



MONTREAL SPCA

2023

ANNUAL

REPORT



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THE MONTREAL SPCA: TAKING THE COMMUNITY TO HEART

Our dream of building a better world for animals is the driving force behind all of our ideas and our work. Learn more about the Montreal SPCA's activities in 2023, as well as our programs to help animals and the community.

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MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

In fall 2023, the Montreal SPCA’s board of directors entrusted me with one of the most important mandates of my career—and one of the most crucial for animal welfare in Quebec: taking the helm of an organization that has been dedicated to the protection of animals for over 150 years.

Having held other management positions at the Montreal SPCA, I approached this new challenge with passion, energy and determination.

Once again this year, the SPCA’s staff and volunteers worked tirelessly to build a better future for all animals. I am proud to present this annual report of the highlights of 2023.

It was a stormy year, but we weathered it well, thanks to support from our community and the resilience of our teams and the animals that came through our doors.

In 2023, inflation was a main reason for the increase in surrenders, and it affected every one of our shelter services. We moved heaven

and earth to find homes for abandoned animals, and these efforts resulted in a 14% increase in adoptions this year!

In line with our strategic planning and motivated by the desire to constantly improve our practices and solve problems at source, we further developed our community programs to give respite to people experiencing domestic violence, homelessness or other difficult situations. This was an innovative and caring way to help animals and their families, and to prevent surrenders. I’m proud to join in the movement of solidarity and social change that led to the creation of these programs.

Driven by an unwavering determination, the Montreal SPCA intends to remain a leading figure in animal welfare in Quebec, doing so by protecting animals against violence, neglect and exploitation, and by ensuring that every species is treated with kindness and compassion. We’ve achieved a great deal for animals. But there’s still a lot of work to be done, and I’m confident that, together, we’ll rise to the challenge.

Thank you for reading!



Laurence Massé
Executive Director





MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

In addition to taking in, treating, rehabilitating and finding homes for thousands of abandoned animals every year, the Montreal SPCA plays an indispensable role in protecting and fostering the well-being of animals in Quebec.

Significant advances were made for animal welfare in Quebec and Canada in 2023, including the ban on testing cosmetics on animals in Canada as well as the tabling of legislation, to allow companion animals in Quebec rental housing and to ban the export of live horses for slaughter. These steps forwards are the result of campaigns and battles the SPCA has waged with the support of its community.

The Montreal SPCA also launched a major public awareness campaign in April 2023. It published a manifesto signed by over 30 public figures calling

for provincial legislation to regulate the living conditions of farmed animals in Quebec. To date, more than 33,500 people have signed the manifesto!

Clearly, an unprecedented shift is taking place in Quebec and across the world in our relationship with animals and in our ethical awareness. As Canada's very first animal protection organization, the Montreal SPCA has always been a leader in changing mentalities.

On behalf of myself and fellow members of the Montreal SPCA's board of directors, I would like to thank all our employees and volunteers who work tirelessly to improve the lives of animals.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Marie-Claude St-Amant'.

Me Marie-Claude St-Amant
Chair of the Board of Directors

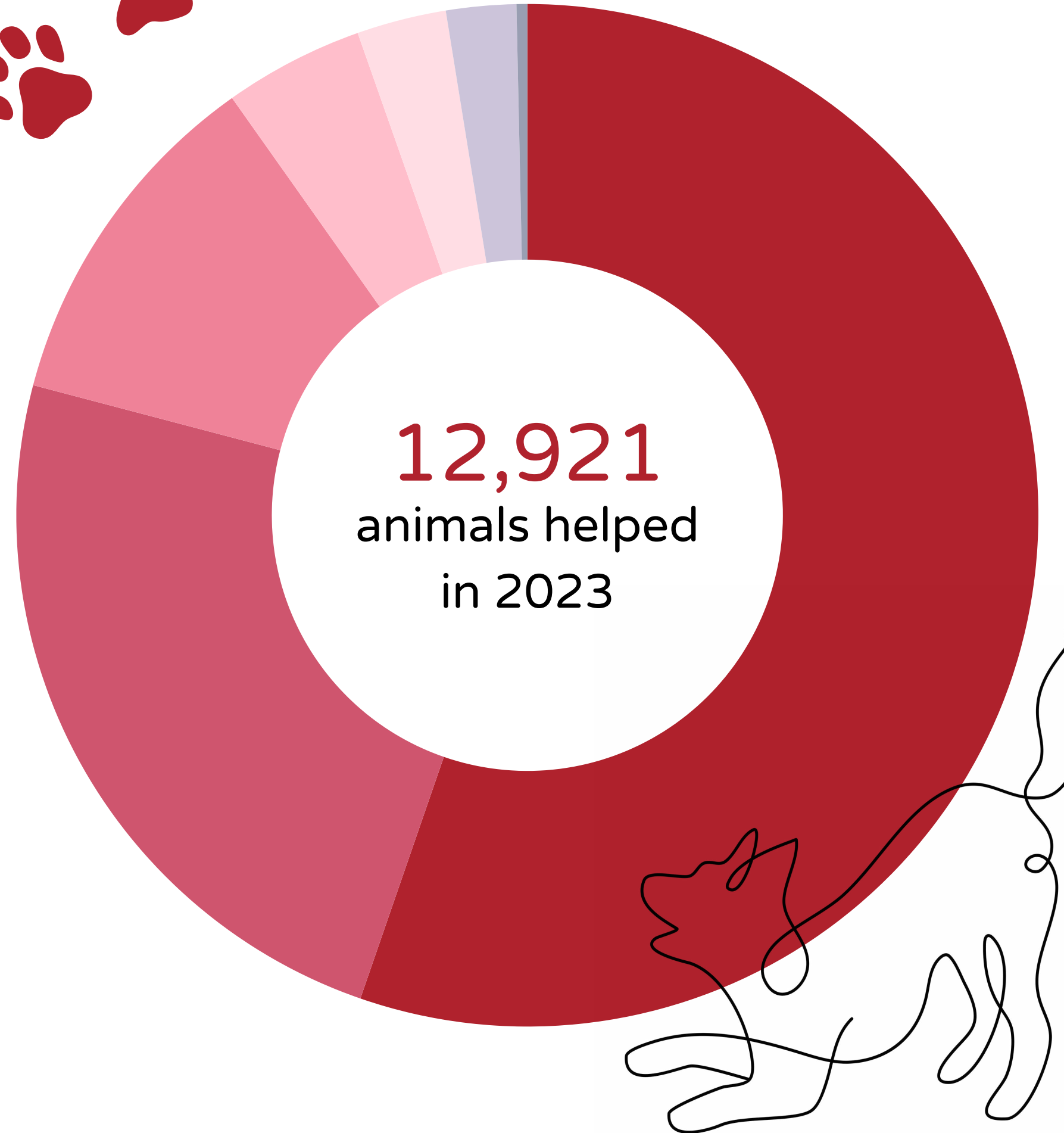
THE SPCA IN NUMBERS



We were busy in 2023! Some 12,921 animals benefited from our programs.



- Cats: 7,145
- Wild animals: 3,075
- Dogs: 1,434
- Small animals: 571
- Rabbits: 366
- Birds and exotic animals: 286
- Farmed animals: 44



Many levels of help

- 4,586 animals adopted—an increase of 14.1% over 2022!
- 2,257 animals sterilized through our Mittens-Montreal SPCA Targeted Permanent Sterilization Clinic
- 1,224 animals placed in foster homes
- 832 cats sterilized through our Trap-Neuter-Release-Maintain Program (TNRM)
- 508 animals reunited with their families
- 418 animals transferred to partner shelters and sanctuaries



Veterinary services

- 22,377 examinations (61 per day on average)
- 6,133 sterilizations (24 per day on average)
- 440 dental treatments (2 per day on average)
- 184 complex surgeries (1 every 2 days on average)



ANIMAL WELFARE

In a shelter, welfare refers to the **quality of life and treatment** of the animals in our care. We ensure it by meeting the animals' physical, emotional and behavioural needs until they are entrusted to a new family or partner organization.



1

Suitable environment: Animals must have a clean, dry and safe environment, with space to rest, hide and play.

2

Adequate diet: Meals must be balanced, nutritious and adapted to the specific needs of each animal, according to their age, size and state of health.

3

Veterinary care: Animals must receive regular veterinary care.

4

Enriched environment: To avoid boredom and stress, animals need mental and physical stimulation.

5

Positive interaction with humans: Workers must interact regularly, calmly, patiently and respectfully with the animals.

6

Low stress: Loud noises, overcrowding and other factors that cause the animals stress must be minimized.

7

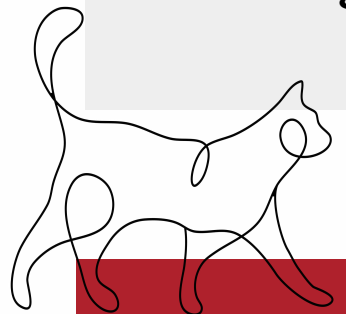
Socialization: When appropriate, animals benefit from interacting with others.

8

Monitoring and evaluation: Animals' welfare should be monitored regularly and the care and environment adjusted accordingly.

ANIMAL WELFARE

At the Montreal SPCA, our **33 caregivers and 15 behaviourists** ensure the animals' welfare during their stay, while veterinary care is the responsibility of our clinical team. **During busy periods at the shelter, these teams do their very best to offer animals in distress the warmest and most reassuring welcome possible.**

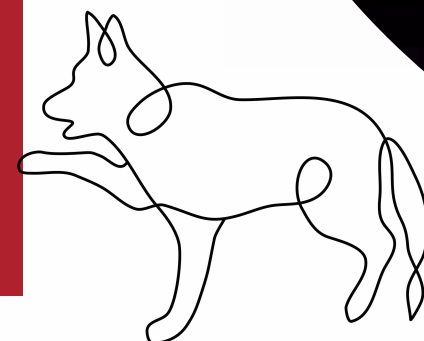


Feline Enrichment and Training Program

The staff and 20 volunteers in the Montreal SPCA's Feline Enrichment and Training Program contribute to the physical and mental welfare of shelter cats by providing them with socialization (petting and play), making sure they get enough exercise and assessing their behaviour with a view to their adoption.

Canine Enrichment and Exercise Program

The staff and 86 volunteers in the Montreal SPCA's Canine Enrichment and Exercise Program contribute to the physical and mental welfare of shelter dogs by taking them on regular walks, playing one-on-one and providing relaxation and training.





Over
8,000
inquiries

1,437
operational files
were opened

191
animals were
removed from
their environment

3,707
animals were
visited by our
officers

12
cases ended with
court charges

INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION

A cornerstone of daily activities, the Investigations Division allows the Montreal SPCA to carry out its mission of protecting animals.

Montreal SPCA animal protection officers are charged with enforcing:

- The provisions of the *Criminal Code* dealing with crimes against animals
- Quebec's provincial animal welfare legislation, namely the *Animal Welfare and Safety Act* and the *Regulation respecting the welfare and safety of domestic companion animals and equines*

In 2023, our Investigations Division:

- Processed over **8,000 inquiries**.
- Opened **1,437 operational files**.
- Removed **191 animals** from their environment.
- Visited **3,707 animals** of various species.
- Resolved **12 cases that ended with court charges** and led several other ongoing cases. Among the cases we helped close, an animal owner was sentenced to 16 months of prison on criminal charges and banned for life from owning animals. This is one of the most severe animal-cruelty charges coming out of Quebec courts.

CLINICAL PROGRAMS

Our various clinical programs enable us to treat animals with special needs.

Created in 2019, the **Neonatal Program for Orphaned Kittens** meets the needs of kittens under four weeks of age, who are generally orphans, as well as those of kittens four weeks and older who are medically fragile. Orphaned puppies are now also covered by this program.

Under the **Ringworm Program**, launched in 2021, we treat animals (most often cats) with ringworm while they are placed with foster families, thus limiting the risk of transmission to our other residents. Shelters without the resources to treat this benign but contagious condition have to euthanize these animals, making the Montreal SPCA's approach to

treating ringworm in its protégés all the more groundbreaking.

Animals suffering from serious pathologies that require close monitoring have been cared for through the **Specialized Clinic Program** since 2022. Finally, thanks to our **Palliative Program**, we ensure that the last days of animals at the end of their lives are as comfortable and peaceful as possible by placing them in foster homes and providing them with all the support and medical care they need. This program has been running since 2019.

Number of animals helped since the beginning of each program:

827

Neonatal Program

244

Ringworm Program

96

Specialized Clinic Program

105

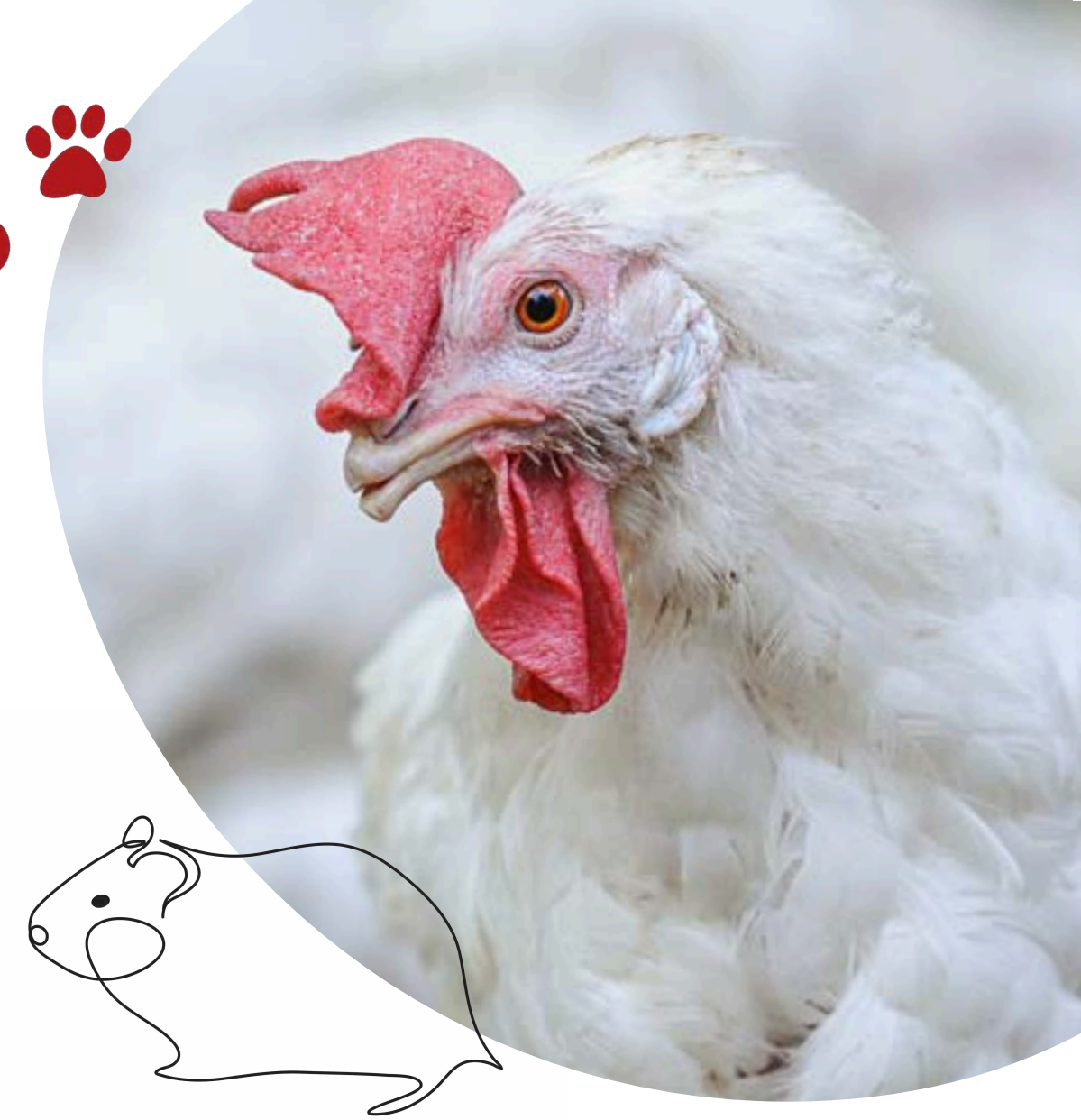
Palliative Program



ANIMAL ADVOCACY

Since 1869, the Montreal SPCA has been a key political player contributing to societal progress in terms of animal protection in Quebec and Canada. Our deep commitment to protecting animals of all species is a defining characteristic of our organization. In fact, we are by far the most active and influential animal advocacy organization in Quebec.

The Montreal SPCA's Animal Advocacy team fought time and time again in 2023 to bolster animal protection and played an instrumental role in securing significant victories for animals in Quebec.



Some of our most significant 2023 achievements include:

- Getting Bill C-47, a ban on the testing of cosmetics on animals in Canada, passed.
- Publishing a manifesto to obtain a regulatory framework governing the living conditions of farmed animals in Quebec. The manifesto, which has collected over 33,500 signatures to date, was endorsed by well-known public figures, including Xavier Dolan, Christiane Charette, Michel Rivard, Patrick Sénécal and Julie Snyder, and has led to the first public statement by a major provincial political party in favour of such legislation.
- Launching the French-language *Au nom des animaux* podcast to provide the latest information on animal protection in Quebec. This six-episode series features various specialists discussing animal issues.
- Tabling Bill 494 to nullify the no-pet clause in residential leases that currently prohibits companion animals in rental housing.
- Tabling Bill C-355 to ban the export of live horses from Canada for slaughter.
- Obtaining permission from the Tribunal administratif du logement (TAL) to intervene in litigation between a tenant and their landlord over the validity of a no-pet clause.
- Intervening in litigation challenging the Ville de Longueuil's decision to cull deer in Michel-Chartrand Park, giving rise to serious and in-depth treatment of animal law issues by Quebec courts, including the Court of Appeal.
- Organizing the first Canada-wide campaign to ban octopus mega-farms and tabling a petition of over 17,000 signatures in the House of Commons.

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

Animals are a great source of joy and comfort for the humans who share their lives. But certain challenges sometimes force animal guardians to ask for help in caring for their companions. That's why the Montreal SPCA offers a range of programs to provide temporary support and prevent avoidable surrenders.

Special shelter: We work closely with community organizations to provide temporary shelter for the animals of people experiencing difficult situations, such as domestic violence, recent immigration or social reintegration.

Pet-food bank: Food for our pet-food bank comes from our retail partners and donations from the public. We offer these supplies to community organizations, food banks and individuals in need.

Training in community centres: Community centres and shelters that take in residents with their furry friends can receive free training to smooth the cohabitation of people and animals as part of their services. This training is offered by SPCA specialists and is intended for centre staff and their clients.



105

animals were helped through our Special Shelter Program



Over 10

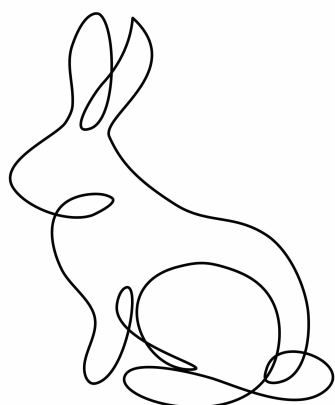
tonnes of animal food were redistributed



4

training sessions were given to community centres accepting animals

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



The Montreal SPCA's board of directors is composed of eight volunteers with varied backgrounds in terms of their professional expertise and personal interests.



Me Marie-Claude St-Amant, Presidente

Marie-Claude St-Amant has been a lawyer for 17 years and is a partner at Melançon Marceau Grenier Cohen (MMGC) where she practises in the areas of labour law, human rights and freedoms and animal advocacy.



William Awad, secrétaire

William Awad is a human resources management expert at Deloitte over 18 years of experience in HR leadership, business partnerships, and organizational change and talent management.



Bianka Monette, Treasurer

Bianka Monette, Chief Financial Officer at Moment Factory, has over 30 years of experience in the financial management of publicly traded and private multinational companies.



Frédéric Côté-Boudreau

Frédéric Côté-Boudreau is a CÉGEP philosophy professor and an animal ethics specialist.



Dre Marie Robichaud, m.v.

Dr. Marie Robichaud works in both emergency and clinical settings. Since graduating, in June 2013, she has also worked in several shelters.



Michael Tsaprailis

Michael Tsaprailis is a partner in KPMG's Services-conseils—Management branch in Montreal.



Carlos Ponce

Carlos Ponce is an entrepreneur and marketing specialist with over 25 years of experience in building brands and business leadership.



Jonathan Abecassis

Jonathan Abecassis has more than a decade of experience in communications, crisis management and politics. He served as CN's first Director, Public Affairs and Media Relations.



REVENUES AND EXPENSES



MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

The Montreal SPCA is a registered charity that relies heavily on donations from the public to fulfil its mission. In fact, this year, some 68% of its revenues came from contributions.

In 2023, some 20,000 individuals and 413 companies, organizations and foundations lent us a generous and helping hand. This tremendous support resulted in an 11% increase in donation income over the previous year. A special effort was made to promote our Monthly Giving Program, which, thanks to 6,300 donors, continues to be a great success. This invaluable Program provides regular income and thus allows us to plan our finances.

It's also worth noting that a significant portion of our revenue comes from bequests, which are one of the most meaningful ways to support the Montreal SPCA's mission of helping animals in need.

In 2023, we received 45 bequests, representing 29% of our total revenues—a record year!

The Montreal SPCA's 2023 financial statements were audited and accurately present the organization's financial position. The organization has sound finances as of December 31, 2023, with short-term assets of \$7.67 million and short-term liabilities of \$909,456.

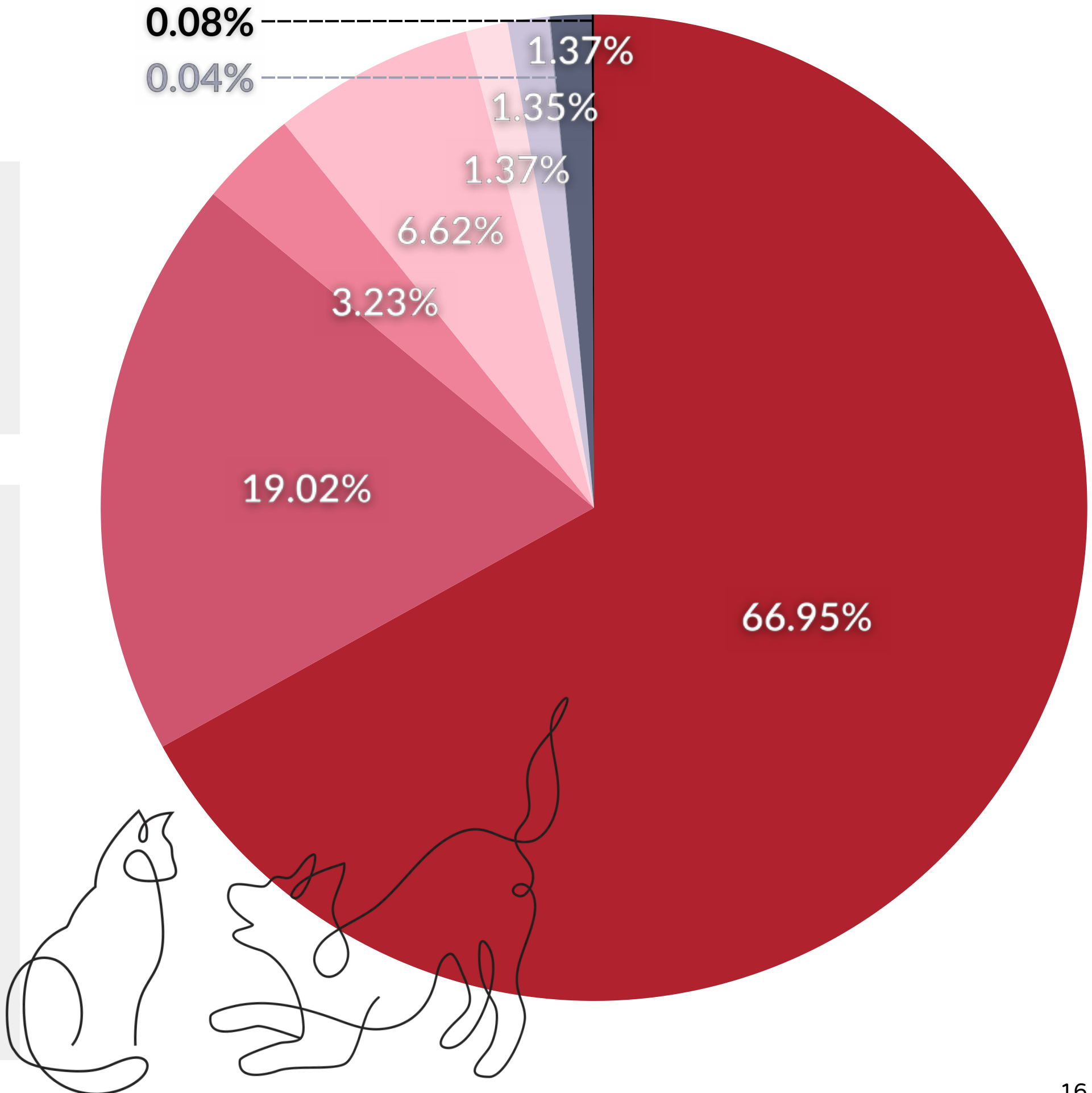
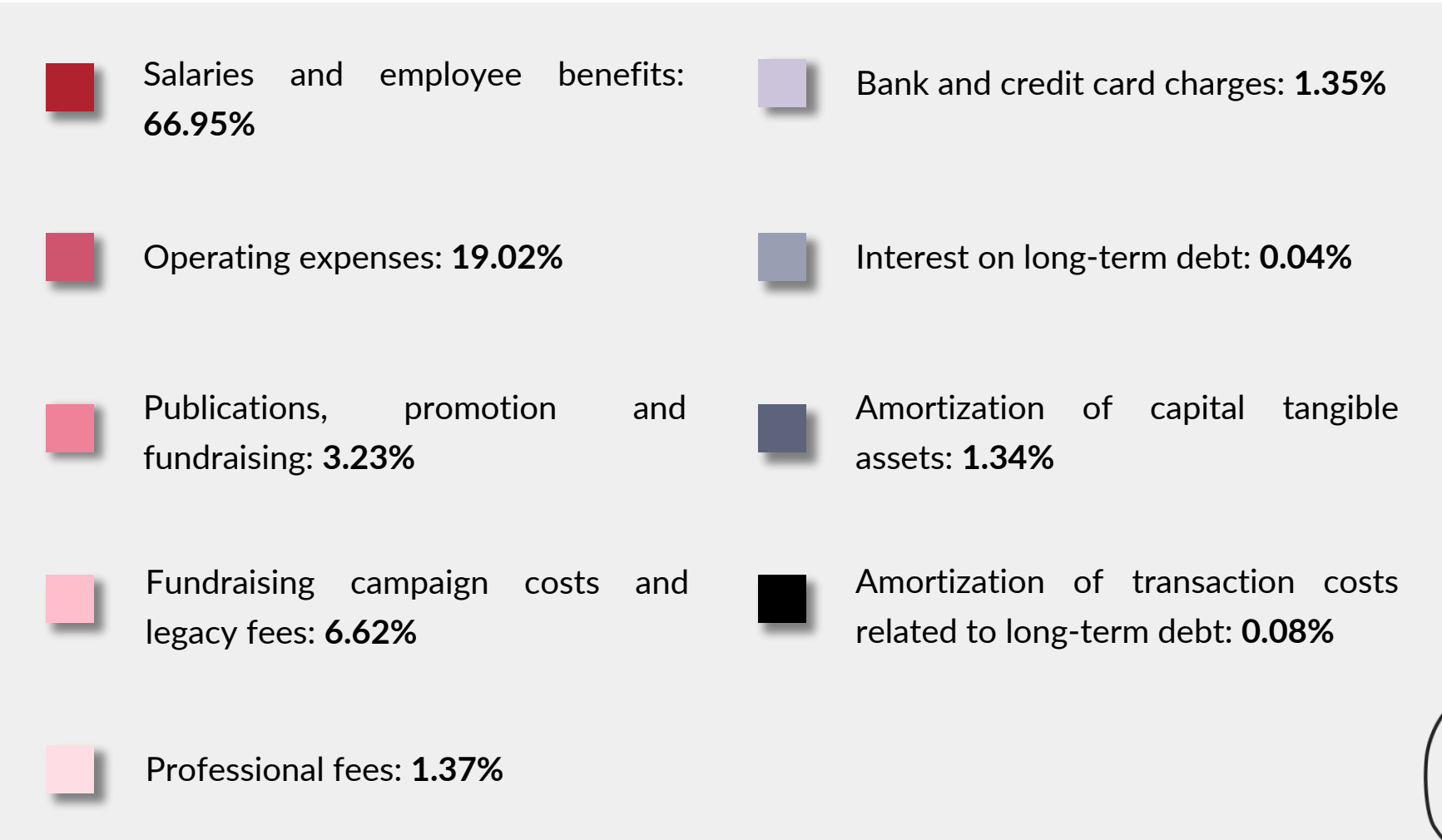
Revenues amount to \$11.3 million, while expenses account for \$9.6 million, generating an excess of revenues over expenses of \$1.6 million. This excess stems from unbudgeted bequests and could be used, among other options, to compensate a potential deficit in a year with fewer bequests or to fund new programs.

We consider ourselves privileged to be able to count on such a generous and committed community, without whom none of this would be possible.

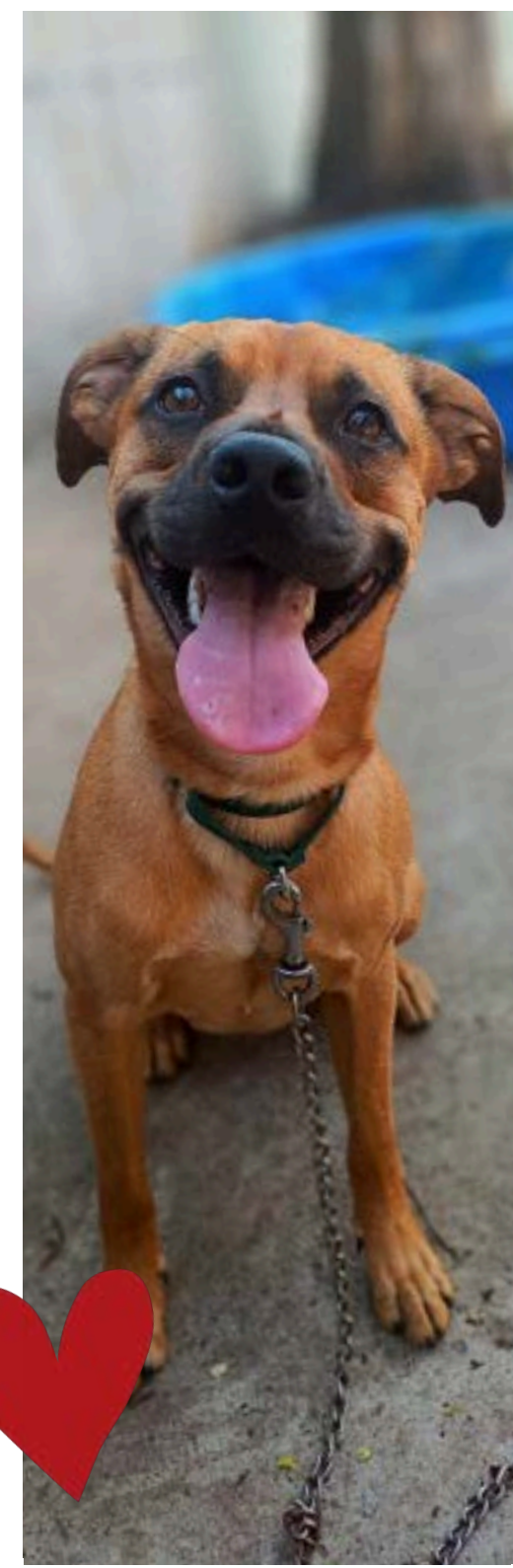
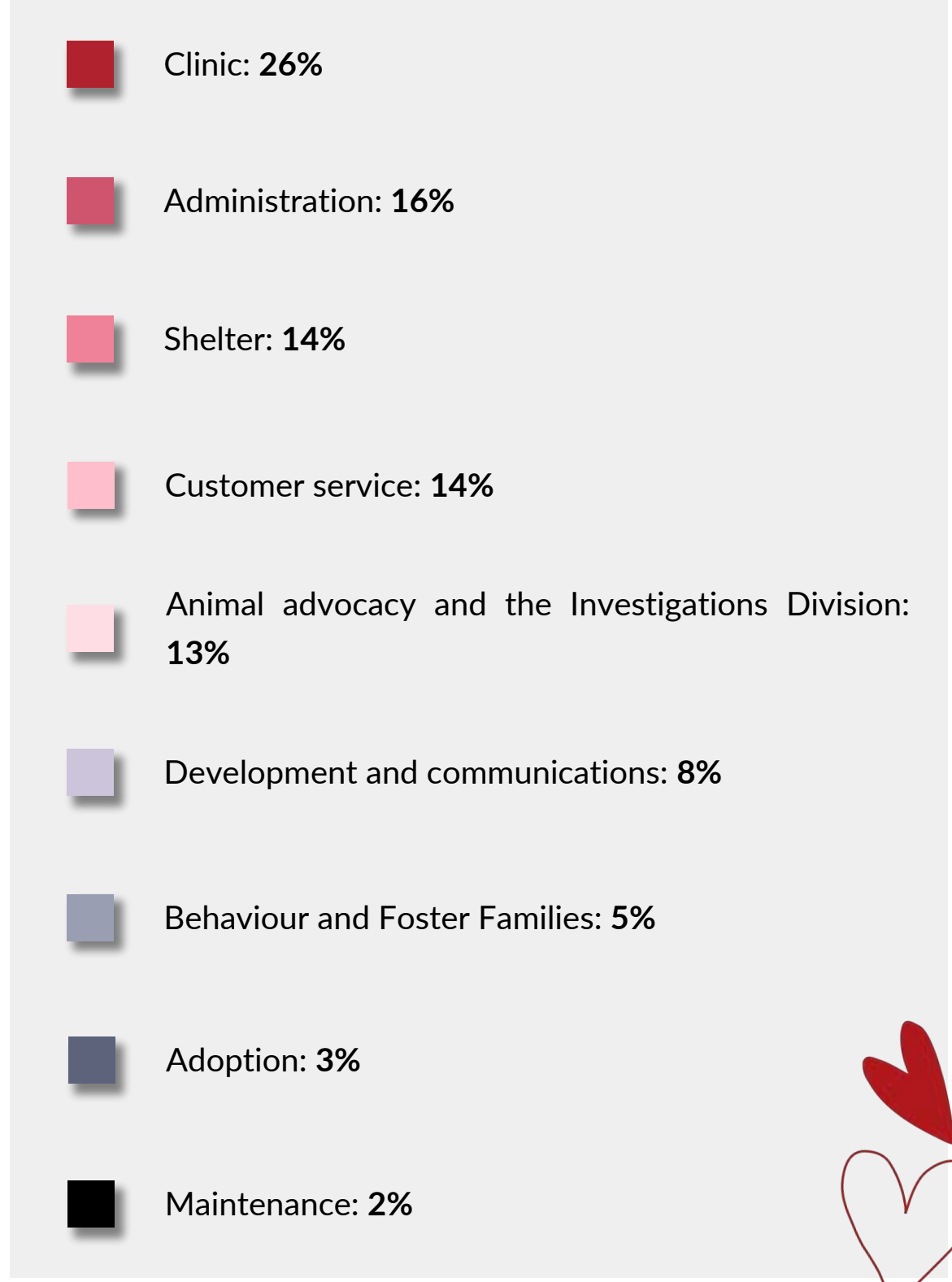
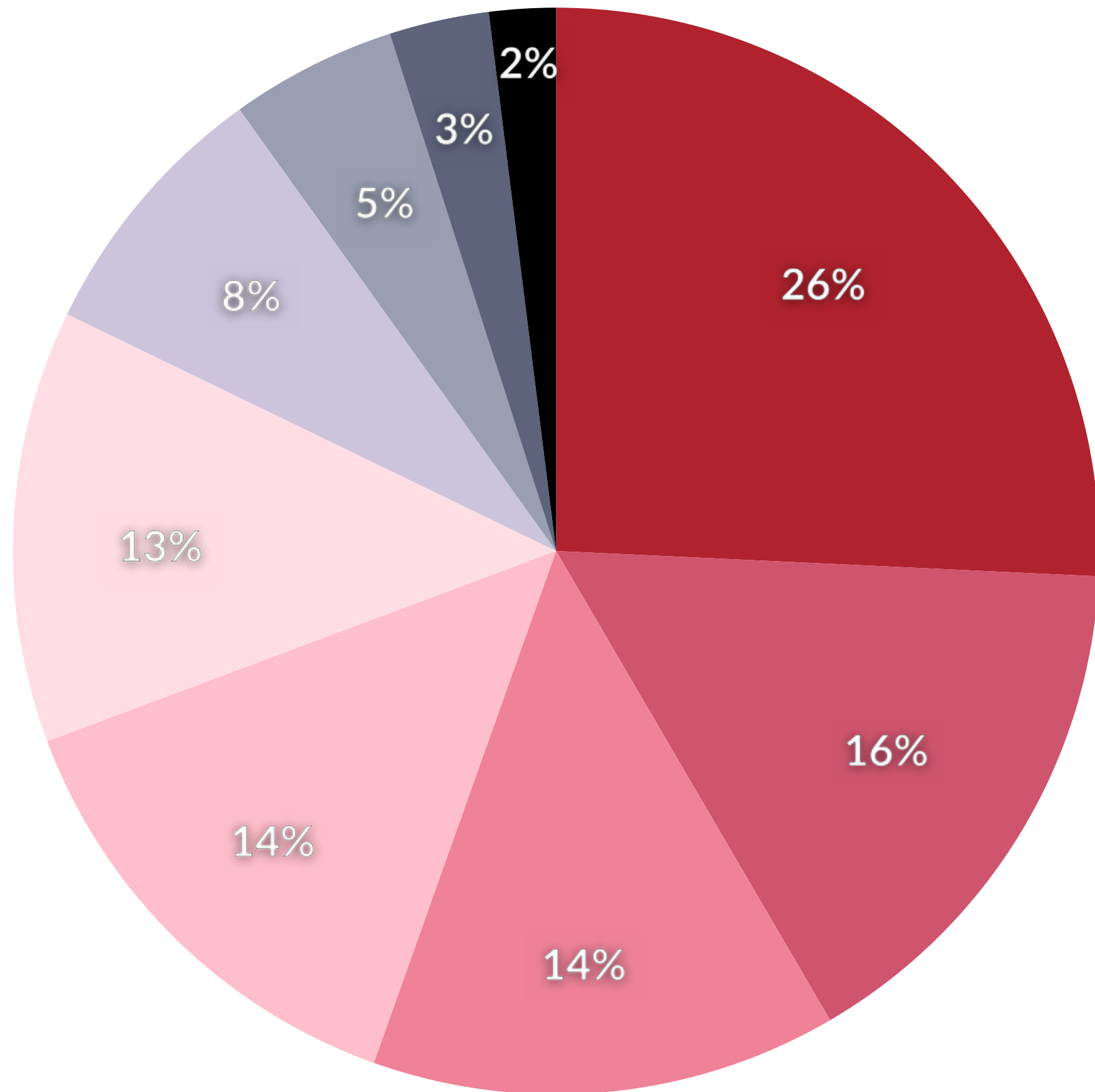
Geneviève Joanisse
Director of Finance

EXPENSES

Salaries and employee benefits make up the greater share of the Montreal SPCA's expenses. In 2023, the Montreal SPCA had **83 permanent, full-time employees** and **52 part-time employees**. Salary and employee benefits are distributed as shown between divisions:



SALARIES AND EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

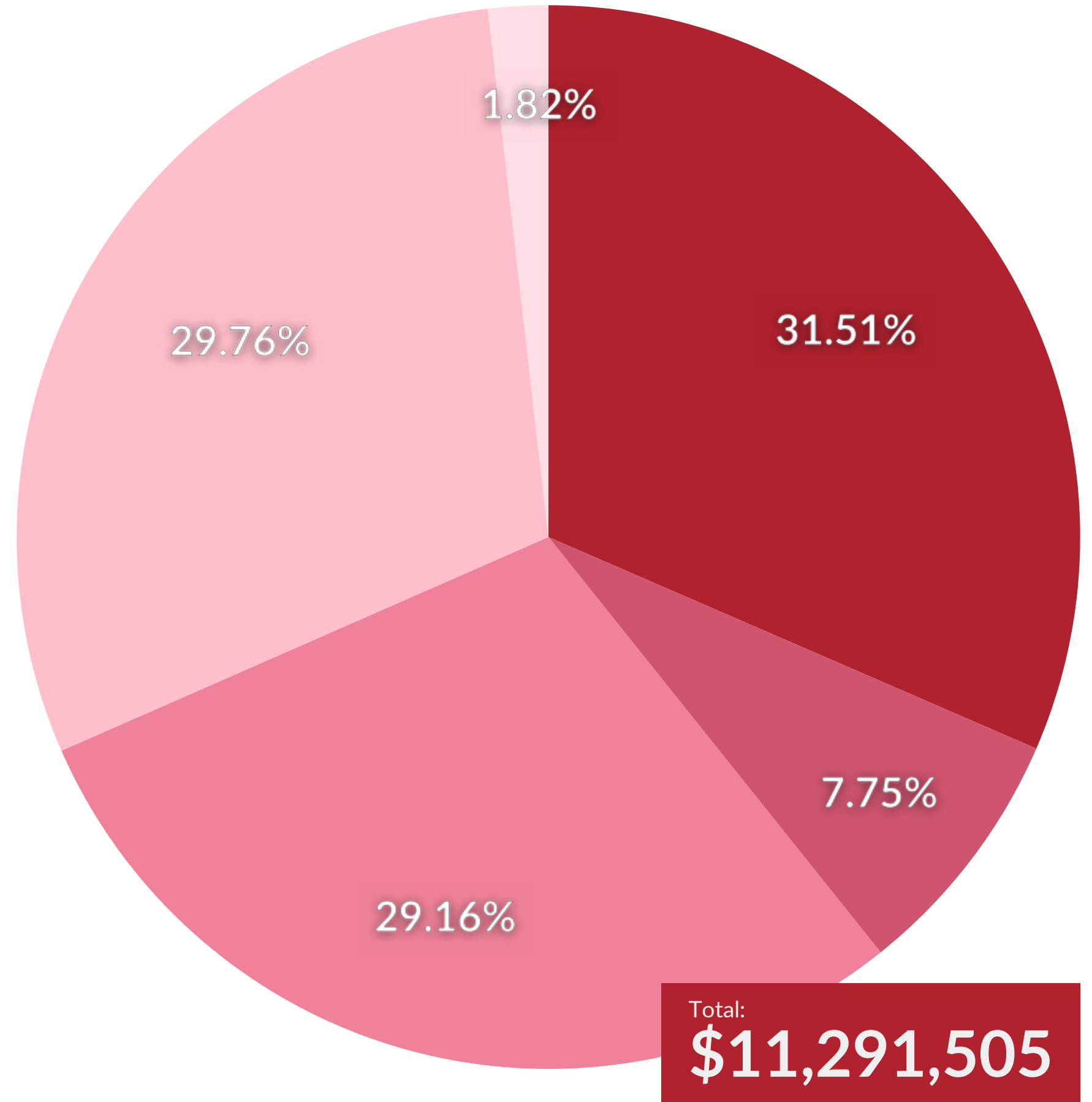


REVENUES

The SPCA is extremely grateful to its donors for their generosity. With their dedicated support, we ensure the welfare of sentient beings and give many animals a second chance at life!



- Donations and other contributions: 31.51%
- Fundraising campaigns: 7.75%
- Bequests: 29.16%
- Revenue from operations: 29.76%
- Unrestricted net investment income: 1.82%





MISSION

Founded in Montreal in 1869, the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (now known simply as the Montreal SPCA) was the first animal-welfare organization in Canada. The SPCA has come a long way since its beginnings: today, it is the largest animal-protection organization in Quebec, speaking on behalf of animals wherever there is ignorance, cruelty, exploitation or neglect.





MONTRÉAL

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Learn more about the Montreal SPCA's achievements on [spca.com](https://www.sPCA.com)