

THE MONTREAL SPCA ANNUAL REPORT

Proudly Serving the Animals of Quebec Since 1869

2015

For too long, Quebec and, specifically, Montreal, has been a place where getting a companion animal sterilized was too expensive for many families. This helps to explain why the Montreal area has such a large number of dogs and cats that end up in area shelters and rescue organizations. There are many factors that can lead to an over-population of dogs and cats. These include a lack of humane education, and a lack of low-cost sterilization options.

The Montreal SPCA is proud to say that in 2015 we have introduced programs to address both these issues.

Because of the generosity of a single, anonymous, donor the Montreal SPCA renovated part of our building to create our first-ever *Mittens-Montreal SPCA Targeted Permanent Sterilization Clinic* (Gabrielle Carrière, chief veterinarian) open to the public with lower income. The reaction of the public has been over-whelming! We are booked days and even weeks in advance for our sterilization services. Since even one unwanted litter of kittens or puppies can generate many dozens of unwanted further litters in just a few years, these new SPCA services are ones that will save innocent lives for years to come.

In just a few years, the Montreal SPCA has evolved from an organization that focused on dog and cat adoptions to one that also addresses low-cost sterilization, advocacy, education and legislation. After all, as an SPCA, our obligation is to prevent cruelty and suffering of animals. By introducing advocacy programs (see *Cut the Chain* in this annual report), fighting for tougher laws in Quebec, by educating children in how to help animals, and by offering services to the public for sterilization that they could not otherwise afford, the Montreal SPCA is putting our efforts into preventing cruelty and suffering. And, we remain the humane source for cats, dogs, rabbits and other companion animals at our two shelters.

As Executive Director it is my great pleasure to work with the talented, compassionate and motivated staff and Board of the Montreal SPCA. Their commitment and dedication lead to the innovations the animals will benefit from as our programs take root in our community. Finally, on behalf of the Board and staff of the Montreal SPCA, we wish to thank our animal-loving friends and donors for your continued support. It means so much to so many!



Nicholas Gilman
Executive Director, Montreal SPCA



Society for the Prevention
of Cruelty to Animals

Giving Animals a Voice

Every day, the Montreal SPCA works actively to:

- ▶ protect animals against negligence, abuse, and exploitation;
- ▶ represent their interests and ensure their well-being;
- ▶ raise public awareness and help develop compassion for all living beings.





Photo : Marilou Photographie

EVENTS

2015 marked many successful events; here are some of the main highlights:

In August, over 1,000 people gathered at the second edition of the **GRIFF Just for Cats Video Festival**, the world renowned Internet Cat Video Festival. We were proud to welcome Quebec actress Joëlle Morin, and Atchoum the cat as the event's ambassadors. The event raised close to \$8,000.

The fourth edition of **Paws 4 a Cause**, a successful evening nightclub event, was organized by a group of dedicated volunteers and managed to raise nearly \$20,000.

The fifth edition of the annual dog walk, **Anima-Plus Walk on All 4s**, for the benefit of the Montreal SPCA welcomed over 500 people and 300 dogs on a sunny day in September. The event raised nearly \$45,000!

In November at the Paradoxe Theatre, our second **Beasts of Fashion** gala event took a decadent detour into a "Love & Chocolate" themed evening. The remarkable and elegant evening was co-hosted by Quebec television star, Maripier Morin, and the live auction was conducted by Anne-France Goldwater. The evening included precocious pooches on the catwalk, delightful delicacies, original cocktails, live music and so much more. We welcomed over 500 guests and exceeded our financial goal.

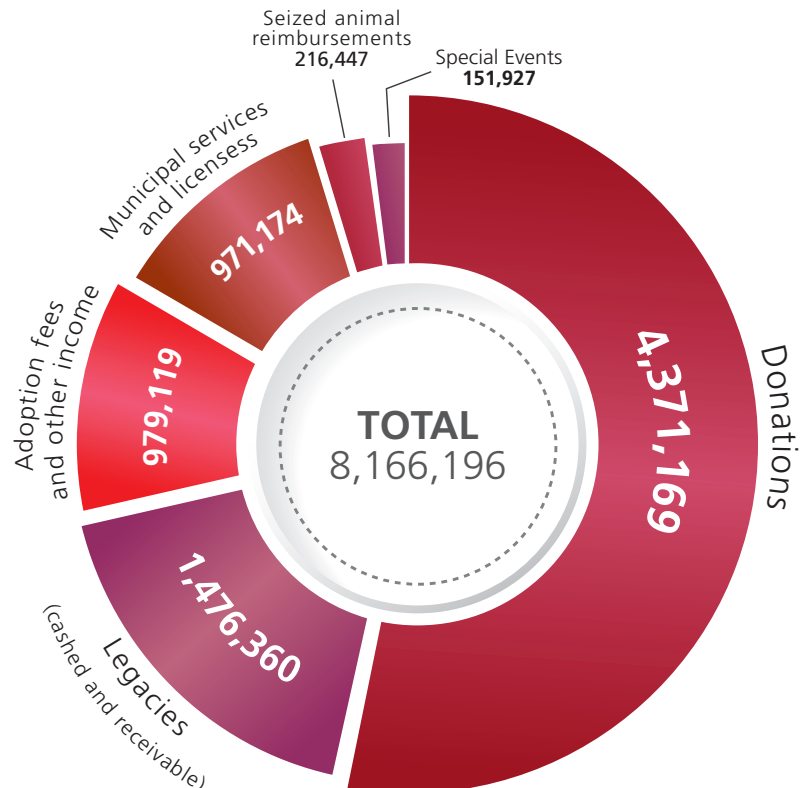
We also held a few cocktails throughout the year, and held our very first Montreal SPCA Glenmorangie whiskey tasting evening. All events have been a true success, and were made possible thanks to our dedicated volunteers and sponsors.

2015 REVENUES

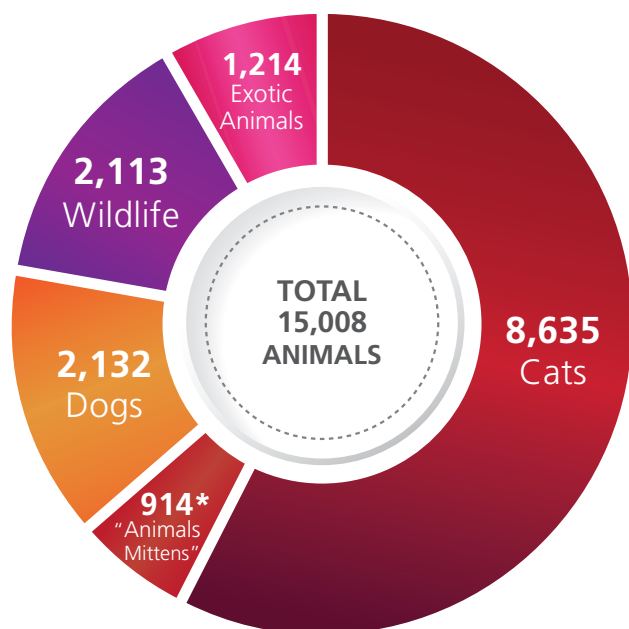
The Montreal SPCA is very grateful to all its generous supporters who help us fulfill our mission. In 2015, we counted on 38,030 individual donors and 342 organizations and companies. Our monthly donation program, Paw Partner, continues to be a success, with 3,891 monthly donors.

Here is a breakdown of our total revenues* from 2015:

*Internal approved numbers (before external audit firm)



ANIMAL CARE



*Number of animals treated by our targeted sterilization clinic (see p.4)



Founded in 1869, the Montreal SPCA was the first humane society in Canada and the largest animal welfare organization in Quebec providing care to a wide variety of animals every year.

In 2015, we received and cared for over 15,000 abused, neglected, lost or injured animals. Our compassionate veterinary team played an essential role in the well-being of our animals and their work has become one of our most important resources. Their main objective is to offer high-quality medical and emergency care to our animals, including physical exams, basic vaccinations, deworming, and sterilization services. We are open to receive animals 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

MONTREAL SPCA ONLINE



The Montreal SPCA has now over 65,000 facebook friends (facebook.com/SPCAMontreal), and we are also active on Twitter (@SPCAMontreal). We invite our supporters to follow us online, for all our upcoming events, campaigns, adoption stories, and so much more!

Visit www.sPCA.com.

VOLUNTEERS

We rely on nearly 350 volunteers; their contributions are very important to the operations of the shelter. Their support and devotion are crucial in helping the Montreal SPCA accomplish its mission. They provide the additional resources necessary for us to continue to expand our services, which exceed the traditional services offered by a traditional animal shelter.



We also wish to thank our 2015 volunteer Board of Directors for their wonderful support and guidance.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Wendy Adams • Jamie Allister • Jayne Arden • Nancy Breitman •
Isabelle Brodeur • Leonard Freedman • Yves Gosselin •
Pierre Lessard • Antonietta Melchiorre • Lucy Modesti •
Rick Sala • Richard Sutton

ANIMAL ADVOCACY



The Montreal SPCA played a vital role in the adoption of **Bill 54, An Act to Improve the legal situation of Animals**, which was passed in December by Quebec's National Assembly. With the adoption of Bill 54 a new provincial act exclusively dedicated to animal welfare will replace the existing welfare provisions of the Animal Health Protection Act. The Civil Code of Quebec will also be amended to explicitly recognize animals as sentient beings.

Every year, we take action to help stop pet abandonment during the moving day period with our **Keeping Families Together** campaign, which aims to abolish no-pet clauses in residential leases. In March 2015, we launched a provincial petition sponsored by MNA Manon Massé to invalidate these no-pet clauses. The petition received overwhelming public support, collecting over 22,000 signatures in three months.

In September, we launched our **Cut the Chain** campaign, aiming to ban the permanent chaining of dogs in Quebec. The sad reality is that a very large number of dogs in this province live out their entire lives permanently chained outdoors in full legality, essentially condemned to life in prison. Using the CutTheChain.ca website, social media, and in-person interactions, the public was invited to play an active role in helping us get the message across to the Quebec government by sending letters, postcards, and emails to the Minister of Agriculture asking to ban this cruel practice. Over 28,000 people have already participated, and the campaign is still going strong in 2016!

Again this year, we encouraged the public to participate in our action-oriented **Make Fur History** campaign, which aimed to raise awareness of the plight of animals in the commercial fur trade and to encourage consumers to shop-cruelty free when looking to purchase winter coats and accessories.

INSPECTION



Photo : Marie-Noël Gingras

The Montreal SPCA's **Investigations and Inspections Department** is comprised of six inspectors, two dispatchers, an administrative assistant, a lawyer, and a director. Inspectors are charged

with enforcing the provisions of the Criminal Code dealing with crimes against animals, as well as Quebec's provincial animal welfare legislation.

In 2015, the Montreal SPCA's Investigations and Inspection Department received and investigated 1,339 new complaints and conducted the inspection of 1,945 animals, all species combined. A total of 659 animals were seized as a result of these investigations, and several criminal and penal charges were laid. At any given time, our inspectors are treating 50 to 70 active cases that require on-site visits.

SPAY AND NEUTER CLINIC

On March 27th, the Montreal SPCA opened its **Mittens-Montreal SPCA Targeted Permanent Sterilization Clinic** (Dr. Gabrielle Carrière, chief veterinarian).

This clinic is a proactive initiative to tackle Quebec's pet overpopulation problem by offering cat and dog sterilization services at reduced rates for the public with limited financial resources. Our clinic was made possible thanks to a generous anonymous donor and was named after her beloved cat Mittens. The medical equipment was offered in memory of Fluffster, her other adored cat. Thanks to this clinic, we are now able to sterilize up to 40 animals a day, 6 days a week. For more information about the admission process, visit www.spca.com/sterilization.



Photo : Marilou Photographe