

Interview questions for Amy Morris, Executive Director, Vancouver Humane Society, to be recorded at 1:30pm PST on Tuesday, July 13th, 2021 (and to be broadcasted on Friday, July 16th, 2021)

Amy's phone number: 604-993-xxxx

Back-up (cell phone number): Alison will email Amy if she cannot reach her by phone.

Alison's Skype name cell number is 604-842-4663 (just in case needed).

Intro:

For our first interview today, we have the Vancouver Humane Society's Executive Director Amy Morris on the show, to speak about their campaign "Because They Matter".

1 in 10 people experiencing homelessness have companion animals, and their bonds are unbreakable. When people need to access veterinary care for their animals and are experiencing a period of low or no income, they often don't know where to turn. This is where the Vancouver Humane Society's new program comes in.

On July 25th, participants will safely distribute harnesses, dog treats, leashes and blankets to people and animals who spend their days on the streets, while sharing information about Vancouver Humane Society's emergency veterinary funds.

Amy is here today to speak on the barriers that keep structurally vulnerable people from accessing veterinary assistance for their companion animals, and how you can help with the Because They Matter campaign.

Hello Amy, and welcome to the Animal Voices show!

Q1: Thank you for coming on the show today to discuss these issues. The Vancouver Humane Society also recently has published a report called "Addressing Animal Neglect Through the Provision of Veterinary Outreach Services", and I'd like to talk about some of the findings in this report. It starts with saying that "people who are structurally vulnerable... are consistently confronted by a society that does not provide support to maintain the human-animal bond". I know this to be true because our Canadian system is not even equipped to fully provided the needed support for the vulnerable people themselves.

Can you start by telling us about the multiple barriers that these animal guardians face in keeping a companion animal?

- • Inability to be employed • Experiencing homelessness • Experiencing domestic violence • Literacy/lack of education • Criminal record • Severe physical or mental health • Substance use • Recent immigration • Former child in care

Q2: Companion animals fall through the cracks in our social system. Can you describe for us an example scenario how this comes to be, especially when these animals have such a crucial place in their relationships with humans that should be recognized?

- no budgets for animals
- vets may discriminate

- surrendering may be required for getting vet assistance, so people won't even try to take them to the vet
- animals may be put in peril and may be more difficult to treat upon surrendering
- trauma for both humans and animals (PTSD)

by 6 mins in:

Q3: What you've described shows us that there needs to be a social safety net in place for these situations, and the intentions of this report are to provide sound practises for those working in these environments - that is, for social services, vet clinics and animal welfare organizations. How can these multi-barriered human-animal relationships be honoured while still getting the help that these animals need?

Q4: Please tell us about the concept of "One Welfare" and how it can be implemented in one's community.

- One Welfare encompasses empathy for fellow humans, animals, and for the earth, while holding humans at the centre of the concept (Pinillos, 2018). Only humans have it within their control to make the biggest change. One Welfare specifies that every choice made by human beings has a lasting effect on animals and the environment, and therefore the social implications of animal welfare (Pinillos, 2018).
"Improvements in animal welfare can support social issues such as homelessness, while integrating animal welfare as part of general livelihood improvement programmes is seen as key to success"

by 11 mins in:

Q5: Can you tell us about how VHS is implementing One Welfare in the work you do, and please also let us know about the Because They Matter fundraising campaign!

Outro:

Thank you very much, Amy Morris, Executive Director of the Vancouver Humane Society, for coming on the show to share with us information about

If you would like to read the report discussed here yourself, to see full details, you can find it posted on our Facebook page: Animal Voices Vancouver, as well as on our website at animalvoices.org, in the post for today's show.

Also, visit www.vancouverhumansociety.bc.ca to find out more about the great work of this organization to protect animals.

Thank you once again, Amy, for this talk, and have a great weekend!