

PAWS: A Community Solution for Animal Welfare in Pemberton and surrounding communities



Pemberton Animal Wellbeing Society

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: ERINNE TAPP

PEMBERTON ANIMAL WELL-BEING
SOCIETY

Who we are...

Pemberton Animal Well-being Society was founded in 2005, by local community members to provide support and relief to cats and dogs in need within Pemberton, surrounding communities, and the greater Sea to Sky region.

In the 20+ years from its grassroots beginnings PAWS has grown, evolved, succeeded and strengthened our community through relationships built around animal and human welfare.

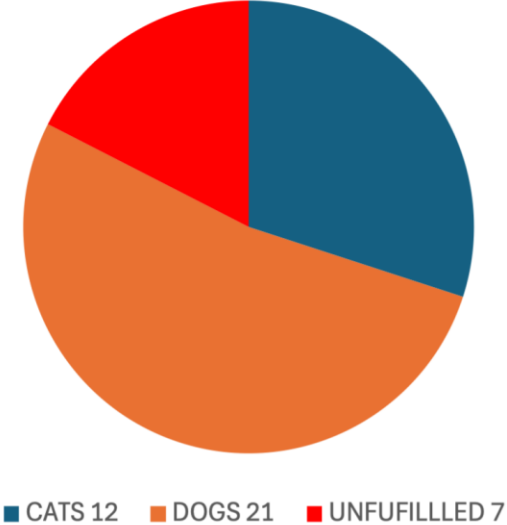
Core Services provided

- Rescue and rehoming of stray, surrendered, abandoned, and abused cats and dogs
 - Adoption and Foster programs for animals received into care
 - Community support and education
 - Remain At Home Spay and Neuter Program

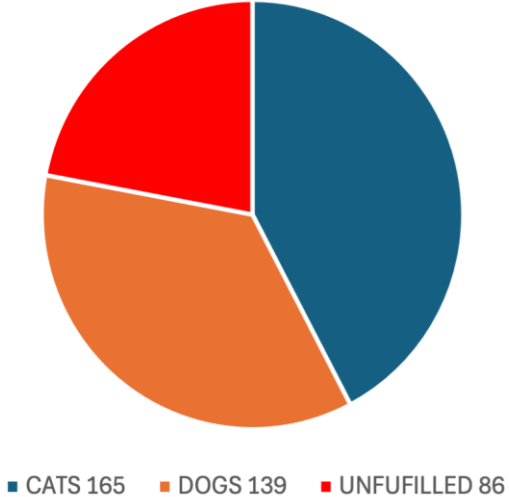
In 2024 Pemberton Animal Well-being Society became a Registered Charity

The Growing Need...

2026 PAWS Intake to date



2023 - 2025 Intake



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Our Impact...

In 2025

- 122 animals adopted
- 8 dogs and 7 cats received spay/neuter surgery support through the Remain At Home (RAH) program
- Supported 8 cats rescued by RCMP as part of a larger rescue from a hoarding situation that saw more than 20 cats removed by the BC SPCA
- Food bank donations made to Pemberton Food Bank and Lí'wat Market Green
- Supported pet owners being housed at the Lí'wat Nation Transition House (Stqaka7stúmc)
- Hosted Community building fundraising events and outreach



Current Shelter Limitations...

- No permanent, purpose-built facility with suitable indoor space
- Limited intake capacity, especially during winter months
- Challenges related to quarantine/isolation abilities
- Volunteer burnout due to logistical challenges and limitations
- Heavy reliance on foster network and quick turnaround to keep up with needs
- Flood risks, evacuations, and property damage

Total
Indoors: 300sqft
Cattery: 100sqft
approx.
Yard: 8000sqft
Kennels:
3 outdoors
(2 with heated
space)



Why PAWS matters to Pemberton...

PAWS fills a critical gap in animal welfare, public safety and community well-being that would otherwise go unmet in our small, rural region.

- At our core we protect vulnerable animals
- We support people too!
- Addressing root causes by focusing on education, veterinary care access and population control
- Strengthening community connection through volunteer opportunities, engagement, partnerships and fundraising
- Positive contribution to Pemberton's identity and values; people, pets and quality of life

The Vision...

A dedicated shelter facility that includes

- Intake and quarantine areas
- Safe, humane kennels and cattery spaces
- Indoor sanitary puppy/dog space
- Safe, secure yard spaces that allow for separation of dogs during exercise
- Adoption and meeting space
- Storage, office and volunteer workspace
- Bathing/Grooming space for keeping pups clean and fresh



PAWS

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The Goals...



- Increased intake capacity
- Future planning for growing population
- Improved animal welfare outcomes
- Safe and sanitary shelter conditions
- Expanded community support
- Expanded Spay/Neuter programming



Planning for growth...



A multi-phase approach;

- Secure a permanent home location for PAWS
- Build in stages, as funding and capacity allow
- Assess community need and impact of programming



Community Benefits...



- Safe, reliable, responsible animal welfare
- Supportive and compassionate services
- Volunteer engagement opportunities
- Education and Outreach partnerships
- Collaboration with local vets and businesses
- Emergency response capacity



Funding and Financial Responsibility...

- Donations
- Corporate Sponsorship
- Community Fundraising
- Grants



- Facility Development
- Animal Care
- Program Delivery

Commitment to Community
Welfare



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What without looks like...

As Pemberton and surrounding communities continue to grow (Pemberton's population has potential to reach 5295 by 2028, for regional context Area C saw a 20.3% increase in 2021) Sustainable, safe and sanitary Animal Welfare Services will increasingly be relied upon by community members facing housing, financial, and mental health crisis, plus increasing bylaw and RCMP needs.

PAWS will continue to face...

- Capacity limitations
- Lack of isolation and indoor spaces
- Increased strain on staff and volunteers
- Missed opportunities for rescue and outreach

We are PAWS...

- 20+ years
- Volunteers give over 3000 hours annually
- Building a lasting impact through animal welfare
- A community centered on care and compassion

PAWS is woven into the fabric of Pemberton- supporting animals, connecting people and strengthening our community every day

The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated – Mahatma Gandhi



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