

NWT SPCA Strategic Plan 2025–2030

A Vision for Compassionate Animal Welfare Across the North



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Land Acknowledgement

We respectfully acknowledge that the NWT SPCA operates on Chief Drygeese Territory, the traditional land of the Yellowknives Dene First Nation. We honor the histories, languages, and cultures of all Indigenous Peoples, including the North Slave Métis, and all First Nations, Métis, and Inuit whose presence continues to enrich our community.

1. Introduction

Based in Yellowknife, the Northwest Territories SPCA (NWT SPCA) is the only SPCA in the NWT. Since becoming a registered charity in 1988 and opening our shelter in 2012, we've worked to protect and promote the welfare of domestic animals across all 33 NWT communities and parts of Western Nunavut.

We deliver essential services including:

- *Animal Wellness Clinics*
- *SNAP (Spay and Neuter Assistance Program)*
- *The Last Litter Project*
- *Community Spay/Neuter Programs*
- *Pet Food Assistance Program*
- *Adoption and Transfer Services*
- *Education and Outreach*

Each year, the NWT SPCA cares for hundreds of animals—many requiring urgent medical attention. Our work strengthens both animal welfare and community well-being in the North.

2. Mission, Vision & Guiding Principles

Mission

To advance the well-being of companion animals in our region through the operation of our shelter, community education and engagement, and offering programs and services for the betterment of the animals and the community.

Vision

A compassionate North where all animals are valued, respected, and treated humanely.

Guiding Principles

We believe every animal deserves the Five Freedoms:

- *Freedom from hunger and thirst*
- *Freedom from pain, injury, and disease*
- *Freedom from fear and distress*
- *Freedom from discomfort*
- *Freedom to express natural behaviors*

3. Our Impact

The NWT SPCA is a vital community partner and economic contributor. We:

- *Employ up to 15 staff, including youth, through our Student Employment Program*
- *Offer volunteer opportunities for individuals and community groups*
- *Provide scholarships for youth pursuing animal care careers*
- *Collaborate with local enforcement on emergency animal response*
- *Stimulate the local economy through procurement and services*
- *Deliver resources and support to remote and underserved communities*

4. Strategic Priorities (2025–2030)

Priority 1: Quality Shelter Operations

- *Strengthen shelter management and maintain infrastructure*
- *Foster a positive environment for staff and volunteers*
- *Track and improve adoption numbers, animals' length of stay & transfers*
- *Provide ongoing training aligned with best practices*

Priority 2: Community Engagement & Education

- *Deepen partnerships with First Nations and Indigenous leaders*
- *Develop inclusive educational materials reflecting Traditional Knowledge*
- *Co-create solutions with communities to address animal welfare*
- *Promote responsible pet ownership*

Priority 3: Programs & Services

- *Strengthen and promote SNAP, Last Litter Project, and Pet Food Assistance*
- *Expand Animal Wellness Clinics*
- *Grow our foster network*
- *Raise awareness of services across the North*

Priority 4: Sustainable Funding & Growth

- *Diversify revenue streams*
- *Deepen donor engagement and grow membership*
- *Secure Territorial and Federal government support*
- *Apply for mission-aligned grants*

6. Challenges

Animal welfare in the North presents unique challenges to our organization's mission. Factors such as remote communities, limited veterinary services, higher transportation expenses, and extreme weather can impact the timely delivery of services and resources. Addressing these issues involves collaboration, cultural awareness, and the development of sustainable, locally driven solutions.

7. Join Us

The NWT SPCA is committed to creating lasting, systemic change for animals and communities across the North. With your support, we can expand our reach, deepen our impact, and ensure that every companion animal receives the care, dignity, and compassion they deserve.

 Let's build a more humane North—together.