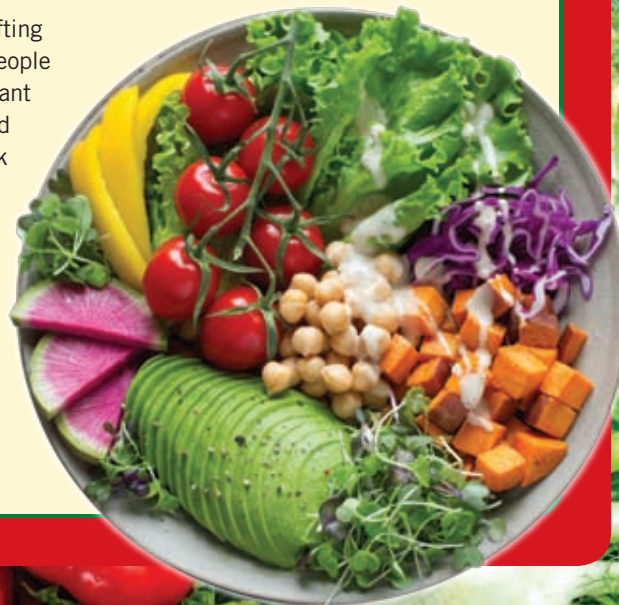
These efforts are more important than ever, with a growing body of scientific research calling for a significant reduction in the consumption of animal products in favour of more plant-based options. This is essential to tackle the growing factory farming trend, the biodiversity crisis and climate change.

While we focus our efforts on helping institutions build on existing Meatless Monday initiatives by taking the next step to offer daily plant-based options, we're also hard at work encouraging municipalities to prioritize plant-

based options in their policies and practices. VHS participated in the City of Vancouver's Food Solutions Lab, which brought together City staff, partners and community groups, as part of the Vancouver's response to its climate emergency declaration. Together, participants researched strategies involving equitably shifting diets toward foods that protect people and the planet. This is an important starting point and we look forward to continuing to support this work moving forward.

In 2019, we attended 23 events, distributed nearly 5800 of our Go Veg booklets and sent weekly recipes to over 1500 people who took our plant-based pledge, all as part of our effort to educate and empower the

public about the impact of our food choices. If you haven't already, you can take our plant-based pledge at vancouverhumaneociety.bc.ca/campaigns/pbp to receive your weekly plant-based recipe!



Leave a legacy for animals with Free Wills Month

FREE WILLS MONTH | MAY 1 - 31, 2020

Are you an animal lover aged 55 or over? Starting May 1, you have a unique opportunity to either make a new will or revise your current will, for free! The Vancouver Humane Society is participating in a campaign that allows you to provide for family and friends and make a significant contribution to charity, if you choose to do so. There is absolutely no obligation to include a charity in order to participate.

Free Wills Month brings together a group of well respected charities to offer members of the public aged 55

and over the opportunity to have their simple wills written or updated free of charge by using participating lawyers. If you'd like to participate or get more information please visit the **Free Wills website** – www.freewillsmoonth.ca. You can contact one of the law firms listed on the website anytime during May to request an appointment. And although the campaign runs from May 1 to May 31, your will does not need to be completed in that time frame.

You can support our work for years to come by leaving a legacy for the

animals this **Free Wills Month**!





Lucky Friday is one of many good reasons to remember VHS in your will!

Rescued from the streets and certain death,
Friday is now in her forever home.
She needed help and we were there.
Help us be there in the future!

It's easy. Simply speak to your lawyer and have the following wording included in your will:

*"I give, devise and bequeath to the
Vancouver Humane Society, 303-8623 Granville St,
Vancouver, British Columbia,
a) _____% of the residue of my estate OR
b) the amount of \$_____".*

**OUR OFFICIAL NAME IS
VANCOUVER HUMANE SOCIETY**
303 - 8623 Granville Street
Vancouver, B.C. V6P 5A2
Charitable Reg# BN 8897 13178 RR0001

Our monthly donors are animal heroes!

HELP US PROVIDE HAPPY ENDINGS TO ANIMALS IN NEED

Not only do you enable us to help animals today, but you give us the ability to plan for tomorrow. If you are not one of these wonderful supporters, please consider becoming one!

Simply send in a void cheque for direct debit, or your credit card information, with the enclosed donation form. You will conveniently receive one receipt at the end of each calendar year for all your donations that year.

If you prefer donating online, you can set up a monthly gift at www.canadahelps.org

Thank you for your help in sustaining VHS and our work in the long term!



VANCOUVER HUMANE SOCIETY
HELPING PEOPLE HELP ANIMALS

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