



## Code of Ethics

### Introduction:

This Code of Ethics describes the expectations we have of ourselves and of each other in the BC SPCA. It articulates the ideals to which we aspire, as well as the principles that should guide us when we make decisions about the most appropriate course of action to take in our BC SPCA-related interactions.

The purpose of this Code of Ethics is to instill confidence in the BC SPCA and to help all staff, volunteers, and members become better representatives of the Society. We do this by establishing an organization-wide understanding of appropriate behaviour. We believe that the credibility and reputation of the BC SPCA is shaped by the collective conduct of staff, volunteers, and members.

We believe that this Code will assist us in making ethical decisions, particularly when faced with difficult situations where we may be asked to compromise our integrity or our values.

### Scope of Application:

The Code of Ethics applies to all employees, members, and/or volunteers.

### Our Vision:

To inspire and mobilize society to create a world in which all animals enjoy, as a minimum, five essential freedoms:

1. Freedom from hunger and thirst
2. Freedom from pain, injury, and disease
3. Freedom from distress
4. Freedom from discomfort
5. Freedom to express behaviours that promote well-being

### Our Mission:

To protect and enhance the quality of life for domestic, farm, and wild animals in British Columbia.

### Guiding Principles:

As employees, members, and/or volunteers, we will strive to uphold the guiding principles of the BC SPCA in all our BC SPCA-related interactions, decisions, and actions. These guiding principles include:

**Ethical Behaviour Toward Animals** – We will seek to act at all times in accordance with the provisions of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, best practices of animal management, and policies, guidelines, and procedures approved by the BC SPCA relating to the welfare of animals.

# BCSPCA

**Principled Behaviour** – We acknowledge the need to be open, honest, and transparent in our relationships. We will treat each other and those we serve, including the animals, with integrity, respect, and compassionate caring.

**Partnerships** – We believe that by forming partnerships and strategic alliances with those who share our vision, guiding principles, and respect for animals, we can do more than any of us can do on our own.

**Leadership** – We will endeavour to exercise leadership in the protection and promotion of animal welfare by demonstrating courage, compassion, wisdom, and advocacy.

**Learning** – We will honour the need to grow and learn, using an evidence-based approach to guide improvements and constantly evaluate the impact of our work.

**Responsibility** – We recognize that animal welfare is not solely the responsibility of the BC SPCA, it is also a matter of individual and community responsibility. We are committed to working with individuals and communities, through educational and other initiatives, to promote greater responsibility for animal welfare.

**Accountability** – We will make every effort to be accountable in order to deserve the trust of those we serve. We will measure, track, and report regularly on what we have achieved as well as what we have not.

**Sustainability** – We strive to practice and promote the principle of sustainability in our operations and in facility development.

**Reconciliation** – We recognize the rights and title of Indigenous Peoples, guided by the United Nations Declaration on the rights of Indigenous Peoples (2007)<sup>1</sup> and the Final Report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (2015)<sup>2</sup>. We commit to respectfully engage with Indigenous Peoples when our work concerns their interests.

## Concerns or Inquiries Related to Adherence to this Code of Ethics:

Please direct all concerns or inquiries related to adherence to this Code of Ethics to [ethics@sPCA.bc.ca](mailto:ethics@sPCA.bc.ca).

<i>Revised/reaffirmed</i>	Board of Directors	19 03 16
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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.un.org/development/desa/indigenouspeoples/declaration-on-the-rights-of-indigenous-peoples.html>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.trc.ca/websites/trcinstitution/index.php?p=890>