Dawson Creek Veterinarian receives BCSPCA Veterinarian of the Year award

To Dr. Patricia Reeves, saving the lives of animals is all in a day’s work. But to the staff at BC SPCA’s South Peace Branch, and the countless animals she’s rescued, she is a true hero. Dr. Patricia Reeves was honoured for her outstanding contributions to animals in need with the BC SPCA’s Veterinarian of the Year award at a special ceremony held in Vancouver June 1, 2012.

Dr. Reeves currently runs a family-owned clinic, the South Peace Animal Hospital in Dawson Creek, with her husband, Dr. Trevor Reeves. Together, the generous couple have contributed thousands of dollars in medical care discounts and services for the BC SPCA’s South Peace Branch.

“Helping animals is second nature to Dr. Reeves, as displayed when she applied her talent and skills to save the life of Biscuit,” says Wendy Davies, manager of the BC SPCA South Peace Branch. Biscuit was a stray dog wandering the streets when he was repeatedly stabbed and left for dead. The small dog managed to pull himself into a nearby garage where he was later found. “Thankfully, a very special veterinarian quickly responded and remarkably managed to save Biscuit from certain death. That veterinarian was Dr. Reeves.” Biscuit was then transferred to the BCSPCA where he was nursed back to health.

“When I asked Dr. Reeves about it, she blushed and waved it off,” says Davies. “She said it was nothing. She never sought recognition. This sincere modesty is what Dr. Reeves known for.” Biscuit is now the face of the BC SPCA Biscuit Fund, which supports all medical care needed by the homeless and wild animals in their care.

“During the time that I’ve been managing the South Peace Branch, never have I had to worry about the outcome for an animal due to inadequate medical funding,” says Davies. “Dr. Reeves always puts the animal first.” In addition to offering generous discounts on medical care, Dr. Reeves also facilitates low income spay and neuter programs in the area by providing 50% off the cost of surgery, vaccinations, and tattoos. At the Reeves’ clinic, shelter animals are always squeezed in for an appointment, even on the busiest day. Not only that, but Dr. Reeves and her husband frequently respond to after-hours
emergency calls, even when they aren’t technically on-call. “I have never noted an after-hours fee applied to a single invoice,” says Davis. In 2009, the Reeves’ vet practice also housed 18 cats who were seized from a hoarder. Each was lovingly cared for until they were adopted.

Says Davies: “Dr. Reeves’ tireless dedication to animals in need is an inspiring thing to witness. I am incredibly proud to have had the opportunity to work with this truly remarkable woman.”

The BC SPCA Awards Program honours both people and animals who have made outstanding contributions to animal welfare during the past year. Recipients include veterinarians, staff, volunteers and animal heroes. The non-profit BC SPCA cares for nearly 32,000 abused, abandoned, injured and neglected animals each year in British Columbia.

The BC SPCA is a non-profit organization funded primarily by public donations. Our mission is to prevent cruelty and to promote the welfare of animals through a wide range of services, including cruelty investigations, emergency rescue and treatment, sheltering and adoption of homeless and abused animals, humane education, advocacy, farm animal welfare, spay/neuter programs, and wildlife rescue and rehabilitation.