

COMMUNITY VETERINARY OUTREACH



**COMMUNITY MEDICINE
FOR PEOPLE AND PETS**

**ANNUAL REPORT
2020 - 2021**



WELCOME



Community Veterinary Outreach provides preventive veterinary care for animals belonging to people in need, and through that connection with a beloved pet, we find opportunities to improve health for their human guardians. This is a One Health model of care that creates positive change for the lives of both pets and their humans.

Community Veterinary Outreach’s mandate is to:

- Improve the health and welfare of both animals and people;
- Create multilateral collaborative partnerships with community organizations;
- Contribute to the scientific knowledge base on social issues involving animals; and
- Develop program models that are reproducible in other communities.



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THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS!

CVO would not be possible without the support of each and every member of our Community Veterinary Outreach volunteer family. At the core of our organization are our incredible volunteers who donate their time, experience, and compassion to serve people and pets in need in our communities. We express heartfelt thanks to all volunteers.

Volunteers included veterinarians, students, veterinary technicians, veterinary assistants, nurses and nurse practitioners, pharmacists, dental hygienists, social workers and other human health partners, dog trainers, groomers, and community members across Canada.

Thank you for making these life-changing services possible!





THANK YOU SPONSORS AND SUPPORTERS

Thank you to all our donors, funders, and sponsors who make Community Veterinary Outreach's work possible. Special thank you to David and Robyn Aaron.



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ANIMAL HEALTH



2020/2021 IN REVIEW



In 2003, Community Veterinary Outreach began providing preventative health care to animals of the homeless at the Ottawa Mission. Since then, we have expanded to six locations in Ontario, Winnipeg, Vancouver, and Kelowna, with new programs coming to Saskatoon and Simcoe region.

Through 2020-2021, CVO had to suspend outreach clinics and events due to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, we pivoted quickly to providing emergency relief for animals in need, thanks to PetSmart Charities of Canada, the Donner Canadian Foundation and Ashoka. This included emergency temporary boarding, medical care, and pet food and supplies. As public health interventions continue and COVID vaccinations increase, the CVO is thrilled to be able to resume our 2021/2022 clinics and events.

General support from the Donner Canadian Foundation and project support from Ottawa Community Foundation and PetSmart Charities allowed us to conduct novel research on the health status of pets belonging to those experiencing homelessness and housing vulnerability, improving oral healthcare access, and supportive housing policies for those with pets. In addition, CVO released its Animal Care Guidelines for Emergency Co-Sheltering to support housing of pets with their owners in cases of domestic violence or homelessness.

Despite the challenges of 2020/2021, CVO remains committed to providing accessible care for people and their beloved pets experiencing homelessness and housing vulnerability.

"At the CVO clinic I felt like I mattered. Like my dog mattered.

*Like **our** health mattered."*

-CVO client





COVID-19 EMERGENCY RELIEF

The COVID-19 pandemic introduced and continues to pose additional stresses and barriers to underserved populations including CVO clients and community partners.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic and public health measures, the CVO suspended all outreach clinics and events, and donated all personal protective equipment in stock to local hospitals, clinics, or public health.

The CVO responded to increased community needs due to COVID-19 through the provision of emergency relief.

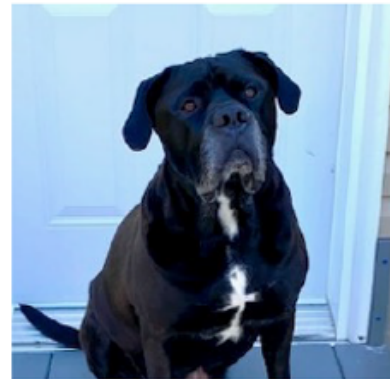


COVID-19 EMERGENCY RELIEF

- In partnership with PetSmart Charities of Canada and local pet boarding facilities, CVO was able to provide **209 days** of emergency temporary boarding in 2020-2021 for pets of those who required hospitalization or sheltering due to homelessness or domestic violence



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CARING DURING COVID

On June 9, 2020, Community Veterinary Outreach was contacted for assistance: our client was in hospital with a respiratory illness and he had no one to care for his beloved dog, Hulk.

Thanks to PetSmart Charities of Canada COVID emergency boarding fund, Community Veterinary Outreach was able to respond immediately and arrange for a local kennel to care for Hulk and provide him with dog food for the duration of his stay.

On June 19, Hulk's owner was discharged from hospital and was happily reunited with his dog.

Sadly, only five days later, Hulk's owner died at home with Hulk by his side. We were able to provide care and boarding for Hulk once again until arrangements could be made for him to be adopted by a family member.

Hulk is now living in Toronto, safe and sound. We know his owner is smiling down on him knowing that there were so many who helped care for his beloved companion

THANK YOU

Thank you to PetSmart Charities of Canada for giving Community Veterinary Outreach the resources to support a man and his beloved dog during their last days together.

This funding has helped not only Hulk, but many other clients and their beloved companions struggling during this time.



COVID-19 EMERGENCY RELIEF

Urgent medical care was provided for **131** pets

- Care was provided through partner veterinary clinics.
- Clinics focus was on low barrier access for pet owners



COVID-19 EMERGENCY RELIEF

Collection and Distribution of necessities:

- Over **5000** units of pet food and supplies such as litter and coats were collected and distributed to vulnerable pet owners
- Necessities were distributed to vulnerable pet owners across Canada through our **50+** partner agencies.



BY THE NUMBERS

REVENUE

2020 \$249,139

2021 \$303,166

	2021	2020
Grants	\$187,210	\$77,861
Donations	\$46,034	\$48,727
Donations In-Kind	\$67,742	\$122,211
Fundraising	\$2,180	\$340

EXPENSES

2020 \$234,794

2021 \$233,794

	2021	2020
Administration Fees	-	\$6,236
Bank Charges	\$983	\$678
Conferences	\$29	\$660
Emergency Relief	\$36,635	-
Fundraising	\$2,445	\$426
I.T.	\$13,578	\$14,710
Insurance	\$2,563	\$2,485
Medical Programming	\$130,155	\$150,994
Office	\$2,727	\$3,860
Professional Fees	\$26,263	\$15,581
Program Travel	\$751	\$1,526
Project Development	\$16,778	\$31,981
Volunteer Recognition	\$887	\$5,657

NET RESULT

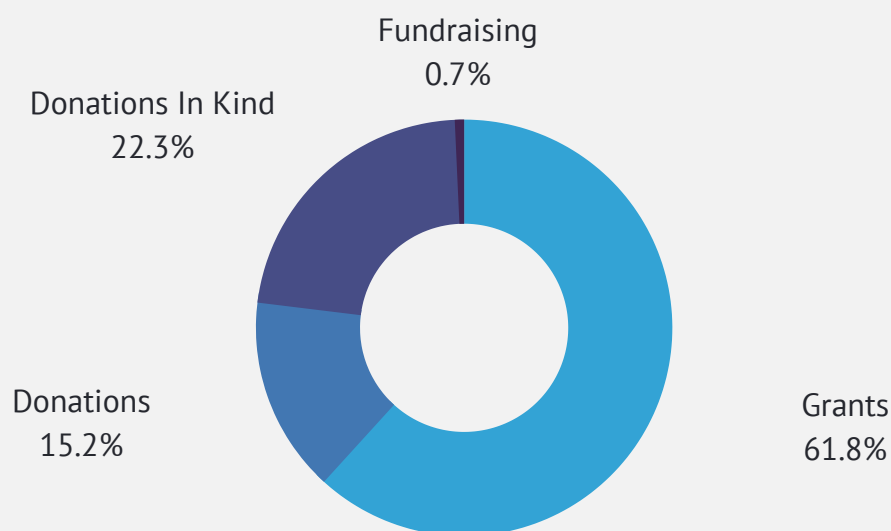
2020 \$14,345

2021 \$69,372

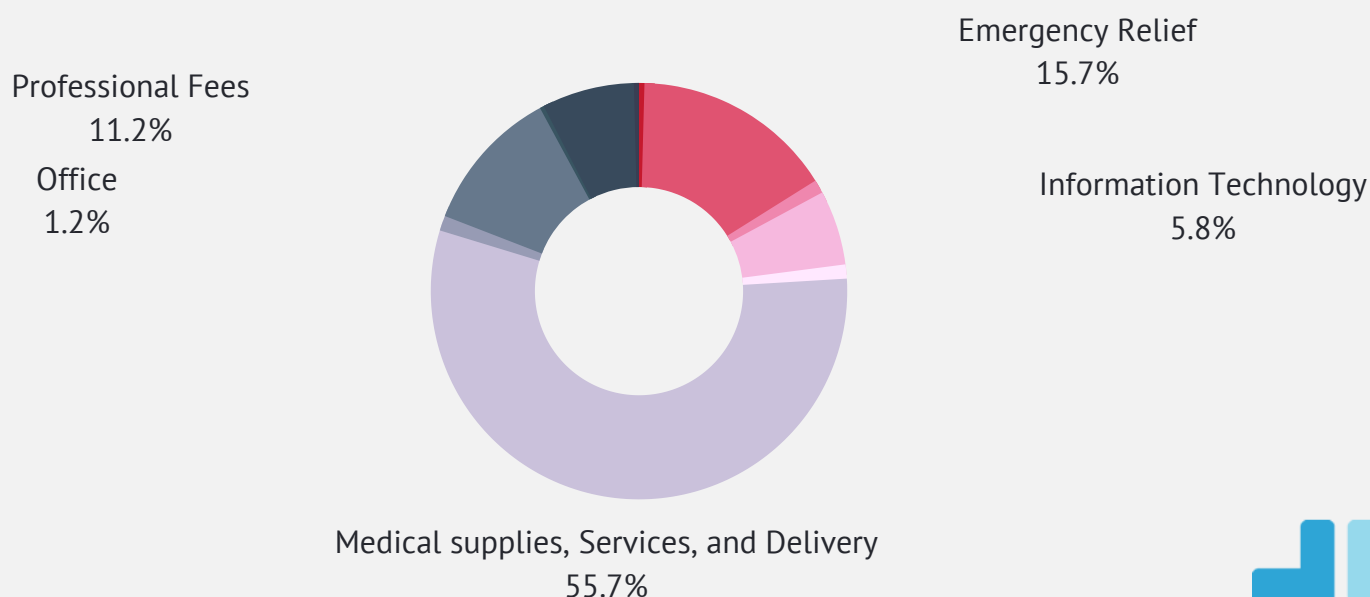
STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

For the year end March 31st, 2021

REVENUE 2020 - 2021

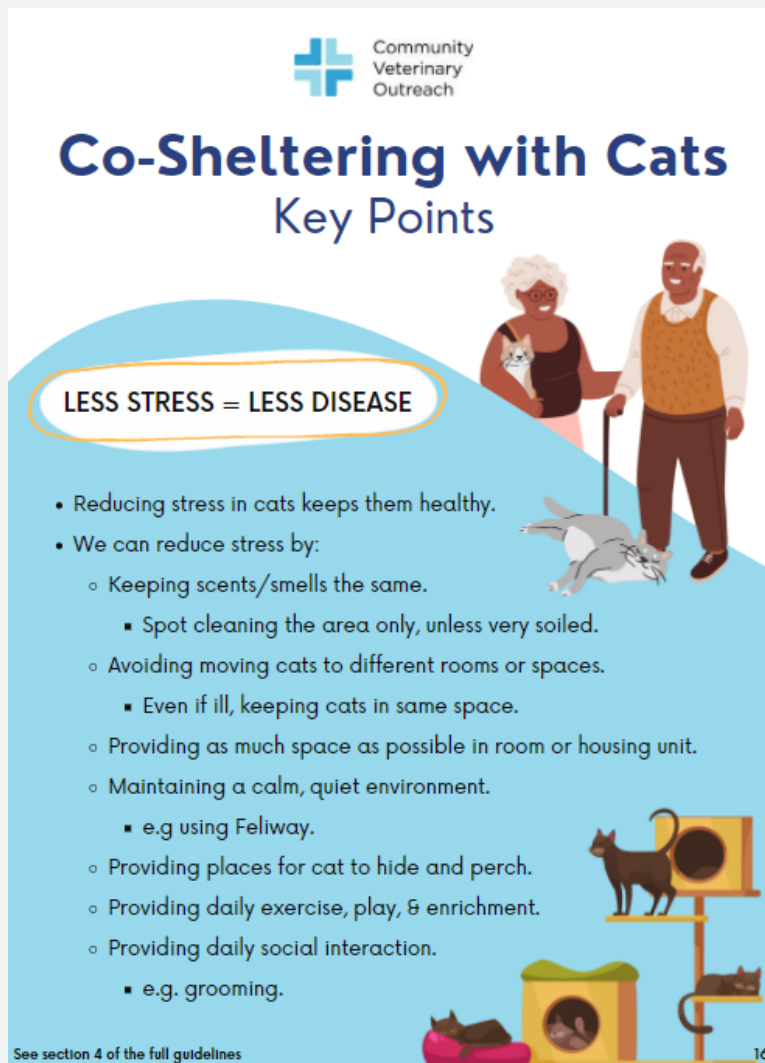


EXPENSES 2020 - 2021





ONE HEALTH



From the Pocket Guide Animal Care Guidelines for Emergency Co-Sheltering

Community Veterinary Outreach focuses on a One Health framework for service delivery, advocacy, and research.

2021 saw the continuation of One Health service delivery through CVO clinics, building trust with clients through caring for their beloved pets.

Other 2020/2021 activities in One Health include:

- Development of Animal Care Guidelines for Emergency Co-Sheltering and the adapted illustrated pocket version to support shelters in accepting pets.
- Research exploring the link between Intimate Partner Violence and animal abuse, leading to the development of a risk assessment supporting social workers who work with pet-owning clients who experience Intimate Partner Violence (*in progress*).

ONE HEALTH MODEL

This model of care looks at how human, pet, and environmental health is intertwined and through an interdisciplinary team, we collaborate to attain optimal health for humans, animals and the environment.

ONE HEALTH



More Than Just Pets Infographics

by Brianna Jennings, MSW practicum student with CVO

- *Understanding the human-pet bond to support clients experiencing IPV*
- *The relationship between animal abuse and Intimate Partner Violence and the factors involved with pet owners leaving IPV environments.*



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58% of Canadian households have a dog or cat.

Most people think of their pets as family. This pet-human bond may be more important to those with less human social supports. Crisis workers can use this bond to help support clients in times of crisis.



Importance of the human-pet bond

- Some will go without shelter to stay with their pet.
- Clients may be hesitant in using medical, police or shelter services if it means leaving their pet.
- Supporting pet = supporting client.



Pets can help with stress & anxiety

- Being with, or thinking of one's pet can be a protective factor.
- Pets can improve mental and physical health.
- How does your pet make you feel?
- How do you feel when you hold (walk, feed, etc) your pet?



Pets are a part of support systems

- Take advantage of pets as a way for clients to feel loved and needed.
- Sources of comfort & support.
- Can you tell me about your pet?
- What do you do with your pet?



Include pets into suicide & harm reduction planning

- Pets give people purpose and meaning.
- Pets might be someone's reason to live.
- What does your pet need from you?
- How do you care for your pet?
- Loss of a pet can worsen mental health, substance use, and grief.



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Animal Abuse and Interpersonal Violence (IPV)

58% of pet guardians who experienced IPV had their pets threatened, injured, or killed.



- Animal abuse is linked to severe IPV.
- Disclosure can indicate other abuse is happening, consider this as a gateway to explore further issues.
- Some feel more comfortable talking about their pet's situation instead of their own.
- People experiencing IPV may be isolated, making their relationship with their pet more important to them.
- Showing an interest in a client's pet can promote trust.

- Pet guardians face extra barriers when leaving IPV relationships as they fear leaving their pet or putting their pet at risk.
- If leaving an IPV relationship, a client can take proof of pet ownership/vaccinations, pet ID, and supplies.
- Some shelters accept pets or have partnerships with organizations to care for pets during a client's stay - ask what is available in your area.

58% of pet guardians in IPV relationships delay leaving out of concern for their pets.

Resources



- Community Veterinary Outreach
• vetoutreach.org
- Safe Pet Ontario
• safepet.ca
- Ontario Association of Interval Housing
• <http://www.oaih.ca/>
- Ontario SPCA
• ontariosPCA.ca
- Animal Welfare
• <https://www.ontario.ca/page/animal-welfare>
• 1-833-926-4625

Asciene, F., Weber, C., Thompson, T., Heath, J., Maruyama, M., & Koyashiki, K. (2007). Battered Pets and Domestic Violence: Animal Abuse Reported by Women Experiencing Intimate Violence and by Nonabused Women. *Violence Against Women*, 13(4), 354-373. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1077780107278520>

Newberry, M. (2017). Pets in danger: Exploring the link between domestic violence and animal abuse. *Aggression and Violent Behavior*, 34, 273-281. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.avb.2016.11.002>

Lem, M. & Wesson, E. (2018) Safety planning postcard. Community Veterinary Outreach



ONE HEALTH

NEW ACTIVITIES

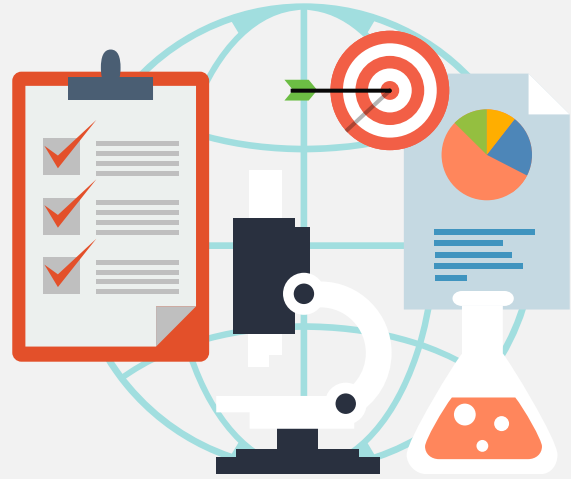


- Dr John Kim and PHAC: ongoing introduction of dried blood spot sexual health testing and COVID- 19 antibody screening.
- Klinik and SERC (Sexuality Education Resource Centre) – Winnipeg region: sexual health testing and education
- MANTRA (Manitoba Tobacco Reduction Alliance)- Smoking reduction education and support at clinics
- University of Manitoba Schools of Pharmacy and Nursing- student placements within clinic events
- City of Ottawa and Ottawa Public Health – COVID Respite Centres and incorporation of COVID-19 vaccines into clinic events.
- Province of Manitoba (via the Medical Officer of Health and Communicable Disease Unit) and introduction of COVID-19 vaccinations into all Winnipeg clinic events.
- COVID-19 vaccinations available at CVO Vancouver events



CVO RESEARCH

Community Veterinary Outreach research and advocacy focuses on expanding the current knowledge base pertaining to the health and wellbeing of under-housed pet owners and their pets. This includes pet owner access to information and services, improving and supporting pet policies and capacities at shelters, and addressing attitudes towards under-housed pet owners and the effects of stigma.



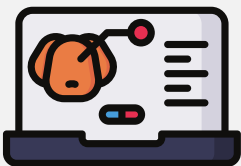
2020-2021 research and advocacy at the CVO:



- A Multilevel Intervention Framework for Supporting People Experiencing Homelessness with Pets
 - Nick Kerman, Michelle Lem, Mike Witte, Christine Kim, and Harmony Rhodes
 - Published in *Animals* (Oct 2020)
 - Factors that impact animal and human health at an individual, policy, and public levels.



- Improving oral healthcare accessibility for homeless and vulnerably-housed pet-owning populations
 - Brianna M. Jennings, Michelle Lem, Susan Kilborn, Blánaid Donnelly, and Amanda Acker
 - Submitted to the *Canadian Journal of Dental Hygiene*



- Understanding the association between owner and pet demographics on pet body condition among those experiencing homelessness and housing vulnerability in Canada
 - Shannon K. French, David Pearl, Michelle Lem, Susan Kilborn, Blánaid Donnelly, and Margaret Slater.
 - Published in *Preventative Veterinary Medicine* (Oct 2021)
 - Pets of under-housed owners are likely as healthy as other pets, owned by housed individuals.



- Companion Animal Risk Assessment - Exploring Risk to Animals in Intimate Partner Violence (In progress)
 - Michelle Lem, Erin Wasson, Bridget Curran, and Sophie Neumann



CVO ACROSS CANADA

In each of our communities we work with three types of partners: veterinary partners who provide animal care; one health partners which provide human health and social services in the clinics; and, referring social service partners that provide facilities and refer clients to the clinics.

CVO Regional Directors

Ottawa: Dr. Susan Kilborn;
Dr. Anne Downes

Toronto: Dr. Mark Kinghorn

Golden Triangle: Dr. Shane Bateman

York Region: Dr. Angela Smith

Winnipeg: Dr. Judy Hodge;

Dr. Jonas Watson; Kelsey Clark

Saskatoon: Dr. Dayle Borchardt

Vancouver: Kelsi Jessamine; Dr. Doris Leung

Kelowna: Wendy Jobs; Kelsi Jessamine



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Check out our video from CVO Vancouver
<https://vimeo.com/533539048>

