

ANNUAL REPORT

2023 / 2024



Healthy animals. Healthy people. Healthy environment.



LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

A VWB team member walks with a local dog in Nunavut

Veterinarians Without Borders North America’s (VWB) team members and partners live and work on the traditional territories of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples — from coast to coast to coast. In the U.S., our head office is located on the traditional lands of the Onondaga and Haudenosaunee Nations. Our Canadian office is situated on the unceded and unsurrendered territories of the Anishinaabe Algonquin Nation whose presence in this area reaches back to time immemorial.

Through our Northern Animal Health Initiative, VWB staff and volunteers travel extensively through Inuit homelands of Nunavut and Inuvialuit, as well as those of Dene and Decho First Nations, and Métis peoples. We are thankful for the opportunity to work and collaborate on these lands through sustained relationships with Indigenous peoples based on mutual respect, dignity, trust, and cooperation, in the process of advancing truth and reconciliation.

Much of our work also takes place in other parts of the world. We work with various communities in Africa, Asia, and Eastern Europe to respond to pressing needs on the ground. Through our work, we are committed to better understanding colonial histories, and present-day colonial legacies and realities, within the international cooperation sector and in the areas where we work. Together with our partners, we aim to embrace local and Indigenous knowledge and create space for participatory approaches to development.

*ON THE COVER: A dog waits for an examination at a northern clinic.

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A Community Animal Health Worker vaccinates a cow in South Sudan

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MESSAGE FROM LEADERSHIP



It's been an extraordinary year of growth for Veterinarians Without Borders North America (VWB), thanks to the unwavering dedication of our supporters, staff, and volunteers. In November 2023, we officially expanded into the United States, marking a significant milestone as we now operate as registered charities in both Canada and the U.S. This expansion has strengthened our capacity to serve even more animals and communities in need, both locally and globally, by connecting with a broader U.S. audience.

Your generosity has enabled us to respond swiftly to emergencies, including the devastating wildfires in Maui and the Northwest Territories, while continuing to provide critical support in Ukraine. Our U.S. presence has allowed us to forge new partnerships, increasing our ability to deliver veterinary care where it's urgently needed.

Globally, your support has helped us make a lasting impact in vulnerable regions. In 2023, we reached 449 communities and cared for over 180,000 animals, delivering life-saving vaccines and essential training that benefits both animals and people.

As we reflect on these successes, we are deeply grateful for your trust and partnership. Your support is crucial to the work we do, and together, we are building a healthier future for animals and communities across the U.S. and around the world.

Thank you for standing with us.



Charmaine Brett,
Executive Director



Dr. Jennifer Ogeer
Chair, Board of Directors



A cow peers out from a stall in Kenya

WHO WE ARE



Two program participants give a farm tour in Kenya

Veterinarians Without Borders/Vétérinaires Sans Frontières was established as a Canadian non-profit organization in 2005 focused on improving the well-being of animals, people, and the environment worldwide.

In November 2023, VWB/VSF Canada established a registered U.S. charity, Veterinarians Without Borders USA, and rebranded as Veterinarians Without Borders North America (VWB NA). As a member of VSF International, which includes 13 national members, we aim to raise awareness about the link between healthy animals and thriving communities.

Currently, VWB operates in 15 countries, partnering locally to ensure solutions are designed and implemented on the ground. Through mobile veterinary clinics, educational initiatives, and emergency aid—such as vaccinations, animal evacuations, and access to nourishment—we are helping both people and the animals they depend on to build healthier, more secure futures.



YOUR DOLLARS IN ACTION

2023-2024

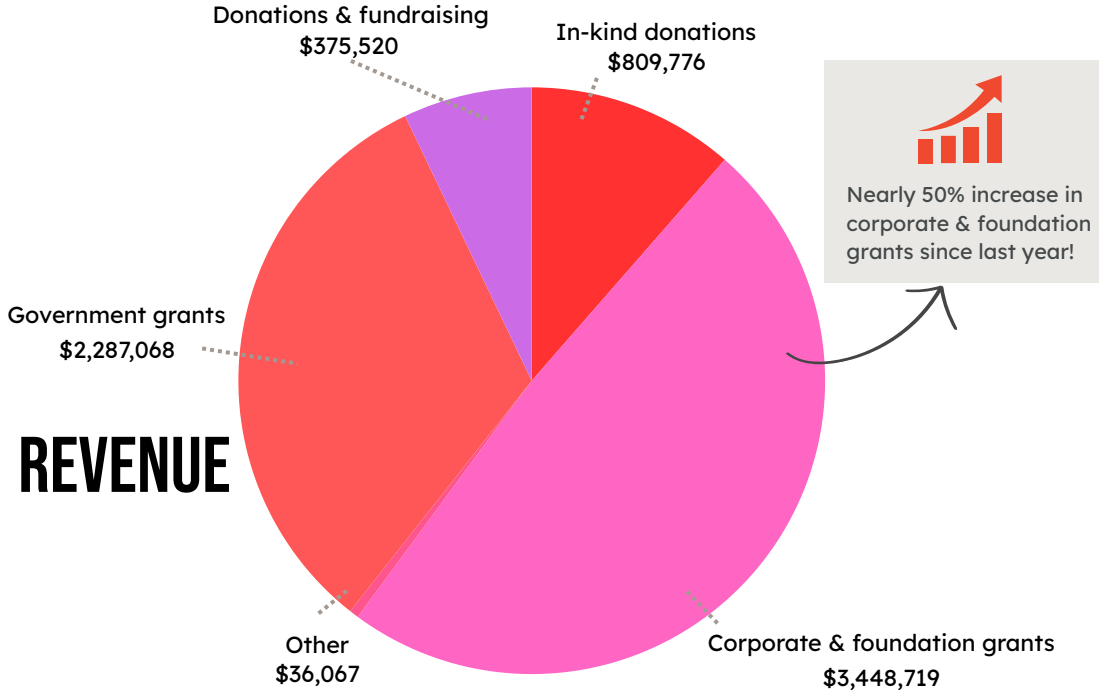


*Combined revenue generated and funds used during the 2023-2024 fiscal year. Note: Canada's results have been converted to USD using the average annual FX rate of .7414.

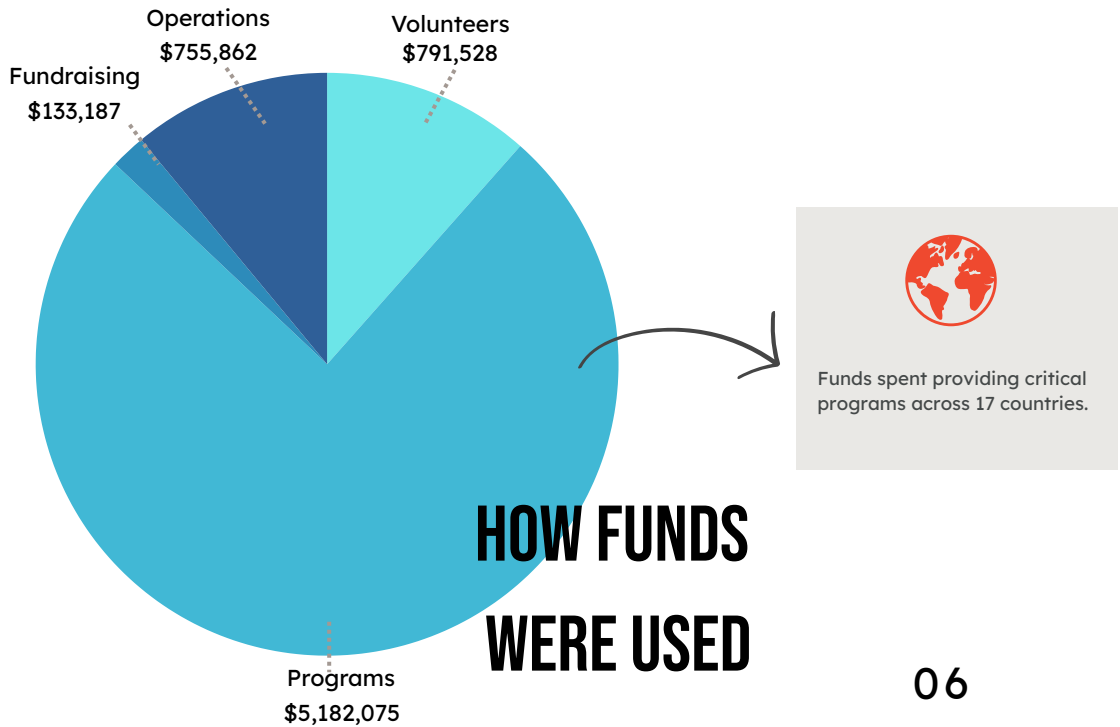
Here's how you made a difference for animals and communities.



Animal health volunteer
in Kenya



Nearly 50% increase in corporate & foundation grants since last year!



Funds spent providing critical programs across 17 countries.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE YEAR



Cats gather at a Ukrainian shelter



Volunteer with patient at NAHI clinic



Officially expanded VWB's operations into the U.S., becoming VWB North America.



Launched the COHERS program, focused on improving health outcomes for communities in Rwanda & Senegal.



ANIMALS & ALES

VWB's first ever pet photo label contest in partnership with breweries across Canada launches. After 2 incredible contests, you helped raise \$160,803 for animals!



7,990

Animals reached during emergency response efforts.

180,715

ANIMALS REACHED



Total number of animals reached through VWB's programs.



UKRAINE LIVESTOCK PROGRAM

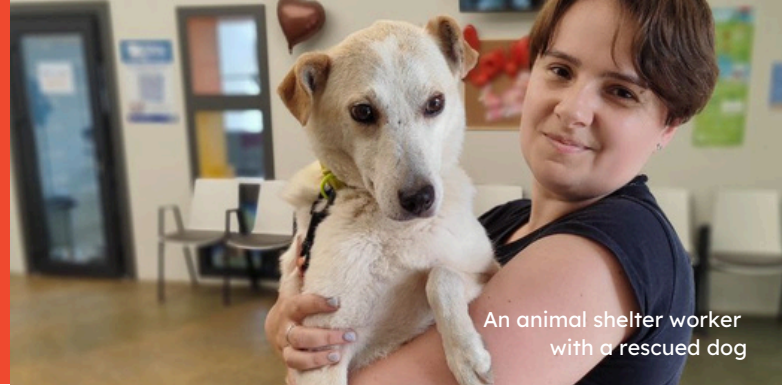
Launched VWB's first agricultural program in Ukraine to support small-scale farmers and those interested in learning, with the goal of strengthening communities' nutrition and economies.



A Community Animal Health Worker vaccinates cows in South Sudan

2023/2024: A SNAPSHOT OF YOUR SUPPORT

UKRAINE



An animal shelter worker with a rescued dog



Since the start of the full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022, VWB has partnered with on-the-ground Ukrainian teams to deliver pet food and medicine, provide preventative veterinary care (emergency surgery, spay/neuters, vaccinations, parasite treatments), emergency search and rescue efforts. This past year, we were thrilled to launch an agricultural training program for small-scale farmers.

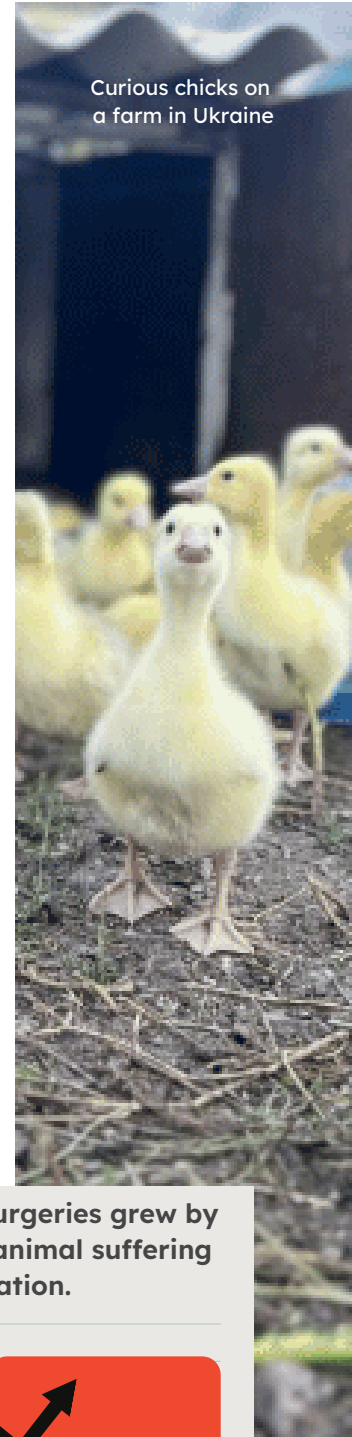
This support focuses on war-affected shelters and households, including internally displaced families, those who've lost their homes, and volunteers caring for animals in boarding situations

150,473 Animals reached

12,684 Animals treated

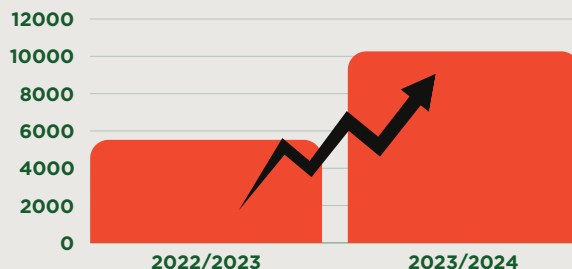
10,265 Spay/neuter surgeries

1,849 People trained in zoonotic disease detection



Curious chicks on a farm in Ukraine

Number of spay/neuter surgeries grew by 186%, helping to prevent animal suffering and overpopulation.



UKRAINE



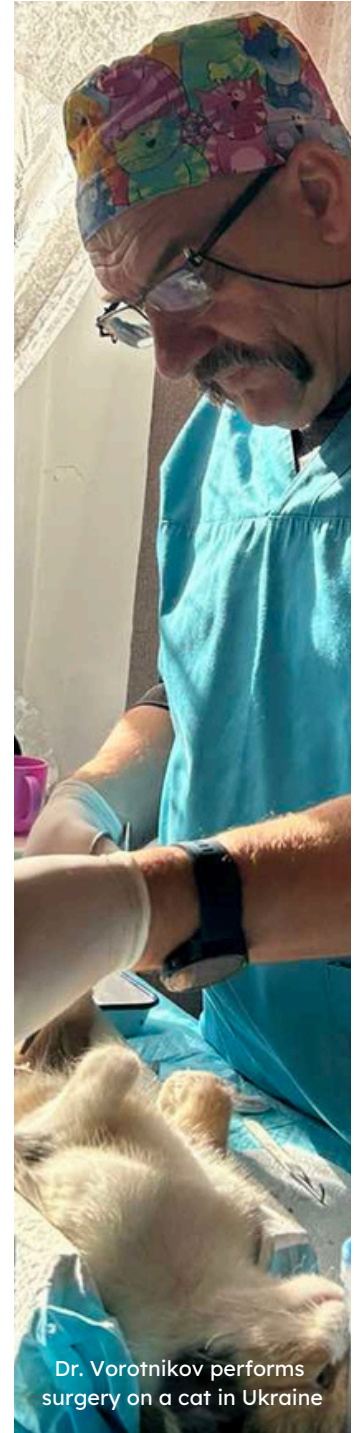
A veterinary team member examines a dog in Ukraine

SNAPSHOT OF SUPPORT: A FRONTLINE VETERINARIAN IN UKRAINE

In the midst of the Ukraine crisis, Dr. Viktor Petrovich Vorotnikov, a seasoned Ukrainian veterinarian with over 40 years of experience, shares incredible insight. Having witnessed the vulnerability of animals during times of war, he passionately believes in their protection and support. Dr. Vorotnikov has been a steadfast volunteer with VWB's on-the-ground partners in Ukraine, working alongside them in communities on Ukraine's frontlines. In many of these areas, homes and buildings lie flattened.

"Those who made an enduring impact on me during my experiences in liberated territories and at the frontlines were individuals who did not hesitate to risk their lives to rescue animals," said Dr. Vorotnikov. "Many lost their homes, but the loss of their animals was more devastating [to them]. Primarily, people prioritized saving their animals over valuable possessions," he added.

Together with our on-the-ground partners like Dr. Vorotnikov, VWB has been working to address the multifaceted needs of Ukraine's animals. These initiatives have included delivering pet food and medicine, implementing spay/neuter programs, administering vaccinations and parasite treatments, and providing access to online veterinary services. In a country where damaged infrastructure poses monumental challenges to veterinary care, VWB's focus is on getting supplies and resources where they are needed most—reaching 700 animal shelters and 1,200 drop-off points for pet food delivery in 2023.



Dr. Vorotnikov performs surgery on a cat in Ukraine

SOUTH SUDAN



VWB program members handling chicken



South Sudan is grappling with a food security and livelihood crisis, driven by prolonged political conflicts and the dual impacts of climate change, including increased flooding and severe droughts. Thanks to the generous support of the Zoetis Foundation, FAO, and ACF (USAID), VWB is implementing programs aimed at strengthening animal health and food security and, in turn, enhancing the financial stability of communities in the region.



Goats wait with program member

SOUTH SUDAN BY THE NUMBERS

20,276 Animals vaccinated

4,439 Households supported

2,200 Animals distributed

“The situation is unpredictable, and families are falling below the poverty line every day... In the face of these challenges, we work on the ground, implementing projects that build resilience in vulnerable communities, providing essential support to those most at risk...”

Taban Kaps Robert,
VWB Program Manager,
South Sudan

VOLUNTEERS ENGAGED IN GENDER-RESPONSIVE TECHNICAL SOLUTIONS (VETS)



VWB's VETS program, generously funded by Global Affairs Canada, completed its third year working with local partners to provide programs in Cambodia, Ghana, Kenya, Laos, Senegal, and Vietnam. With programs implemented across all six countries, 30 volunteers worked with VWB partners and program participants to complete hands-on animal health training and support, with the goal of boosting the health and productivity of farms and animals. This work not only enhances access to nutrition, but also helps community members strengthen their financial well-being, which trickles down to support entire communities.



VETS 2023/2024 BY THE NUMBERS

5,000 Animals reached

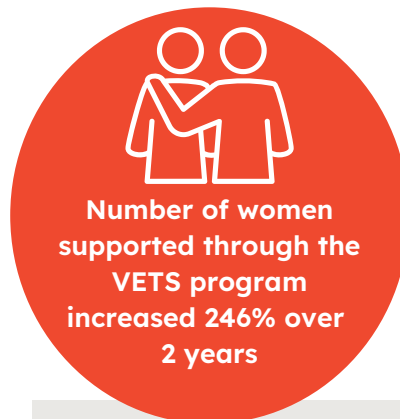
25,630 Women supported

18,270 Men supported

2,314 Children supported

42,263 People trained in zoonotic disease detection

14 Local partners trained



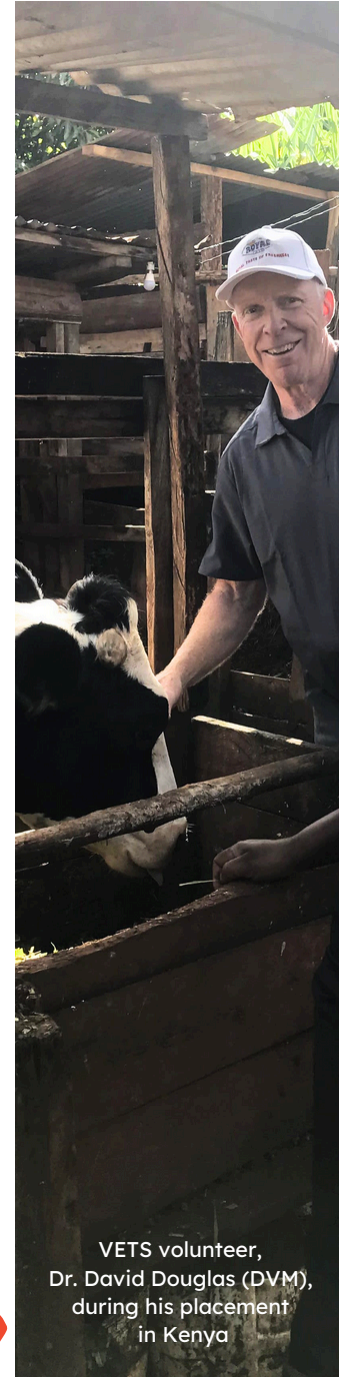
VOLUNTEERS ENGAGED IN GENDER-RESPONSIVE TECHNICAL SOLUTIONS (VETS)



SNAPSHOT OF SUPPORT: A VETS VOLUNTEER IN KENYA



“My experience [volunteering in Kenya] shed light on the remarkable progress made by farmers, thanks to initiatives like the Wakulima extension program. The progress from subsistence farming to implementing improved feeding practices and feed storage was clearly evident. However, deeply ingrained traditions, such as reserving corn for human consumption, posed challenges. The fact is that farms feeding corn stover (without the corn) are not able to make much milk, whereas farms that have good corn silage have cows in better condition and milk year-round... Additionally, issues like cattle housing and youngstock rearing emerged as recurring themes, signalling areas ripe for further intervention and education.”



AGRICULTURE-BASED GROWTH & RESILIENCE OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN (AGROW)



An AGROW program participant holds a chicken in Prek Chaor Village



AGROW is implemented by Agronomes et Vétérinaires Sans Frontières (AVSF) and Agriculture Development Action (ADA), with technical support from AVSF Cambodia and generous funding from Global Affairs Canada.

AGROW is a three-year initiative in Cambodia's Battambang province, aimed at improving the resilience of women and girls through a One Health approach, which integrates animal, human, and environmental health. The program, funded by Global Affairs Canada, targets 66,845 people across 48 villages in three districts.

AGROW focuses on environmentally sustainable food production and farm diversification, particularly in cricket, chicken, and cattle farming, along with fodder crop management and vegetable production. Key activities include training Village Animal Health Workers (VAHWs) and farmers, establishing One Health Demonstration Sites, distributing starter kits, and conducting vaccination and deworming programs.

961 People supported

19,502 Animals treated

960 Small-scale farmers supported

48 Communities supported

458

People trained in detecting zoonotic diseases



An AGROW program participant tends to crops in Baydamram Village

AGRICULTURE-BASED GROWTH & RESILIENCE OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN (AGROW)

Chek Chob, a farmer in Cambodia, tends to crickets — an important source of local protein and income.



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT

Nearly 1,000 community members supported through AGROW

In rural Cambodia's Battambang province, women like Chek Chob, Chhun Ly, and Nhin Nika are transforming their lives through cricket farming, thanks to the AGROW initiative. VWB's three-year "One Health" program empowers women by providing training and resources in cricket, chicken, and cattle farming, as well as vegetable production. With nearly 80% of Cambodia's population residing in rural areas and 65% relying on agriculture, AGROW addresses the challenges of limited technology, knowledge, and opportunities.

Cricket farming offers these women economic empowerment, sustainable income, and climate resilience. It also challenges traditional gender norms, showcasing women's capabilities beyond domestic roles. This past year, AGROW distributed 72 animals across communities, supported 500 women in decision making, and 505 small-hold farmers. As part of the program, women receive starter kits and learn about animal, human, and environmental health, as well as gender equity. This initiative not only enhances economic security but also promotes gender equality and community development.



"AGROW has provided us with invaluable training and resources. We know now that we should reduce the vegetables we feed our crickets when it is cold, or they may die. We have also learned that some greens and vegetables are better for crickets' growth than others."

**Chek Chob,
AGROW participant**



Nhin Nika and her husband, Sok Sam-ol, stand together in their sprawling cricket farm, partners in home and business.

COMMUNITY ONE HEALTH EMPOWERMENT IN RWANDA & SENEGAL (COHERS)



COHERS aims to establish sustainable community-level One Health systems that are integrated with national strategies in Rwanda and Senegal. By training local actors and strengthening existing structures, the project ensures long-term impact and resilience.

The project, supported by Global Affairs Canada, centers on a rights-based approach, empowering women, and girls as key actors in One Health activities. By addressing gender inequalities and improving access to health resources, COHERS promotes health equity and community well-being.

20 Communities supported

596 Small-scale farmers supported

7 Local partners supported

4 Local partners trained

3,175
Households supported



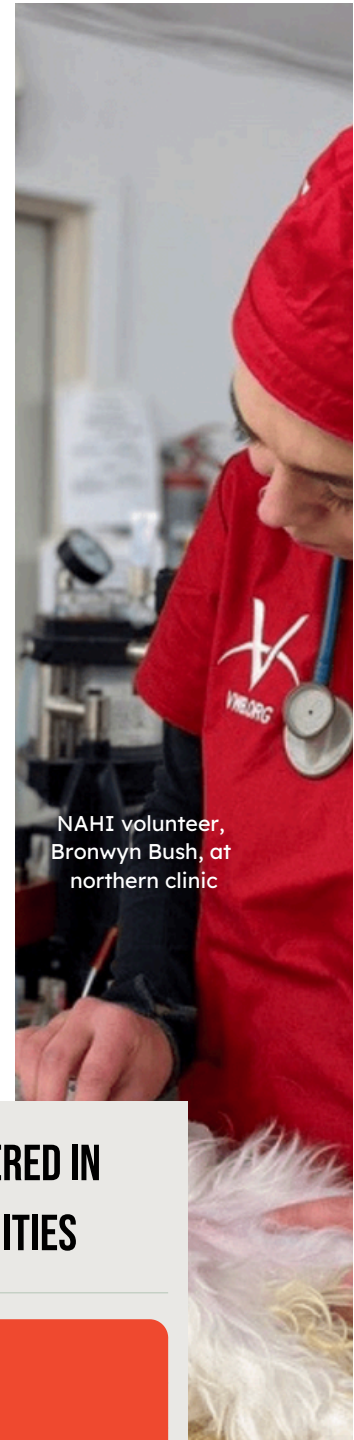
NORTHERN ANIMAL HEALTH INITIATIVE (NAHI)



Pet first aid kit delivered to the Mayor of Taloyoak



VWB partners with remote communities across Canada’s Northwest Territories and Nunavut by invitation. We collaborate to identify needs and develop plans with community liaisons, enhancing local capacity to address animal care year-round. This includes temporary veterinary clinics staffed by volunteers. Through NAHI, and thanks to our incredible supporters, our goal is to build a sustainable, community-driven animal health framework that increases access to veterinary care.



NAHI volunteer, Bronwyn Bush, at northern clinic

NAHI IMPACT 2023/2024

1,426 People reached

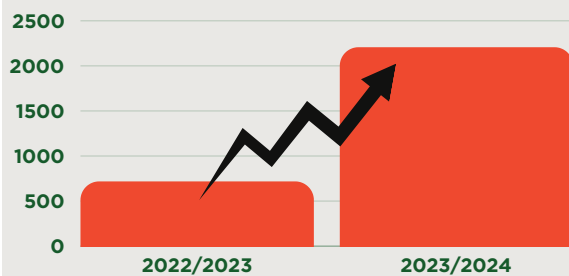
3,371 Animals reached

291 Spay/neuter surgeries

2,207 Vaccinations delivered

43 Volunteers deployed

VACCINATIONS DELIVERED IN NORTHERN COMMUNITIES



NORTHERN VETERINARY TELEHEALTH PROGRAM



A dog is examined at a northern clinic

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT

The first program of its kind in Northern Canada

In February, Veterinarians Without Borders North America launched its first veterinary telehealth program in Canada, targeting remote communities in the Northwest Territories and Nunavut. Developed in partnership with Animal HealthLink (AHL) and funded by PetSmart Charities of Canada, the pilot program serves Gjoa Haven, NU, Tuktoyaktuk, NT, and Kugluktuk, NU. A similar program is being developed in Alaska to support remote communities.

The telehealth service offers 24/7 access to registered veterinary technologists (RVTs) trained in the specific needs of Northern communities. Pet guardians can receive immediate advice and care, with follow-up support from VWB/VSF veterinary professionals. This initiative addresses the significant challenge of accessing veterinary care in Canada's North, where no veterinary practices currently exist in Nunavut, and traveling for care is often unsustainable.

“Our hope with this telehealth program is that it will help strengthen animal health capacity and give pet guardians and their animals the opportunity to swiftly and effectively treat injuries and illnesses... ultimately ensuring that pet guardians have the resources to help their animals live healthy, happy lives.”

Dr. Michelle Tuma
(DVM), VWB



A veterinary patient and its pet guardian visit a northern clinic



EMERGENCY RESPONSE



A truck is packed with emergency supplies in NWT



Yellowknife & Behchoko, NT

Primarily dogs and cats rescued during fires



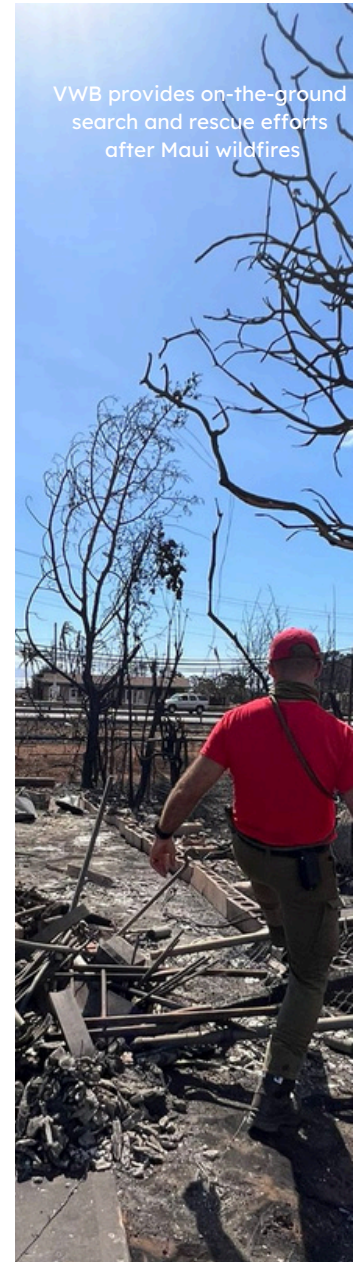
Island of Maui, HI

This past year, VWB responded to emergencies, including devastating wildfires across the communities of Lahaina located on the Island of Maui, and in Behchoko and Yellowknife in NT. In Lahaina, the devastating wildfires spread so rapidly that community members had next to no time to respond. At least 97 people were killed in the blazes, and an estimated 3,000 animals perished. Following this tragedy, VWB/VSF team was quick to respond by teaming up with the Maui Humane Society to search for, and rescue, animals either trapped or injured by the fires, provide veterinary care triage services, distribute food and water, setup feeding stations for stray and stranded animals in destroyed areas, recover animal cadavers, and set up a hotline for animal guardians attempting to find their pets.

WILDFIRE RESPONSE NUMBERS

7,990 Animals reached through emergency programs

275 Animals helped during Lahaina & NWT fires



VWB provides on-the-ground search and rescue efforts after Maui wildfires



[U.S. Wildfires](#) | [Wildfire Tracker](#) | [Smoke Maps](#) | [N.Y.C. Region Drought](#) | [Protect Yourself From Smoke](#) | [H](#)

‘Miracles Occurred That Night’: A Mad Scramble to Save Maui Pets

After a fire destroyed the seaside town of Lahaina, the fate of beloved animals became a wrenching concern.



EMERGENCY RESPONSE



A dog is pulled from the rubble in Türkiye

TÜRKIYE

Following the earthquakes in Türkiye, VWB joined forces with local organizations to provide emergency veterinary care for dogs, cats, and other animals impacted by the tremors. In addition, these organizations offered support to pet owners who lost their homes and businesses. As communities began work to rebuild, VWB provided essential assistance, ensuring animals received the urgent and necessary care they needed to remain healthy.

3,583 Animals helped during emergencies

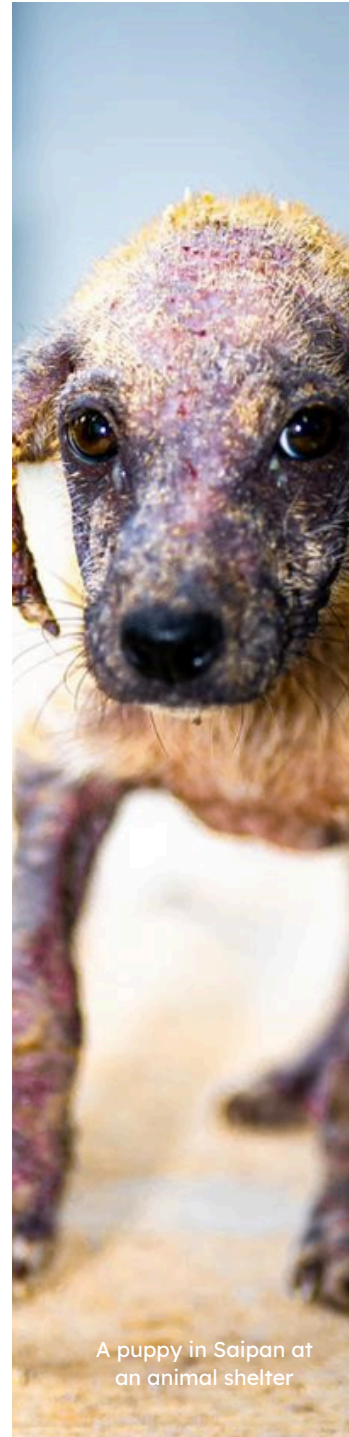
340 Animals treated

2 Projects supported

SAIPAN

After Typhoon Bolaven swept through the Northern Mariana Islands, VWB teamed up with local animal shelters in Saipan to ensure that evacuation efforts, along with additional animal care, could be provided.

1 Project supported



A puppy in Saipan at an animal shelter

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THANK YOU!

For investing in the health of
animals, people, and the environment.



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Veterinarians Without Borders U.S.A. is a registered
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VWB/VSF Canada is a Canadian Charitable Reg. No.:
84146 9547 RR0001

LEADERSHIP TEAM

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Kay Marks, Director of Fundraising
Kristen Rodrigues, Director, International Development &
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Rebeckah Piotrowski, Senior Director of Partnerships &
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VWB is a member of the VSF International network.



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