# MELISSA DAVID
## Founder & Executive Director

Meet Melissa, a Calgary local who's been passionate about animals from an early age. Melissa has fostered a profound love for animals. Her upbringing on a farm nurtured her compassionate nature, as she frequently welcomed stray animals into her home. During High School, Melissa's commitment to animal safety deepened as she dedicated her time to volunteering at the local veterinary clinic and numerous animal rescue organizations in Calgary.

Melissa's career in law enforcement never dimmed her passion for the care of animals. On March 7, 2019, a story about an abandoned pet needing critical care touched her profoundly. The pet's unfortunate euthanasia motivated Melissa to volunteer with a group helping pets stay with their families, despite financial need.

Melissa believes that our furry friends deserve to experience the human-animal bond. Melissa attributes her dog Charlie for providing support during her cancer diagnosis and treatment. She believes without Charlie's companionship, her journey would have been more challenging. Inspired by her own experience, Melissa is dedicated to offering resources to pet guardians facing financial obstacles to prevent unnecessary surrenders or euthanasia.

Parachutes for Pets was founded that day and 5 years later has helped thousands of pets and guardians stay together. Melissa's dedication to ensuring the safety and happiness of animals is truly inspiring. In September 2022, Melissa opened the first Pet Advocacy Center in Calgary, Alberta.This model offers comprehensive support to both pets and their guardians, with the added benefit of on-site social workers to ensure their well being.

In her downtime Melissa enjoys spending time with her husband Mike, and dogs Jack, Theo and Hudson.