

WINTER 2022

THE HUMANITARIAN

SASKATCHEWAN SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS



**SASK
SPCA**

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**The Humanitarian is published quarterly
by the Saskatchewan Society for
the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
(SaskSPCA)**

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Reporting Animal Cruelty

If you suspect a case of animal cruelty, report it to the proper authorities immediately.

Dogs & cats:

In Saskatoon: Saskatoon SPCA
Phone: (306) 374-7387

In Regina: Regina Humane Society
Phone: (306) 543-6363

Dogs & cats in all other locations:

Animal Protection Services of Saskatchewan
Phone: 1 (844) 382-0002

Livestock:

Animal Protection Services of Saskatchewan
Phone: 1 (844) 382-0002

Have you moved?

Be sure to update your address with SaskSPCA. Any contact information updates can be emailed to info@saskspca.ca or call us at 1-877-382-7722 and we can take your updated information over the phone.

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President's Report: Reflecting on the Past

Submitted by Dr. Sandra Neumann

Every year when the time comes to write the President's report for the AGM I am at a bit of a loss. Generally it is a time to reflect on the past year and to look forward to the next.

But what to include? The projects we have started, those that we completed? What about those somewhere in between? Projects you have no idea where they're going.

So this year I decided to take a somewhat different approach.

Having been involved in the Saskatchewan SPCA for over 20 years now, I decided to look a bit further into the past and a bit further into the future.

Since its inception in 1928 this organization has gone through a few changes. From an educational organization to an enforcement one, then finding its way back to its roots grounded in education. And looking at the world today one has no choice but to realize how vital a comprehensive education and critical thinking are.

But how do we know we actually contribute to changes for the better?

We often do not. Others may see the results of our work more directly. Legislation we worked on may now make it easier for animal protection officers to lay charges in cases of animal cruelty, due to networking we may be helping victims of domestic violence to be able to easier leave an abusive situation and being able to take their pets with them or a social worker may now have a number to call that was not there before. Someone having read one of our articles may now hesitate to do something he would have done in a heartbeat not so long ago.

For almost 100 years the Saskatchewan SPCA has been planting seeds. And plenty of them, countless ones. Most of them never even germinated, some grew into bushes but a few became trees.

All of us are just playing a small part in this organization and some of us will not be around to see what grows from most of the seeds planted during their involvement with it. Some of us may. But we all have hopes and dreams. After all what would life be without them.

I for one have a vision that our planned Emergency Animal Care Facility will be a seed that will grow into a huge tree with wide branches touching the branches of other trees rooted in other organizations and so establishing a province-wide animal welfare network connecting every animal in need with a human who can help it.

As always my heartfelt thanks to our staff without whom we could never achieve our goals. Executive Director Frances Wach, Program Director Sandra Anderson, Community Relations Coordinator Josh Hourie, and last but certainly not least, ever present Administrative Assistant Crystal Stubbs.

I would also like to thank each and every one of our volunteers for their time and/or financial contributions. A special shout out goes to Jenny Marriott for the many hours she puts in helping us with our current projects.

My fellow Board members have been a true inspiration to me over the years. I would like to thank them yet again for their willingness to help, share their expertise, sense of humour, their trust, and above all, their ever rarer quality of common sense.

I am looking forward to another exciting year as we move toward an ever more humane Saskatchewan.



SaskSPCA Welcomes New Board Members

Following the 2021 AGM in September, the SaskSPCA is pleased to announce the following changes to our Board of Directors.

Calvin Nickel, a Saskatoon businessperson and a long-time supporter of the Society, takes on the role of President. Calvin has a lengthy record of community involvement and we're excited to have him on our team.

Marianne Possberg, of Regina, joins the board in the role of Secretary. Marianne grew up on a farm outside Humboldt and now works as the Production Specialist at the Saskatchewan Cattlemen's Association.

McKenzie Parks, a law student at the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon, brings her passion for animal welfare to the SaskSPCA's board table. McKenzie enjoys participating in various dog sports such as agility, dock diving, and rally obedience with her Golden Retriever, Addy.

Les Trayhorne, from Elrose, brings his decades of experience as a police officer, animal protection officer, and rancher to the Society. Les explains "it was the neglect and abuse that I observed as an APO that inspired me to let my name stand for the Board of Directors for the Saskatchewan SPCA. I am grateful for the opportunity to serve on this Board."

Returning board members include Jack MacKay who will serve as Treasurer, and Chris Brueckner. Dr. Sandra Neumann will continue to serve in the capacity of Past President.

While we are excited to welcome new members to the board, we are saddened to say "farewell" to the following retiring board members: Carol Thomson, Margaret Northcote, and Ken Krause. A heartfelt "THANK YOU" is extended to our retiring board members for sharing their knowledge and expertise with the SaskSPCA!

You can read more about our new board members at saskspca.ca.



A Safe Place for Pets & People

Pet Friendly Shelter Viability Report Released

Pets are members of the family. However, like other members of the family, they can be at risk in a violent home.

The SaskSPCA continues to work with STOPS to Violence and the Provincial Association of Transition Houses and Services of Saskatchewan (PATHS) to develop resources to assist both the human and the animal victims of violence.

In October, our organizations released a new joint report: the Pet Friendly Shelter Viability Report. This 90-page document offers a detailed roadmap for domestic violence shelters interested in caring for animals on-site.

The report offers advice on how to safely house pets along with survivors. Topics include dealing with pet allergies, calculating start up and ongoing costs, addressing potential legal concerns, and ensuring animal health care needs.

The report will be available on the Violence Link website: violencelink.ca/resources

SaskSPCA Receives Grant from PetSmart Charities of Canada® to Help Keep Pets and People Together

The SaskSPCA received a \$65,000 grant from PetSmart Charities of Canada to help keep more pets in loving homes and out of shelters in Saskatchewan.

As the face of family continues to change, what remains constant is the important role pets play in our lives. Many people consider pets family members, and it can be challenging to find resources when facing homelessness, lack of pet-friendly housing, military deployment, or fleeing domestic violence in search of a safe-haven. Pet parents in these and other at-risk situations often determine they have no options beyond surrendering their beloved pet to a local shelter.

With this grant, the SaskSPCA will help preserve the bond between pets and their people by developing the new Family Ties Crisis Care initiative. The goal is to improve the health and wellbeing of people and their animals by addressing the needs of family members experiencing domestic violence or other emergency situations that impact their ability to care for their animals.

"Family Ties helps fill gaps in existing community resources for pet owners who are experiencing domestic violence or other financial, health, or housing emergencies," says Josh Hourie, Community Relations Coordinator. "Family Ties is part of our collective efforts to improve the lives of animals today and into the future."

"The best way to improve lives for pets is to support their families in the midst of crises," said Dani LaGiglia, Manager of Community Grants PetSmart Charities of Canada. "The SaskSPCA's Family Ties Care Initiative promises those in need can continue to feed and care for their pets without sacrificing their own nourishment. Pet parents should never have to choose between putting food on the table or in their pet's bowl."

Be sure to follow the SaskSPCA on social media to learn more about the Family Ties Crisis Care initiative.



Animals and Emergencies Webinar Series

In October, two new sessions in the Animals & Emergencies Webinar Series were held.

Trent Catley, Director of Emergency Response and Inspection with the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture spoke on the topic of Responding to Trailing Emergencies. Trent's presentation was highly informative. Participants learned about firefighters' responsibilities and priorities at the scene of an emergency, and also about ways in which producers and livestock industry groups can assist fire departments in responding to trailing emergencies – in advance and at the time.

Allison Danyluk Ross, District Veterinarian, Canadian Food

Inspection Agency joined us to discuss amendments to the humane transport regulations that came into effect in February 2020. Allison's presentation focused on the rationale for the amendments, the specific changes that have been made, and how they will be enforced.

Webinars in this series can be viewed by searching "Saskatchewan SPCA Animals & Emergencies" on YouTube.

The Animals & Emergencies Webinar Series is presented by the Saskatchewan Veterinary Medical Association, SaskPork, Saskatchewan Cattlemen's Association, Saskatchewan Poultry Council, and the SaskSPCA.

Did You Know...

The victims of intimate partner violence (IPV) often stay in a violent situation rather than leave without their pets.

There are limited options for animal owners who want to leave an abusive relationship. Currently, most domestic violence shelters in Saskatchewan do not allow pets.

Pet-friendly domestic violence shelters provide a much needed safe haven for pets and families. Learn more about this topic at this special 3-part webinar series featuring:

- Allie Phillips, one of the leading advocates for on-site pet housing in domestic violence shelters.
- Crystal Giesbrecht, Director of Research and Communications for the Provincial Association of Transition Houses and Services of Saskatchewan; Ph.D. student in the University of Regina's Dept. of Justice Studies; and a member of the Canadian Femicide Observatory for Justice and Accountability's Expert Advisory Panel.

Webinar dates:

- January 19
- January 26
- February 9

Time: Noon – 1 p.m.

For updates or to register, info@saskspca.ca

About Allie Phillips:

Allie Phillips is an author, attorney and advocate for protecting vulnerable victims. As Founder & CEO of the Sheltering Animals & Families Together (SAF-T)® Program, she has led the global movement in helping domestic violence shelters to create on-site pet housing.



With over 25 years of experience in helping animal and human survivors of abuse, she has been educating criminal justice professionals since 1997 and specializing in how animal abuse links to family violence. She is an award winning book author and is on the steering committee of the National Link Coalition, past-chair of the State Bar of Michigan's Animal Law Section, and a member of the National Coalition on Violence Against Animals.

About Crystal Giesbrecht:

Crystal Giesbrecht is the Director of Research and Communications at the Provincial Association of Transition Houses and Services of Saskatchewan (PATHS), the member association for domestic violence shelters and counselling centres. She is a Ph.D. student in the Department of Justice Studies at the University of Regina and a member of the Canadian Femicide Observatory for Justice and Accountability's (CFOJA) Expert Advisory Panel.



Crystal's work at PATHS includes educating professionals and the public on best practices for supporting survivors of intimate partner violence and conducting research relating to intimate partner violence. She has conducted research in Saskatchewan on the connection between intimate partner violence, animal maltreatment, and the need for animal safekeeping.

A Stryker K-9 Care Fund Update: Challenge Coin Fundraiser

Earlier this year, nine K-9 handlers across the prairies designed a challenge coin, which is used in law enforcement to trade amongst members and to reward colleagues who do outstanding work in support of detector dogs. These challenge coins were sold to officers across the prairie region with \$5 from every coin sold being donated to the SaskSPCA's Stryker K-9 Care Fund and The Ned's Wish Foundation. Thanks to their efforts, a total of \$1,100.00 was donated to the Stryker K-9 Care Fund.

All of us here at the SaskSPCA would like thank all of the detector dogs and their handlers for all the amazing work they do everyday!



Addressing the Need for Standards for Animal Rescues

In Canada, there is no special licencing or training required in order to establish an animal rescue group. Recognizing the need to safeguard the health and welfare of homeless animals, the Saskatchewan SPCA established a Working Group to explore the feasibility of creating a voluntary certification program suitable for all types of animal rescues.

The Working Group members felt that this type of program would be very useful but also agreed the cost to establish and operate it would be prohibitive.

The focus of the Working Group is now on efforts to strengthen *The Animal Protection Regulations* (2018) by adding standards for animal rescues. At present, the Regulations reference catteries, kennels, and sled dogs, but there is nothing specific for pet rescues.

The Working Group has drafted Saskatchewan Animal Rescue Standards, a clear and comprehensive resource for new and established animal rescues. These standards, which are based on the work of the Association of Shelter Veterinarians and the ASPCA, provide guidance on population management, medical health,

recordkeeping, and other areas important to the operation of pet rescues.

Once the standards have been completed, the Working Group will present them to the Ministry of Agriculture for consideration.

A new educational website is also in development. The Pet Rescue Toolkit offers information and advice for both animal rescue groups and new pet owners.



End of Year Donations

Remember to get your donations in before December 31st to get your 2021 charitable tax receipt. Tax receipts are issued for donations of \$10 or more to the SaskSPCA.

The SaskSPCA continues our work to improve the lives of animals and

people. This is possible due to the support and generosity of members and donors like you. Contributions to the SaskSPCA allow us to move forward with initiatives such as the Emergency Pet Food Bank, the development of standards for animal rescues, and the Stryker K-9 Care Fund.

To make a donation and to learn more about our role in animal welfare visit saskspca.ca.



Keeping Your Pet Safe During the Holidays

With Christmas right around the corner, it's important to keep in mind that some of the holiday cheer that we enjoy could be harmful, and potentially fatal, for the furry friends in our lives.

When celebrating the season, remember that foods like chocolate and treats sweetened with xylitol (gum, some peanut butters, baked goods), grapes, and raisins can cause your cat or dog to fall ill. Other foods like macadamia nuts, onions, garlic, chives, and salty snack foods, if consumed by your pet, could result in health issues. Alcoholic beverages can also lead to problems that include coma and possible death. Avoid feeding Fluffy or Fido the leftover turkey bones as these bones could become a choking hazard or do damage to internal organs.

When it comes to Christmas decorations, remember to properly secure your Christmas tree to avoid any injuries that may result from a falling evergreen. Eating plants like mistletoe and holly may cause your pet to experience nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea. Keep electrical cords out of reach of cats, dogs, and other fuzzy companions that like to chew on loose hanging and easy-to-reach dangling wires. Batteries should also be kept in a secure and safe place. If you choose to bring out a special candle, make sure to use the appropriate candle holders and place the candles in a location that is inaccessible to your animals. If you leave the room, properly extinguish the candles to avoid any burns or unwanted destruction caused by fire.

If you would like to give your pet a special holiday treat or gift, remember that there are many healthy treats and durable toys that are available all year long. Though these items may not be as festive, we know that they are safe for our companions, and at this time of the year, all we really want is to ensure the health and wellbeing of our loved ones – furry or not.



Need A Gift Idea? How About A Holiday (Licence) Plate!

What do you get for the person who has everything? We recommend a SaskSPCA licence plate! Help that special someone in your life show their support for animal welfare in Saskatchewan.

Visit your local SGI motor licence issuer to order your plate today.

Proceeds from the sale of SaskSPCA licence plates support the Saskatchewan Emergency Pet Food Bank.