



Cochrane & Area Humane Society

Business Overview 2025-2026



Building Rewarding & Lasting Partnerships



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Business Overview

2025 – 2026

Dear Friends and Supporters,

As the Cochrane & Area Humane Society (CAHS) marks 28 years of compassionate service, we reflect with pride on our evolution from a grassroots initiative to a regional leader in animal welfare. Our commitment remains steadfast: to provide care, shelter, rehabilitation, and hope to animals in need, while fostering a culture of responsible pet guardianship throughout our diverse service area.

This milestone is more than a marker of time, it represents thousands of stories of healing, resilience, and connection. Every adoption, every rescue, and every life transformed has been made possible by the dedication of our team and the devoted support of our community.

Caring for animals in a rural setting presents unique challenges. Many of the animals we welcome have had little to no prior veterinary care, are unvaccinated, unaltered, and often arrive with untreated medical conditions or behavioral challenges. Some require complex surgeries, rehabilitative care, or long-term shelter and foster placements to recover fully. As the costs of veterinary procedures, medications, supplies, and staffing continue to rise, donor support becomes more critical than ever.

Yet our impact goes well beyond animal lives. Through education programs, outreach to at-risk communities, and meaningful partnerships with schools, family services, and Indigenous Nations, CAHS plays an essential role in nurturing empathy and compassion in the next generation. We also support individuals in crisis through emergency pet safekeeping programs, offering peace of mind and protection for the beloved pets of those experiencing domestic violence, homelessness, or personal tragedy. These services reflect our belief that the human-animal bond is vital and deserving of protection, especially in times of hardship.

This Business Overview outlines the depth of our services, our recent accomplishments, and the path ahead. As we plan for the future, initiatives such as planned giving and endowment development are key to ensuring our sustainability and strengthening our capacity to serve both animals and people for years to come. Thank you for standing with us. Your compassion and generosity are the heart of our mission, and together, we can create a future where every animal is valued, and every family is supported.

With heartfelt gratitude,



Tracy Keith Harvie
Executive Director
Cochrane & Area Humane Society





Our Mission

Leading and educating communities in animal welfare by providing pets in need with shelter, rehabilitation, training and opportunity, and supporting people in responsible pet care – saving and changing lives.

Our Vision

Be a regional leader participating in initiatives that reduce indifference towards, suffering of and overpopulation of animals and inspire communities to value and treat animals with compassion and respect.

Our Core Values

Our people are compassionate, devoted and part of our family.
Our pets receive excellence in care and are treated with respect and dignity.
Our leadership is accountable, transparent, and professional.

Our Culture Statement

A positive, community-minded, family-like organization where we know each other and each animal in our care.

Who are we?

We are a highly dedicated and committed charitable organization. We work to prevent animal abuse and neglect to shelter animals in need. We are entirely focused on ensuring that matches between pets and their adoptive families are appropriate and supported before and after they leave our shelter. We have had a 100% success rate in animal rescue and placement of adoptable animals since 2007, when we built and moved into our main building.

Our People

- More than 400 active volunteers contributing more than 26,000 hours annually and serving in many capacities
- Volunteers who have access to our extensive internal resource library and to training opportunities including animal care, pet first aid, interpreting animal behaviour, and positive training techniques
- 150 foster families fostered countless animals
- A dedicated staff complement of 50 (17.7 FTEs)
- A 10 member volunteer Board of Directors contributing expertise in financial planning, human resources, governance, law, leadership, and fund development

Our Service Area

We serve not just the Town of Cochrane, but a wider area including Rocky View County West of Hwy 2, City of Airdrie, MD of Bighorn, Mountain View County, Redwood Meadows, Stoney Nakoda and Tsuut'ina First Nations. We also have many clients and donors from expanding neighborhoods in northwest and southwest Calgary.

Our Philosophy

We use a triaged waitlist to manage animal intakes, ensuring we have the necessary space and staffing to care for each animal responsibly. This proactive approach helps prevent overcrowding, lowers the risk of illness, and allows animals to move to the adoption floor more efficiently. Although we operate as an open-door shelter, taking a planned and thoughtful approach to intake allows us to deliver the highest standard of care—and ultimately help more animals in need.

Animals often arrive at our shelter in poor physical condition or facing serious behavioural challenges. Thanks to the unwavering generosity of our donors, partners, and volunteers, we are able to provide the medical treatment and behavioural rehabilitation they need. With this compassionate care, these animals are given a second chance—to heal, to trust, and ultimately, to find their forever homes and live the happy, healthy lives they deserve.



Cochrane & Area
Humane Society

Our Facilities

Our Animal Shelter

From humble beginnings in a very small space, we now operate an 8,000 square foot modern animal shelter. The current facility opened in 2007 and was fully paid for through a highly successful capital campaign.

Our Internal Hospital

Through our internal hospital we can provide clinical procedures including:



- Health exams
- Core vaccinations
- Parasite control
- Diagnostics
- Treatment of sick and injured animals
- Administration of antibiotics and medications
- Pain management
- X-rays
- Ultrasounds
- Euthanasia
- Spay & neuter surgeries
- Orthopedic, intestinal, bladder, eye, cancer, etc. surgeries
- Dentals: cleaning, extractions, surgery
- Fracture care
- Treatment & suturing of superficial wounds
- Quill removal
- Infectious disease treatment & control
- Behaviour assessments & treatments

Our Rehabilitation & Education Centre

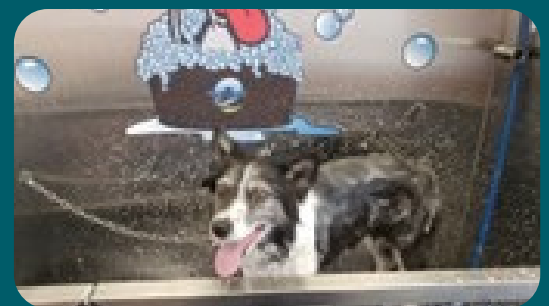
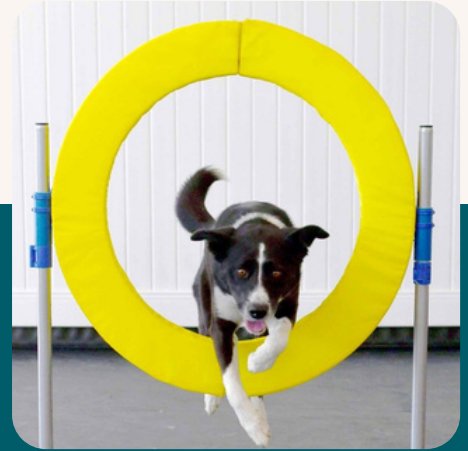
In 2017, the Cochrane & Area Humane Society expanded its facility with the addition of a 4,000-square-foot **Rehabilitation & Education Centre (REC)**, created to serve both shelter needs and the broader community.

The REC hosts a wide range of programs and services offered to the public, which not only enrich the lives of pets and their guardians but also contribute to the financial sustainability of our shelter operations. These offerings include:

- Dog training and dog sport classes
- Industry and public education seminars
- Self-serve dog wash
- Room rentals for events and workshops

The REC is also an invaluable asset to the animals in our care. As Cochrane continues to grow and surrounding walking areas become more limited, the REC provides a safe, enclosed space for our shelter dogs to exercise, play, and engage with staff and volunteers in a controlled environment.

One of the most impactful additions enabled by the REC is our **Play for Life** program. This initiative enhances the mental well-being and social development of our dogs by encouraging healthy, supervised play with one another. This kind of enrichment not only supports their emotional health but also helps them better adjust to home life, improving their chances of successful adoption. By focusing on both physical and psychological care, the REC ensures that every animal has the opportunity to heal, grow, and thrive while they await their forever home.



Private Off Leash Parks



Over ten years ago, we began planning for a future shaped by Cochrane’s rapid growth. It became clear that our existing facility would not be enough to meet the long-term needs of our organization—especially when it came to providing safe, enriching outdoor spaces for our dogs.

After a long and challenging search, we found what seemed like the impossible: 68 acres of peaceful, natural land with water, power, and mountain views—just 15 minutes from our main facility. In February 2024, thanks to the extraordinary generosity of the **John Bowlen Legacy Fund at the Calgary Foundation**, we were able to purchase the land and begin Phase One of its development.

This first phase focused on two key goals:

1. Creating a safe, calming space for shelter dogs—especially those needing specialized support.
2. Offering a private, enriching park experience for the public—promoting pet retention, keeping pets in their homes and out of crowded shelters, and generating sustainable revenue for the CAHS.

The results have been remarkable. Shelter dogs using the parks each month are calmer, happier, and more adoptable. Behavioural incidents have decreased, and staff and volunteers report renewed energy and joy in their work. Public users are also seeing fewer issues, with early support helping keep more dogs in homes.





Private Off Leash Parks

Public operations began with a soft launch in **November 2024**: Sadie's Nature Park (8.6 acres) and Paws in the Park (1 acre). Demand increased through **2025, generating net revenue** of more than **\$100,000** to support core operations.

Expansion (initiated fall 2025):

- Abbie's Acres (formerly Paws in the Park) grew from from 1.0 acre to 2.5 acres.
- Added Murphy's Meadow (12.6 acres) and Claire's Clearing (13.2 acres).
- Jack's Jungle (shelter dogs only) planned for completion by summer 2026.

A lower-cost option (Abbie's Acres) was maintained to support access for low-income households.

Overall, the program is designed to balance internal operational requirements with community service delivery, while building a scalable earned-revenue stream to support long-term organizational sustainability.

Looking ahead, a **feasibility study** will guide future development phases, with the goal of keeping our adoption centre and public programming conveniently located within Cochrane—continuing to serve the community where our roots run deep.

Our Partners

Our diversity of partners continues to be an integral part of our success. Some of our partners include:

- **Town of Cochrane** – fee based animal bylaw rehoming services, housing and care
- **Local veterinary community** – discounted services, event sponsorship
- **Cochrane and Airdrie Family & Community Support Services (FCSS), Cochrane Food Bank, Big Hill Haven** – Women’s Domestic Violence Shelter and RCMP – partners in providing pet to low-income families, violence prevention, and emergency pet sheltering program
- **Cochrane and Airdrie area schools** – partners in humane education
- **The Stoney Nakoda and Tsuut’ina First Nations** – partners in community-based pet support programs
- **Rocky View County** – fee-based animal bylaw rehoming services, housing and care
- **MD of Bighorn** – fee-based animal bylaw rehoming services, housing and care
- **Cochrane Eagle** – complimentary bi-monthly newspaper advertising and event sponsorship
- **High Country News** – complimentary newspaper advertising
- **The Cochrane Community Post** – complimentary community paper advertising
- **Numerous other businesses** – gifts in kind, event sponsorships, third party events, and donation collection



Our Partners

Our Partners Gain... How you and your organization can benefit from association with the CAHS

Our partners can make a **meaningful contribution to the community** by helping abandoned and neglected animals find loving homes. When you help to promote the humane treatment of animals, you have the satisfaction of saving lives. Together we will also work to help families in crisis and break the cycle of violence associated with animal abuse.

In turn, **we can promote your organization as a preferred business sponsor** to our many volunteers, donors, clients and sponsors. You **gain exposure and connection to a wide range of consumers** who care and support animal causes.



There are **significant tax advantages** to be gained through support of a highly successful charity that is well respected and well known in the community. We have over:

- 400+ active volunteers
- 535+ family participants in our dog training classes and private consultations annually
- 10,000+ walk-in visits to the shelter each year
- 40,000+ visitors per month to our website where our business partners can sponsor animals
- 27,300+ Instagram followers, 28,000+ Facebook followers, where our sponsors are recognized
- 1,500+ participants per year in our popular fundraising events and public education seminars
- 400+ children and youth participating in kids' programs, shelter tours and school presentations annually

Through participation in our high-profile fundraisers, you can also **gain exposure and connections to a network of other businesses and organizations**. Historically, all fundraising events have been well attended with outstanding community support that meets or exceeds target revenues.

Finally, there are meaningful opportunities for your employees to engage in volunteerism with the Cochrane & Area Humane Society. These experiences help foster teamwork and connection among staff, while also positioning your company as a compassionate and socially responsible corporate citizen—bringing with it the many benefits of a strong, community-focused reputation.



Our Programs

Last year, we provided care and shelter to 1,596 animals. While some were lost pets joyfully reunited with their guardians, the majority found new beginnings in loving forever homes. Though cats and dogs make up most of our residents, we also provide refuge for rabbits, birds, and other small animals in need.

The Positive Impact We Make in Animals' Lives...

- We **operate a comfortable, safe, open-door shelter** for all abandoned, neglected or abused animals.
- Our **in-house veterinary hospital** reduces costs and provides animals with prompt medical attention that saves lives.
- Our **nationally recognized outreach program with the Stoney Nakoda First Nation** has provided regular visits, animal rescue, pet spaying/neutering, and an animal food bank since 1998.
- Individual assessment of each shelter animal is combined with **tailored rehabilitation and fostering programs.**
- **In-shelter behaviour modification and training make our animals great family pets and prepare them for new homes.**
- **Adoption placement is done only after careful screening to ensure a good match.**
- **Our Off Leash Parks** provide a safe, calm space to help shelter dogs heal—especially those with high exercise, medical, or behavioural challenges. While also offering a private, enriching park experience to the public—keeping dogs in their homes and generating sustainable revenue for all animals in our care.
- Our **animal behaviour experts** offer one-on-one consultations and group obedience classes to keep animals in their homes.
- We help **reunite lost pets** with their guardians and undertake emergency response and animal rescue operations.
- Our **Positive Approach Canine Education (PACE)** program is designed to give participants a solid knowledge of learning theory and the practical abilities needed to effectively communicate with and handle dogs. There have been over 140 students who have participated in the program and are now training/working with dogs in their community using positive reinforcement methods.
- Our **Rural Rescue Support Program (RRSP)** enables us to assist partner rescue organizations that may not have a physical facility or require additional support. Using our specially outfitted transport van—equipped with heating and cooling to ensure animal comfort and safety—we bring animals from these organizations to our shelter. Once in our care, they receive the medical attention and, if needed, behavioural support required to prepare them for adoption. When they are ready, we help them find the loving, permanent homes they deserve.

The Positive Impact We Make in People's Lives ...

We try to break the cycle of violence that often begins with animal abuse.

- Animal abuse is almost always a sign of a family in serious difficulty. In over 80% of child abuse cases, pets were also hurt. Children who witness or participate in abuse of animals very often go on to become abusers themselves or commit serious violent crimes.
- We educate children about humane treatment of animals through day camps, a teen volunteer program, and our online humane educational curriculum and programs for area schools.
- We provide temporary pet sheltering to people who are victims of personal loss, tragedy or domestic violence.



We help families who must give up a pet, and those who adopt from the shelter.

- Families who have to surrender a loved pet due to financial or medical reasons, such as allergies, are counselled about the best decision for them and their pet.
- Post adoption programs provide follow-up counselling, obedience and agility classes, and resource materials.
- We encourage responsible pet guardianship through our educational material on spaying and neutering, dog training, bite prevention, and pet care.



By encouraging pet adoption we help children. Research shows children who have pets:

- have higher self-esteem and self-confidence
- learn to treat animals well, and consequently learn how to treat people well
- learn how to look after someone and how to think of the needs of others
- have significantly higher attendance records at school because they are ill less frequently - pets are great stress busters and make children laugh



We help seniors whose pets are often their best companions. Seniors who own pets go to the doctor less often, and cope better with stressful life events. Adopting a pet can also reduce feelings of loneliness and isolation.



The Positive Impact We Make in Communities...

We help minimize the number of stray and homeless pets in communities that cannot afford to have their own animal shelters. Our operations:

- reduce the amount of tax dollars spent to care for lost and abandoned pets and to euthanize those who don't find homes
- reduce the public health safety threat of rabies and dog bites
- reduce traffic accidents caused by roaming homeless pets
- reduce the number of livestock and wildlife killed or injured by homeless pets that run wild in packs



Our Strategic Goals and Drive to Sustainability



The Cochrane & Area Humane Society continues to set goals and objectives through the strategic planning process that supports our vision and mission. In light of the demand for our services, our focus over the next few years will be on the following:

- Short and long-term sustainable planning and financial forecasting recognizing the challenges of current economic climate
- Capitalizing on our strengths & resources and generating revenues to support our mission and provide stable funding for the CAHS operations now and in the future
- Offer a private, enriching park experience to the public – keeping dogs in their homes and generating sustainable revenue for all animals in our care
- Increasing our profile and expanding our mutually beneficial partnerships within communities
- Expanding humane education programs for children, youth and families
- Offer pet-related support, positive reinforcement training, and private off-leash areas in a serene, natural setting to enhance the quality of life for both pets and people within our shelter and service area.
- Developing more continuing education opportunities for staff and volunteers, which increase the already high level of expertise within our organization
- Continuing to make adoption the preferred option with our reputation for healthy, safe animals being placed into forever homes within the community



Creating Sustainability

Reducing Costs by

- Maximizing the contributions of our skilled, compassionate volunteers to support staff and enhance animal care.
- Investing in ongoing staff training and professional development, with team members sharing expertise through internal training for colleagues and volunteers.
- Operating an in-house veterinary hospital to provide efficient, high-quality medical care.
- Utilizing our on-site off-leash parks, eliminating the need to rent external spaces for shelter dogs.
- Developing high-demand programs and services, such as Positive Approach Canine Education, behaviour consultations, and children's birthday parties.
- Setting measurable organizational targets across all areas to ensure accountability and meaningful results.
- Building strategic partnerships that foster collaborative, mutually beneficial relationships.

Rehabilitation & Education Centre

Our Rehabilitation & Education Centre (REC) serves as a vital hub for training classes and behaviour consultations, both of which are significant sources of revenue for the shelter. The dedicated space has allowed us to expand our dog training programs, educational offerings, and fundraising events. In addition, we offer valuable community services such as annual seminars, room rentals, and a self-serve dog wash. The REC not only supports a self-sustaining revenue stream for CAHS but also enhances the post-adoption experience by providing continued support to adopters and families throughout the region.



CAHS Off Leash Parks

Our Off-Leash Parks are projected to generate \$156,000 in net revenue in 2026, providing a stable and sustainable funding source that supports our daily operations and benefits all animals in our care. In addition, we lease a portion of our land to Jensen Ranch Horse Rescue, creating a symbiotic partnership that offers them much-needed space at a reasonable cost while further strengthening each of our missions.

Creating Sustainability

CAHS Endowment Fund

The Cochrane & Area Humane Society proudly maintains an endowment fund, originally seeded by Co-founder and Executive Director, Tracy Keith Harvie. Held at the Calgary Foundation, this fund provides an annual contribution to support our operating needs, while a portion of the earned interest is reinvested—ensuring the fund continues to grow year over year. Contributions can be made at any time by anyone. As the fund grows, so too does the long-term sustainability and impact of the Cochrane & Area Humane Society. If your philanthropic values align with the goals of our CAHS Endowment Fund, we invite you to contact Tracy Keith Harvie at 403-932-2072 ext. 102 or via email at executive.director@cochranehumane.ca.



Planned Giving

Planned giving is a powerful way for supporters to make a lasting contribution to the Cochrane & Area Humane Society by including us in their will or estate plans. These future gifts, whether through bequests, life insurance, or other assets—allow donors to leave a legacy of compassion while often gaining financial or tax benefits. For CAHS, planned giving plays a vital role in securing the long-term sustainability of our organization. These thoughtful contributions help ensure we can continue providing shelter, care, and advocacy for animals in need—not just today, but for generations to come. They strengthen our foundation, support future growth, and allow us to plan with confidence, knowing our mission will carry forward well into the future. To learn more about Planned Giving and other giving options contact Executive Director Tracy Keith Harvie at 403-932-2072 ext 102 or executive.director@cochranehumane.ca.



Our Finances

Funding Requirements

The care required for rural pets often differs significantly from that of their urban counterparts. Many animals arriving at our shelter have limited access to basic veterinary care and socialization. It is common for them to be unvaccinated, unspayed or unneutered, and to suffer from untreated medical conditions. They often require foundational training and, in many cases, additional support such as rehabilitative surgeries, extended shelter stays or foster care, and individualized attention to help them heal and adjust. Each animal depends on us for food, shelter, medical care, and compassion—and our ability to provide that care relies heavily on the generosity of our donors. As the cost of medical procedures, supplies, medications, and staffing continues to rise, donor contributions are more critical than ever. By supporting shelter operations, donors play a direct and meaningful role in helping vulnerable animals receive the care they need and deserve on their journey to a safe, loving forever home.

Financial Facts

Twenty-eight years ago, the Cochrane & Area Humane Society was an entirely volunteer - based organization.

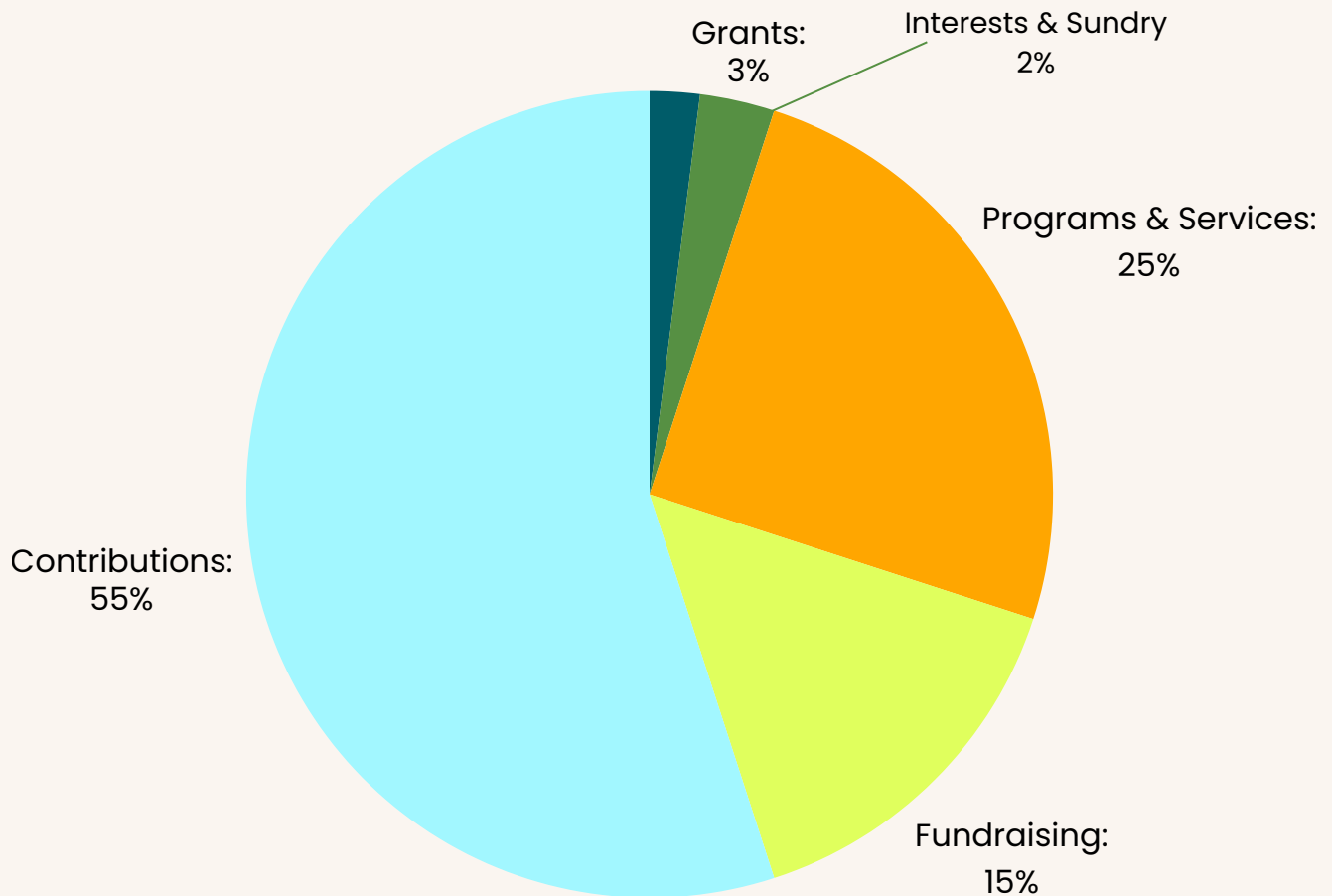
Financial Highlights 2025	2025	2024
Revenue	\$2,500,000	\$2,300,000
Expenses	\$2,500,000	\$2,400,000
Year-end cash & GIC balance	\$1,600,000	\$1,600,000
Year-end borrowing balance	\$0	\$0
Total assets	\$4,200,000	\$4,200,000
Net Assets	\$2,900,000	\$2,200,000

In 2024, we implemented a much-needed salary increase to help recruit and retain qualified staff. At the same time, the cost of medical care and pet food rose significantly. Together, these factors led to a substantial increase in overall expenses for the year.

Revenue Sources

You may be surprised to learn that most of our operational funding comes from non-government sources – generally over 97% of our revenues come from self-help and private donations. Only 3% comes from grants. Community support for the Cochrane & Area Humane Society has been clearly demonstrated in terms of individual, family, and business contributions.

2025 Revenue Sources



Current Funding Priorities and Looking to the Future

To continue growing and meeting the needs of our expanding communities, the Cochrane & Area Humane Society needs your support. There are many meaningful ways you can make a lasting impact on the lives of animals, support people in need, and strengthen the community—while also gaining valuable exposure to new customers and building business connections. Talk to us about opportunities to help through:

- Operational donations
- Capital donations
- Event sponsorships
- Legacy and Planned Giving
- CAHS Endowment Fund
- Pre-Authorized Withdrawal (PAWS)
- Opportunities for employee volunteering and matching donations
- Corporate Giving and tailor-made programs to suit your corporate needs
- Goods in kind donations
- Pro Bono Professional Services

With your support we will continue to run an efficient, self-sustainable operation. We invite you to become a partner in our success.

For more information, please contact:
Tracy Keith Harvie, Executive Director
Cochrane & Area Humane Society
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403.932.2072 ext. 102
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