

Cochrane & Area Humane Society Philosophy & Public Statement

The Cochrane & Area Humane Society (CAHS) is an **open-admission animal welfare facility** committed to providing compassionate care, rehabilitation, training, and pathways to successful adoption for animals in need.

Since opening our doors in 1998, CAHS has rescued, re-united, rehabilitated, and rehomed more than 90% of the animals who come into our care each year. We do not place arbitrary time limits on animals. Each animal is assessed individually, with decisions based on their health, behaviour, quality of life, welfare needs, and the resources available to support them.

Some animals require medical treatment, behavioural support, training, or extended foster care before they are ready for adoption. We are committed to providing the care and time needed to give each animal the best possible opportunity for a safe and successful outcome.

Euthanasia is considered only when it is determined to be the most humane option, or when a safe and sustainable quality of life cannot reasonably be achieved despite appropriate interventions and available resources.

Our Training & Behaviour Philosophy

CAHS is committed to **modern, humane, science-based approaches to animal training and behaviour.**

We believe animals learn best through teaching, reinforcement, and clear communication rather than fear, pain, intimidation, or punishment. Our approach emphasizes:

- **Positive reinforcement and reward-based training**
- Understanding behaviour and addressing its underlying causes
- Respect for an animal's body language, boundaries, and individual needs
- Choice, enrichment, and relationship-building
- Setting animals up for success through appropriate management and environmental support

Our goal is not simply to change behaviour, but to help animals feel safe, build confidence, learn new skills, and successfully participate in family and community life.

Preventing Animal Homelessness

Education and prevention are central to our mission. Responsible pet guardianship includes appropriate veterinary care, identification, nutrition, exercise, enrichment, socialization, and humane training. Spaying and neutering also plays an important role in preventing unplanned litters and reducing shelter intake.

We encourage pet guardians to seek support early when challenges arise. Providing people with the knowledge and resources to understand and support their animals can help prevent problems from becoming crises and keep more pets safely in their homes.

How You Can Help

You can help animals in our community by:

- Spaying or neutering your pets
- Keeping pets properly identified, including through microchipping
- Providing appropriate training, enrichment, exercise, and veterinary care
- Seeking help early when behavioural or other challenges arise
- Fostering or volunteering
- Donating or supporting CAHS fundraising initiatives
- Promoting responsible pet guardianship and humane, evidence-based training

At CAHS, we believe every animal deserves **compassion, dignity, respect, and kindness**. We are committed to continually learning and evolving our practices based on current knowledge in animal welfare, veterinary medicine, behaviour, and training.

For questions about CAHS policies and practices, please contact:

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