

AnimalKind

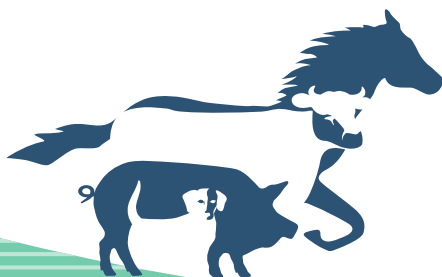
Two peace officers sworn in for Animal Protection Services

The new peace officers fill the long-standing vacancy in our Innisfail office and a new position for our Okotoks office.

Peace Officer Erin Deems, who works out of Innisfail, previously worked for the Meat Inspection Branch of Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development and for the Canadian Food Inspection Agency before that. Erin is also trained as an Animal Health Technologist.

Peace Officer Angie Bailey, who joined our Okotoks office, most recently worked with the City of Calgary's Animal and Bylaw Services. Angie has a strong connection to animals, having been raised on a cattle farm in rural Ontario.

Erin and Angie were hired in April 2014. They both attended and graduated from the Alberta Peace Officer Investigator Program at the Alberta Justice and Solicitor General Training Academy in Edmonton before being sworn in as Alberta SPCA peace officers. 🐾



Alberta
SPCA

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Humane Hero Contest winners

The theme for last year's contest was "Animals Make Us Human." It comes from the title of a book by Dr. Temple Grandin, the famous expert in animal behaviour and humane handling of livestock.

Dr. Grandin has said that her autism is what helps her understand and feel compassion for animals. Through her consultation work with the livestock industry, she has improved the lives of millions of animals. She has travelled to Alberta from her home in Colorado many times to consult with the livestock industry and to suggest improvements to livestock handling facilities and management practices. Her example of how a caring heart can transform an apparent weakness into actions that help other living beings was the reason we featured her on this year's poster.

Our annual contest, which is open to students throughout Alberta, invites teachers to help their students discover what's in their hearts and lead them to understand how they can act to make a difference in their world.

There were three ways for students to win:

1. Show what's in their hearts.
2. Tell the story of a humane hero.
3. Be heroes themselves by acting to raise awareness or doing something to help animals in their community.



Members of the Animal Rescue Club at F. R. Haythorne Junior High School held a Valentine's Day bake sale to support animal rescue groups in their community.

As always, it was hard to pick a winner out of all the entries, but we finally narrowed it down to three classes, one for each category.

Show what's in your heart

Ms. Clements' students at F. E. Osborne School in Slave Lake created a beautiful bulletin board with visual displays of the things in their hearts. Each student drew and cut out a large heart, which they then filled with drawings or with photos cut from magazines. All the pictures were of them doing something kind to animals, people or the environment.

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Opinions expressed in *AnimalKind* are not necessarily those of the Alberta SPCA.

To find out more about the work we do for animals across Alberta, visit our website at www.albertaspca.org.

The mission of the Alberta SPCA is to protect, promote and enhance the well-being of animals in Alberta.

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During the first six months of 2014, Alberta SPCA peace officers investigated 1,179 animal welfare concerns province-wide, a 9% increase from the same period in 2013. Approximately 41% of January to June cases involved dogs, 38% involved horses, 12% involved cattle and 10% involved cats. So far in 2014, our peace officers have laid charges under the Animal Protection Act in 10 cases. What follows are summaries of a few of the past year's successful APA prosecutions:

Seven thin horses rescued from bare pasture

When our peace officer investigated the call about this small herd near Rimbey, he confirmed that the horses were in poor condition and had no food, water or shelter available.

Peace Officer Don Ferguson arranged for the horses to be fed, and then returned to the property with a veterinarian and additional officers two days later, on January 31, 2014.

On close examination, six of the horses were given a body condition score

of two out of nine. The veterinarian agreed that all the horses needed to be removed.

Although the horses were very thin, the veterinarian determined that it was safe to transport them to a caretaking facility. When the horses' owner was notified that his animals from that property had been taken into custody, he agreed to surrender them to the Alberta SPCA. Peace Officer Ferguson immediately placed them in a new home.

John Schweer pleaded guilty in Rimbey Provincial Court on April 22, 2014, to one count relating to section 2(1) of the Animal Protection Act. He received a fine of \$2,000 and was ordered to pay \$1,692 in restitution to the Alberta SPCA. Schweer is prohibited for 10 years from owning or having possession of more than two horses. He has until November 30, 2014, to reduce the total number of horses he has at all locations to no more than two.



Horse trainer fined \$4,000 for abusive training methods

On March 27, 2013, the Alberta SPCA received a call from a concerned individual who had seen a trainer injuring a horse through the aggressive use of his spurs and reins.

The caller had photographed the horse's injuries: numerous deep cuts to the sides of the animal, which resulted in significant bleeding, as well as bleeding from the mouth. The witness also gave our peace officer a video recording of the same trainer injuring a different horse in the same fashion, with the same results, earlier in February 2013.

During the course of the investigation, more people came forward with information. They all described incidents where the trainer was observed injuring and causing distress to horses with training methods that are not acceptable to the riding community. His methods included using spurs intended to cut into the flesh, tying back a horse's head and withholding feed and water.

Kyle Ronald Weston pleaded guilty in Grande Prairie Provincial Court on February 15, 2014, to four counts relating to section 2(1) of the Animal Protection Act. He was fined a total of \$4,000.



Meat inspector reports transport of compromised cattle

The cattle were too thin to have been transported from the owner's farm in Acme to a Calgary meat processor.

When Peace Officer Grant Love attended the meat processor's on September 17, 2012, he was shown two cows that were extremely thin. One of them also had a severely distended abdomen.

The cattle were humanely euthanized in their stall. A veterinarian performed an autopsy on the cow with the distended abdomen and concluded that the distension was caused by frothy bloat. The bloat was so severe that it would have caused the cow to have difficulty breathing.

The veterinarian also found a total absence of fat around the kidneys or anywhere in the abdomen, which confirmed the external examination: the cattle were emaciated.

On August 29, 2013, Margaret Helen Northcott pleaded guilty in Okotoks Provincial Court to one count relating to section 2.1(b) of the Animal Protection Act. She was fined \$2,000. 🍀

ALBERTA SPCA ANIMAL PROTECTION SERVICES

Peace Officers

- **Ken Dean**, *Director of APS*
- **Stuart Dodds**, *Edmonton Northern Regional Supervisor*
- **Rick Wheatley**, *Okotoks Southern Regional Supervisor*
- **Angie Bailey**, *Okotoks*
- **Erin Deems**, *Innisfail*
- **Ryan-Ann King**, *Edmonton*
- **Grant Love**, *Okotoks*
- **Rod McLaughlin**, *Edmonton*
- **Joan Treich**, *Okotoks*
- **Stan Webb**, *Grande Prairie*

Reporting suspected animal abuse or neglect in Alberta

SPCAs and humane societies rely on the public to help prevent cruelty to animals. Report suspected cases of animal abuse or neglect to the following agencies in Alberta:

Outside Calgary and Edmonton

Alberta SPCA: **1-800-455-9003**

In Calgary

Calgary Humane Society: **403-205-4455**

In Edmonton

Edmonton Humane Society: **780-491-3502**

Spotlight on Volunteers

Janet Jackson

Janet had a great love and respect for animals long before she started volunteering at the Alberta SPCA 16 years ago. She grew up in an "animal loving" home and has spent her entire life surrounded by animals. So it was only natural that she would be drawn to volunteer to help those less fortunate, first at the Edmonton Humane Society and now at the Alberta SPCA.

During these past many years Janet has sold raffle tickets, helped with special events and worked on more than 50 lotteries. She is part of a group that comes in every Wednesday evening during lottery season and helps process lottery tickets.

"The Alberta SPCA is a wonderful place to work and I am grateful for the many friendships I have made working for a great cause with like-minded people," says Janet.

She loves coming to our pet-friendly office and looks forward to greeting the staff dogs with a hug and a treat.

Once, in her early days at the Alberta SPCA, Janet arrived home after a shift selling raffle tickets at Capilano Mall only to find her house had been broken into. Her immediate horrified reaction was "Where are my dog and cats?" Luckily, all had gone into hiding at the intrusion, and they were eventually found safe and reunited with Janet.

Some people look forward to retirement to slow down and relax, but not Janet. Every day, rain, shine or raging blizzard, she helps out an extraordinarily busy neighbour by walking her dog. She pet sits for friends and family, delivers community newsletters, is an active member of the YMCA, and enjoys swimming, cycling and the theatre. The only time of the year Janet cannot be enticed to volunteer is during the Edmonton Fringe Theatre Festival.

One of Janet's fondest memories is of her little dog Tippy, whom she took in after one of her home care clients passed away and no other home was available.



Janet always enjoys seeing Henry, a regular at the Alberta SPCA head office, when she comes in to volunteer.

Janet recently opened her home and heart to two wonderful cats, Dolly and Mikey, whom she adopted from Second Chance Animal Rescue Society. "I am so happy I got two cats, they are such good friends and great company for each other," she says.

The Alberta SPCA is so very grateful to volunteers such as Janet, who are the heart of our organization. 🐾

New fundraising manager

Jocelyn Brulotte started with the Alberta SPCA in June 2014.

Jocelyn comes to us with many years of experience raising funds for charities through direct mail programs, capital campaigns, cash lotteries, bingos, casinos and special events.

Before joining the Alberta SPCA, Jocelyn successfully raised funds on behalf of the Edmonton Humane Society, where she worked for 10 years in both the communications and fundraising departments. 🐾

ALBERTA SPCA NOTE CARDS

Help raise awareness about animal welfare by using our note cards.

These blank cards, available in several designs, are approximately 4.25" x 5.5" (folded). They cost \$1.50 per card, plus handling and shipping.

Details are available on our website at www.albertaspca.org/support.html.

Order today! Call 780-732-3746 or email donorrelations@albertaspca.org. (Please do not send your credit card information via email.)



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Tell the story of a humane hero

Mrs. Metz's grade 5 class at St. Mary School in Beaverlodge studied the lives of well-known advocates for animal welfare. Their research included watching *Temple Grandin*, the award-winning movie that retold her life from her childhood to becoming a world-renowned authority on animal welfare. After their research, the students created presentations and reports about individuals and organizations that are helping animals. Students also created beautiful works of art inspired by the contest theme.

Be a hero by helping animals

Mrs. MacInnes' Animal Rescue Club at F. R. Haythorne Junior High School in Sherwood Park works to help animals in their community. They collected many items through a Christmas collection drive, raised funds through a silent auction and a Valentine's Day bake sale, had a Canadian Tire money drive and taught fellow students, staff and the



A student at St. Mary School drew a picture of Temple Grandin (above). Students at F. E. Osborne School showed what's in their hearts (right).

public about the importance of adopting animals. By donating the proceeds to local animal rescue groups they made a huge difference in the lives of animals in their community.

Congratulations to all who entered! You can see the artwork and learn more about the projects done by these young students at everylivingthing.ca/contest. 🐾



Remembering Elizabeth Gredley (1949–2014)

A pioneer in humane education, Elizabeth was the Alberta SPCA's first teacher to fill the humane education role.

Having taken on that role in October 1983, Elizabeth produced many teaching resources and set the standard for humane education that inspires compassion for animals, people and the environment. She established the liaison teacher program, through which she asked for one representative at each school in Alberta to receive—and share—the Sharing and Caring newsletter.

Elizabeth's approach was to work with teachers to extend the reach of the Alberta SPCA's educational efforts. In doing so, she created the first province-wide humane education program of its kind in Canada. Her work set the foundation for our current education

program, which is now largely delivered electronically through the website everylivingthing.ca.

After a dozen years with the Alberta SPCA, Elizabeth left to start her own humane education consulting business. She wrote several books, mostly for new horse owners—horses were her real passion—and established a humane education website. She worked on several projects for the Canadian Federation of Humane Societies, including acting as the editor of both *The Humane Educator* newsletter and the popular *Animals and Us* newspaper for children (later renamed *Animals Eh!*).

Elizabeth died on January 23, 2014, five years after being diagnosed with cancer. One of the tributes left by her many friends sums up how she exemplified the principles she taught through her example:

Elizabeth had once written: "We want to live in a society where people strive to be



kind, fair and just in their dealings with each other, non-human animals and the earth itself. It is the base on which to build the rest of our work as humane societies."

Elizabeth lived her life in this way, and by doing so made this world a little kinder. 🐾

Beloved people and animals remembered through memorial donations of \$50 or more

Lowell Anglin by Rodger & Louise Ellis

George Black by Fred & Eleanore Bryant; by Marian Diakar; by Keith & Bunny Kearn; by Jerry & Glenda Semotiuk; and by James Walmsley

Casy & Teddy by Helen Dexter-Green

Chance by Brenda Webster

Duke & Doog by Connie Sprinkle

Phyllis Gifford by Ian & Rosanne Cruickshank & family; and by Shannon Smallwood

Celynne Gould's sweet kitty by Tomi-Lyn Dean

Robert Mackay Ings by Chris Holden

Kay Jensen by Carol Devereux

Garry Kirchner by the Telfordville Community Centre

Alice Kotyk by Melissa Smith

Karen Latos by John Burks; by Donna Hert; by Susan Kaluzny; by John Krauseneck; and by Joe Mixon

Lucy by Barb Gilchrist

Gladys MacIsaac by Cathy Dunham & Stan Miller

John Mallett by Ellis Friesen; and by Linda Hickson

Max by Fern Cronshaw

Lenora & Princess McKay by William Du Toit

Mary McKinnon by Dale & Mary Wilson

Molly by Halina Smayda

Morris by Barb Gilchrist

Bryan Morrow by John & Carol Armstrong

Emily Ochotsky by Ben & Joyce Albers; by Vicky Creaser; and by Nicole Osolinsky

Allan Prescott by Darlene Meier; and by Lila Prescott

Peter Richie by Barbara Bowman

Ricky, Sparky, Paddy, & Tinker by Norman & Kory McLeod

Rocky Seabrook by Patrick Novak

Shawna & Baby Shawn by Patricia & Charles Benson

Emily Catherine Taylor by Joan White

Ian Thurber by Laura Reilly

Vanessa White by the Board of Elk Island Public School

Zack by Barb Gilchrist

Alberta Animal Welfare Conference

Connecting to Build Compassion

Sept. 25–27, Edmonton

Now in its 12th year, the Alberta SPCA's annual conference offers members of the animal welfare community a chance to come together and learn from world-renowned speakers (and each other).

New this year is a pre-conference workshop, Capacity 4 Care (C4C), with Dr. Kate Hurley from the University of California, Davis, Shelter Medicine program.

Conference details are available at www.albertaspca.org/conference/.

Conference Speakers

Tanya Firmage has been involved in animal welfare for 22 years. She currently oversees 13 Ontario SPCA branches and three high-volume spay/neuter clinics.

Kate Hurley, DVM, is Program Director of the Koret Shelter Medicine Program at the University of California, Davis. She has worked in animal shelters since 1989, in almost every capacity, and was awarded

"Shelter Veterinarian of the Year" in 2006 by the American Humane Association.

Duane Landals, DVM, has dedicated over 40 years of his life to the veterinary profession and the betterment of animal health and welfare. He served as Councillor and President of the Alberta Veterinary Medical Association, and he is currently serving his second term as Vice-President of the World Veterinary Association.

Christian Lim was assigned his first animal file in 2004. Subsequently he took on more and more animal cruelty cases and advocated for stronger animal cruelty laws and the dedicated crown

prosecutor position he currently holds.

Jane Russett is a WestJet Ambassador to Air Angels. She has been involved with the program almost since the start, helping it grow from just 3 volunteers to over 200 WestJet employees.

Magdalena Smrdelj, DVM, is Chief Veterinary Officer of the Ontario SPCA, where she oversees the Shelter Health and Wellness programs. She became involved with the Ontario SPCA as part of the team that opened Canada's first high-volume spay/neuter services.

Ruth Steinberger, founder and director of Spay FIRST!, has coordinated rural pet sterilization programs since 1993. She received the prestigious Henry Bergh Award from the American SPCA in 2006.

Connie Varnhagen, a professor at the University of Alberta, conducts research on the human-animal bond. She is also an Animal Health Technologist who helps with veterinary and spay/neuter programs in Edmonton, throughout Alberta, and around the world.



Reducing the Unwanted Horse Population

by Marion Anderson (DVM ,MSc), Alberta SPCA President

This article is the final one in the series about the plight of the horse in today's world. In the first article I described how the declining role of the horse as a work and recreational animal in the last decade has affected the horse industry. In the second, I explored the many and varied reasons for this decline. The third article discussed the dramatic rise in the population of "unwanted horses" and the huge welfare issues surrounding them. Having identified and described this very serious problem, I will use this final article to suggest some ways to try to solve it.

The problem of the unwanted horse and the subsequent welfare concerns will not be solved quickly. It will take a long-term, coordinated effort that involves the horse-owning public as well as national organizations, breed associations, welfare agencies and veterinarians.

There are two main aspects of this problem that must be considered: first, ways must be found to provide useful and productive lives for the unwanted horses that already exist; second, strategies must be developed to reduce the creation of more unwanted horses.

Many organizations have already made considerable efforts to address the issue of existing unwanted horses. In the U.S., the Coalition of Unwanted Horses has a public awareness campaign that tries to educate people about the proper care and management of horses. It also encourages people to become more involved with horses and supports the retraining of competition horses for more recreational careers.

In Canada, Equine Canada has a similar campaign called the Five R Program. It advocates for five objectives: Reduce, Retain, Retrain, Retire and Respect. The national thoroughbred and standardbred horse associations also have programs in place to encourage the retraining of retired race horses to alternative careers.

These programs strive to repurpose existing horses into useful careers. They are all excellent and effective, but the

human side of the equation still needs to be involved. Efforts need to be made by breed associations and national organizations to focus less on competition and more on the recreational aspect of horses. With that shift in focus, more people may realize that they can enjoy being involved with horses without the stress and expense of competition.

The wellness aspect of horses also needs emphasis, including the opportunity to use horses for physical fitness and to reconnect with nature, animals and the outdoors. Recognizing the benefits of becoming involved with horses at an early age is a critical part of the message. A very recent study from Washington State University showed that students from grades 5 to 8 who are involved regularly with horses have significantly lower stress levels than those who are not.

Education and awareness are also key to reducing the number of unwanted horses being produced. With our increasingly urbanized society, a large percentage of new horse owners have little or no experience with them. They need to thoroughly understand the commitment and cost associated with horse ownership beforehand. New owners also need education in horse management, including nutrition, housing and basic health care.

Irresponsible breeding is one of the most important factors in the production of unwanted horses. The decision to breed a mare should only be made after careful consideration of the resulting offspring's

future. Owners must be willing and able to care for the foal when it is young, and they should have a practical purpose for the foal when it matures. Horses with low value and ability, bad temperaments, poor conformation, chronic lameness or genetic defects should not be bred because their offspring would likely add to the population of unwanted horses.

The people who provide services for horse owners also require education. We need experienced, knowledgeable horse trainers to train reliable, capable horses and certified instructors to teach people how to ride or drive their horses correctly. With well-trained, professional service providers, the number of horses become unwanted due to behavioral issues or training mistakes will be minimized.

Dealing with end of life issues is another part of controlling the unwanted horse population. Owners need to assess their horse's quality of life and recognize when it has reached an unacceptable level. To support decisions for a humane and respectful death, options for economical euthanasia need to be available. The abandonment of horses at this stage of life is cruel and adds significantly to the population of unwanted horses.

The rising population of unwanted horses is a complicated and challenging problem, but several potential solutions exist to help reduce their numbers. With the genuine efforts of all concerned parties, the problem may eventually be solved and all horses can look forward to happy, healthy and useful lives.



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☐ I would like to renew my membership or become a member of the Alberta SPCA.

- ☐ \$15 student/senior ☐ \$20 individual
☐ \$30 senior family ☐ \$35 family
☐ \$150 corporate

I'm paying by:

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I authorize the Alberta SPCA to deduct \$_____ from my bank account* or credit card on the 1st day of each month or the next business day. I understand that I can change or cancel this monthly donation at any time, subject to providing written notice of 15 days or more.

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CARD NUMBER _____

EXPIRY ____ / ____

*To view a sample cancellation form or learn more about cancelling a PAD agreement, contact your financial institution or visit www.cdnpay.ca. You have certain recourse rights if any debit does not comply with this agreement. For example, you have the right to receive reimbursement for any debit that is not authorized or is not consistent with this PAD Agreement. For more information on your recourse rights, contact your financial institution or visit www.cdnpay.ca.