



Annual Report 2025

Working Together to Give Animals a Voice



Our Vision

Our vision is that animals in New Brunswick will live free of abuse, neglect, abandonment and indifference and that society will value and treat animals with respect.



Our Mission

To protect, rescue and advocate for animals in need while promoting compassion and responsible pet ownership in our community.

Looking Back at 2025:



4,795 calls received

- 3,151 animal protection calls
- 1,644 animal control calls



1,111 domestic animals & 50 agricultural animals removed from unsafe situations



\$3.15M in annual operating costs



Court Activity:

- 14 criminal charges
- 7 provincial charges
- 3 dog control charges



Enforcement Activity:

- 222 pet establishment licences issued
- 64 verbal or written warnings issued
- 167 compliance notices issued
- 782 people educated by animal protection officers

Board of Directors

Scott Elliott, President

Norma McCarthy, Vice President

Robert Hunt, Past President

Gordon Perry, Secretary

Chris Bertin, Treasurer

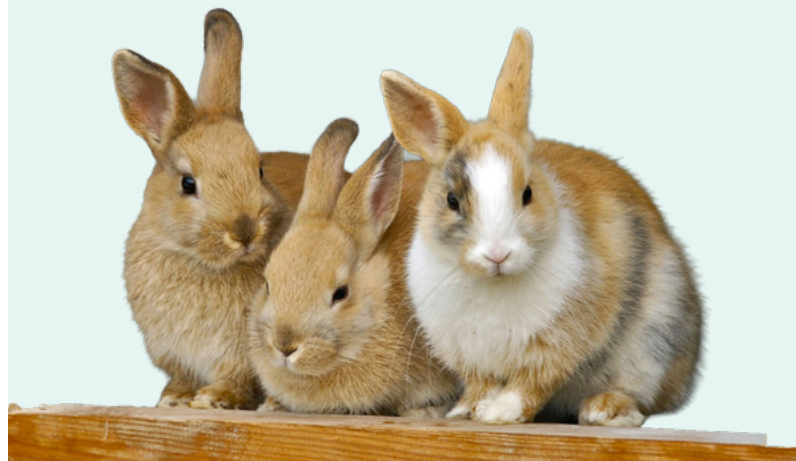
Dan Greene, Director

Rose St-Pierre, Director

Ginette Savoie, Director

Angie Kelly, Director

Elizabeth Hale, Director/NB Veterinary Medical Association representative



Message from the President

The NBSPCA continues to grow and evolve, focusing on balancing education, enforcement and access to veterinary care so we can be the strongest possible advocate for animals in our province. We work closely with the Department of Environment and Local Government and were pleased to see an increase in our annual funding for animal protection services for 2025. I also want to recognize our donors, whose generosity enables the organization to deliver critical programs and support animals in need across New Brunswick.

At the upcoming annual general meeting, I will complete my term as President of the NBSPCA. While the role has been challenging at times, I am incredibly proud of the accomplishments and progress we have achieved together over the past several years.

This work would not be possible without the dedication and compassion of the people behind the organization. I would like to extend my sincere thanks to the entire NBSPCA team — including staff, volunteers and Board members, both past and present — for their ongoing commitment to advancing animal welfare in our province. Their passion, professionalism and collaboration continue to strengthen the organization and improve the lives of animals across New Brunswick.

Together, we have built a strong foundation for the future, and I am confident the NBSPCA will continue to grow its impact in the years ahead.



Scott Elliott

President, Board of Directors





Message from the Executive Director

Looking back at 2025, the number of animal protection cases is on the rise, placing increasing demands on our animal protection officers. I want to thank the dedicated NBSPCA team for their compassion, professionalism and unwavering commitment to animal welfare. Every day, they investigate concerns, support animals in crisis and help create better outcomes for both pets and people.

I am also grateful to the members of the public who continue to report concerns in their communities. Their willingness to speak up makes a significant difference. Animal protection is a shared responsibility, and we rely on the public's partnership to ensure vulnerable animals receive the help they need.

This year included two significant seizures in northern New Brunswick that required an extraordinary level of coordination and care. In moments like these, we are reminded that the NBSPCA cannot do this work alone. We are deeply thankful for the shelter partners across the province who consistently step up to provide care, rehabilitation and support for these animals as they recover and prepare for new beginnings in loving homes.

While we cannot control many of the factors contributing to the growing number of cases, including the rising cost of living and increasing socio-economic pressures facing families, we are focusing more than ever on prevention and early support. We know that helping people care for their pets before a crisis occurs is one of the most effective ways to keep animals safe.

Through initiatives like the Happy Tails program, the NBSPCA is partnering with veterinary clinics to improve access to care for low-income pet families. By reducing barriers to essential veterinary services, we can prevent suffering and help pets remain where they belong — at home with the people who love them. We are also proud to support vulnerable populations through initiatives such as clinics at the 12 Neighbours community in Fredericton, which we hope to continue to expand with the help of our partners.

Looking ahead, the NBSPCA remains committed to exploring innovative partnerships and initiatives that support animal welfare and community wellbeing. We know there is more work to do, but we also know that progress is possible when we come together with compassion and purpose.



Lesley Rogers
Executive Director



Chief Animal Protection Officer Report

The NBSPCA received over 4,795 complaints in 2025, including 1,644 dog control calls for service and 3,151 animal protection complaints for investigation. In addition, the NBSPCA conducted 222 pet establishment inspections during the year. Overall complaints increased by approximately four per cent compared with 2024; however, the number of domestic animals removed from unsafe situations declined to 1,111 — around 100 fewer than the previous year.

The number of agricultural animals removed from unsafe situations nearly doubled in 2025, rising to 50 animals from 28 in 2024. This continues to place significant financial pressure on the organization, requiring the NBSPCA to stretch resources beyond our capacity. We are grateful to work with partners such as the New Brunswick Equestrian Association to develop additional foster and rehoming opportunities for these animals.

NBSPCA animal protection officers seized 116 dogs as a result of dog control-related calls during the year. Whenever possible, officers prioritize education before pursuing enforcement action. In response to complaints involving dogs running at large, 358 individuals received education about responsible dog ownership requirements, while 54 fines and 235 verbal or written warnings were issued.

In 2025, the NBSPCA also responded to two large seizures involving more than 100 small dogs in total in northern New Brunswick. Both cases involved illegal breeding operations where animals were being kept in severely unsanitary conditions, resulting in significant court charges. With the support of our shelter partners across the province, the dogs were rescued and provided with food, shelter and veterinary care, before being placed in safe, loving homes.

These cases highlight the importance of Pet Establishment Licences and Veterinary Certificates of Health in protecting animal welfare. In New Brunswick, all breeders and sellers of dogs are required to obtain an annual licence and pass an NBSPCA inspection to ensure animals are housed and cared for in appropriate conditions. Anyone selling a dog or cat must also provide a Veterinary Certificate of Health issued by a licensed veterinarian, helping ensure there are no surprises when a family welcomes a new pet into their home.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to our animal protection officers for their dedication over the past year. From responding to difficult seizure cases to educating pet owners and supporting animals in crisis, their work plays a vital role in improving animal welfare across New Brunswick. Despite increasingly challenging situations, they remain committed to reducing animal suffering throughout our province.

Don Metcalfe, Chief Animal Protection Officer

Subjects of Animal Protection Calls



- Inadequate food, water & shelter
- Injured/inadequate medical care
- Abandoned
- Dog locked in car
- Tied/tethered
- Pet establishment complaints
- Deceased
- Wellness checks
- Other



Message from the Director of Development

This past year reminded me more than once of why the work of the NBSPCA matters so deeply and why the generosity of our donors is nothing short of extraordinary.

In March, our animal protection officers executed a warrant and rescued 42 dogs from a single property in Belledune, where they had been living in extremely unsanitary conditions. Veterinary bills began at \$6,000 and climbed from there. What followed was a community-wide outpouring of support. Donors responded immediately, and with remarkable generosity. Today, every one of those dogs is in a safe and loving home.

Moments like that show us what's possible when an organization has the trust and resources of its community behind it.

This year also marked a turning point for the NBSPCA's Happy Tails program. Thanks to a landmark five-year, \$100,000 grant from the Blue River Foundation, we are now able to plan, grow and invest in Happy Tails with a level of stability that simply wasn't possible before.



The Eric S. Margolis Foundation further strengthened that work with a \$20,000 grant directed toward emergency veterinary care for animals rescued by our officers. Together, these investments reflect a growing confidence in what Happy Tails can become — and what it already means to families across New Brunswick.

None of this happens without you. Your generosity is the foundation on which everything else is built. Thank you.



Julie McLaughlin

Director of Development



Become an NBSPCA Donor

The NBSPCA is grateful to all of our donors. Every gift we receive helps us care for animals like Lucy and Ivy. With your help, we can provide the food, shelter and veterinary care they need to recover before working with our shelter partners to match these pets with a new family and a new chance for a happy life.

Learn more about how you can contribute at nbsPCA.ca/one-time-gift.



Happy Tails Expands Province-Wide Support

The NBSPCA's Happy Tails program completed its first full year of province-wide operations in 2025, providing 1,295 animals with essential veterinary care and helping to keep vulnerable pets safely at home with the families who love them.

Originally launched in 2024 to provide spay and neuter surgeries for low-income pet owners, the program expanded significantly in 2025 to include emergency veterinary care, addressing one of the leading factors contributing to animal surrender. Through partnerships with 56 veterinary clinics across New Brunswick, Happy Tails delivered 551 spay or neuter surgeries, vaccinations, and parasite treatments, while an additional 744 animals received emergency veterinary assistance. In total, more than \$464,428 in veterinary care was provided through the program, funded entirely by donations.

The impact of Happy Tails is already being felt across the province. In 2025, NBSPCA animal protection officers removed approximately 100 fewer pets from unsafe situations compared with the previous year, reflecting the organization's growing focus on prevention and early intervention.

Veterinary partners have played a critical role in the program's success. The NBSPCA continues to partner with additional clinics across the province, enabling Happy Tails to help even more families access the care they need.

Learn more about Happy Tails at nbsPCA.ca/happytails.



The Impact of Happy Tails: Kitty's Story

In 2025, Joseph faced a heartbreaking decision when his eight-year-old cat, Kitty, became critically ill with a blocked urinary tract caused by bladder stones. Without emergency surgery, Kitty had only days to live. Unable to afford the procedure or qualify for financing, Joseph believed euthanasia was his only remaining option.

Before the appointment, veterinary staff connected him with the Happy Tails fund. Thanks to the generosity of NBSPCA supporters, Kitty received the life-saving surgery he urgently needed.

Today, Kitty has fully recovered and is back to being the affectionate companion Joseph knows and loves, often found curled up sleeping on his chest. Grateful for the support he received, Joseph later made his own donation to the Happy Tails program, helping other families facing similar circumstances.

Stories like Kitty's demonstrate the life-changing impact of prevention-focused programs that ensure financial hardship does not become a barrier to compassionate pet care.

Happy Tails by the Numbers: 2025



1,295

Animals received essential veterinary care



\$25,000

Average gross family income for emergency assistance recipients



551

Spay / neuter surgeries and preventative care



\$464,428

Invested in keeping families together



56

Veterinary clinic partnerships across New Brunswick



744

Animals received emergency veterinary assistance



From Foster Dog to Forever Family

When first-time foster family Mark and Suzanne Wies agreed to take in a dog rescued from a large-scale animal seizure in northern New Brunswick, they expected it would be temporary.

In August 2025, NBSPCA animal protection officers seized dozens of animals living in unsanitary conditions in Madran. Through a coordinated effort involving shelters across the province, many of the dogs were placed into foster homes where they could begin recovering. One of those dogs was Coconut, a timid Shih Tzu mix placed with the Wies family through the Oromocto and Area SPCA.

“She was really shy and scared,” Mark recalled. “We don’t think she had ever even walked on grass before.”

The family quickly fell in love with Coconut’s gentle personality, but still planned to eventually adopt a larger dog as a companion for their older dog, Bella.

Then, just weeks after arriving in foster care, Coconut surprised everyone by going into labour. When she was rescued, she was malnourished and underweight, making it difficult to tell she was expecting during her veterinary exam.

“We had no idea she was pregnant,” Suzanne said. “Suddenly, we were delivering puppies on the kitchen counter.”

Coconut gave birth to three healthy puppies. After that experience, the Wies family knew they were bonded with Coconut for life and chose to officially adopt her.

At the NBSPCA office in Fredericton, longtime office administrator Bernadette MacFarlane had been considering whether her family was ready for another dog after losing their 17-year-old Chihuahua.

Then she saw a photo of one of Coconut’s puppies, a chocolate-brown dog named Chewbacca (Chewie for short).

“One look at him and I said, ‘Yeah, he’s ours,’” she said.

Once Chewie was ready to be away from Coconut, he quickly became part of Bernadette’s family. He accompanied her to work at the NBSPCA, where he befriended office cats, Clifford and Norman, and won over Bernadette’s husband and grandchildren. He now spends his days chasing squirrels, playing with neighbourhood dogs and driving everywhere in his own car seat.

For both families, the experience highlighted the life-changing impact that the NBSPCA, shelters and foster care have on animals recovering from neglect.

“To be able to give these dogs a safe, loving environment, it’s incredible,” Suzanne said. “Coconut went from being terrified of everything to becoming the happiest little dog.”

Mark said he and Suzanne look forward to fostering again in the future.

“But we’re not keeping the next one,” he added. “Unless she has puppies.”



Suzanne with Coconut’s puppies



Coconut and Bella





A Province-Wide Response to Animal Neglect

What began as a complaint about barking dogs became the second major animal seizure in northern New Brunswick in 2025, after 42 dogs and a cat were rescued from Belledune in March.

In August, NBSPCA animal protection officers responded to concerns at a residence in Madran. After obtaining an entry warrant, officers discovered dozens of dogs living in an overcrowded, unsanitary environment.

“They were in some of the worst conditions I’ve seen,” said NBSPCA Animal Protection Officer Renata Pelletier. “Many were living in cramped rooms and crates without proper food or water.”

In total, 55 dogs, four puppies and seven cats were removed from the property. The scale of the seizure required a coordinated response involving shelters across New Brunswick, including the Oromocto and Area SPCA, the Restigouche County SPCA, the SPCA Péninsule Acadienne and the Bathurst SPCA.

“We went in expecting maybe 10 or 15 dogs,” Pelletier said. “What we found was far beyond that, and the shelters really stepped up to help us.”

For Tracy Marcotullio, Manager of the Oromocto and Area SPCA, the organization’s foster network was critical to managing such a large seizure.

“When animals come from situations like this, they often aren’t ready for adoption immediately,” she said. “Foster homes give them a safe place to recover and begin learning what normal life feels like.”

Both Pelletier and Marcotullio say public awareness is an important part of preventing similar situations. They encourage prospective pet owners to research breeders carefully, ask to see where animals are being kept and verify that breeders hold valid Pet Establishment Licences.

Pelletier also emphasized that enforcement is considered a last resort.

“If people are overwhelmed, we want them to know they can reach out for help before things get out of control,” she said.

Today, the animals rescued from the Madran seizure are thriving in homes across the province, thanks to the collaborative efforts of animal protection officers, shelters, foster families and NBSPCA supporters.



Why Pet Establishment Licences and Veterinary Certificates of Health Matter

New Brunswick is the only province in Canada with a mandatory licensing framework for animal breeders and other pet establishments — an important safeguard that helps protect both animals and the families who care for them.

Under the SPCA Act, any breeder or seller of dogs, animal shelter, pet retail store selling animals, or facility that boards dogs overnight must obtain an annual Pet Establishment Licence and pass an NBSPCA inspection. These inspections help ensure animals are housed and cared for in safe, sanitary and healthy environments that meet Canadian Veterinary Medical Association kennel standards.

In addition to licensing requirements, anyone selling a dog or cat in New Brunswick must provide a Veterinary Certificate of Health issued by a licensed veterinarian within the previous six months. These certificates help ensure families are fully informed about their new pet's health before bringing them home.

“Pet Establishment Licences and Veterinary Certificates of Health provide transparency and accountability,” said Chief Animal Protection Officer Don Metcalfe. “When members of the public see a valid licence number, they can be confident the facility meets high standards of care related to housing, sanitation, food, water, veterinary care and overall animal welfare.”

The NBSPCA encourages anyone considering purchasing or boarding a pet to ask for and verify a valid Pet Establishment Licence and to ensure they receive a Veterinary Certificate of Health when purchasing a dog or cat. By making informed choices, New Brunswickers can help support responsible breeding practices and improve animal welfare across the province.

For more details on questions to consider when selecting a pet, visit nbspca.ca/your-next-pet.

Celebrating Animal Protection Officers

The NBSPCA is incredibly proud of our dedicated team of animal protection officers who work every day to protect animals from abuse and neglect while also educating owners to help prevent suffering before it occurs. We are pleased to recognize the important work of officers like Chris McDonald, who are committed to animal welfare and bring genuine compassion to their work across New Brunswick.

Chris joined the NBSPCA in October 2023 and quickly realized he had found the right fit. Since then, he has embraced the opportunity to be a voice for vulnerable animals while providing education to pet owners.

“Not knowing exactly what the job entailed when I signed up, I knew right away this was the right place for me,” Chris says. “Because of my love for animals and law enforcement, I’m able to communicate with like-minded people, advocate and save animals that need someone to speak up and step up.”

Outside of work, Chris enjoys spending time with his wife and their two dogs — Loki, a Golden Retriever, and Storm, a Golden-Aussie mix. The family recently built a pool, making for plenty of summer days spent outdoors with the dogs, while Chris also enjoys exploring the woods on his ATV.

Caring officers like Chris play a vital role in improving animal welfare across the province and making a meaningful difference in the lives of animals and the families who care for them.



Treasurer's Report

The financial statements (the "Statements") of the NBSPCA (the "Society") for the year ended December 31, 2025, were audited by Shannon & Buffet, LLP. Consistent with prior years, Shannon & Buffet has issued a qualified opinion on the financial statements, which is common practice for charitable organizations. The qualification relates to the inability to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence supporting the completeness of donation revenues due to the nature of how such cash revenue is collected. With the exception of this qualification, Shannon & Buffet has provided the opinion that the financial statements, in all material respects, present fairly the financial position of the Society.



The operating results included the following highlights:

- 🐾 Operating revenues for fiscal year 2025 were \$3.47 million (2024 – \$2.97 million). The increase was mainly driven by the following:
 - An increase in bequests, resulting in revenue of \$423,000 in 2025 compared to \$322,000 in 2024.
 - An increase in donations and memberships, resulting in revenue of \$207,000 in 2025 compared to \$110,000 in 2024.
 - An increase in revenue and donations related to the Happy Tails and SNIP Program, resulting in revenue of \$132,000 in 2025 compared to \$33,000 in 2024.
 - The unrealized gain on the market value of investments was \$354,000 (2024 – \$291,000) due to improvements in equity markets in 2025 compared to 2024 and prudent financial management by our advisors. Note that this amount is non-cash and driven by accounting rules, and that these long-term investments are still being held and any gains/losses remain unrealized.
- 🐾 Expenses for fiscal year 2025 were \$3.15 million (2024 – \$2.44 million). This increase was mainly driven by the following:
 - An increase in payroll expenses of \$250,000 due to the signing of a new collective agreement for our officers, the hiring of an additional officer and the hiring of a Director of Development to run fundraising and awareness.
 - An increase in our Happy Tails/SNIP Program expenses of \$401,000, which results in a net cash expenditure for this mandate of \$332,000 for 2025 compared to \$30,000 in 2024.
- 🐾 Excess revenues over expenses were \$317,000 (2024 – \$525,000). Once normalized for the unrealized gain on investments and bequests, the Society would have a loss of \$460,000 for 2025 (2024 – a loss of \$88,000).





The Society's financial position as of December 31, 2025 results in total assets of \$4.8 million (2024 – \$4.6 million) and total liabilities of \$171,000 (2024 – \$259,000). The Society's cash is healthy on the balance sheet at \$581,000 (2024 – \$546,000), given the Society's prudent cash spending and monitoring. Any excess cash not needed for operations or to meet the Society's programs and mandate was transferred into investments after year-end to prudently manage the funds.

To summarize, the Society's long-term financial position and liquidity are adequate given the donations, bequests and contributions in kind we have received in the current year and recent past. Without these amounts, we would not be able to increase our activity (and related expenditures), as we would be near break-even or in a loss position. As a charitable organization, we are fully committed to reinvesting these donated funds back into the Society's mandate.

As we look to the future, the Society needs to continue to work towards implementing a more sustainable cost model in relation to animal enforcement and protection by working with our government partners. Given the increased activity in animal control and protection in recent years, a more sustainable model will be needed to meet our mandate and continue operations in the future.

The Society is also working to improve our fundraising efforts, including hiring a Director of Development in 2025 to assist in raising additional funds to further the organization's education and prevention mandates. Prioritizing donations to support the expansion of early intervention programs is critical to the Society meeting its mandate of preventing animal cruelty.

The results of 2025 have provided us with a base to continue investing in the prevention of cruelty to animals.



Chris Bertin, CPA

Board Treasurer





Summary of 2025 Revenues & Expenditures

Revenues		Expenses	
GNB Enforcement Grant	\$1,009,125	Enforcement (Salaries & Equipment)	\$1,588,381
Donations, Bequests & Foundations	\$702,762	Animal Care / Veterinary Costs	\$423,316
Investment Income	\$110,536	Public Education & Prevention	\$191,538
Licences, Tags & Other	\$69,473	Happy Tails	\$464,428
Rural Dog Control	\$162,930	Administration	\$224,092
Local Dog Control	\$662,872	Amortization	\$72,763
Happy Tails / SNIP	\$131,967	HST (Non-Recoverable)	\$190,601
Other	\$268,150		
Change in Market Value*	\$354,159		
TOTAL	\$3,471,974	TOTAL	\$3,155,119

Excess Revenues over Expenses	\$316,855
* \$354,159 is an accounting entry that reflects a change in market value of investments at a given point in time.	
Bequests of \$423,000	
Excess Revenues over Expenses adjusted for both entries shows a net loss of \$460,000 for 2025	-\$460,000

Audited financial statements are available at nbspca.ca.





Learn more about the NBSPCA:

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