



ANNUAL REPORT

2023



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DEAR FRIENDS OF WAG

As we end our 41st year, I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude to everyone who played a part in making 2023 an unforgettable year for WAG. To our committed board, dedicated staff, veterinary partners, volunteers, fosters, sponsors, generous donors, and community members, your unwavering support has been instrumental in driving our successes.

We have seen firsthand the impact of our collective efforts—the joy, hope, and transformation that we've brought to the lives of countless animals in need. From stories like Hunter and Dozer to Togo, from Tuna's journey to Brew and Berch's triumphs, we witness tangible outcomes of our compassion, kindness, and generosity.

Throughout the year, we celebrated significant milestones, including welcoming 137 incoming animals into our care, facilitating 112 successful adoptions, and reuniting 23 beloved pets with their loving homes. Moreover, we provided critical care for 36 cases, ensuring that every animal, such as Archie & Jughead, received the specialized attention they deserved.

I want to take a moment to acknowledge the invaluable contributions of our foster families and volunteers—the backbone of our organization. Your dedication, whether it's walking dogs or cleaning kennels, creates a safe haven for animals in transition and fosters a sense of connection for all involved. Additionally, I extend my gratitude to our sponsors, including RMOW, First Mate Pet Foods, Zogs & Moguls Coffee House, and many others. Your financial support sustains our programs and enables us to turn challenges into success stories.

Let us carry forward the spirit of gratitude and community that defines WAG. Together, in this very moment, we are the heart of WAG, shaping a future filled with compassion and hope for every animal in need.

With heartfelt appreciation,

Peta Woolnough
Executive Director Whistler Animals Galore (WAG)

OUR STORY

Whistler Animals Galore (WAG) is a non-profit organization dedicated to the well-being of homeless and lost dogs and cats. Our mission is to provide a secure and nurturing environment, focusing on rehabilitation, critical care, and compassionate support to prepare animals for their forever homes. Emphasizing enrichment programs and positive reinforcement training techniques, we aim to raise awareness about animal welfare.

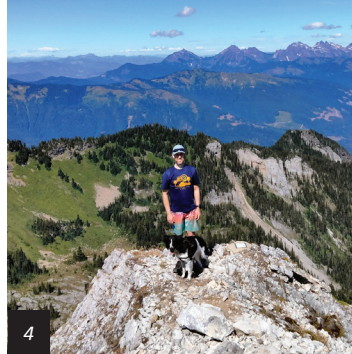
At the core of our efforts is rehabilitation, addressing the needs of animals with injuries, surgeries, or behavioral challenges. Our dedicated team works tirelessly to instill confidence and readiness for adoption. For animals in critical condition or with special medical needs, our Critical & Compassionate Care program offers comprehensive medical treatment, including vaccinations, parasite control, and spay/neuter surgeries.

WAG actively collaborates with various organizations to broaden its impact. A significant partnership with the Resort Municipality of Whistler (RMOW) involves shelter support and funding grants. In return, WAG plays a pivotal role in the community by offering essential animal bylaw services, education, and rehoming for the municipality.

In collaboration with our Sea to Sky veterinary partners, WAG works closely with neighboring Districts and First Nation communities. Together, we provide food, supplies, and veterinary support to address specific animal welfare concerns, emphasizing a comprehensive and community-centric approach. Additionally, WAG collaborates with neighboring animal welfare organizations like the Pemberton Animal Wellbeing Society (PAWS), sharing responsibilities for intaking and rehoming animals in need.

Through these partnerships, WAG is more than a shelter; it is a compassionate community partner committed to making a positive impact on the lives of animals and the people who care for them. With a holistic approach, WAG strives to create a community where both animals and humans thrive together.





BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Denise Wood - Chair Person (1)

Sarah Janyk - Vice Chair (2)

Sherry Klassen - Secretary (3)

Brent Morning-Smith - Treasurer (4)

Renée Erdman - Director & Behaviour Specialist (5)

Jessie Morden - Director & Municipality Representative (6)



I am grateful to everyone involved with WAG, for the committed work done to assist animals in the Sea to Sky corridor. It is a privilege to work with such dedicated volunteers, staff, board members and sponsors. The support from the entire community is outstanding, and so appreciated.

SHERRY KLASSEN



WAG TEAM

Peta Woolnough - Executive Director

Lindsay Suckling - Director of Animal Behaviour and Welfare

Martha Oliver - Adoptions Coordinator

Kendall Benbow - Marketing, Events & Fundraising Coordinator

Breanna Petch - Volunteer Coordinator

Mallory Jensen - Assistant Manager

Anna Scott - Shelter Assistant

Jaimee Yates - Shelter Assistant

Corinne Boles - Shelter Assistant

Marissa Legate - Shelter Assistant

Chantal Christopher - Shelter Assistant

2023 was a challenging year at WAG, but working alongside our fantastic team and thanks to the support of our community we were able to help so many animals in need get the second chance they deserve. As the current Adoptions Coordinator, I am moved by our success stories and proud of the assistance we were able to provide local communities, I can't wait to see what 2024 brings!

MARTHA OLIVER



WAG HIGHLIGHTS



SHELTER HIGHLIGHT:

*WAG is honored to be voted Whistler's **Best Non-Profit** for the 11th consecutive year!*

WAG Staff Members and Board want to thank the Whistler Community for voting us as their Favorite Non-Profit for the 11th year! Your support makes a huge difference for the animals we care for. We're also proud of Denise Wood, voted Whistler's Favorite Volunteer after 14 years of dedicated service. Denise's commitment is invaluable, spanning from her extensive tenure on the board to her organization of fundraising events and her efforts in enriching the lives of our animals. Thank you for being part of our team!





SHELTER HIGHLIGHT:

HUNTER - *Left abandoned and injured, found the support and forever home he needed!*

Hunter was turned away from his local shelter due to a torn cruciate ligament, needing an expensive and intense TPLO surgery. His caregivers, feeling helpless, drove Hunter to Whistler and left him tied to a post in a park. Eventually, Whistler Bylaw were called and brought Hunter to WAG. Despite enduring prolonged pain from his untreated injury and being left by his family Hunter was the sweetest boy, gentle and trusting.

We raised the funds for his surgery, and consulted the expertise of Dr. Lane from Point East West at a generous discount and we found a caring foster home where Hunter could receive the intensive care required for his three-month recovery. We were thrilled when his foster home fell in love and decided to adopt Hunter. Thank you to the kindness of our donors, vet partners and foster homes, together we made a huge difference in Hunter's life..



COMMUNITY & EVENT HIGHLIGHT



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WAG WOOF WATER

WAG, in collaboration with Arts Whistler, was proud to host Wag Woof Water at Art on the Lake. This exciting event features a competition where loyal competitors are judged on the style, distance, and cuteness of their doggy dock jumps!



DOG DAYS AT WHISTLER OLYMPIC PARK

We celebrated another fantastic year with our four-legged friends at @WhistlerOlympicPark, enjoying a day exploring our incredible dog-friendly XC ski & snowshoe trails. On this special occasion, all proceeds from dog day tickets sold were generously donated to @WhistlerWAG's Critical Care Fund. This event was made possible through a wonderful collaboration with First Mate and many of WAG's animal-loving partners.

COMMUNITY & EVENT HIGHLIGHT

MATCHING CAMPAIGN

We are thrilled to share that our Holiday Matching Campaign has been a huge success! With your incredible generosity, we raised a total of \$43,090. Thanks to the matching contributions from our sponsors Moguls Coffee and Zogs Whistler, totaling \$20,000, we reached a grand total of \$63,090! A heartfelt thank you to Moguls Coffee House and Zogs Whistler for their ongoing support and commitment to our cause. And to all our donors, your belief in our work and dedication to the animals we help means the world to us.



National Volunteer Appreciation Week 2023!

THANK YOU

On behalf of all of the staff and residents at WAG, we'd like to recognise and thank our kind hearted volunteers who dedicate their time to animals in need throughout the year!



www.whistlerwag.com

WAG VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

Volunteers are crucial to our organization, playing a vital role in our mission and daily operations. Currently, we have 48 active volunteers at WAG, with some generously giving their time every day. There are various roles volunteers can take on, such as Shelter Volunteer, Transport Driver, or Fundraising and Event Volunteer. Our volunteers find their time at WAG incredibly rewarding, forming connections with animals and fellow volunteers. WAG also serves as a valuable resource for individuals in Whistler facing housing shortages, providing opportunities for positive emotional and physical connections through interactions with animals.



112
ADOPTIONS

At WAG, we understand that every animal is unique. That’s why our adoption program goes beyond simply placing animals in homes. Instead, we focus on matching them with the perfect fit based on their temperament, age, health, strengths, and challenges. We work diligently to ensure that each animal finds their ideal forever home. Additionally, we provide pre and post-adoption support to set our animals up for success in their new environment. This year we were able to place 112 animals in loving homes.



36
STRAYS

At WAG, we provide shelter and care for lost and stray animals, ensuring their well-being until they are reunited with their families. If an animal is not claimed, we assume responsibility for their care and prepare them for adoption through veterinary exams, behavior assessments, and spay/neuter surgeries. In 2023, WAG took in 36 stray animals. Of these, 23 were successfully reunited with their families, while we provided care for the remaining 13 until they found loving forever homes.



36
CRITICAL CARE

WAG defines Critical Care as any medical need or expense that goes beyond the routine deworming, vaccination, and spay-neuter protocol. Our commitment to providing lifesaving care extends to a spectrum of medical interventions, ranging from essential antibiotics to critical surgeries and long-term rehabilitation.

WAG frequently encounters animals with complex medical issues, often becoming their last resort for care. When other rescue organizations cannot accommodate injured or sick animals, we serve as their final refuge. Furthermore, pet guardians facing financial constraints rely on WAG to prevent unnecessary euthanasia due to unaffordable veterinary costs. In the past period, 36 animals needed emergency or critical care, and through our efforts, they were either reunited with their caring families or placed in new loving homes.

ANIMAL STATS



25
COMPASSIONATE BOARDINGS

WAG provides essential assistance by offering urgent temporary animal boarding support to individuals and families navigating emergencies like fire, flood, incarceration, medical emergencies, and situations involving loss of housing. In 2023 we saw 8 families needing relief from the Pemberton fires, loss of housing and medical emergencies.



25
FANS

The WAG Financial Assistance for Spay and Neuter Program aims to make spaying and neutering services more accessible to low-income community members. This collaborative effort between Pemberton Veterinary Hospital, Eagleview Veterinary Services, WAG, and our generous donors supporting the Animal Wellness – Spay and Neuter Fund is crucial in promoting responsible pet ownership and reducing animal overpopulation.

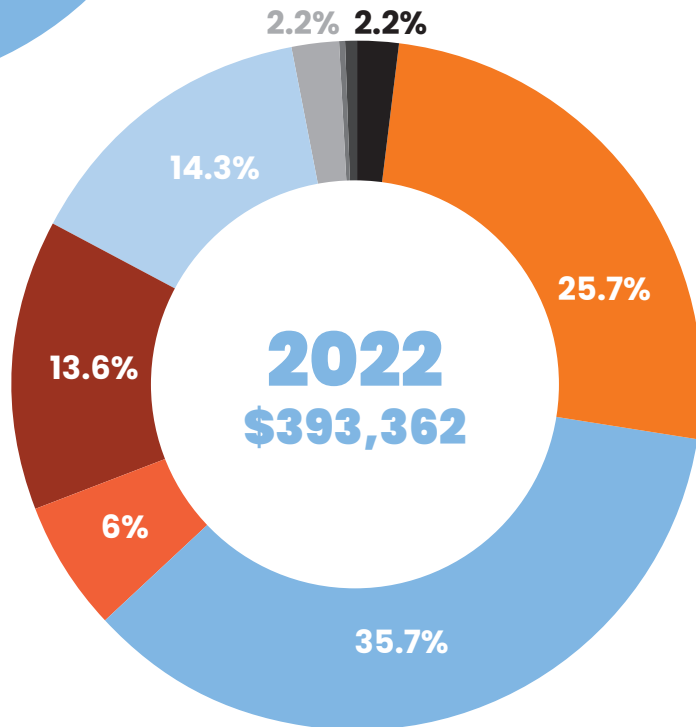
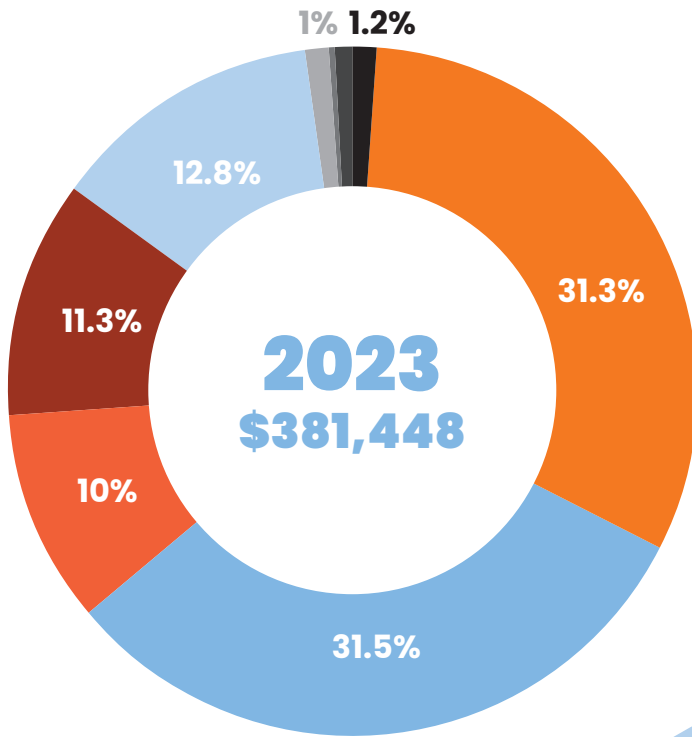


99
SURRENDERS

Community members may, regrettably, surrender their pets due to a range of reasons, including financial constraints related to veterinary expenses, challenges in locating pet-friendly housing, or behavior issues. In the year 2023, we received 99 surrendered animals, reflecting the diverse factors that contribute to pet relinquishment within our community.

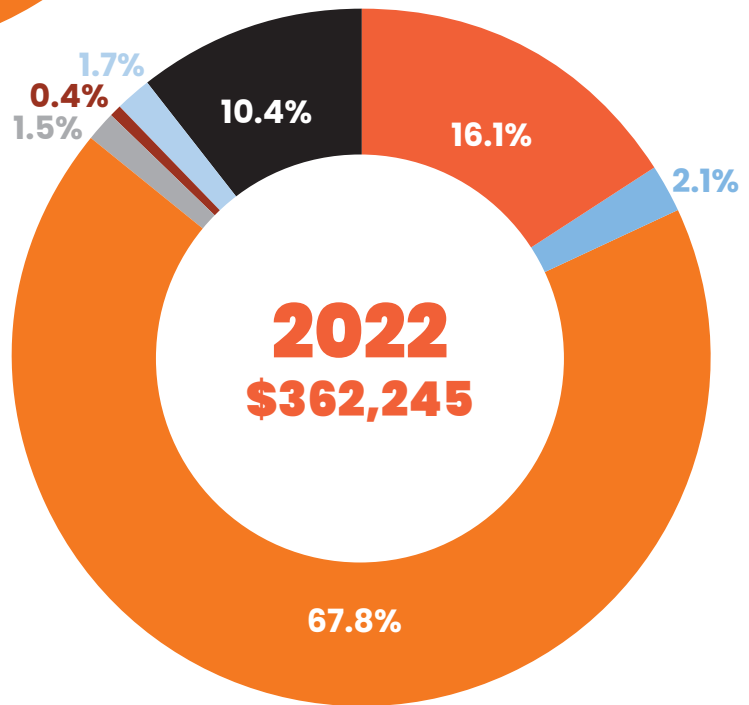
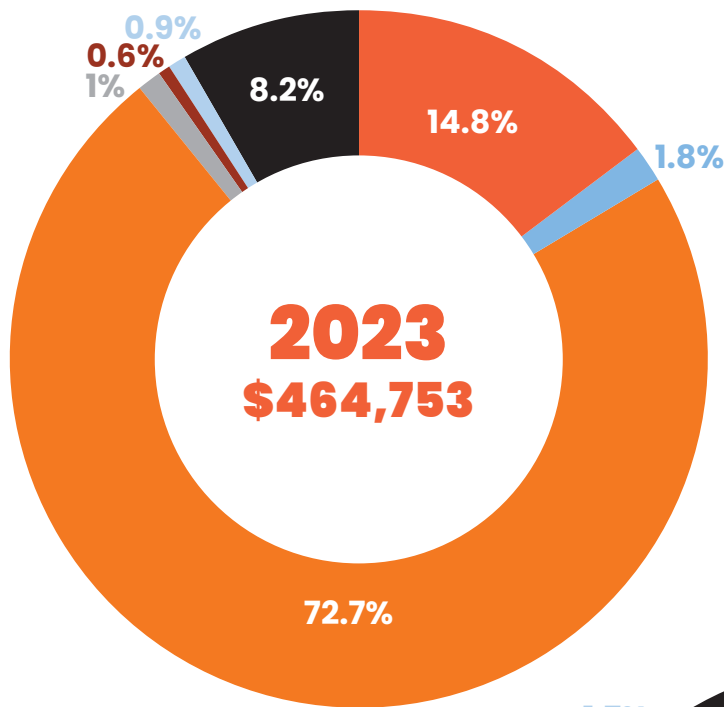
FINANCIAL REVENUE

- Outreach
- Fee for Service
- Dontations
- Adoptions
- Critical Care
- Fundraising
- Other
- Grants
- License Fees



FINANCIAL EXPENSES

- Animal Medical Costs
- Outreach
- Wages & Benefits
- Shelter Supplies
- Fundraising Expenses
- Other
- Administration & Building



ANIMAL STORY

WINNIE

Winnie spent her first year of life on a chain in a backyard, where she received little socialization, leaving her lacking important life skills and desperate for love. Upon arrival at WAG, she was brimming with excited energy, often overwhelming people with her eagerness for human interaction.

WAG staff and volunteers worked hard with her to help her learn how to live in a world with humans, other dogs, cars, roads etc. She found this new world to be so exciting yet so overwhelming at the same time.

Winnie and staff worked hard to find a routine that helped her, through positive reinforcement training walks and introductions, enrichment and decompression exercises we were able to help Winnie feel safe and loved and have moments of calmness.

Winnie spent over 200 days in the shelter, as many adopters found her energy and zest for life to be "too much". One day a young man came to WAG and applied for Winnie. After a few weeks of training, meet and greets, home check and day visits, Winne and her new Dad had all of the tools they needed to start their life together and she was officially adopted!

This story is so meaningful as it highlights not only Winnie's resilience and bravery but also the compassion of her new guardian, who saw beyond her challenges and was willing to invest time and effort into her training and well-being, accepting her imperfections and loving her anyways.

Lindsay Suckling
Director of Animal Welfare & Behaviour



OUR INCREDIBLE SPONSORS

Without the support of sponsors and partners, our events, programs, and animals would not thrive. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to these invaluable contributors who make it possible for us to fulfill our mission and make a positive impact in the lives of our animals.

DOUBLE BLACK DIAMOND \$10,000+

Zogs Whistler
Moguls Coffee House, Whistler
FirstMate Pet Foods

BLACK DIAMOND \$5000+

Pan Pacific Hotel
Alice + Brohm Ice Cream Co.

BLUE SQUARE \$1000+

Whistler Happy Pets
Whistler Dog Nanny
Bandannas by Denise Wood
Coast Mountain Brewery
Dr. Dobias Healing Solutions

RESORT PARTNERS

RMOW
Squamish-Lillooet Regional District
Village of Pemberton

VETERINARY PARTNERS

Eagleview Veterinary Hospital
Pemberton Veterinary Hospital
Coast Mountain Veterinary Services
Mountainside Animal Hospital
Points East West Veterinary Services
Harmony Veterinary Services

RESCUE PARTNERS

Pemberton Animal Wellbeing Society



IN MEMORY

To the beautiful souls who passed in 2023, you were cherished and will always be remembered as part of the WAG family.

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HAPPY



ROCCO



TUCK



MOLLY



CARL



SNOWY