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THE

# HUMANITARIAN

SASKATCHEWAN SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS

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SUMMER 2019

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**SASKATCHEWAN  
SPCA**



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**OUR NEW ADDRESS:**

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**Moving?**

Please let us know your new address.  
Call 1.877.382.7722  
or email [info@sspca.ca](mailto:info@sspca.ca)

# WE'VE MOVED!



As of June 1, the Saskatchewan SPCA has a new address. We've moved, but not very far. You'll find us at 511 45th Street West, just two doors down from our old office. Aside from our new address, all other contact information remains the same.

**511 - 45th Street West, Saskatoon, SK S7L 5Z9**

**Phone: 306-382-7722 • Toll Free: 1-877-382-7722**

**Email: [info@sspca.ca](mailto:info@sspca.ca) • Website: [www.sspca.ca](http://www.sspca.ca)**

## NOTICE OF 2019 AGM

The Saskatchewan SPCA Annual General Meeting will be held:

Date: Saturday, Sept. 15, 2019

Time: To be determined

Place: Saskatchewan SPCA Office  
511 - 45th Street West, Saskatoon

Check [www.sspca.ca](http://www.sspca.ca) closer to the meeting date for more information.

Everyone is welcome.

The AGM is open to the public.

Questions? 1.877.382.7722 or [info@sspca.ca](mailto:info@sspca.ca)

## TO REPORT SUSPECTED ANIMAL CRUELTY OR ABUSE:

**Dogs & cats:**

In Saskatoon: Saskatoon SPCA: 306.374.7387

In Regina: Regina Humane Society: 306.543.6363

In Prince Albert: Prince Albert SPCA: 306.763.6110

**Dogs & cats in all other locations:**

Animal Protection Services of Saskatchewan: 1.844.382.0002

**Livestock:**

Animal Protection Services of Saskatchewan: 1.844.382.0002

# SASKATCHEWAN SPCA STRYKER K-9 CARE FUND

The Stryker K-9 Care Fund was established by the Saskatchewan SPCA to help owners with the cost of emergency and routine veterinary care for retired police dogs. In 2017, the program was expanded to include dogs who served with the Canada Border Services Agency.

Featured in this article is Holly, who served with the Canada Border Services Agency at the North Portal crossing for nine years. While in service, Holly was involved in 216 seizures. She was trained to sniff out guns and drugs. Holly retired in 2016 and registered for the Stryker Fund in January 2018.

For more information on the Stryker K-9 Care Fund, please contact the Saskatchewan SPCA by email at [info@sspca.ca](mailto:info@sspca.ca), or by phone at 1-877-382-7722 or 306-382-7722.



There is a growing understanding of the interrelationship between domestic violence, animal abuse, child abuse, and elder abuse.

This interrelationship is often referred to as the Link. Visit [ViolenceLink.ca](http://ViolenceLink.ca) for a variety of information and resources.



**REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!**  
Early Bird Deadline: July 31, 2019  
Register today: [www.sspca.ca/muddy-buddy](http://www.sspca.ca/muddy-buddy)

# MAKING CONNECTIONS: THE 2019 SASKATCHEWAN SPCA HUMAN-ANIMAL BOND CONFERENCE

September 24, 2019  
Sheraton Cavalier Hotel  
Saskatoon, SK

## Keynote Address: Bonding Behind Bars

Prison-based animal programs are becoming increasingly common in North America. The majority are developed for the benefits they provide to the animal or community. The role of the human-animal bond and its impact on inmate health is often a secondary focus.

This presentation shares insights from PAWSitive Support, a canine assisted learning (CAL) program offered at Drumheller Institution in Alberta, Canada. Developed by Drs. Colleen Dell and Darlene Chalmers in 2016, the PAWSitive Support Program promotes inmates' human development skills, personal growth, and overall mental health. The inmates' interactions with the PAWSitive Support program dogs provide opportunities to develop a bond, trust and respect, and reconnect with themselves. The presentation will raise awareness and understanding about the potential benefits of the human animal bond, or connection, in a prison environment.



DR. COLLEEN DELL



DR. DARLENE CHALMERS

*What is "the human-animal bond" and why is it so important?*

*Everyone welcome! Join us for this one-day conference focusing on the special relationship between humans and their animals.*

Other conference topics include:

- **Meeting the Needs of the Human Spirit: The Role of Sherbrooke Community Centre Pets:** Learn how pets help alleviate loneliness, helplessness, and boredom in the lives of elders.
- **Requiem Sessions: End of Life Pet Photography** A unique way to honour the special bond between pets and their owners.
- **Animal Safekeeping Programs:** Protecting the human and the animal victims of domestic violence. As well, learn more about new animal safekeeping programs recently launched in Saskatchewan.
- **AUDEAUMUS Service Dog Program:** Providing specially trained service dogs and ongoing support to brain injured veterans, first responders, and war correspondents.
- **Taking a Bite out of Crime:** Police dogs, on and off the job.
- **Warming Hearts and Paws:** Helping individuals struggling with homelessness and their pets.

## CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

Early bird rate: \$150 (by August 23rd)

Regular conference rate: \$175

Questions?

[info@sspca.ca](mailto:info@sspca.ca)

1.306.382.7722

# LEARNING ABOUT ANIMAL HOARDING

By Autumn Tuttroen

2019 began with news coverage focusing on multiple large animal seizures and the arrest of a person who was wanted in relation to numerous cases of animal cruelty. These stories made headlines across the province and sparked widespread discussion of the issue of animal hoarding.

When reporting on animal hoarding cases, the media tends to focus on aspects relating to justice, such as violations of laws. In doing so, the public is left with numerous unanswered questions, which can lead to confusion and the spread of misinformation. This article is one of a three-part series that helps answer questions about the complex issue of animal hoarding.

It is important to remember that each case of animal hoarding is unique and that hoarding tendencies can impact individuals of any age, sex, race, or socioeconomic standing.

## Categories of animal hoarders

According to the Hoarding of Animal Research Consortium (HARC), there are three broad categories of people who hoard animals: (1) the overwhelmed caregiver, (2) the rescue hoarder, and (3) the exploiter hoarder.

The overwhelmed caregiver (OC) begins with caring for several animals, but due to circumstances, the animals multiply and adequate care can no longer be provided. It is common for the community to think of an OC as someone who will take in unwanted animals, which can result in animals being left directly

with the OC or near the OC's home. However, the OC is aware that the number of animals is an issue, and is often willing to receive assistance from animal welfare agencies.

Conversely, the rescue hoarder (RH) tends to seek animals to "save" and will continue to obtain animals, even if the current ones residing with the RH are in distress. It is not uncommon for a RH to avoid authorities, such as police or animal protection officers. The rescue hoarder may be surrounded by a network of enablers. In some cases, the enablers may be unaware of the RH's hoarding tendencies, as the RH may have begun as an official nonprofit animal rescue. Due to increasingly complex mental health needs that are not being addressed or other issues, the RH may continue to "save" animals but be unable to meet their needs, which then progresses into animal hoarding.

Lastly, there is the exploiter hoarder (EH). The EH is similar to the RH as they both reject authority and authority figures. However, the EH takes this dislike to a more extreme level by intending to evade the law. The EH may also have sociopathic characteristics such as a lack of empathetic attachment to people or animals, which makes the EH the most trying category of hoarder to work with.

## What research reveals about animal hoarding

When exploring animal hoarding, there are a multitude of factors to take into consideration as not all hoarders and situations can be painted with the same brush. In the next issue of *The Humanitarian*, we will look at what academic research and case studies have learned about animal hoarders.



# CARING FOR THE PET AND PERSON: A ONE HEALTH APPROACH WITH CANADA'S HOMELESS AND VULNERABLY HOUSED COMMUNITIES

By Autumn Tuttroen

On a chilly evening in early March, Saskatchewan SPCA social work intern Autumn Tuttroen attended a talk by Dr. Michelle Lem. Michelle, as she prefers to be called, is the founder and director of Community Veterinary Outreach (CVO) whose "mandate is to improve the health of homeless and vulnerably housed communities through veterinary care to their pets, and to connect their humans with health and social services."

CVO works from a One Health perspective which involves an "integrative effort of multiple disciplines working locally, nationally, and globally to attain optimal health for people, animals, and the environment" (AVMA, 2019, para. 1) and acknowledges their interconnection. CVO programming can be found in Ontario, Manitoba, British Columbia, and Kansas City. Michelle's academic credentials of DVM, MSc, and MSW allows her to view medical, environmental, and social issues through multiple lenses.

These numerous lenses and Michelle's passion for her work were front-and-

centre throughout the entirety of her talk. She opened by discussing the homeless population in Canada and putting statistical information into perspective while challenging commonly held beliefs about those who are homeless or vulnerably housed (high-risk of becoming homeless). As with most statistical data, Michelle believes that the percentage of homeless people who are pet owners, 19%, is underreported. This is because 1 in 10 Canadians make up the hidden homeless population. The Homeless Hub defines hidden homelessness as "people who live temporarily with others but without guarantee of continued residency or immediate prospects for accessing permanent housing" and are "considered to be 'hidden' because they usually do not access homeless supports and services even though they are improperly or inadequately housed."

When speaking about the significance of the human animal bond amongst her patients' owners, she believes that their companion animals have taught them what humanity has not. Animals do not judge, they provide unconditional love and acceptance, and are a constant when

others are not. Michelle spoke with great fervor about the discrimination that those who are homeless or vulnerably housed with a companion animal receive and how that negative treatment is gratuitous. The care that Michelle's animal patients receive is evident as the CVO team has found that 60% of 1,000 animals that have been assessed have an ideal body condition score. In addition to having an ideal body condition score, companion animals belonging to individuals who are homeless or vulnerably housed are often more socialized and playful, get more exercise, and receive a great deal of novel stimuli through exposure to varying environments when compared to companion animals owned by the general population.

These numbers alone speak volumes for why those who are homeless or vulnerably housed should not be negatively judged or criticized for having a companion animal. By providing access to care and vital services through a One Health approach, CVO is working towards ensuring that the needs of people and their animals are being met, which plays a significant role in the welfare of both pet and owner.

## BE EMERGENCY READY: PLAN, PREPARE, AND BE AWARE

May 5-11 was Emergency Preparedness Week in Saskatchewan. To mark this important week of awareness, the Saskatchewan SPCA partnered with the Government of Saskatchewan to encourage residents in our province to be emergency ready.

Saskatchewan's Public Safety Division Assistant Deputy Minister Duane McKay noted that it is not if an emergency will happen, but when it will happen.

"That's why being emergency ready – to plan, prepare and be aware – is so important," McKay said. "Take a few minutes to plan who you would call and what you would do if you needed to evacuate. Then prepare a basic emergency kit containing water, non-perishable foods, a flashlight, batteries, a radio, a first-aid kit, prescription medications, money and copies of your family's personal identification documents."

The Saskatchewan SPCA highlighted the need to think about your pet's needs in an emergency.

"A bit of preparation now to gather items your pet will need can make a world of difference during an emergency," Saskatchewan SPCA's Community Relations Co-ordinator Josh Hourie said. "It's a perfect activity to do with your children so they understand the importance of being emergency ready and can pack items for your pet's emergency kit in case you need to evacuate."

Hourie suggested including the following supplies in your pet's emergency kit:

- three days of non-perishable food for each pet;
- three days of water for each pet (allow four litres/day for each dog; one litre/day for each cat);
- food and water dishes and a manual can opener;
- medical records and medicines for your pet;
- an extra leash and collar;
- plastic garbage bags and paper towels;

- disinfectant;
- newspapers, pet litter and a litter box;
- a pet first aid kit;
- pet crate or carrier lined with blankets or towels;
- pet toys;
- for birds: a catch net, blanket or sheet to cover the cage, and a cage liner; and
- for small pets such as gerbils and hamsters: a salt lick, an extra water bottle, a small box or tube for the pet to hide in, and a week's worth of bedding.

For additional tips about emergency planning for your family and your pets, visit:

Disaster Prevention and Preparedness section on the province's website at [www.saskatchewan.ca/residents/environment-public-health-and-safety/disaster-prevention](http://www.saskatchewan.ca/residents/environment-public-health-and-safety/disaster-prevention)

Pet-Friendly Emergency Planning at [www.sspca.ca/education/pet-friendly-emergency-planning](http://www.sspca.ca/education/pet-friendly-emergency-planning)

# SASKATCHEWAN ANIMAL RESCUE CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

*Background: A new voluntary, education-based certification program is being developed to promote the welfare of homeless animals. The Saskatchewan SPCA has established a Working Group comprised of stakeholders from the animal welfare sector to develop a certification program suitable for foster-based and “bricks and mortar”-type rescues.*

Progress continues to be made on the proposed Saskatchewan Animal Rescue Certification (SARC) program. This program represents a collaborative effort, with input from organizations and individuals with expertise in animal welfare and sheltering.

At the April 4th meeting, the Working Group welcomed The Pack Project and new representatives from Bright Eyes Dog Rescue and SAVT (Saskatchewan Association of Veterinary Technologists). Other Working Group members include Battlefords Humane Society; SCAT Street Cat Rescue; Animal Protection Services of Saskatchewan; Saskatchewan Veterinary Medical Association; the Ministry of Agriculture; and the Saskatchewan SPCA.

A series of regional meetings has been held to gather feedback from stakeholders in the animal rescue sector. These meetings included a videoconference as well as in-person meetings in Saskatoon, Regina, and Yorkton. The final regional meeting was held May 25th in North Battleford. These meetings provide the opportunity to share information and answer questions about the proposed program. Feedback from the regional meetings will be considered in the next round of revisions to the draft Animal Rescue Standards document. Our thanks to the Animal Welfare Foundation of Canada for their assistance in hosting these meetings.

The Working Group reviewed the policies, definitions, and other materials that have been developed thus far for the proposed SARC program. As well, they discussed the development of a new website featuring educational resources to assist rescues and shelters.



**AWFC**

**THE ANIMAL WELFARE FOUNDATION OF CANADA  
FONDATION DU BIEN-ÊTRE ANIMAL DU CANADA**

## NORTH EAST SPCA SHELTER NEARING COMPLETION

After a years-long fundraising campaign, construction on the new North East SPCA shelter in Melfort is underway. The Harry and Eve Vickar Shelter will be located in Melfort. With a mission to “Promote quality of life for companion animals through responsible stewardship, successful adoptions, education, and enforcement of the *Animal Protect Act*,” the province’s newest animal shelter will provide a much needed service to the region.

The new facility is currently scheduled to open in September 2019. For more information on the North East SPCA, visit their website at [www.northeastspca.org](http://www.northeastspca.org).



# AN UPDATE ON ANIMAL SAFEKEEPING IN SASKATCHEWAN

The Saskatchewan SPCA continues to work with partners to develop new options to address the need for animal safekeeping services in the province.

As part of our work with New Hope Dog Rescue, foster home training sessions have taken place, most recently on May 27. The training sessions have led to eight foster homes for New Hope's safekeeping program. To date, two dogs have been cared for through this program. In March, representatives from the Saskatchewan SPCA and New Hope Dog Rescue were able to present to members of the Saskatoon Police Service on the link between interpersonal violence and animal abuse.

The Swift Current SPCA is currently recruiting foster homes for their animal safekeeping program. Leanne Sillers, the Saskatchewan SPCA's animal safekeeping coordinator, will soon travel to Swift Current to provide a "train-the-trainer" session for foster home recruitment. The local women's shelter in Swift Current has received a number of inquiries about pet safekeeping. The individuals seeking assistance would prefer to keep their pets with them, an option that is not currently available. One dog is currently in the safekeeping program in Swift Current.

Leanne Sillers was recently invited to La Ronge for Treaty Days. While in the community, Leanne spoke about the link with representatives from Northern Animal Rescue

and Piwapin Women's Shelter. Work will continue with the two organizations to develop an animal safekeeping program that meets their needs. Moving forward, further collaboration with other community agencies in the region will be explored.

To learn more about animal safekeeping and the link between animal abuse and domestic violence, visit [www.sspca.ca](http://www.sspca.ca) or [www.violencelink.ca](http://www.violencelink.ca).

Funding for the Saskatchewan SPCA's Animal Safekeeping Program has been provided by the Community Initiatives Fund (CIF).

The CIF invests in the quality of life of Saskatchewan residents by offering grants for community projects that help support community development, inclusion, leadership and vitality.



Leanne Sillers (right) with Chief Tammy Cook-Searson (left) and members of the community.



## THE MUDDY BUDDY RETURNS

Join the Saskatchewan SPCA at beautiful Blackstrap Provincial Park on Saturday, August 24th for the province's only mud run for pets and their people.

This 5K walk/run features a variety of obstacles along Blackstrap's wooded trails. Three mud pits cap off the obstacle fun... while putting the muddy in Muddy Buddy!

Visit [www.sspca.ca/muddy-buddy](http://www.sspca.ca/muddy-buddy) to register today! Proceeds from the Muddy Buddy directly benefit the work of the Saskatchewan SPCA.

### REGISTRATION FEES

#### The Single:

Early Bird: \$50 (offer ends July 31, 2019)  
Regular: \$60

The Single registration fee allows for 1 person and 1 pet and covers the provincial park admission fee.

#### The Duo:

Early Bird: \$70 (offer ends July 31, 2019)  
Regular: \$80

The Duo registration fee allows for 2 people and up to 2 pets and covers the provincial park admission fee.



#### The Family:

Early Bird: \$70 (offer ends July 31, 2019)  
Regular: \$80

The Family registration fee allows for 5 family members (minimum 1 adult) and up to 2 pets and covers the provincial park admission fee.

Thanks to our presenting sponsor:

