



2016-2017 ANNUAL REPORT



SASKATCHEWAN
SPCA

The Provincial Voice on Animal Welfare





Established in 1928, the Saskatchewan SPCA is a registered charity dedicated to the humane treatment of animals. We are an animal welfare organization, focusing on the prevention of animal cruelty through education.

OUR VISION

To ensure the humane treatment of animals.

OUR MISSION

To be the provincial voice on animal welfare.

OUR GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The Saskatchewan SPCA:

- ◆ Accepts the use of animals by humans.
- ◆ Generates public awareness to prevent animal suffering.
- ◆ Promotes the mutually beneficial relationship between animals and humans.
- ◆ Believes that animal welfare should be considered in terms of the Five Freedoms.
- ◆ Takes a collaborative approach to achieve its mission and vision.
- ◆ Is a transparent organization that is respected for its innovation, integrity, and passion.

MOVING FORWARD

The Saskatchewan SPCA continues to move forward with the development of new programs focused on the humane treatment of animals and improving animal welfare in the province.

This year saw a strengthening of partnerships with human service organizations. Collaboration with provincial agencies such as Saskatchewan Towards Offering Partnership Solutions to Violence (STOPS to Violence) and the Provincial Association of Transition Houses and Services (PATHS) on *The Link Report* explores the relationship between interpersonal violence and animal abuse.

Funding from the Community Initiatives Fund (CIF) has enabled us to begin the groundwork necessary to build an Animal Safekeeping Program. A full-time term position (March 1-November 30, 2017) was established; the Animal Safekeeping Coordinator continues to focus on the following areas:

- ◆ Educate audiences on the *Link* between interpersonal violence and animal abuse;
- ◆ Build and strengthen working relationships between the human services and the animal welfare sectors;
- ◆ Research animal welfare programs and supports in other jurisdictions; and
- ◆ Consider strategies for the implementation of an Animal Safekeeping Program for Saskatchewan

Work continues on a new voluntary Registration and Certification Program for Animal Rescues. The development of this program has provided an opportunity for the Saskatchewan SPCA to work in concert with other SPCAs and Humane Societies, animal rescues, Animal Protection Services of Saskatchewan, and other key stakeholders. Sharing ideas, opinions, and insights have proved invaluable, not only for the development of this particular program, but for future projects conducted by the Saskatchewan SPCA.

HOW WE ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Stryker K-9 Care Fund



Sherlock, a retired police dog from the Saskatchewan RCMP, received assistance from the Stryker Fund.

The Saskatchewan SPCA Stryker K-9 Care Fund is one of the first of its kind in Canada, providing up to \$1,000 per year for veterinary care costs for retired police dogs. The program is open to dogs that have served in Saskatchewan with the RCMP or other municipal police forces.

The Saskatoon Police Service (SPS) K-9 unit created a fundraising calendar featuring the four-legged members of the SPS. Calendars were sold for \$10 at the Saskatoon police station, Early's Farm and Garden, the Saskatchewan SPCA, and Arlington Animal Hospital. All proceeds from the calendar supported the Stryker Fund.

Animal Rescue Registration & Certification Program

A Working Group was established to develop a new voluntary Registration and Certification Program.

The Working Group includes representatives from rescue groups, SPCAs and Humane Societies, the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Protection Services of Saskatchewan and the Saskatchewan Veterinary Medical Association, as well as the Saskatchewan SPCA.

The Working Group has drafted a decision making framework for the program as well as a code of ethics and conflict of interest guidelines.

The program will offer practical guidelines for the care of rescue animals. Care guidelines will be based on the *Association of Shelter Vets Guidelines for Standards of Care in Animal Shelters* (2010) and the *ASCPA Shelter Care Checklists: Putting ASV Guidelines into Action*.

Interpersonal Violence and Abuse and Animal Safekeeping Project

The Saskatchewan SPCA, STOPS to Violence, and PATHS have partnered on a research project to better understand how concerns for the safety of pets and livestock act as a barrier to individuals leaving situations of interpersonal violence and abuse in Saskatchewan. The survey results, released in May 2016, indicate that some individuals do not leave situations of interpersonal violence due to their concern for the care and safekeeping of animals.

In March 2017, with funding support from the Community Initiatives Fund, the Saskatchewan SPCA hired an Animal Safekeeping Coordinator. Leanne Sillers will be working to improve animal safekeeping services and supports in the province. Leanne's work includes educational presentations to animal welfare organizations and human service agencies on the Link and resources that currently exist in Saskatchewan.

The Saskatchewan SPCA is pleased to be working in partnership to help develop programs and services that better serve the animal and the human victims of violence.

Stakeholder Communications



Saskatchewan HUMANE NEWS

The Saskatchewan SPCA stays in regular contact with our members, donors, and volunteers through *The Humanitarian*, our quarterly newsletter, available both in print and electronic format. *Saskatchewan Humane News* is a monthly e-bulletin geared to the livestock industry and the provincial animal welfare sector.

Therapy Dog Program

Research shows that the human-animal bond can make us healthier and happier. Visiting dogs (and other animals) have been used in a variety of settings, ranging from hospitals and nursing homes to schools and jails. The presence of visiting animals has been shown to help alleviate boredom, provide emotional support, decrease stress and pain levels, and assist in recovery.

Recognizing the important role of therapy dogs, the Saskatchewan SPCA sponsors three St. John Ambulance Therapy dog teams: in Saskatoon, Melissa Gieni and her Great Dane, Lucy; in Prince Albert, Allison Matice and Bentley, a Pekinese-Terrier; and in Moose Jaw, Carmen Keeler and Isis, a Boxer. Plans are in place to sponsor a fourth therapy dog team in the future.

Animal Welfare Conference

The 2016 Saskatchewan SPCA Animal Welfare Conference was held at the Travelodge Hotel in Saskatoon on September 23-25. This annual conference brings together people from across Western Canada who love and work with animals. The conference provides an opportunity to learn

new skills, develop a deeper appreciation for the human-animal bond, and network with others working to promote animal welfare.

Topics at this year's conference included behavioural assessment and enrichment in shelters; geriatric pet care; potential animal health; human health and animal welfare implications of imported rescue dogs; the roles of a vet tech; and the new certification and registration program for animal rescues.

IN THE COMMUNITY

We continue to share news and information relating to animal welfare utilizing a variety of communications channels. These include face-to-face interactions, traditional and electronic media, and written communications materials. Highlights of the past year include:

- ◆ Responding to questions from the media and the public about animal welfare concerns
- ◆ Providing roughly 45 referrals per month to other animal welfare organizations
- ◆ Consulting with local SPCAs and Humane Societies to address animal welfare issues
- ◆ Building new working relationships with individuals and organizations in the human services sector
- ◆ Taking part in public and industry events that promote animal welfare
- ◆ Reaching new audiences through the growth of our social media presence on Facebook and Twitter

FUNDRAISING

The Saskatchewan SPCA does not receive government funding; we operate with the generous support of our members, donors, and event sponsors. Major fundraising initiatives in 2016-2017 include:

- ◆ Critter Classic Golf Tournament: September 10, 2016 at the Green Acres Golf Club near Regina
- ◆ Christmas Cash Lottery: daily cash prize draws throughout the month of December
- ◆ Summer Cash Lottery: daily cash prize draws throughout the month of July
- ◆ Thanksgiving Challenge: encouraging supporters to get involved with the Society by making a donation, volunteering, or becoming a member
- ◆ National Cupcake Day: supporters baked cupcakes and shared them with friends, families, and co-workers in exchange for a donation to the Saskatchewan SPCA

PRIORITIES FOR 2017-2018

- ◆ Continue our work in the area of animal safekeeping
- ◆ Host The Link Conference in September 2017
- ◆ Hold a provincial stakeholder meeting to gather feedback on the new Registration and Certification Program for Animal Rescues
- ◆ Promote proper animal husbandry through the Animal Health 101 social media awareness campaign

OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- ◆ Dr. Sandra Neumann, President
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Yorkton

OUR STAFF

- ◆ Frances Wach, *Executive Director*
- ◆ Sandra Anderson, *Program Director*
- ◆ Josh Hourie, *Community Relations Coordinator*
- ◆ Crystal Stubbs, *Administrative Assistant*
- ◆ Leanne Sillers, *Animal Safekeeping Coordinator (as of March 1, 2016)*
- ◆ Twyla Polson, *Administrative Support*

THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS

Community Initiatives Fund

Funding for the Animal Safekeeping Program has been provided by the [Community Initiatives Fund](#). The Community Initiatives Fund invests in the quality of life of Saskatchewan residents by offering grants for community projects that help support community development, inclusion, leadership and vitality.



Community
Initiatives Fund

Animal Welfare Conference 2016 Sponsors:



Ernie
Olfert

Critter Classic 2016 Sponsors:



TRAVELCARE Baker Watson

SASKATCHEWAN SPCA CONTACT INFORMATION



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306.382.7722



www.facebook.com/SaskSPCA



info@sspca.ca



www.twitter.com/SaskSPCA

To report suspected animal neglect or abuse:

In Regina: Regina Humane Society 306.543.6363

In Saskatoon: Saskatoon SPCA 306.374.7387

In Moose Jaw: Moose Jaw Humane Society 306.692.1517

In Prince Albert: Prince Albert SPCA 306.763.6110

For all other locations in the province, contact Animal Protection Services of Saskatchewan at 1.844.382.0002



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