

SPRING 2022

# THE HUMANITARIAN

SASKATCHEWAN SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS



**SASK  
SPCA**

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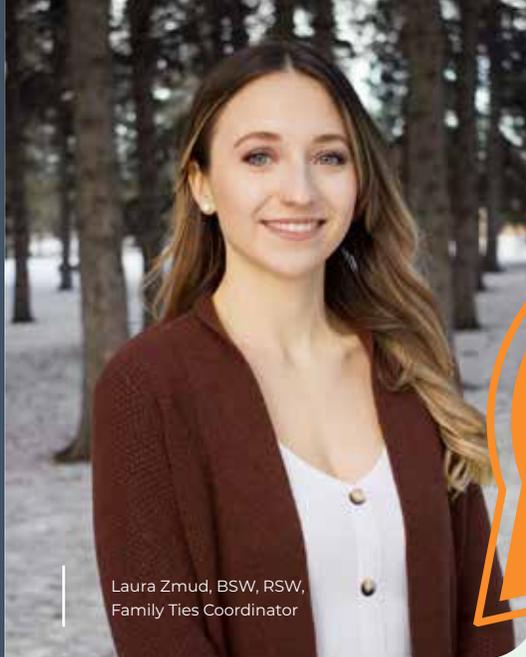
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Laura Zmud, BSW, RSW,  
Family Ties Coordinator

**Welcome to  
the Team,  
Laura**

Thanks to a generous grant from PetSmart Charities of Canada, we were recently able to expand our team. Join us in welcoming our new Family Ties Coordinator, Laura Zmud!

Already a familiar face for many at the SaskSPCA, Laura completed her practicum here in 2019 while earning her Bachelor of Social Work degree. In her new role with the SaskSPCA, she will be helping people and animals experiencing domestic violence or other emergency situations, and providing education on the Violence Link.

In addition to her new role as Family Ties Coordinator, Laura continues to work on a casual basis as a Medical Social Worker at the Saskatchewan Health Authority, and a Veterinary Assistant at the WCVM Veterinary Medical Centre. Laura has worked and volunteered in a variety of settings; her professional experience as a Registered Social Worker has encompassed health care, youth advocacy, research, grief and crisis intervention, and Indigenous and remote community work. Her professional interests lean heavily toward the power of the human-animal bond and animal welfare, making this new position a natural fit for Laura.

Outside of work, you can find Laura spending time with her animal companions, playing hockey, and volunteering.

Welcome (officially) to the SaskSPCA family, Laura!

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## Be Emergency Ready: Update Your Plans

An emergency can happen at any time. The SaskSPCA urges you to update your emergency preparedness plans. In recent years, we have seen emergencies ranging from blizzards, tornadoes, and wildfires to train derailments and the COVID-19 pandemic. Taking the time to update your emergency plans will ensure the safety of the animals in your life in the event of a disaster.

The SaskSPCA offers free downloadable tools to help develop or update your plans. Visit [saskspca.ca/emergency](https://saskspca.ca/emergency) to download the Pet Emergency Information Sheet and the Pet Emergency Kit Checklist. The Information Sheet provides an easy-to-follow overview of important information that you can share with someone who may need to look after your pet in the event that you are unable to, while the Checklist provides a list of essential items to include in an emergency kit for your pet.

More information on emergency planning for your family, including your pets, can be found by using Google to search for the Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency's Disaster Prevention and Preparedness website and the Government of Canada's Get Prepared website.

Livestock producers can learn more about emergency planning by visiting the Animal Health Emergency Management Project's website at [animalhealth.ca/ahem](https://animalhealth.ca/ahem).

## Join Us! Become a SaskSPCA Member

Show your commitment to animal welfare in Saskatchewan. As a member, you'll join a dedicated group of Saskatchewanians that are dedicated to improving the lives of animals throughout the province. SaskSPCA members receive a number of benefits, including:

- A subscription to *The Humanitarian*, our newsletter that is published four times a year.
- A charitable tax receipt for your membership fee.
- Members in good standing receive the opportunity to vote at the SaskSPCA's Annual General Meeting.
- Members in good standing are eligible to serve as a board member.
- Pride in knowing your contributions are making a difference in the lives of animals and people in Saskatchewan by supporting programs such as the SaskSPCA Pet Food Bank and the Stryker K-9 Care Fund. Member support also helps to raise awareness of issues such as the link between animal abuse and interpersonal violence.

With a variety of membership options available for businesses, animal welfare organizations, and individuals, you're sure to find an option that meets your needs. Visit [saskspca.ca](https://saskspca.ca) to join today!

# Regina Police Service remembers PSD Nixon



PSD Nixon - thank you for your service.

Recently retired PSD Nixon passed with his handler by his

side. Nixon served Regina from 2012 to 2021.

Nixon loved going to work and rolling in the snow while on his nightly walk. His favourite time of year was Christmas when he would rip into gifts looking for his favourite toy, a Kong Wubba (squeaker).

For all the accomplishments/accolades Nixon had at work, his biggest

accomplishment was putting smiles on the faces of the members of the community he served. Nixon lived to do public demos and get some pets, especially from kids.

Rest easy, boy.

*PSD Nixon was a recipient of the SaskSPCA's Stryker K-9 Care Fund. We send our condolences to PSD Nixon's family, friends, and community. Article adapted from a Regina Police Service Facebook post on Nov. 9, 2021.*

## About Allie Phillips:

Allie Phillips has led the global movement in helping domestic violence shelters to create on-site pet housing.



## Webinars Promote Safe Places for People and Their Pets

How can we better protect the victims of violence who own animals? That was the focus of a three-part webinar series recently hosted by the SaskSPCA.

The webinars explored the link between violence to humans and animals, the benefits of pet safekeeping programs, and options for domestic violence shelters to provide on-site pet care.

Featured speaker Allie Phillips, the founder and CEO of the Sheltering Animals & Families Together (SAF-T)® Program, provided insights from her 25 years of experience in helping animal and human survivors of abuse.

Crystal Giesbrecht from the Provincial Association of Transition Houses and Services of Saskatchewan (PATHS) and Laura Zmud, Family Ties Coordinator with the SaskSPCA, discussed the new Pet Friendly Shelter Viability Report. The report, released in late December 2021, offers a comprehensive "road map" for building pet-friendly emergency sheltering programs.

As part of their presentation, Crystal and Laura announced the creation of the new Saskatchewan Co-Sheltering Network. Interested domestic violence shelters can join the network to share ideas and discuss their experiences with on-site pet care.

The need for pet-friendly emergency sheltering options is urgent. Research clearly demonstrates that in a violent home, both people and their pets are at risk. The victims of violence may stay in a dangerous situation rather than leave without their beloved pets. At present, there is only one Saskatchewan transition house that is pet-friendly; there are no domestic violence shelters that officially allow pets.

To learn more about pet-friendly sheltering or to sign up for the Saskatchewan Co-Sheltering Network, contact Laura Zmud, Family Ties Coordinator at the SaskSPCA, at [laura@saskspca.ca](mailto:laura@saskspca.ca).

Check out the Safe Places for People and Their Pets webinars, available on the SaskSPCA YouTube channel.

The SaskSPCA partnered with the Provincial Association of Transition Houses and Services of Saskatchewan (PATHS) and STOPS to Violence to develop the Pet Friendly Shelter Viability Report. Funding was provided in part by the Community Initiatives Fund.



# Day of Awareness: Helping ensure no family member goes hungry

On December 17, 2021, we held our first-ever Day of Awareness to bring attention to the important service the SaskSPCA Pet Food Bank provides.

Launched in November 2020, the SaskSPCA Pet Food Bank helps meet the needs of hungry furry family members. We provide pet food to our partner organizations for distribution to their clients as needed. The program is currently funded by donations, grants, and proceeds from the purchase of SaskSPCA licence plates.

The Day of Awareness provided a chance to highlight the Pet Food Bank, explain how people can donate, and share details on how people can access pet food if needed. With these goals in mind, the day was a success! Donations in the form of dog food, cat food, blankets, leashes, harnesses, shampoo, conditioner, and treats, along with cash, were received.

Community Relations Coordinator Josh Hourie completed a series of media interviews leading up to the day, and Josh and Laura spent time chatting on Facebook Live throughout December 17th. As part of the Day of Awareness, we shared an impact statement from one of our food bank partners:

**“Many of our clients are challenged with depression, anxiety, addictions, and mental illness. Most, if not all, who have pets would prefer to feed their pets before feeding themselves. Having the Pet Food Bank gives them the security to know that they will not have to worry about feeding their pet while trying to navigate food insecurity for themselves. These animals are more than pets, they are support, companionship, and family.”**



**Lots of ways to get involved!**

**Help us ensure that no furry family members go hungry. Donate to the Pet Food Bank today by clicking the “Donate” button at [saskspca.ca](https://saskspca.ca). We accept unopened pet food donations year round at the SaskSPCA office (511 – 45th Street West in Saskatoon).**

We’re pleased to announce the launch of our new Pet Food Pals program. Businesses and individuals can become Pet Food Pals and provide a one-month supply of food to our pet food bank partners.

- A \$300 donation will feed one pet food bank for one month
- A \$3,000 donation will feed all pet food banks for one month

## Many thanks to our Pet Food Bank partners:

- Fort Qu’Appelle Food Bank
- Maple Creek Food Bank
- Melville & District Food Bank
- Moosomin Food Share
- Nipawin Salvation Army Food Bank
- Rosetown & District Food Bank
- Rosthern Good Neighbours Food Centre
- Saskatoon Food Bank & Learning Centre Clothing Depot
- Swift Current Salvation Army Food Bank

Businesses can also get involved by collecting donations in support of the SaskSPCA Pet Food Bank.

Call Laura at [306.382.7726](tel:306.382.7726) for more info.



Staff from the Western College of Veterinary Medicine deliver a pet food donation to the SaskSPCA

# Need A Birthday Gift Idea?

Consider giving a SaskSPCA licence plate! You can purchase a gift voucher for a SaskSPCA licence plate at your nearest SGI Motor Licence Issuer. Each plate costs \$50 (plus taxes) and \$27 from the sale of every plate supports the SaskSPCA Pet Food Bank. Make the gift extra special with a custom plate featuring your pet's name!



A SaskSPCA licence plate is the perfect gift for the animal lover in your life! Learn more about the plates at [saskspca.ca/licence-plates](https://saskspca.ca/licence-plates).

## Ticks 101

By Sarah Figley

April showers bring May flowers ... and ticks? That's right. The increased humidity and warm weather of spring and summer provide ideal conditions for these parasites to thrive, and your pet is the perfect host.

"Tall grass and bush are places where ticks like to hang out, so if your dog visits this type of environment, they can pick up ticks," warns Dr. Jamie Rothenburger, a veterinarian and PhD student in veterinary pathology at the University of Guelph's Ontario Veterinary College.

She adds that ticks require moisture and humidity to stay hydrated so they're not often found in dry, sandy areas.

Rothenburger provides more information about ticks and gives some recommendations on how to keep your pet safe this summer.



### What is a tick?

Ticks are arachnids: they have eight legs with separate head and body sections — just like spiders and scorpions. There are over 900 species of ticks worldwide, so it's not surprising that they come in varying shapes, sizes and colours.

Ticks can be red, brown, black, or tan, and some species of ticks can be very small and hard to see or feel on your pet. Most ticks are protected by a very hard shell, which makes them resilient and difficult to kill.

Ticks latch onto their host and survive by

eating blood. As they eat, their bodies grow and become engorged. In North America, deer, moose, elk, dogs, rodents, and birds are major carriers of ticks, so areas with large populations of these species are suggested to be key environments for ticks.



### Ticks and diseases

It's true that ticks can carry one or more diseases, but it's fairly rare that your pet will contract a tick-borne disease.

Although Lyme disease is in the spotlight right now, wood ticks (also called dog ticks) — which are a common species in Saskatchewan — do not carry the disease-causing bacteria. Blacklegged ticks (formerly called deer ticks) are the ones responsible for carrying and transmitting Lyme disease, but they do not normally cycle in Saskatchewan.

"Owners should be aware of ticks if they are traveling to a Lyme-endemic part of Canada including parts of southern Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec, and the Atlantic provinces or the U.S.," explains Rothenburger.

**"But keep in mind that less than 10 per cent of ticks carry the bacteria in these areas, so the chances of your dog becoming infected is probably low. Also, only a small fraction of dogs that become infected with the Lyme disease bacteria become ill."**

Rothenburger notes that there are other tick-borne diseases including babesiosis, anaplasmosis, Rocky Mountain spotted fever, ehrlichiosis, hepatozoonosis, and possibly bartonellosis.

The good news is that all of these diseases are quite rare in Canada; they're more

prevalent in southern regions of North America. Unless you are travelling with your dog in these areas, the risk is likely low. But that risk is expected to increase with climate change: researchers have noted a rise in tick-borne diseases worldwide including Canada.

If a tick has recently bitten your animal, watch them closely. For a few weeks following the bite and/or removal of the tick, look for infections and skin irritations near the bite area. Keep an eye out for any changes in behaviour, appetite, or mobility as these can be symptoms of tick-borne diseases. If you notice any changes, Rothenburger recommends contacting your veterinarian.

### Preventing ticks

See your local veterinarian. Several "spot-on" medications that repel or kill ticks after they bite are available to control ticks in companion animals. Here are some more suggestions:

- Areas with ticks, fleas, and heartworm mostly overlap so a good option is to treat your pet with multi-purpose, preventive medications. It's important to dose these products according to weight.
- No product is 100 per cent effective so owners who use them on their dogs should still expect to find some ticks.
- Certain tick control products for dogs can be deadly to cats. Check with your veterinarian about the safety of their use if your household includes dogs and



cats. Tick products for dogs must never be used on cats.

- Be aware of dense tick environments and avoid spending time near them.
- Strategic landscaping in your yard can prevent ticks from living on your property. Here are some tips:
  - o keep grass short
  - o remove leaves and branches around the yard
  - o keep wood piles and bird feeders away from the house
  - o use wood, tile, concrete, or wood chips in high traffic areas of the yard
  - o reduce rodent activity on your property
  - o if you live on an acreage or farm, discourage deer from coming near your home by building fences around food sources or planting your garden away from your house

## Checking for ticks

After spending time outdoors, take a few

minutes to check for ticks on your pet. You can often find ticks crawling along your pet's skin or fur. Look and feel all over your pet, but ticks will generally migrate towards warm, dark areas such as armpits, the groin area, ears, feet (in between the toe pads on the paw) or near the anus (under the tail).



## Removing ticks

Do not panic! If you are comfortable removing the tick at home, you can do so. If not, consult your veterinarian for assistance. Here are the steps for removing a tick:

- Get a pair of clean tweezers.
- Wear gloves (if possible) since ticks do carry diseases.
- Separate the fur around the tick as best as possible.
- Grab the head of the tick (the part that is attached to the skin) as close to the skin as possible but be careful not to pinch your pet!

- With even pressure, pull upwards with the tweezers. Avoid twisting or bending since some parts of the tick could be left in the skin. You do not want to pull off the body and leave the head embedded in the skin, as it may cause an infection.
- Place the tick in a small container of isopropyl alcohol. This will kill the tick and also allow you to keep the evidence. If your pet develops symptoms in the days after a tick bite, your veterinarian may find it extremely helpful to know the species of tick and have access to the actual parasite for testing.
- Clean the tick bite area with isopropyl alcohol or soap and water.
- Give your pet a treat – a reward for being calm and patient.

*Reprinted with permission from WCVM Today (wcvmtoday.com), news website for the Western College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Saskatchewan.*

# A New Look For SaskSPCA.ca

If you've visited the SaskSPCA website recently, you may have noticed something was different. We are excited to launch a redesigned SaskSPCA.ca – the next step in our rebrand.

Our staff team has been working with William Joseph Communications to develop a new visual identity and communications strategy for the SaskSPCA, including a new website.

The website features an easy to navigate layout with information on SaskSPCA programs, services, and initiatives. A number of resources are available for pet owners and livestock producers covering topics from emergency planning, vehicle safety for pets, animal identification, and codes of practice. You'll also find a list of animal welfare organizations in Saskatchewan and Canada, animal related legislation, and contact information for who

to contact in the event you suspect an animal is being abused.

A new positioning statement for the SaskSPCA has been developed that encapsulates the importance of the work of the Society:

**The SaskSPCA is the voice for animals and their people. We educate and promote the wellbeing of animals, strengthening the human-animal bond. As change-makers, we advance policy, with a focus on ensuring the sustained humane treatment of animals. Our collective efforts improve the lives of animals today and into the future.**

Social media will be an integral part of our new communications strategy. You may already like us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter, but the SaskSPCA has expanded our social reach by joining Instagram and LinkedIn. We invite you to click the "follow" button on all of our social media channels.

Be sure to check back often for updates on animal welfare in Saskatchewan.



### Welcome to the SaskSPCA

We are an organization committed to the wellbeing of animals across the province. We provide education, advocacy, and outreach where it can be most effective. Our aim is simple: to show the value of compassion, animal companionship, and the unique ways that we are all better together.



### Animal Care

#### Promoting better animal care across Saskatchewan

Our mission is to provide the people of Saskatchewan with the resources and information necessary to deliver excellent, enhanced care for our province's animals.



### Animal Programs

#### Committed to a compassionate and caring Saskatchewan

Through community programs and dedicated education, we inspire the people of Saskatchewan to learn more about their animals and important issues that affect them. From emergency pet food banks to the link between domestic and animal abuse, we encourage you to explore the programs that help create a better future for people and animals alike in our province.





# WINNERS LIST

All of us here at the SaskSPCA send congratulations to all winners in the 2021 Christmas Cash Lottery! We'd also like to thank everyone who supported the Society through the purchase of lottery tickets, by making donations, and purchasing memberships.

***Your support is truly appreciated!***

The next edition of the Spring Cash Lottery kicks off soon. Keep an eye on our social media channels for more information.

NAME	ADDRESS	TICKET NUMBER
<b><i>Early Bird Draw   \$3,000   December 1, 2021:</i></b>		
David Dyck & Debra Bartels	Saskatoon	T22447
<b><i>Stocking Stuffer Draws   \$500 each   December 21, 2021:</i></b>		
Doug Osborne	Regina	T01665
Marianne Sarich	Davidson	T28996
Melissa Gieni	Saskatoon	T19611
Ronnie Kramchynsky	Saskatoon	T25850
Patricia Ann Kozack	Regina	T22226
Bernard Schultz	Kuroki	T24053
Lindsay Lepage	Saskatoon	T04098
Joe Pfeifer	Saskatoon	T26263
Norman Nagyl	La Ronge	T29407
Gerry Hobbins	Nipawin	T07660
Ursula Dac	Lanigan	T02470
Myrna Dey	Kamsack	T02061
Owen Olfert	Saskatoon	T14988
Paul Ottmann	Saskatoon	T12182
Mandy Yee-Sellar	Saskatoon	T30861
<b><i>Grand Prize Draw   \$25,000   December 21, 2021:</i></b>		
Ron & Mary Saunders	Borden	T01620
<b><i>Huge Supporter Draw   \$5,000   December 21, 2021:</i></b>		
Claudia Kazakoff	Canora	T11835
<b><i>50/50 Kitty Pool Draw   \$37,740   December 21, 2021:</i></b>		
Melanie Bauman	Saskatoon	F24083