

Project: Characterizing the shelter rabbit population in British Columbia

Purpose:

To understand the population dynamics of pet rabbits in BC SPCA shelters in the province

Background:

Over the past few years, the BC SPCA has seen a decline in the overall number of animals entering our shelters. However, at the same time, our intake of small animals has been trending upwards. Of these, rabbits are one of the most common species we receive, making up on average a third of total small animal intake. The BC SPCA would like to better understand the flow of rabbits through our shelters from intake to adoption, and how this has changed over time. This will enable us to identify touchpoints for future interventions to ensure optimal rabbit welfare.

Responsibilities:

This position reports to the Manager, Companion Animal Welfare Science & Policy. The practicum involves:

- Pulling various internal data reports spanning a ten-year period
- Performing basic analyses (descriptive statistics) of the data using Excel
- Mapping the data using Google
- Producing a report summarizing the findings, together with a literature review and referenced discussion
- Giving a short (virtual) presentation on the results

Candidate:

This practicum is suited to a student with an interest in companion animal welfare, as well as good writing skills and attention to detail. A passion for rabbits in particular is appreciated.

Schedule:

This practicum requires between 300-350 remote placement hours, either 8 weeks full-time (37.5 hours/week) or 16 weeks part-time (22 hours/week on average).

Weeks	Activities (estimated hours)
1-2 FT Or 1-4 PT	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Complete BC SPCA online training (20)• Pull and organize Shelter Buddy reports (30-40)• Begin literature search (5)• Check-in meetings with Field Supervisor (20)
3-5 FT Or 5-10 PT	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Data analysis (50-60)• Write up literature review (40-50)• Check-in meetings with Field Supervisor (25)
6-8 FT Or 11-16 PT	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Write up referenced discussion (40-50)• Finish report (50)• Prepare and deliver presentation (5-10)• Check-in meetings with Field Supervisor (25)

Project: Online rehoming of pet rabbits in British Columbia

Purpose:

To understand the nature and extent of rehoming of pet rabbits in the province through a major online classified site.

Background:

Over the past few years, the BC SPCA has seen a decline in the overall number of animals entering our shelters. However, at the same time, our intake of small animals has been trending upwards. Of these, rabbits are one of the most common species we receive, making up on average a third of total small animal intake. What is not reflected in BC SPCA data, however, is the situation facing rabbits outside of our shelter system. The BC SPCA would like to better understand how many rabbits are out there, where they are coming from and how they are changing hands. This will enable us to identify touchpoints for future interventions to safeguard rabbit welfare.

Responsibilities:

This position reports to the Manager, Companion Animal Welfare Science & Policy. The practicum involves:

- Extracting relevant data from a Word document of online classified ads collected
- Organizing the data into an Excel spreadsheet
- Performing basic analyses (descriptive statistics) of the data
- Producing a report summarizing the findings, together with a literature review and referenced discussion
- Giving a short (virtual) presentation on the results

Candidate:

This practicum is suited to a student with an interest in companion animal welfare, as well as good writing skills and attention to detail. A passion for rabbits in particular is appreciated.

Schedule:

This practicum requires between 300-350 remote placement hours, either 8 weeks full-time (37.5 hours/week) or 16 weeks part-time (22 hours/week on average).

Weeks	Activities (estimated hours)
1-2 FT Or 1-4 PT	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Complete BC SPCA training (20)• Begin populating Excel spreadsheet (35)• Begin literature search (5)• Check-in meetings with Field Supervisor (15)
3-5 FT Or 5-10 PT	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Finish populating Excel spreadsheet (15)• Data analysis (40)• Write up literature review (40)• Check-in meetings with Field Supervisor (25)
6-8 FT Or 11-16 PT	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Write up referenced discussion (40)• Finish report (50)• Prepare and deliver presentation (5-10)• Check-in meetings with Field Supervisor (25)