



THE HUMANitarian

The Saskatchewan Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

Spring 2016

RESCUE ANIMALS, RESCUE SHELTERS, AND STREET DOGS

Submitted by Dr. Dennis Will

Changes in the global market have led to a thriving international pet trade. Affluence in Canada has resulted in large numbers of animals being imported into this country. Imported animals may be infected with diseases that put animals or the public at risk. In the United States the federal regulations are being reviewed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to determine if they need to be updated to address import trends and disease risk, such as requiring a health screen prior to importation.

Rescue dogs are imported to Canada on a regular basis. They come from several countries and continents. Dogs less than eight months of age cannot be imported if they have not previously been adopted. Dogs that are eight months of age and older must be vaccinated for rabies. There are no other requirements, including no requirement for quarantine prior to entry to Canada, or at the point of entry into Canada.

In Canada most municipalities have animal control bylaws that control and regulate cats and dogs. In general cats or dogs are not permitted to be at large or on a street or other public place unless the dog is leashed and under control at all times.

This is not the case in some parts of world. In many countries the cultural norm is to permit dogs to wander at large. Rescue animals include those that are allowed to wander at large by the owner, those that have escaped, those that have been abandoned, as well as those that have resulted from breeding while the dogs were at large as strays.

These dogs are exposed to any of the many disease processes affecting animals and humans in their community, including Brucellosis.

I have travelled, lived, and worked in underdeveloped parts of the world, where there are no enforced bylaws concerning dogs, where the cultural norm is to permit dogs to wander at large and where neutering is not practiced. I recently travelled to Ecuador and Peru. Intact street dogs were found everywhere in the urban environment. They collected in groups in streets, parks, and city squares where they mingled and found shade with human beings; scavenge food from the garbage and street vendors with



Street dogs feeding on garbage.
Photo Courtesy of Dr. Dennis Will

which they co-existed quite well. The street dogs sometimes shared these public places with sheep and goats that used these open areas as a place to rest and find food, not unlike the dogs.

When asked, our main tour guide said that street dogs were viewed as being part of the landscape like the grass, trees, and birds, and were valued as such. Another tour guide said that it was a cultural norm for people in South America to believe in evil spirits, and feel that dogs, including street dogs, play a vital role in keeping these spirits at bay. As such, they are seen to play an important role in the overall health and wellbeing of human beings. For the most part they are not dogs in need of being rescued.

In my opinion, the efforts and expense of bringing a large number of "rescued" dogs to Canada, although well-meaning, is misplaced and short-sighted. At best, it will not have a significant impact on the numbers and general welfare of animals in the countries from where they are imported. At worst, it does, at times, appear to be merely another form of puppy or dog mill carried out for the economic benefit of those involved. Street dogs imported to Canada

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or email info@sspca.ca

2015 CHRISTMAS CASH LOTTERY WINNERS

Thank you, Saskatchewan, for your incredible support of our Christmas Cash Lottery.

On behalf of everyone at the Saskatchewan SPCA, we would like to offer special congratulations to winners of the three biggest cash prizes:

- Bruce Brownlee, the winner of the \$20,000 Grand Prize Draw
- Mila & Mark Herauf, winners of the \$10,000 Huge Supporter Draw
- Mitch Hamilton, winner of the \$31,520 50/50 Kitty Pool Draw

We also extend our congratulations to all winners in last year's Christmas Cash Lottery! Proceeds from the lottery are used to improve animal welfare in Saskatchewan.

DRAW DATE	NAME	ADDRESS	AMOUNT	TICKET #
Nov. 13, 2015	Marie Nadeau	Davidson	\$1,000.00	11387
Nov. 20, 2015	Rosemarie Schmaltz	Sceptre	\$1,000.00	05257
Nov. 27, 2015	Jane Wilmot	Regina	\$1,000.00	29407
Dec. 1, 2015	Julie Mazur	Canora	\$1,000.00	25385
Dec. 2, 2015	Roger Belton	Candle Lake	\$200.00	12937
Dec. 3, 2015	Kevin James Peepeetch	Melville	\$200.00	10179
Dec. 4, 2015	Diane Runn	Star City	\$200.00	28510
Dec. 5, 2015	Eva & Trent Brewster	Prince Albert	\$500.00	22600
Dec. 6, 2015	Brenda Holo	Rose Valley	\$200.00	18104
Dec. 7, 2015	Daryl & Cindy Hoyseth	Saskatoon	\$200.00	16950
Dec. 8, 2015	Shawna Kilgore	Outlook	\$200.00	04477
Dec. 9, 2015	Sarah Becker	Eatonia	\$200.00	18110
Dec. 10, 2015	Gloria Haight	Unity	\$200.00	04040
Dec. 11, 2015	Bob & Janice Dougherty	Abernethy	\$200.00	09351
Dec. 12, 2015	Larry Wallace	Langenburg	\$500.00	00618
Dec. 13, 2015	Alois Hazelwanter	Saskatoon	\$200.00	07120
Dec. 14, 2015	Dale Hartl	Preeceville	\$200.00	25951
Dec. 15, 2015	Gary Keller & Betty Swanson	Craik	\$200.00	02116
Dec. 16, 2015	Denise Brown	Unity	\$200.00	04038
Dec. 17, 2015	Danae Mack	Saskatoon	\$200.00	22670
Dec. 18, 2015	Mel Smith	Maple Creek	\$200.00	05170
Dec. 19, 2015	Linda Johnson	Nipawin	\$500.00	01867
Dec. 20, 2015	Darlene Browatzke	Whitewood	\$200.00	08030
Dec. 21, 2015	Mary Cusitar	Prince Albert	\$200.00	27154
Dec. 22, 2015	Bob Johnson	Abbey	\$200.00	00018
Dec. 23, 2015	Laurie Ducheminsky	Kamsack	\$200.00	09768
Dec. 24, 2015	Phyllis Hanson	Assiniboia	\$200.00	23265
Dec. 25, 2015	Larry Wallace	Langenburg	\$1,000.00	00616
Dec. 26, 2015	Carey Hrycak	Kuroki	\$500.00	00600
Dec. 27, 2015	Emile Desnoyers	Coderre	\$200.00	02855
Dec. 28, 2015	Judy Metcalfe	Saskatoon	\$200.00	16090
Dec. 29, 2015	Patricia Abbate	Domremy	\$200.00	03681
Dec. 30, 2015	Sharon Bozek	Wynyard	\$200.00	26033
Dec. 31, 2015	Bruce, Trevor & Amanda Brownlee	Kelvington	\$20,000.00	00568
Dec. 31, 2015	Mila Herauf	Watrous	\$10,000.00	13563
<i>50/50 Kitty Pool Winner</i>				
Dec. 31, 2015	Mitch Hamilton	Ruthilda	\$31,520.00	08810F

Watch your mailbox for information on the

2016

SASKATCHEWAN SPCA

SUMMER CASH

LOTTERY

coming in May 2016



**SASKATCHEWAN
SPCA**

PET ALLERGIES AND THE MYTH OF THE HYPOALLERGENIC PET

Submitted by Meaghan West, RVT

The prevalence of pet related allergies has risen dramatically in recent years, with most reported sensitivities related to cats and dogs. These allergic reactions can range from mild discomfort to anaphylaxis; hair, dander, saliva, and urine can all be sources of allergens. The misconception of “hypoallergenic” and “non-shedding” pets may seem to provide hope to those who love the company of cats and dogs, but this is nothing more than a lucrative marketing ploy.

Allergens are proteins that cause an immune system response. An allergic response may result from the ingestion or inhalation of these proteins, as well as direct skin contact. The immune system is not static and the severity of reactions may decrease over time from regular exposure; however, it is also possible for allergic reactions to become more severe from continued exposure.

Unfortunately, when it comes to pets, “hypoallergenic” does not mean the animal is allergen free. Rather, it means fewer than average allergens are produced by the animal. The concept of a “non-shedding” animal is a clever marketing ploy, as all animals with hair, fur, and feathers must shed. However, this does not mean that those who suffer from pet allergies are out of luck, only that finding the right pet may take some time, effort and out of the box thinking.

Prior to getting a dog or cat consider a breed with hair rather than fur, as these breeds tend to shed less and have shorter coats. Dogs (e.g., Poodles, Bichon Frises, and Portuguese Water Dogs) and cats (e.g., Cornish Rex and Devon Rex) with hair also lack the dense undercoat that is often shed seasonally in other breeds. Mixes of these breeds also tend to have fewer allergens than average as well. It is important to note that genetics and breeding are not simple equations; keep in mind that every puppy or kitten in a litter is neither a copy of their siblings nor their parents. A pet may not trigger an allergic response, while a littermate or parent could produce a very different effect.

Younger animals produce fewer allergens than adult animals, which could result in an increase in allergic symptoms as the animal ages. Adopting an adult animal decreases the chance of causing an unexpected reaction. Surprisingly, female cats and dogs, and males who have been neutered, also produce fewer allergens; another excellent reason to spay and neuter!

Daily brushing and routine bathing can help minimize allergens in the home by removing dust, pollen, dead hair, and dander from your pet, while also promoting a healthy coat. Proper

hygiene after handling pets (e.g., routine handwashing) can eliminate many allergens from being transported to the eyes and nose. Limiting a pet’s access to human sleeping areas, using HEPA filters, and regular vacuuming will also reduce allergens. Keeping cats inside also ensures that they are not bringing in extra dust and pollen, which may trigger additional allergic responses. Antihistamines and medication may also alleviate the symptoms of pet allergies.

While cats and dogs may be the most common source of allergens for potential pet owners, there are many species other than cats and dogs that can make wonderful companions. Rabbits, guinea pigs, and birds are all social animals that enjoy human interaction (e.g., cuddling, grooming, agility, and learning tricks), and may be an alternative for those with specific allergies to cats and dogs. Hand friendly reptiles such as bearded dragons, leopard geckos, and crested geckos can be a great alternative to pets with fur or feathers. It is important to remember that those animals marketed as 100% allergen free are marketing scams aimed to take advantage of you and the animal. Do not fall victim to these clever marketing schemes and false claims; a wonderful pet is waiting for you whether it has fur, feathers, or scales.

...continued from page 1

RESCUE ANIMALS, RESCUE...

do take up financial resources and potential adoptive homes that could be better served by adopting Canadian dogs that are in need.

If there were a need to remove dogs from the public places in other parts of the world, or improve their lives, it would be preferable to redirect our efforts towards the education of owners and government officials, encourage the implementation and enforcement of dog control legislation, encourage and sponsor widespread neuter and vaccination clinics, and foster practical efforts to raise the economic well-being of these countries. These efforts would have a far greater positive impact on the welfare of the people of these countries, as well as their companion animals and food animals.

Education, movement, and population control measures, support structures, and a favourable regulatory environment should always be included in the first line of defense in any comprehensive companion animal welfare program, as they are directed at the root causes of animal welfare deficiencies. Rescue and adoption – when it occurs – should not be seen as a measure of success, or the primary method of improving animal welfare.



Street dogs sleeping in a public area.
Photo Courtesy of Dr. Dennis Will

UPDATE: ANIMAL RESCUE REGISTRATION AND CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

Work has begun on the development of a new registration and certification program for animal rescue groups.

The first meeting of the Working Group was held March 18th in Saskatoon. The group worked on a vision, code of ethics, and standards of care guidelines for the program.

The draft code of ethics and care guidelines will be reviewed at the next meeting of the group, scheduled for June.

A broader input and review process is planned for this fall.

The Saskatchewan SPCA thanks the Working Group members for the commitment they have shown to the development of this new program.



A Working Group has been established to oversee the development of a registration and certification program for animal rescues



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IN LOVING MEMORY

- Village of Krydor in memory of Gerald Laughren
- Parkland College in memory of Colton Kinequon
- Lois Elder in memory of Ken Elder
- Anna Jensen in memory of a dear friend
- Edith Shannon in memory of Sheena
- Mrs. Eleanore Romanow "in memory of all my creatures"
- Sharon Serbin in memory of Horatio
- Mrs. Evelyn Adams "in memory of my many passed pets"
- Kathy Fabish in memory of Sonny
- Tracy Knutson "in memory of my two best furred friends"
- Anne Sawchuk in memory of Cinney
- Anonymous in memory of Bob McMillan
- Anonymous in memory of Linda McMillan

In memory of James Uhrich:

- Jennifer & Donald Sparks
- Ken & Barb Pearce
- Marlowe Schmeiss Electrical Contractor Ltd
- Marie Kleven
- Town of Zealandia
- Patricia Kidd
- Kara Carlson
- Kareen Hogan
- Thelma Brown

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Our thanks to:

- Brenda Cross
- DL Hawkins
- Mark Trowell in honour of Doug & Corinne Trowell

DID YOU KNOW?

The Saskatchewan SPCA has Guiding Principles that state the Society:

- 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.

Learn more about the Saskatchewan SPCA and the Five Freedoms at www.sspca.ca.

WHY SHOULD YOU BECOME A MEMBER?

When you join the Saskatchewan SPCA as a member, you support the many programs and initiatives that are currently being developed by the Society. Your contributions help to create a more humane world for animals throughout the province.

Members of the Saskatchewan SPCA can take pride in the work being carried out by the Board and staff of the Society. We are coordinating the development of a *Registration and Certification Program* for animal rescues. This voluntary program, one of the first of its kind in Canada, will help ensure that all rescue groups provide proper care to their animals. We are also working to build healthier, safer communities by raising awareness of "The Link" – the complex relationship between animal abuse and domestic violence.

Other programs that are currently available to the public include the *Stryker K9 Care Fund* and the *Be a Tree Dog Bite Prevention Program*. The *Stryker Fund*, the first of its kind in Canada, helps owners of retired police dogs with the cost of emergency and routine veterinary care. *Be a Tree* is a dog bite prevention seminar program for school age children. This program focuses

on fun and interactive activities aimed at teaching children how to read dog body language, and how to act safely around their own dog as well as strange dogs.

As a member, you will receive *The Humanitarian* newsletter, you can make your voice heard as an eligible voter at the Saskatchewan SPCA annual general meeting, and you have the chance to serve

as a member of the board of directors. And best of all, you get the satisfaction of being part of a larger community working to improve the lives of animals and humans alike. Become a member today.

For more information on the Saskatchewan SPCA's membership categories and the programs listed above, visit www.sspca.ca.

Membership Matters.



SASKATCHEWAN SPCA

Become a member today!

SAVE THE DATE FOR THE SASKATCHEWAN SPCA ANIMAL WELFARE CONFERENCE

SEPTEMBER 23-25, 2016

SASKATOON | EVERYONE WELCOME!

VISIT SSPCA.CA FOR MORE INFORMATION



THE SASKATCHEWAN SPCA'S FIRST CUPCAKE DAY

On Monday, February 29th, the Saskatchewan SPCA celebrated National Cupcake Day. This annual event raises funds for SPCAs and Humane Societies across Canada. This year more than \$4,000 was raised for the Saskatchewan SPCA.

Animal welfare enthusiasts hosted Cupcake Day Parties across the province. Cupcakes were offered to friends, family, and co-workers in exchange for a donation to the Saskatchewan SPCA. National Cupcake Day has been billed as “the sweetest day of the year” and we can certainly see why! Businesses and individuals baked hundreds of cupcakes to share with people who want to see a more humane world for everyone.

National Cupcake Day is the first-ever Canada-wide event to support local shelters, SPCAs, and Humane Societies. The event, in its fourth year in Canada, has a long successful history in other countries, namely in Australia, New Zealand, and the UK.

On behalf of the Board and staff of the Saskatchewan SPCA, thank you to everyone who took the time to bake a cupcake, host a party, and make a donation in support of the cause. Your

support is truly appreciated. Remember to keep an eye open for details on National Cupcake Day 2017!



GOT A PET? GET A VET!

Most people are aware of the importance of taking our pets to the veterinarian for annual checkups. Unfortunately there are many people who do not take the time to visit the veterinarian on a regular basis. This could be for any number of reasons, including the costs associated with a visit to the clinic, or the fact that sometimes a veterinarian just is not that easy to access in a province the size of Saskatchewan – a quick trip down the

road may not be possible. Whatever the reason, the Saskatchewan SPCA would like to remind you of the benefits of regularly scheduled veterinary visits.

Keep an eye on our Facebook page for *Got a Pet? Get a Vet!* In the coming months you'll find information explaining some of the top reasons why regular vet visits are key to long healthy lives for our animal friends – both big and small, domestic

and exotic. We're excited to share this information with you. *Got a Pet? Get a Vet!* is just one example of some of the new and exciting programs that the team at the Saskatchewan SPCA are working on delivering to you.

You can find us on Facebook by searching for *Saskatchewan SPCA* or directly at [Facebook.com/SaskSPCA](https://www.facebook.com/SaskSPCA).



got a
Pet?  get a
Vet!

gotapetgetavet.ca

Don't wait until something goes wrong to take your pet in for a check-up. Schedule a visit with your local veterinarian to ensure a healthier life for your pet(s).

sspca.ca

 **SASKATCHEWAN
SPCA**

GET TO KNOW THE SASKATCHEWAN SPCA'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Name: Janice Howden

Board position: Secretary

How long have you served on the Board? Currently serving my second year

How long have you been a member of the Saskatchewan SPCA? Fifteen years

Tell us a little about yourself and how you got involved with the Saskatchewan SPCA:

I grew up on a Saskatchewan family farm and took part in 4H. I became involved with the Saskatchewan SPCA while my husband, Lloyd Howden, worked as an animal protection officer. I am the author of *Badge #124*, a book about the work of a veteran animal protection officer in Saskatchewan. Presently, I enjoy the company of Rahj, my Tibetan terrier who was a rescue dog over 15 years ago.

What is your favourite thing about being involved with the Saskatchewan SPCA?

Being on the Education Committee and working to educate people about animal welfare issues.

Are there any highlights you would like to share about your time as a member of the Saskatchewan SPCA Board of Directors?

Two highlights for me definitely has to be the Stryker [K9 Care] Fund and providing financial support for medical expenses for retired police dogs in Saskatchewan. And the work we are doing toward Registration and Certification Program for Rescue Groups who care for animals in the province.

What do you think is the biggest animal welfare issue?

Education and prevention of animal neglect and abuse.

Do you have any advice for our readers who may be interested in becoming a Saskatchewan SPCA Board member?

If you are concerned about animal welfare, visit our website and see how you can get involved.



Janice Howden and her Tibetan terrier, Rahj.

CONSIDER A DONATION TO THE SASKATCHEWAN SPCA

The Saskatchewan SPCA is a registered charitable organization dedicated to improving the welfare of animals. If you would like to make a donation to the Saskatchewan SPCA, you can do so in a variety of ways. Visit sspca.ca to make your donation online, or give us a call at 1-877-382-7722 to make a donation by phone.

All donations over \$10 are eligible for a charitable tax receipt. If you would like more information on the Saskatchewan SPCA, our programs, and sponsorship opportunities, please contact us at 1-877-382-7722.

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**SASKATCHEWAN
SPCA**

GET TO KNOW THE SASKATCHEWAN SPCA'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Name: Sandra Neumann

Board position: President

How long have you served on the Board? I served my first term beginning in 2001 and served subsequent terms since then.

How long have you been a member of the Saskatchewan SPCA? 15 years.

Tell us a little about yourself and how you got involved with the Saskatchewan SPCA:

The first time I ever heard about the Saskatchewan SPCA was after registering to attend a conference about the link between animal abuse and domestic violence in Prince Albert in 1999. The information presented opened my eyes to the close correlation between animal welfare and human welfare. I realized the potential of a provincial animal welfare organization to positively affect both, looking past the obvious into the more hidden aspects of the animal human relationship.

What is your favourite thing about being involved with the Saskatchewan SPCA?

As a veterinarian animal welfare is extremely important to me. Being

involved with the Saskatchewan SPCA gives me an opportunity to improve the welfare of countless animals by being part of province-wide initiatives geared toward the improvement of animal welfare. These include education programs, an annual animal welfare conference offering networking opportunities for everyone involved in animal welfare, the development of interagency cooperation to respond to animal welfare issues faster and more effectively, and the opportunity to improve animal welfare legislation. The Saskatchewan SPCA has a vision that looks beyond the obvious animal welfare issues and tries to engage a variety of stakeholders to try and improve the welfare of animals from cats to dogs, horses to cows, pigs to wildlife. I have been a veterinarian for 27 years, but I believe I was able to help more animals through my involvement with the Saskatchewan SPCA than I have been able to help practicing veterinary medicine all these years.

Are there any highlights you would like to share about your time as a member of the Saskatchewan SPCA Board of Directors?

As a board member, I had the privilege to meet very dedicated and committed

individuals from all walks of life. It was fascinating to observe and be a part of such a diverse group of individuals who, even during difficult times, were able to put their passion for animal welfare ahead of everything else. I am proud to say that the welfare of the animals always came first.

What do you think is the biggest animal welfare issue?

Humans do not respect animals, per se. We have a tendency to either make them less or make them more than what they are. This inability to see them (and maybe us) objectively is at the root of animal cruelty.

Do you have any advice for our readers who may be interested in becoming a Saskatchewan SPCA Board member?

If you are passionate about animal welfare – join the board. At the end of the day you will be very satisfied that you have truly made a difference for many, many animals.



Dr. Sandra Neumann

BYLAW OFFICER HELPS BUILD SAFER NORTHERN COMMUNITIES

A pilot project underway in Île-à-la-Crosse is helping to improve the quality of life of both local dogs and community residents.

For many years, free-roaming dogs in the northern village of Île-à-la-Crosse were creating problems. Not only were dogs fighting and barking, there was the constant worry that children would be bitten.

The village took action to deal with the situation. In the fall of 2015, Sandi Cardinal was hired to serve as the village's very first Bylaw Officer.

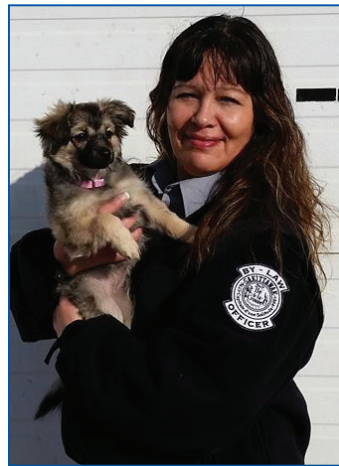
In this role, Cardinal is responsible for dealing with complaints relating to dogs. Bylaws have been created by the village, making it illegal for dogs to be running at large. Roaming dogs are now taken to the local impound, where they are held until claimed by their owner. For a first offence, the dog's owner will receive a warning. After that, owners can be fined for allowing their dogs to run at large.

While enforcement is important, another major focus of this position is public education. Cardinal has been

busy doing presentations in the community, working with elementary school students, elders, and the health district. She is helping pet owners learn about the importance of licensing their pets and keeping them safe at home.

In the future, she would like to see regular community-wide spay and neuter programs as a way to address issues with pet overpopulation.

"The community has been very supportive of my work," says Sandi Cardinal. "They know I'm here to help."



In the photo, Bylaw Officer Sandi Cardinal and Kiwi, her three-month old Pomeranian-mix.