

MONTREAL SPCA

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# 2024 ANNUAL REPORT





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## THE MONTREAL SPCA: A CORNERSTONE OF ANIMAL WELFARE

In 2024, every win has your mark on it. Take a look back at the year's defining moments and see how our programs are making a real difference — for animals and for the entire Quebec community.

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# MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear friends of animals,

Every year brings new challenges—and new hopes. In my second year as Executive Director, I've had the privilege of working alongside dedicated teams and volunteers committed to defending animal welfare and raising public awareness—not just in Montréal, but across all of Québec.

And what a year it's been! In 2024, we saw a record number of animal admissions, surpassing the average of the past five years. In response, and to help curb this surge, we focused our efforts on several key animal protection issues.

Beyond being a shelter, we are developing innovative solutions to reverse the trend—such as our abandonment prevention and shelter diversion program, as well as our growing community initiatives. More and more, we're working *with* the community, *for* the community.

Our commitment to fighting animal cruelty remains steadfast. Accredited by the Ministry of Public Security, our Investigations Department constables enforce the Criminal Code's animal cruelty provisions across Québec. In 2024, we scaled up our operations significantly, doubling the number of animals seized compared to 2023, and expanding our reach beyond Montréal to areas like Mauricie, Abitibi, and Montérégie.

We're also advocating for legislative progress, such as the adoption of Bill 67, which now allows veterinarians working in non-profit organizations to provide care directly to the public's animals. Thanks to this update to the *Code des professions*, we'll soon be able to offer more accessible veterinary care to low-income families.

Like you, we believe these collective efforts are building a more inclusive society—one where animals truly belong. On behalf of the 13,076 animals rescued in 2024 thanks to your support: thank you.

Enjoy the read,



**Laurence Massé**  
Directrice générale







# MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD

**In 2024, the Montréal SPCA continued to play a vital role for animals in need—those who are abused, neglected, or abandoned. The organization remains a leading voice for animals in Québec, not only as a shelter, but also as a powerful advocate for animal rights.**

Its vision of a more inclusive world for animals came to life through the permanent adoption of the *Fido in the Metro* pilot project. Dogs are now officially allowed on the metro year-round—a win that sets the stage for similar access on bus networks in municipalities across Québec. Public support for this initiative was overwhelming, proof that society is ready to welcome animals more fully into shared spaces.

For the same reason, the SPCA continues to push for the elimination of “no-pet” clauses in rental leases. It is also urging the Québec government to ensure its upcoming family law reform takes animals’ best interests into account in cases of separation or divorce.

Beyond its programs to prevent abandonment, the Montréal SPCA is also working upstream through its *Compassion Education Program*, which teaches children kindness and empathy toward all animals—a crucial step in building a more just future.

These achievements are the result of tireless work, years of advocacy, and the strength of a united community. With 156 years of experience behind it, the Montréal SPCA is as determined as ever to move its mission forward. I extend my heartfelt thanks to everyone making this progress possible.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Marie-Claude St-Amant".

**Me Marie-Claude St-Amant**  
Présidente du conseil d'administration



# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Nine volunteers with diverse expertise and strong convictions make up the Board of Directors of the Montreal SPCA. Their complementary backgrounds enrich our vision and strengthen our impact.



## **Me Marie-Claude St-Amant, Chair**

Marie-Claude St-Amant has been a lawyer for 17 years and is a partner at the Melançon Marceau Grenier Cohen (MMGC) law firm, specializing in labor law, human rights and freedoms, and animal law.



## **William Awad, Secretary**

A human resources management expert at Deloitte, William Awad has over 18 years of leadership experience in HR, business partnerships, talent management, and organizational transformation.



## **Bianka Monette, Treasurer**

Chief Financial Officer at Moment Factory, Bianka Monette brings over 30 years of financial management experience in multinational companies, both publicly traded and private.



## **Carlos Ponce**

Entrepreneur and marketing specialist, Carlos Ponce has more than 25 years of experience in brand creation and business leadership.



## **Michael Tsaprailis**

Michael Tsaprailis is a partner in the Management Consulting Services division at KPMG in Montréal.



## **Jonathan Abecassis**

With over a decade of experience in communications, crisis management, and politics, Jonathan Abecassis is the first Director of Public Affairs and Media Relations at Canadian National Railway (CN).



## **Sandra Houillier**

Human Capital Consulting Partner at Deloitte Canada, Sandra Houillier has nearly 20 years of experience. She holds an MBA as well as CRHA and PMP certifications, and is also actively involved in animal and environmental causes.



## **Frédéric Côté-Boudreau**

Frédéric Côté-Boudreau is a college philosophy professor and specialist in animal ethics.



## **Dre Marie Robichaud, m.v.**

Dr. Marie Robichaud works in emergency veterinary care and clinical practice. Since graduating from the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Montréal in June 2013, she has also volunteered with several shelters.



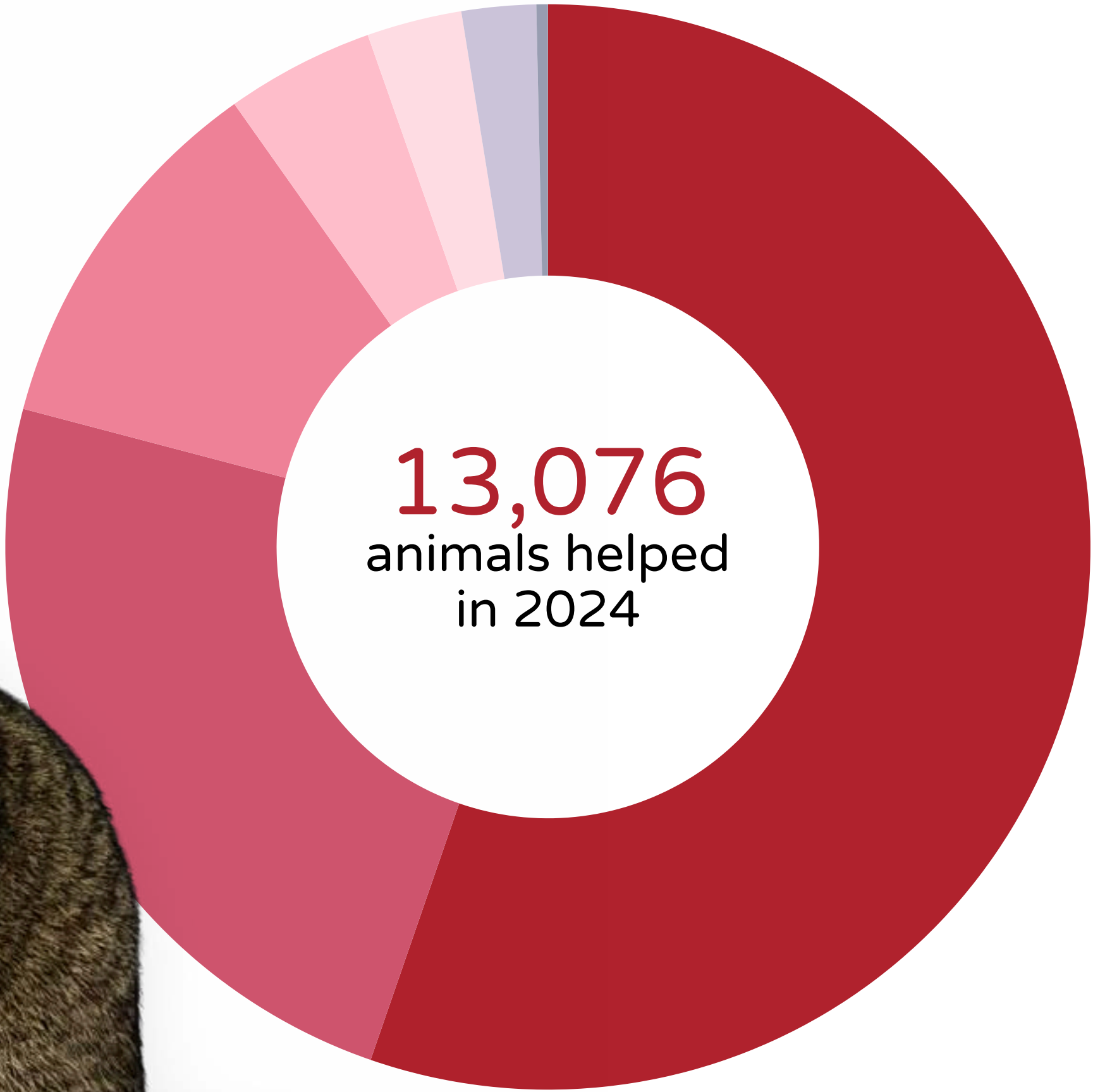
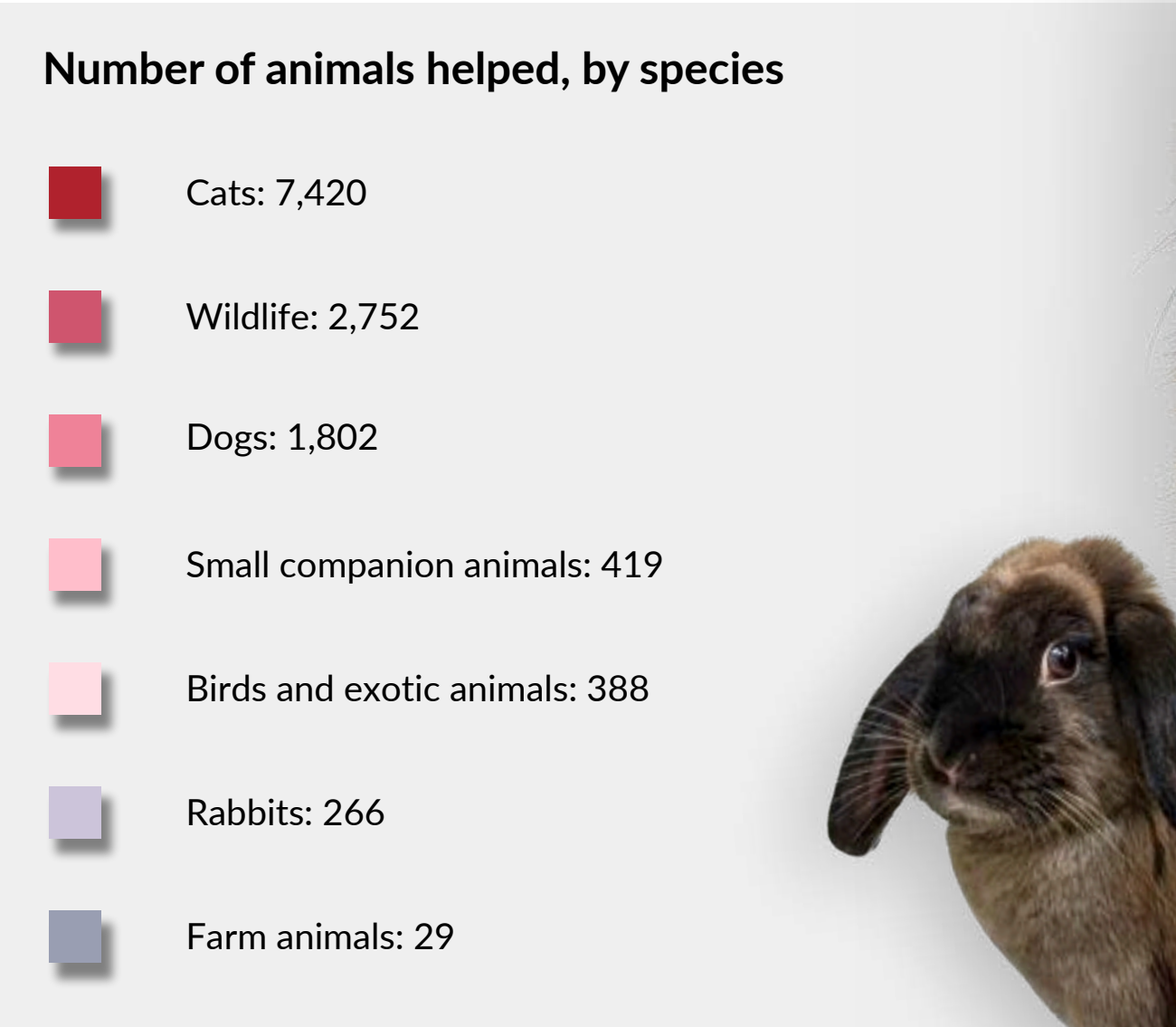
A person with visible tattoos on their arms is holding two small, black and tan puppies. The puppies are looking directly at the camera and are wearing red collars. They are being held in white plastic bags.

REAL IMPACT,  
MADE POSSIBLE BY YOU



# MONTREAL SPCA BY THE NUMBERS

In 2024, live animal admissions reached one of the highest levels in the past five years.



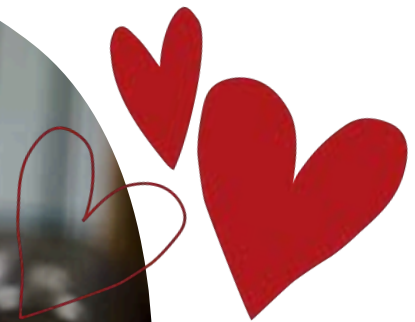


# Caring, treating, reuniting: our commitment to animals

- 4,934 animals adopted (*a 7.6% increase over 2023, including a 38.2% rise in dog adoptions*)
- 2,127 animals sterilized at our permanent Mittens High-Volume Spay/Neuter Clinic
- 1,383 animals placed in foster homes
- 885 cats sterilized through our Trap-Neuter-Return-Maintain (TNRM) Program
- 360 animals reunited with their families
- 380 animals transferred to partner shelters and sanctuaries
- 48 animals received from partner shelters and sanctuaries

## Veterinary care provided

- 22,936 exams (*an average of 63 per day*)
- 6,090 sterilizations (*24 per day on average*)
- 399 dental procedures (*about 3 every 2 days*)
- 124 complex surgeries (*1 every 2 days on average*)







A DEDICATED  
COMMUNITY



# Donors and supporters who inspire us every day

At the Montreal SPCA, we know that it's because of kind, compassionate people that animals get a second chance. Here's a snapshot of the generous community whose support truly makes a difference!



26,224 donors, including individuals and businesses



7,395 monthly donors, including individuals and businesses



481 major donors (gifts of \$1,000 or more annually)



66 bequests



Major donors contributed over \$1.58 million in 2024



More than 220 volunteers lend their time and energy to support the Montréal SPCA's mission!





According to a recent survey of our donors and supporters:



**78%**

have at least one animal at home



**71%**

are aged 55 and over



**82%**

are women



**2.2 animals**

per household in average

## The community in numbers

- Website: **12 million** visits annually
- Facebook: **150,000** followers
- Instagram: **37,000** followers
- Newsletter: **190,000** subscribers

**You are a force for change and a voice for animals—thank you!**



A medium-sized dog with brown and white speckled fur is running on a green lawn. It is holding a red frisbee in its mouth. The dog's tail is raised and has a white tip. It is wearing a black collar with a yellow tag. The background is a blurred green lawn.

TOGETHER, WE'RE  
SHIFTING THE BASELINE



# ANIMAL ADVOCACY

Since 1869, the Montreal SPCA has stood out as a key political actor contributing to the evolution of Québec and Canadian society in the area of animal protection. Our deep commitment to defending animals of all species is a defining characteristic of our organization.

The Montreal SPCA's Animal Advocacy team fought many battles in 2024 to strengthen animal protection and played a major role in securing important victories for animals across Québec

## Here are some of the most significant achievements in 2024

- In February 2024, the **Regulation on the Welfare and Safety of Companion Domestic Animals and Equines** came into effect, banning declawing of cats, cropping of dogs' ears and tails, as well as the use of gas chambers and prong collars, while also tightening rules around animal sales and breeding.
- **The City of Montréal committed to seriously evaluating the feasibility of sterilization or contraception of deer in the East.** For the first time in Québec, an authority with decision-making power has shown a clear willingness to implement fertility reduction methods as part of responsible wildlife management.
- **We secured the support of Québec's three provincial opposition parties and a commitment from the Minister of Justice regarding the adoption of a provision on animal custody in cases of separation, requiring courts to consider the animal's best interests.**







# ANIMAL ADVOCACY

Here are some of the most significant achievements in 2024 (continued)

- The Société de transport de Montréal (STM) granted permanent authorization for dogs to ride the metro in December 2024. This follows a pilot project launched after our “Fido in the Metro” campaign, which collected nearly 18,000 signatures in 2022.
- In October 2024, Bill 67 was passed to amend the Professional Code. Among other things, it allows **veterinarians working in nonprofit organizations (NPOs) to provide services directly to the public**. Starting in 2025, we will finally be able to offer accessible veterinary care to low-income families.
- In November, we launched our campaign “**Life at the End of a Chain.**” To date, nearly **28,000 people have signed our petition** urging the government to better regulate the sled dog industry in Québec
- In April, the Montréal SPCA testified before the House of Commons Standing Committee on Agriculture and Agri-Food in support of **Bill C-355, which aims to ban the export of horses by air for slaughter.**
- The Montreal SPCA also submitted testimony and a brief during parliamentary committee hearings at the National Assembly on **Bill 70, which proposes to define the role of Québec’s Chief Veterinarian, granting certain powers in health crises.** We were there to provide our expertise and ensure animal welfare was a priority.
- Following our campaign “**Violence Leads to Violence,**” the Parliamentary Justice Committee **recognized animal abuse as a form of coercive control** used against victims of domestic violence.
- **Over 800 children** were reached through our **Compassion Education Program** in classrooms.
- We developed and distributed **educational tools on animal welfare throughout Québec schools**, as part of our partnership with the Ministry of Education.



# INVESTIGATIONS DEPARTMENT

The Montreal SPCA’s Investigations Department plays a crucial role in the fight against animal cruelty. Led by Alain Tessier, a former police lieutenant-detective, our team of investigators and special constables is on the ground every day—responding to reports across Québec, enforcing laws, and protecting animals from acts punishable by law.

2024 was a year of major progress. We implemented a new risk assessment and intelligence management tool, which has improved the efficiency of our interventions and increased safety for our teams. We also introduced **Radar Police**, a software that streamlines communication with police services by standardizing infraction codes.

In collaboration with the École nationale de police du Québec (ENPQ), we launched a customized training program in winter 2024. This initiative is enhancing our teams’ expertise in investigation techniques, social intervention, legal matters, and more.

A new agreement with Cheval Québec now allows us to respond more quickly and effectively to reports of horse cruelty throughout the province.

Protecting animals isn’t just our mission—it’s a responsibility we carry out with discipline, compassion, and composure, day in and day out.



Over  
**9,230**  
calls handled



**1,636**  
operational files  
were opened



**179**  
animals were  
removed from their  
living environments  
by our team



**3,578**  
animals of all species  
were directly visited  
by our officers and  
investigators





# COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

## Counting on Each Other in Difficult Times

Pets are integral members of families, but during vulnerable periods, some families may struggle to meet their beloved companions' needs. To prevent people from having to part with their animals, the Montreal SPCA implements programs to support the community.



**86**

animals helped thanks to our Special Shelter Program



**38**

partner organizations, including 10 new ones



**31,318 kg**  
of food distributed





WHEN ANIMALS HAVE  
NOWHERE ELSE TO TURN





# HELPING ANIMAL IN DISTRESS

Collaboration at the Heart of Our Reception and Patrol Teams' Values

A reassuring voice on the other end of the line can make all the difference in an emergency. The Montreal SPCA's reception and patrol service plays a crucial role in responding to animal-related emergencies. Available from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m., seven days a week, our team is the first point of contact for those who, faced with an animal in distress, take the noble step of wanting to help.

At reception, we provide much more than information: we offer personalized advice, tailored resources, and, when needed, coordinate the rescue of animals in trouble. Our patrol officers—true everyday heroes—respond on the ground, at the request of authorities or concerned citizens, to rescue stray, injured, or lost animals. Their mission? To act quickly, professionally, and with compassion to give every rescued animal a better future.

This strong chain of solidarity begins with the call received at our reception and continues through the actions taken in the field. The result? Animals secured, people relieved... and above all, a renewed chance at survival for every living being we encounter. Because every action counts, and every life is worth saving.



**2,897**  
animals transported by  
the patrol in 2024



**44,571**  
calls received by  
reception in 2024



# ABANDONMENT PREVENTION AND SHELTER STAY REDUCTION PROGRAM

What if we could avoid time spent in cages?

The Montreal SPCA innovates by offering concrete resources to prevent shelter stays, significantly reducing the stress animals experience.



## Opening the dialogue and offering compassionate listening

Sometimes families don't really want to give up their companion but run out of options. Our abandonment prevention team helps people keep their animals at home.



**535**

families supported through food donations, behavioural advice, low-cost sterilizations and veterinary care, and just through listening and encouragement!

## Temporarily hosting lost or injured animals

To reduce stress for lost or injured pets, we allow caring citizens who find them to temporarily host these animals at home. We provide all necessary support: food, supplies, basic care, and parasite treatment. This creates a safe environment while waiting for adoption and enables active community involvement.

## Becoming a foster family for your own pet while we find a new home

We offer families the option to temporarily foster their own animal during the search for a new adopter. A medical exam is conducted and necessary care is provided.



**48**

animals adopted without having to stay at the shelter

## Encouraging direct adoption between individuals

Whenever possible, we facilitate direct adoptions between private individuals after verifying the animal's health and ensuring sterilization if needed. In 2024, 20 animals found new homes through this program.





# CLINICAL PROGRAMS

The Montreal SPCA is home to over a hundred devoted staff and clinical programs rooted in the best practices of shelter medicine. Every treatment is tailored to the individual animal's needs—no matter the challenges they face—because every one of them deserves a full and healthy life.

## Neonatal Program

Designed for orphaned kittens and puppies or those with fragile health, this program ensures that our most vulnerable animals get the best possible start in life.

## Ringworm Program

Animals with this contagious skin condition are placed in specially trained foster homes to receive care, which also helps reduce the risk of transmission within the shelter.

## Special Care Program

This program supports animals suffering from serious health conditions that require ongoing medical attention. Thanks to your donations, they receive expert, compassionate care that meets their complex needs.

## Palliative Program

Because every animal deserves dignity at the end of life, this program provides comfort, medical support, and loving foster homes for animals in palliative care. They are cherished until the very end.





# REVENUES AND EXPENSES





# MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

The Montreal SPCA is a registered charity that relies primarily on public generosity to defend animal welfare. In 2024, donations accounted for 65% of our revenue—an essential support to meet the growing needs of animals in distress.

In total, 25,844 individuals chose to support our work through donations and other contributions, alongside 379 companies, foundations, and charitable organizations. Thanks to this exceptional mobilization, donation and contribution revenue increased by 24% compared to 2023.

In 2024, 66 individuals also chose to extend their love for animals beyond their lifetime by bequeathing part of their estate to the SPCA. These planned gifts represented approximately 19% of our resources. This precious gesture ensures the long-term continuity of our mission.

The audited 2024 financial statements provide an accurate picture of our situation.

Our current assets total \$7,261,099, while current liabilities amount to \$1,418,910. Revenues reached \$11,264,223, with expenses totaling \$11,919,430. It was a year of growth and investment in our teams and equipment, leaving us with net assets of \$10,173,325.

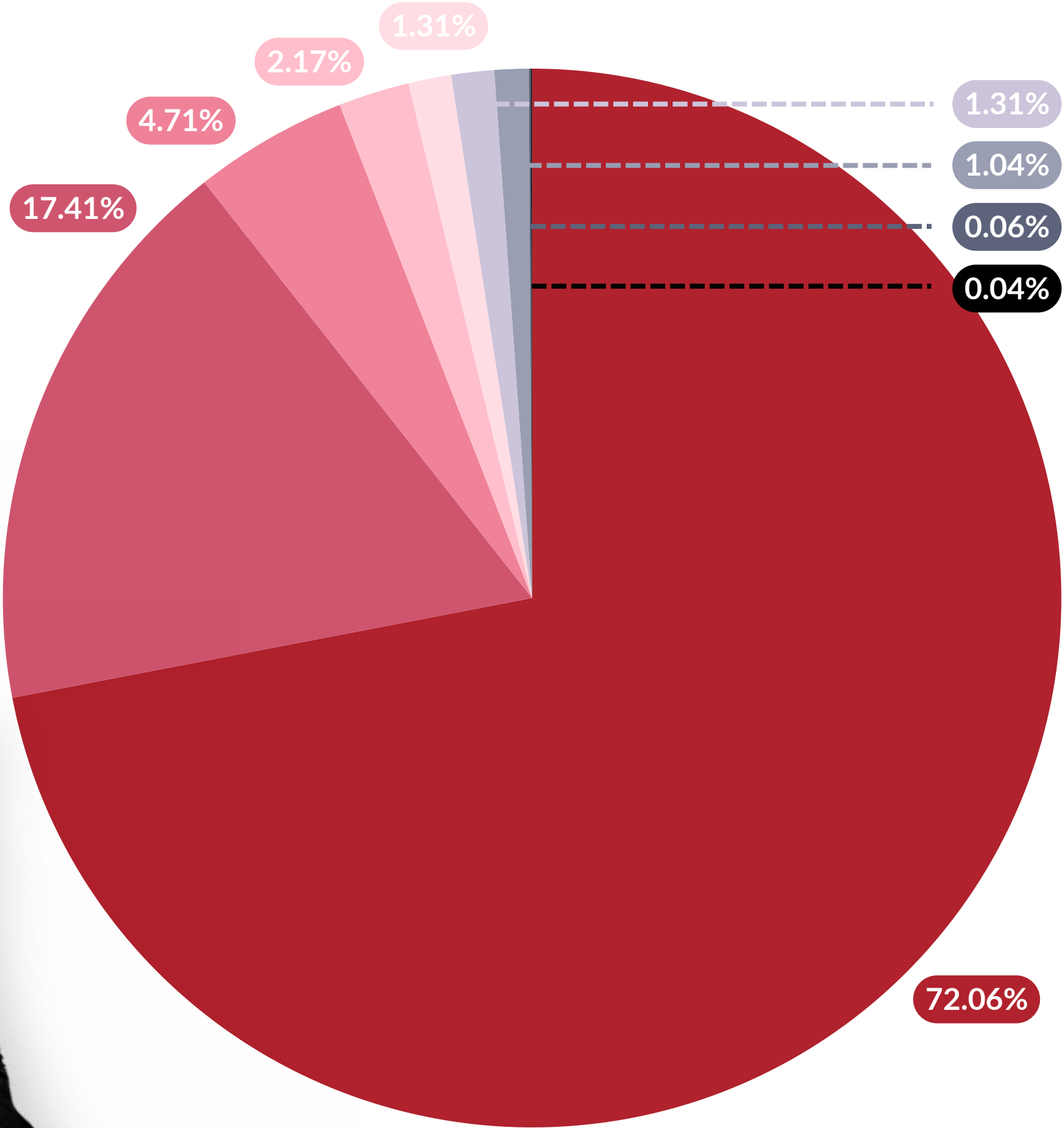
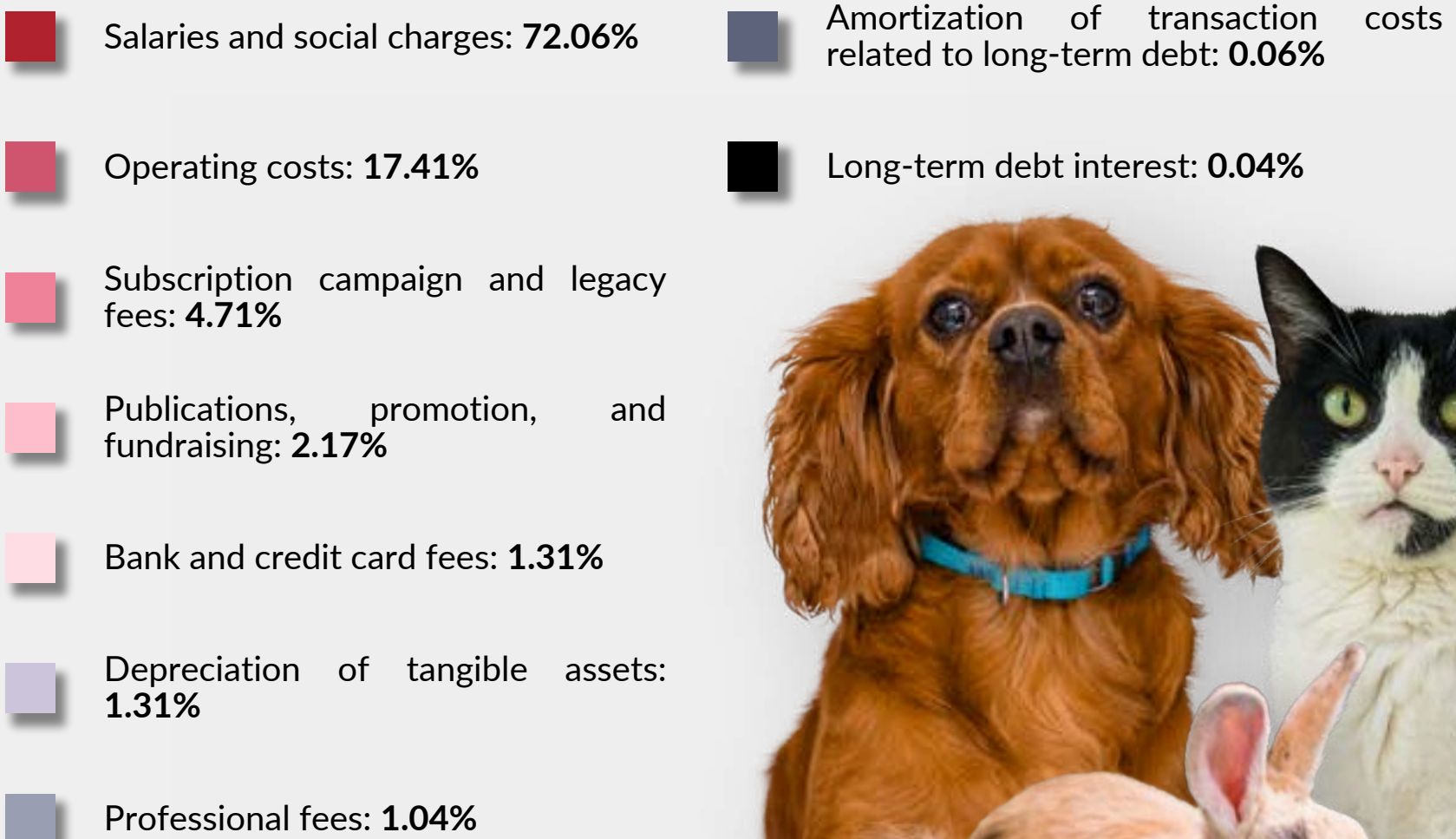
Having such an engaged community to count on is a privilege. Thanks to your support, every day we can protect, care for, and advocate for those who have no voice. We warmly thank everyone who is part of this hopeful movement for all animals.

Anny Filion  
Directrice des finances



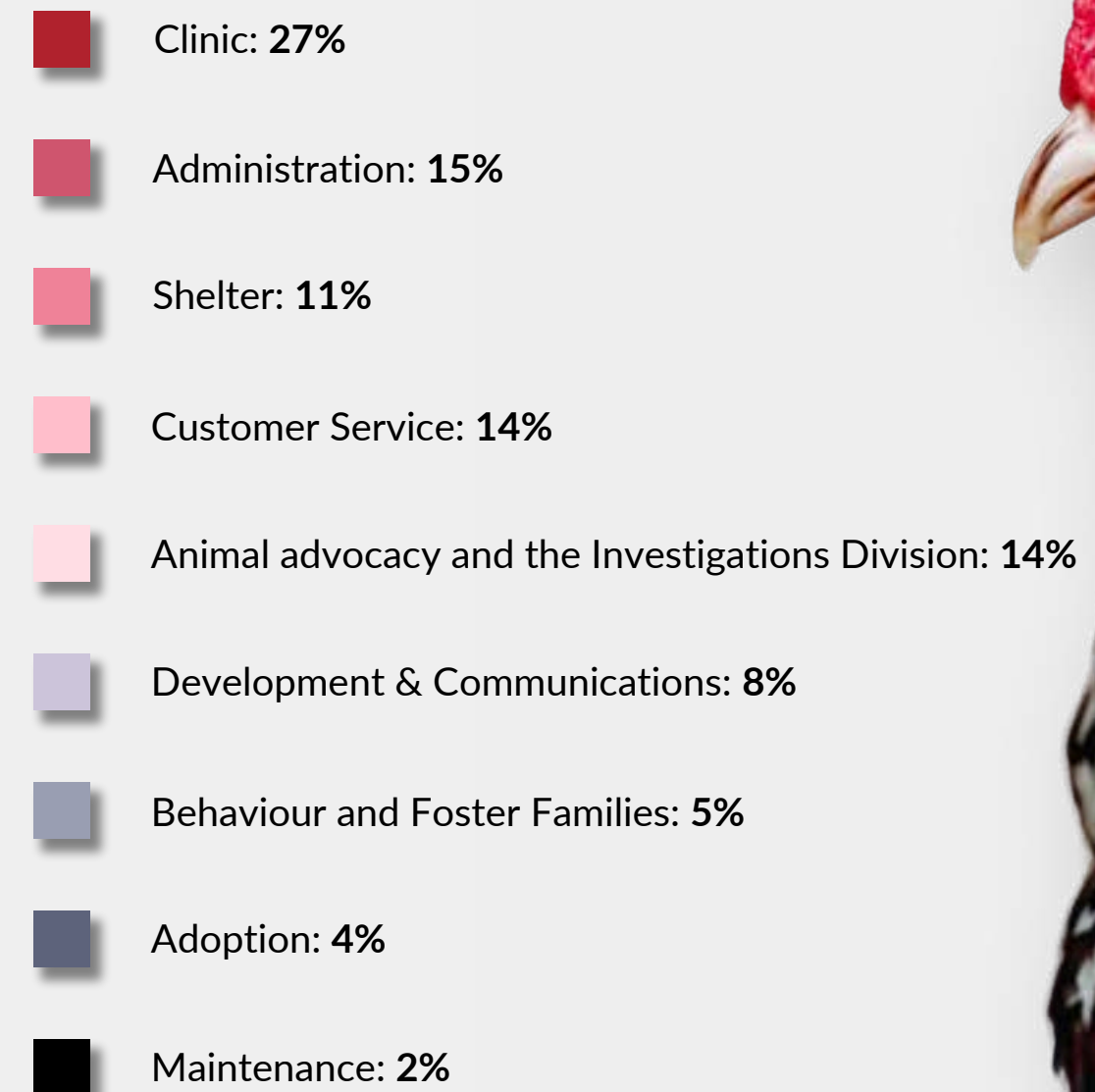
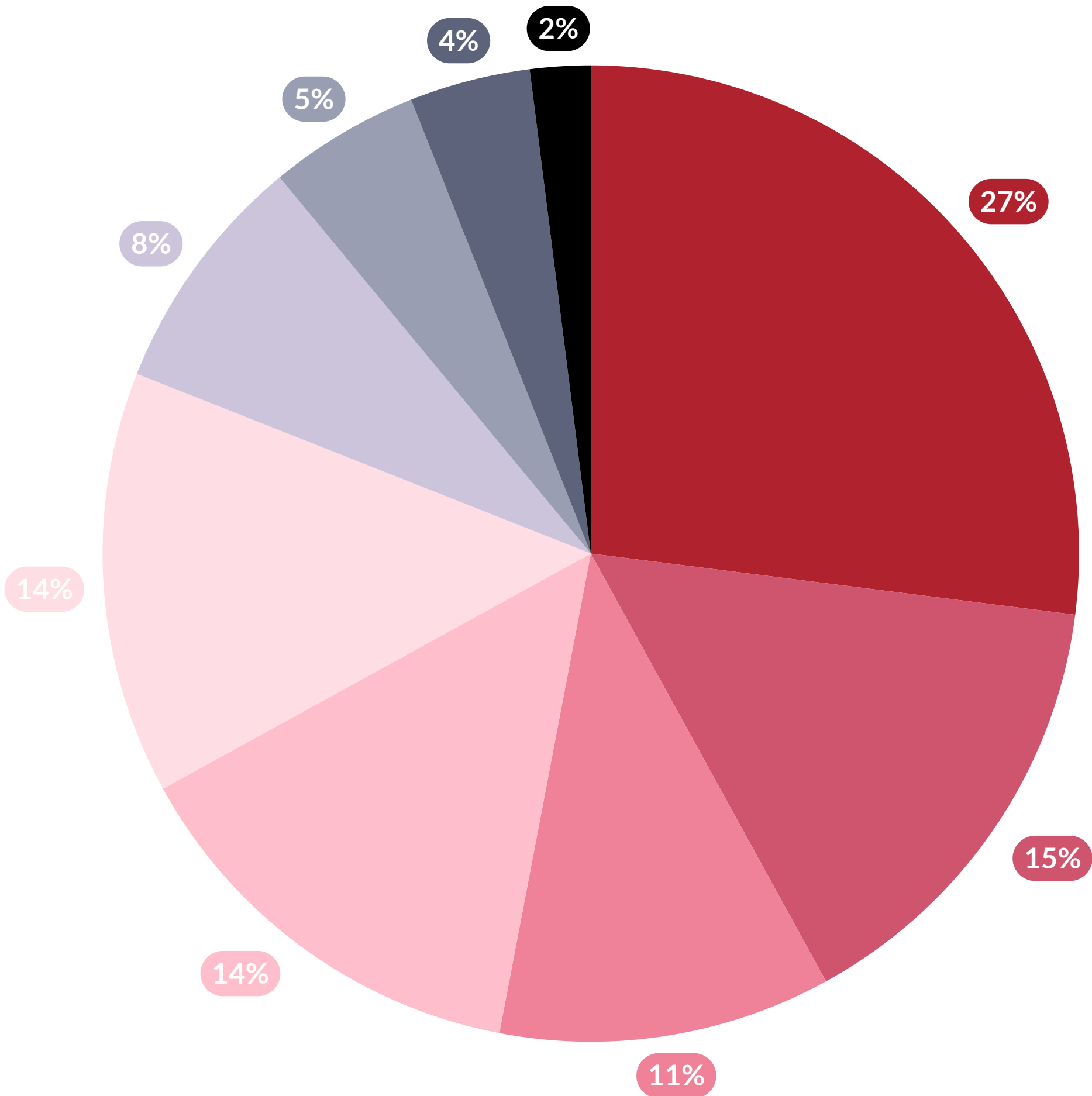
# EXPENSES

Salaries and social charges represent the largest portion of the Montreal SPCA’s expenses. In 2024, the organization had 89 full-time permanent employees and 36 part-time permanent employees, plus 56 on-call staff. Salaries and social charges are distributed among the departments as follows.





# SALARIES AND EMPLOYEE BENEFITS



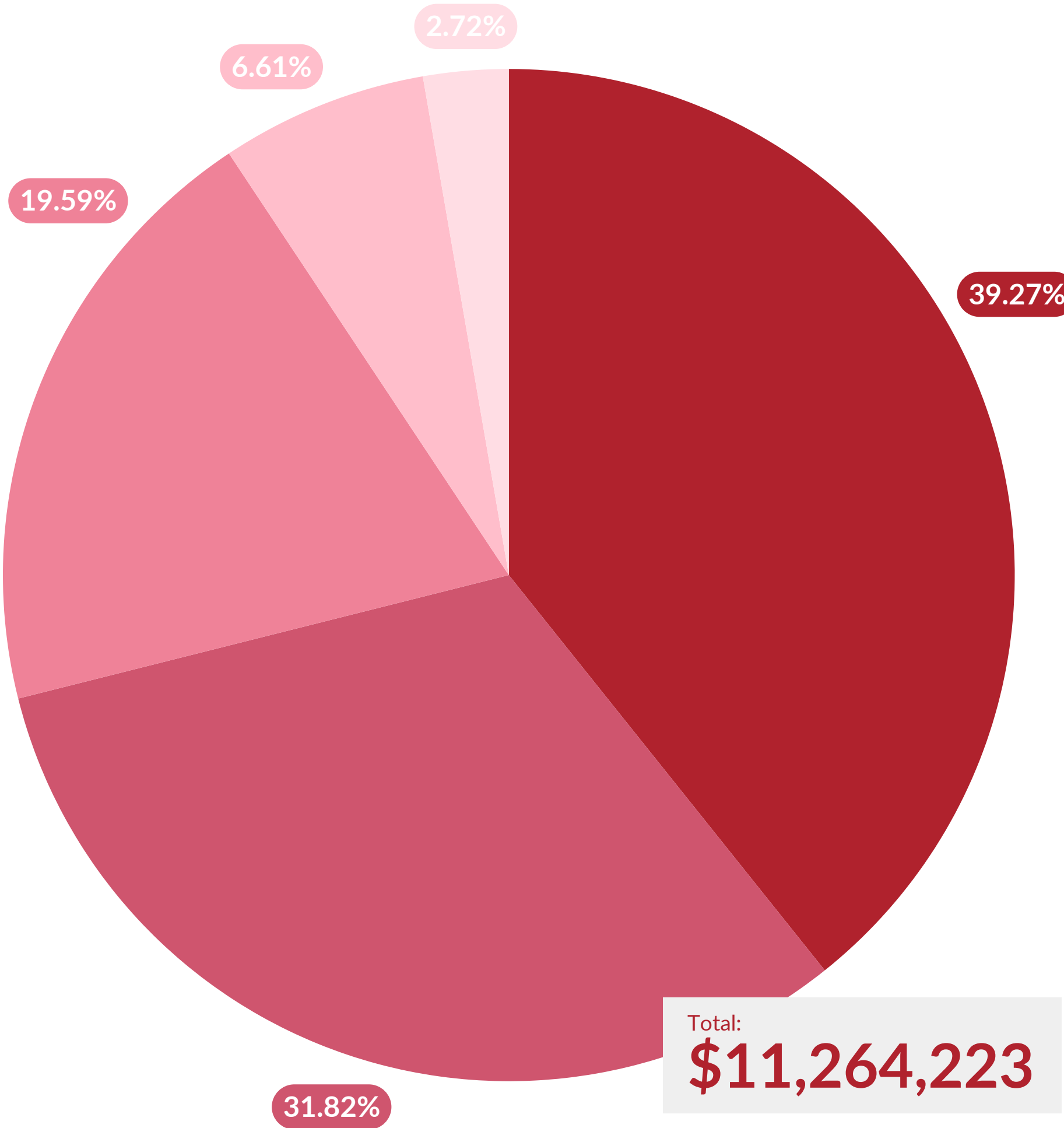


# REVENUES

The SPCA is deeply grateful to its donors. Thanks to their generosity, animals are given a second chance, allowing us to do everything possible to ensure their well-being and flourishing. The support from our benefactors transforms lives and changes attitudes toward how animals are treated!



- Donations and other contributions: **39.27%**
- Operating revenues: **31.82%**
- Bequests: **19.59%**
- Subscription campaigns: **6.61%**
- Net income from unrestricted investments: **2.72%**





# MISSION

Founded in Montréal in 1869, the Montréal SPCA was the first animal welfare organization in Canada. Since then, it has come a long way to become the largest animal protection organization in Québec. It gives voice to animals wherever ignorance, cruelty, exploitation, or neglect prevail.

**Our vision: a world where animals are full members of the community.**







M O N T R É A L

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Learn more about the Montreal SPCA's achievements on [spca.com](https://spca.com)