



THE
HUMANITARIAN

SASKATCHEWAN SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS

in this issue:

Dog Bite Prevention

The Link Conference

***Saskatchewan SPCA
Celebrates 90 Years***

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 Please let us know your new address.
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 or email info@sspca.ca

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE LINK

The Saskatchewan SPCA has developed a new series of brochures focusing on the Link and animal safekeeping. The brochures include useful tips on animal safety planning as well as contact information to report abuse.

- *The Resource Guide for Human Service Professionals* (domestic violence shelter workers, social workers, counsellors, etc.)
- *The Resource Guide for Animal Welfare Professionals* (veterinarians, vet techs, animal shelter staff, groomers, etc.)
- *What You Need to Know About the Link* is targeted to individuals who may be experiencing abuse (or know of someone who is).

The brochures will be available on the Saskatchewan SPCA website, under the section called "The Link." Print copies are available by contacting info@sspca.ca or calling 1.877.382.7722.

Funding for the brochures has been made possible by the Community Initiatives Fund.



MAKE A DONATION TO THE LINK

The Saskatchewan SPCA needs your help as we continue to develop programming focusing on the link between interpersonal violence and animal abuse. Please consider making a special donation to the Society and help us help those who need to escape a violent situation.

Any donation of \$10 or more is eligible for a charitable tax receipt. Get your donations in before December 31st to receive a 2017 tax receipt.



According to Dr. Phil Arkow, coordinator of the National Link Coalition, **"When animals are abused, people are at risk. When people are abused, animals are at risk."**

This connection has become known as **The Link**.

At more than double the national average, Saskatchewan has the highest rates of domestic violence in Canada.

In partnership with stakeholders from a variety of sectors, **the Saskatchewan SPCA is working to support the needs of the victims of violence and their animals.**





Rigel, Leanne, and Jack present at the Boys and Girls Club.

SASKATCHEWAN SPCA DOG BITE PREVENTION SESSION

By Rigel Smith, Saskatchewan SPCA Summer Student

The Saskatchewan SPCA branched out into the community this summer to deliver educational dog bite prevention sessions. The program, adapted in part from the *Be A Tree* program and the BC SPCA *Bite Free* program, concentrated on giving children simple, effective tools to use in situations with potentially dangerous dogs. When used correctly, the five tools—body, eyes, mouth, fist, and legs—work in tandem to help people of all ages recognize a dog's body language and make appropriate judgements about the safety of the animal.

Rigel Smith, the Society's summer student, administered the program around the city of Saskatoon through June and July. The Saskatchewan SPCA delivered two presentations through the Boys and Girls Club and six through the City of Saskatoon Playground Programs.

Animal Safekeeping Coordinator, Leanne Sillers, and her registered therapy dog, Jack, accompanied our summer student on seven of the eight presentations. Jack and Leanne were a strong addition to the program, providing support, hands-on practice, and interest for the participants.

Over the course of the pilot program, our team reached approximately 160 participants; 113 interacted with Jack and listened to the presentation, while 47 interacted with Jack without listening to the presentation. Interacting

with Jack helped all children -- even those who didn't actively listen to the presentation -- to become more comfortable around dogs and learn to approach them in a safe manner.

The participants had the chance to meet Jack before each presentation. This allowed them to relieve some of their excitement and helped them stay focused during the program. Additionally, the team could see how the participants interacted with a dog. This provided a basis for the Saskatchewan SPCA team to see the benefits of the presentation when the audience interacted with Jack again afterward.

Overall, the participants were very attentive. They had many stories to tell and questions to ask. The interactive program provided opportunities for the audience to answer questions and practice the newly learned tools. The program also featured images which provided a visual component to the presentation, allowing the children to identify the tools more easily.

The session started with our team asking a few questions, one of which being, "has anyone ever been bitten by a dog before?" The response to this was higher than anticipated, with anywhere from 2-25 people at all locations answering in the affirmative. This shows how important preventive measures, such as this program, are to stay safe. A

true and false quiz was included at the end of the session. The questions were all based on material taught throughout the program, which allowed the team to see how much of the information the participants retained. The vast majority of participants answered the questions correctly, showing that the material was effective and easily remembered.

If you would like more information on the Saskatchewan SPCA Dog Bite Prevention Session, email info@sspca.ca.



Community members meet Jack and Leanne before a dog bite prevention session at Mount Royal Park.



A young girl at Massey Place practices her new dog bite prevention skills with Jack



THE LINK CONFERENCE: BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS AND RAISING AWARENESS

When animals are abused, people may be at risk; when people are abused, animals may be at risk.

In September, the Saskatchewan SPCA was very pleased to host our first-ever conference focusing on the relationship between violence to people and animals. This relationship is often referred to as “the Link.”

The 2-day event in Regina brought together nearly 70 individuals from animal welfare organizations, human service agencies, the provincial government, and enforcement.

One of the many highlights of the conference was the opportunity to hear Dr. Randall Lockwood, one of the leading authorities on the connection between animal cruelty and human violence. He explained how animals can be used as a tool for the abuser to control and punish the victims. Threats of violence towards animals could prevent victims from leaving or coerce them into returning to the home.

A variety of engaging speakers provided their insights on topics including the human-animal bond, legislative tools to assist the victims of violence, and how to recognize and report various types of abuse. Tim Battle provided an update on the development of a pet safekeeping program in Alberta. The award-winning program established by the Alberta Alliance for the Safety of

Animals and People (AASAP) is helping victims leave abusive situations by providing care for their animals.

In their presentations, both Battle and Lockwood stressed the importance of collaboration in building an effective animal safekeeping program. As Dr. Lockwood noted, “These are problems that can’t be solved by one agency alone.” The involvement of animal and child protection groups, law enforcement, Crown prosecutors, social workers, veterinarians, and others is essential.

Leanne Sillers with the Saskatchewan SPCA explains that one of the major objectives of the conference was to “start conversations” about how to help the victims of domestic violence who own animals. “Whether we work primarily with people or with animals, we all need to start thinking beyond our own particular sector,” says Sillers.

The conference closed with a brainstorming session in which participants had the chance to share their ideas on how to help the victims of violence and their animals. These ideas will help shape the new animal safekeeping program currently under development by the Saskatchewan SPCA, in conjunction with other community partners.

Thank you ...

- to everyone who joined us for the conference
- to our great speakers
- to our sponsors for their generous support:



Mark Your Calendar!

Be sure to join us for our 2018 conference: *Caring for Those Who Care*. Topics include:

- dealing with difficult people
- burnout and compassion fatigue
- stress management
- self-care strategies

The conference will be held in Saskatoon, Sept. 18. Sign up for conference updates at: info@sspsca.ca.



STAKEHOLDER MEETING PROVIDES UPDATES ON PROPOSED NEW REGISTRATION PROGRAM

A stakeholder meeting was held on Saturday, Oct. 21 in Saskatoon to discuss a new voluntary registration and certification program for rescues in Saskatchewan. A total of 38 people from 20 different animal welfare organizations attended the meeting.

This proposed program promotes the welfare of rescued and homeless animals by ensuring their physical, mental, and behavioural needs are met. A central component of the new program – “Saskatchewan Animal Rescue Standards” – has been drafted. This educational document provides a checklist of basic standards of care that are applicable for both dog and cat rescues. These rescue standards are based on the *Guidelines for Standards of Care in Animal Shelters (2010)* developed by the Association of Shelter Veterinarians (ASV) and the ASPCA *Shelter Care Checklists: Putting ASV Guidelines into Action*.

The certification process will involve a review of documentation from the rescue as well as an inspection. For large foster-based rescues, a random sample of fosters will be selected for on-site inspections to verify that they are meeting the Saskatchewan Animal Rescue Standards.

The proposed program has been developed by a Working Group comprised of representatives from animal rescues,

SPCAs/Humane Societies, the Saskatchewan Veterinary Medical Association, Animal Protection Services of Saskatchewan, the Ministry of Agriculture, and the Saskatchewan SPCA.

At the meeting, attendees were asked to share their initial thoughts on the program. They felt the program was straightforward and well-thought out. The idea of a mentorship component to the program was well received. Attendees also noted that the program can help build cooperation between rescues, while raising public awareness of the valuable work being done by rescues and shelters to care for homeless animals.

The Working Group plans to meet in January to continue development of this registration and certification program.

Further updates will be shared with all stakeholders. To add your name to the stakeholder contact list, send an email to info@sspca.ca.

To learn more ...

Visit www.sspca.ca/stakeholder_mtg for links to the *Saskatchewan Animal Rescue Standards* as well as other materials that were reviewed at the stakeholder meeting.

SASKATCHEWAN SPCA CELEBRATES 90 YEARS: AN OVERVIEW OF THE SOCIETY

The early years in Regina

The Saskatchewan Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Saskatchewan SPCA) was created by an act of Legislature in 1928 as a way “to prevent cruelty to dumb animals of all kinds and to inculcate the principles of and the desire for better and more humane treatment of dumb animals.”

Prior to 1928, the Saskatchewan SPCA was active for over a decade in Regina, operating as the Regina SPCA. The focus was primarily on humane education, with lessons being taught in Presbyterian Sunday schools. In an effort to educate the community at large, the Saskatchewan SPCA also released an instructional manual for the proper care of animals. During this time, the investigation of reports of animal cruelty was left to the police. In 1922, members of the (Regina) SPCA took the first steps to organize a provincial chapter under the *Benevolent Society Act*. The hope was that a Saskatchewan SPCA, with branches throughout the province, would further the humane work of the organization.

After its inception, the Saskatchewan SPCA remained centralized in Regina for many years. Early members of the Saskatchewan SPCA executive included local doctors, lawyers, veterans, and a provincial judge. The Saskatchewan SPCA continued to make humane education a priority. An investigator was hired to work four hours a day and Dr. L.L. Hewitt of Regina was the first official veterinarian for the Saskatchewan SPCA.

The growth of local SPCAs and Humane Societies

In the early years, the Saskatchewan SPCA functioned as an umbrella organization for creation of local (city) branch humane societies. In the mid-1960s, branches were opened in Moose Jaw, Lloydminster and Prince Albert.

The Saskatchewan SPCA served as the Regina Branch, until the Regina Society for the Humane Care of Animals was incorporated in 1964, separate from the Saskatchewan SPCA. In 1968, the Saskatoon Branch was incorporated as a separate organization, the Saskatoon SPCA.

In 1975, the Yorkton Branch of the Saskatchewan SPCA was established. Approximately three years later the Yorkton Branch was incorporated as an independent organization, the Yorkton Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

Even after local societies incorporated separately, they were able to appoint representatives to sit on the board of directors of the Saskatchewan SPCA. This process was later revised with local society representatives serving in advisory capacity to the provincial Saskatchewan SPCA board. Today, each local society operates independently, with no representation on the Saskatchewan SPCA board of directors. While all organizations are separate and autonomous, there is ongoing cooperation and communication between societies working to improve animal welfare.

Enforcement of animal cruelty legislation

Beginning in the 1970s, the Saskatchewan SPCA handled enforcement of *The Animal Protection Act* in all areas of the province. We employed skilled Animal Protection Officers to investigate reports of animal cruelty in locations outside the four largest cities (Saskatoon, Regina, Prince Albert and Moose Jaw). We devoted considerable effort to building a strong and effective enforcement program but were always keenly aware that there was more we could be doing to prevent animal cruelty.

In 2014, our Board of Directors made the decision to not renew our contract with the Ministry of Agriculture for enforcement of *The Animal Protection Act*. Enforcement is now handled by a separate organization — Animal Protection Services of Saskatchewan. Our Board felt the time was right to focus on education and other areas where we can have the greatest impact on animal welfare.

Partners in prevention

Having given up our role in enforcement, we now have the opportunity to devote all of our resources to education and the prevention of animal cruelty.



The Saskatchewan SPCA continues to work with Animal Protection Services, as well as local SPCAs and Humane Societies, rescue groups, veterinarians, industry, government, producers, and pet owners. We all have a role to play in animal welfare. Working together, we can share ideas and develop workable solutions to the challenging task of ensuring that all animals are treated humanely, throughout their lives.

A growing and evolving animal welfare organization

Looking to the future, the Saskatchewan SPCA is developing new programs and expanding existing ones. We want to make a real and lasting difference in the welfare of companion animals and livestock in Saskatchewan.

In 2005, the Saskatchewan SPCA held its first Animal Welfare Conference. This educational conference continues to be held annually. Speakers from across Canada and the U.S. share their insights on a wide variety of topics, ranging from dog bite prevention to the humane transport of livestock to fundraising ideas for animal shelters.

The Saskatchewan SPCA is working to raise awareness of the complex relationship between interpersonal violence and animal abuse. The Society is working to establish closer ties with human service agencies in order to better serve the needs of both the animal and the humane victims of violence.

In 2016, we announced a new initiative, aimed at creating a certification and registration program for animal rescue groups operating in the province. We continue to work with stakeholders from the animal welfare sector to create an effective program that helps ensure all groups provide proper care to their animals.

We hope you have enjoyed this brief history of the Saskatchewan SPCA. Check back in future issues *The Humanitarian* as we spend the next year celebrating our 90th anniversary!



Saskatchewan SPCA board member Peg Northcote presents Dr. Olfert with the Phil & Muriel Baines Humanitarian Award

DR. ERNEST OLFERT IS THE 2017 RECIPIENT OF THE PHIL & MURIEL BAINES HUMANITARIAN AWARD

At The Link Conference on September 21st, the Saskatchewan SPCA was honoured to present the Phil & Muriel Baines Humanitarian Award to Dr. Ernest Olfert. Dr. Olfert was recognized for his contributions to animal welfare in Saskatchewan and across Canada.

Ernest Olfert has been a veterinarian and voice for animal welfare in Saskatchewan since the 1970s. Olfert attended the University of Saskatchewan as part of the first Western College of Veterinary Medicine's graduating class. As a Saskatchewan native, Olfert chose to stay in the province following his 1969 graduation. In 1970 he began his 40 year career at the U of S. He filled many different roles while employed at the university, including veterinarian, researcher, teacher, and author.

Involvement with the Saskatchewan SPCA

Dr. Olfert has been a Saskatchewan SPCA supporter and contributor for many years. He served on the board of directors off-and-on for over 15 years, beginning in the early 1970s. Olfert held the positions of president, vice-president, and advisory member.

National and International Recognition

Dr. Olfert has been recognized both nationally and internationally for his work. He has been honoured with a long line of national awards including, the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association Humane Award in 1991, the Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal in 2003, and the Saskatchewan Veterinary Medical Association Veterinarian of the Year in 2005.

His pioneering work on experimental animal care in Canada has gained him international attention. He was the lead editor for the Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals. In the years since its publication, the guide has been established as a key tool for the humane treatment of lab animals worldwide. Olfert also played a large role in the release of an online training course for animal users that was published through the Canadian Council on Animal Care.

Dr. Olfert retired from the University of Saskatchewan veterinarian position in 2011.

A GREAT DAY OF GOLF AT THE 2017 CRITTER CLASSIC

The 2017 Critter Classic teed off from Green Acres Golf Course on September 16th. Golfers from across Saskatchewan hit the greens in support of the Saskatchewan SPCA. Despite the cooler weather, a great time was had by everyone involved.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who helped make this day a success: golfers, sponsors, donors, organizers, Green Acres staff, and our volunteers.



2017 Critter Classic Major Sponsors:



2017 Cart Sponsors:



Planning has already begun for next year's Critter Classic. Stay tuned to future issues of The Humanitarian for all the details!

SASKATCHEWAN SPCA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

At the Saskatchewan SPCA's annual general meeting on September 30th, we said farewell to retiring board members Janice Howden and Tiffany Koback. Thank you to Janice and Tiffany for their years of guidance and support.

We are pleased to announce that Dr. Sandra Neumann will continue as board president, while Carol Thomson begins her first term as vice-president. Margaret Northcote remains treasurer and Ken Krause assumes the role of secretary. We also look forward to once again working with Jack MacKay and Calvin Nickel as they lend their expertise to the board of directors.

Saskatchewan SPCA

2016-17 Board of Directors

President: Dr. Sandra Neumann
Vice-President: Carol Thomson
Treasurer: Margaret (Peg) Northcote
Secretary: Ken Krause
Members at large:
Jack MacKay
Calvin Nickel

KUDOS TO SAVT ON THEIR 33RD ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The Saskatchewan SPCA was out and about in early November, attending the SAVT (Saskatchewan Association of Veterinary Technologists) conference in Saskatoon. Congratulations to the organizers on yet another successful event. This was a record-breaking year for SAVT, with over 300 registrants.

While at our conference tradeshow booth, we had a chance to speak with vet techs and students from across Saskatchewan and Alberta. We discussed the importance of animal safekeeping programs as a way to protect the human and the animal victims of violence and abuse.

Sam Andrew of Eston was the winner of a prize package that included two free registrations for the Saskatchewan SPCA conference scheduled for September 18 in Saskatoon.



Congratulations to prize winner Sam Andrew