



THE FEDERATION OF SPCAs AND HUMANE SOCIETIES
FÉDÉRATION DES SOCIÉTÉS D'ASSISTANCE AUX ANIMAUX



For Immediate Release:

Pop-Up Shelter launched as Safe Haven for Animals and Their People Fleeing Wildfires, Supported by National Efforts from Humane Canada.

June 3, 2025 – As wildfires rage across Manitoba, a powerful wave of unity has emerged in Canada, with communities, organizations, and individuals pulling together provide a coordinated response for the animals caught in this disaster.

Today, the Winnipeg Humane Society (WHS), with the support of Humane Canada and the Canadian Red Cross, opened a pop-up shelter dedicated providing evacuees with animals urgent care and support during this crisis.

Accommodating up to 60 animals in need of immediate refuge, the shelter offers basic veterinary services, safe housing, food and spaces for enrichment and exercise. Families are welcome to visit their pets during specified hours, helping to maintain the emotional bonds that are especially critical during such challenging times.

“Communities are stronger when we work together, and we know how much pets mean to their families. These shelters ensure that displaced families can focus on their own safety with the comfort of knowing their beloved animals are cared for” said Christina Von Schindler, CEO of the Winnipeg Humane Society.

On a national scale, Humane Canada, the federation of Humane Societies and SPCAs, is coordinating much needed supplies and support, while developing a collaborative strategy for comprehensive emergency response that includes pets as an integral part of family units.

“More than sixty percent of Canadian households have companion animals, and 71% of those owners consider them family. In an emergency, it’s never people or their animals—it’s people with their animals. Yet, too often, pets are overlooked in disaster planning, putting both the animals and their families at risk” emphasized Barbara Cartwright, CEO of Humane Canada.

While these efforts are a step forward in collaboration for animals, there remains a sobering concern for those left behind in the chaos of evacuations. As more than 180 active fires burn across the nation, Humane Canada continues to stress the urgency of ensuring resources are in place to meet the growing demand.

-30-

For more information on how to support or access resources for the Manitoba wildfires through Winnipeg Humane Society, visit: <https://winnipeghumanesociety.ca/>

For more information about National Response to Emergencies and Planning, please contact:

Barbara Cartwright
CEO

Humane Canada
barbara@humanecanada.ca

Learn more about the Humane Canada [National Animal Emergency Response Program](#)

ABOUT HUMANE CANADA

Humane Canada, the federation of SPCAs and humane societies, brings together organizations that work with and care for animals to end animal cruelty, improve animal protection and promote the humane treatment of all animals. For more information, visit <https://www.humanecanada.ca/>.