

One Family Welfare Department Launches



Safety for Animals and People in Crisis

In order to help animals, sometimes we first have to help their owners, and Lisa's case is one example. Lisa (not her real name) is a 44-year-old woman who was living in her car with her dog and cat after being evicted. Lisa suffers from mental health issues that make holding a job difficult, and the money she did have was being used to buy pet food. Lisa called the Alberta SPCA looking for help for her pets, but her situation did not qualify for assistance under our existing programs.

We often see this type of scenario; it is why the Alberta SPCA is launching the One Family Welfare department. When people are in crisis, you will find their pets in crisis - it is a link we see every day. Animal welfare

is directly connected to human welfare. By extending compassion to both humans and animals, we will be able to ensure all members of the family stay together and stay safe in times of life crisis. The One Family Welfare department fills the service gap between human social services and animal welfare.

In Lisa's case, it was clear she cared for her pets and wanted the best for them. It was also clear they were very important to her and the best place for them was with Lisa. Our One Family Welfare staff were able help her by first offering emotional support. Next, we were able to connect Lisa with a community nurse who could help assess Lisa's mental health issues and get her on a proper schedule for medication. We also introduced Lisa to an outreach worker who could help her find housing through a program for vulnerable people, and we were able to help her apply for social assistance.

The next step was to help Lisa's pets. Her dog had an ear infection so our staff directed Lisa to a charity that offers veterinary care on a sliding scale based on income. We also helped Lisa get established with a pet food bank.

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Animal Protection Act Tune Up?

A New Government Offers New Opportunity to Modernize the APA

The Alberta SPCA was instrumental in developing the Animal Protection Act (APA) which was enacted in 1967 to provide mechanisms to relieve the distress of animals, and to protect them by holding negligent owners accountable. Over the years the APA has been amended with the last significant review taking place in 2005. The revised Act was proclaimed in 2006. While the Alberta SPCA believes the APA remains a strong piece of legislation, we believe it is in need of modernization to ensure it reflects Albertans' concern for animals and their welfare. Equally important is to ensure the Act meets the needs for those enforcing it, and ensuring animals are cared for.

The election of a new provincial government offers an opportunity to begin this discussion.

The Alberta SPCA believes all animals should be treated humanely. Alberta's Animal Protection Act must remain inclusive and focus on the original intent and spirit - to relieve animals in distress.

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FROM OUR LEGAL FILES

Building Compassion for Animals Since 1959



Lamont Area Woman Receives Horse Ownership Ban

Marlene Glasgow pleaded guilty in Fort Saskatchewan Provincial Court to two charges under the Animal Protection Act, 2(1) & 2.1, for causing horses to be in distress and for failing to provide adequate food and water.

In April of 2018, an Alberta SPCA Peace Officer responded to a public complaint of distressed horses on a property in the County of Lamont. Once there, the Peace Officer found four thin horses and one dead horse. One of the horses was so malnourished, it was stumbling as it walked and it was eating twigs and leaves. All of the animals were seized the next day and required extensive veterinary care to return them to proper health. Marlene Glasgow was fined \$3,000 and given a 10-year prohibition from owning horses. Her prohibition order is in effect until February 11, 2029.

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

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

Not all the opinions expressed in AnimalKind are necessarily those of the Alberta SPCA.

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THE ALBERTA SPCA:

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Edmonton, AB T5S 2W3
Phone: 780-447-3600
Fax: 780-447-4748
Email: info@albertaspca.org

City of Edmonton Admits to Causing Death of 3 Cats

On April 8, 2019, the City of Edmonton pleaded guilty to one charge under the Animal Protection Act 2(1.1) of causing distress to three cats under its control.

The City was charged after an Alberta SPCA investigation in the summer of 2018 found the Animal Care and Control department had caused the distress and death of three cats that it was transporting as part of its Blue Collar Cat Program to rehome feral cats. The cats were being transported in plastic bins and died on route or shortly after arriving at another City-owned facility. It's believed the cats suffocated after being transported in inadequate containers. The City of Edmonton was fined \$1,000. Charges against four individual employees were withdrawn by the Crown.

Dead and Distressed Horses Leads to Fine, Prohibition

Tracey Angell pleaded guilty in Westlock Provincial Court on April 3, 2019 to one count under the Animal Protection Act (APA) 2(1) of causing animals to be in distress. Two additional charges under the APA were withdrawn.

In December 2018, the Alberta SPCA received a public complaint of several dead horses on a property in the Rochester area. Upon investigation, Peace Officers found three dead horses; eight others were deemed to be in distress. Peace Officers executed a general warrant and seized the eight remaining horses.

Angell was fined \$2,000 and given a 10-year prohibition from owning more than four horses. As part of the prohibition order, a Peace Officer can attend her property at any reasonable time to inspect the horses, and seize any animals in excess of the prohibition order.

FROM OUR LEGAL FILES

To report animals in distress outside of Edmonton and Calgary, call: 1-800-455-9003

Dog Seized by the Alberta SPCA Living Her Best Life

Libby was suffering from severe malnutrition and dehydration when she came into the care of the Alberta SPCA in April 2018. She had been found by a landlord in the basement of a home and taken to a veterinary clinic. The investigation by an Alberta SPCA Peace Officer found the six-year-old pitbull had been in the basement of the home for two weeks without food and water.

Fortunately, Libby made a full recovery. After being seized by the Alberta SPCA and provided care, she was adopted out to a loving family. Libby now enjoys car rides to the lake and boat rides on the water. She receives daily walks and is quite talented at catching a ball. Libby is living her best life.

Libby's previous owner pleaded guilty in Okotoks Provincial Court to one count under the Animal Protection Act of causing an animal to be in distress. The owner was fined \$500 and is prohibited from owning, possessing or having care or control of any animals for a period of three years.



Spring Brings Relief After Busy Winter

The winter of 2019 was bitter; we all felt it including the animals. Our call volume over the first quarter of the year was 665 investigations, 26% higher than the previous three-year average. While we would like to see no animals in distress, the statistics for the early part of 2019 remind us that our work is vitally important.

Thankfully, spring brings a sense of freshness. With the warmer weather comes new life on the farm, and new energy for all living things. At the Alberta SPCA, spring means we have a new, three-year grant agreement with the provincial government to help cover the costs of enforcing animal welfare legislation, particularly in the rural areas where the cost of investigations increases significantly. We are looking forward to working with the newly elected government, and in particular, engaging in conversations about how the Animal Protection Act (APA) can be modernized to reflect today's challenges and expectations.

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Fine Issued in Livestock Neglect Case

Ashley Ayaghchi pleaded guilty Feb 15, 2019 in Leduc Provincial Court to two charges under the Animal Protection Act of causing livestock to be in distress and for failing to provide adequate food and water.

Ayaghchi had agreed to accept responsibility for livestock on a family member's property, but failed to provide the necessary care. Alberta SPCA Peace Officer found 46 dead sheep, goats and cattle on the Rolly View area property. Forensic testing determined they died from starvation. Ayaghchi was fined \$3,000 and given a 5-year prohibition from owning any livestock.

Alberta SPCA Peace Officers

Director of Animal
Protection Services:
Ken Dean

Southern Region
Supervisor:
Rick Wheatley

Northern Region
Supervisor:
Stuart Dodds

Edmonton Office:
Karen Stevenson
Colin Loov
Emma Fillion

Okotoks Office:
James Dudar
Angie Savoy
Dana Murphy

Innisfail Office:
Ryan Butterwick

Northwest Alberta Office:
Vacant

EDUCATION

Building Compassion for Animals Since 1959

Animals in the Classroom - Rewards and Responsibilities

Mrs. Ainslie-O'Connor is a seasoned grade three teacher who has incorporated classroom animals in her teaching for about 10 years. We met with Mrs. Ainslie-O'Connor in her brightly lit grade three classroom in Spruce Grove and were introduced to some of her furry - and not so furry - friends.



She has a six-year-old guinea pig named Pip (his brother Pop, very recently passed away), two gerbils, Cookie and Oreo, a 10-year-old fire bellied toad, aptly named Toad, and an eight-year-old bearded dragon, less aptly named Fluffy. She also has a large fish tank with a variety of fish.

In order to care for this large variety of animals, it's necessary to know a great deal about their individual

care requirements, from feeding, housing, grooming and social needs to recognizing when they may be showing stress or pain. Mrs. Ainslie-O'Connor is very knowledgeable about the animals in her classroom and is committed to providing and modeling excellent care.

On the first day of school, the fish are the only animals in the classroom as, she explained, "It would be too overwhelming to have everything in the classroom at once." She then slowly introduces the other classroom animals through clues that describe their behaviour and care needs. Once students have figured out what the animals are, they spend time discussing their needs, and how to demonstrate respect. For example, some animals may feel stressed by sudden movements or knocking on the cage or tank so students learn to avoid those actions. Students in her class have "always been very respectful



of the animals" and are jointly responsible for reminding others, including visitors, how to interact respectfully with them.

"They take that responsibility very seriously," and know if the rules are not followed they will lose the privilege of having animals in the classroom.



She involves her students to help them learn about responsibility and caring for living things. She has student helpers assigned weekly, assisting her with a variety of chores including ensuring water bottles are full of fresh water, helping with feeding, passing cleaning supplies, and carefully observing the animals to check their health status. This opportunity also allows her some time with the student to share more information and answer questions. Other than supervised petting and feeding of the mammals when students are designated helpers, they have no direct contact with the animals.

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April Agriculture Events

The Alberta SPCA Education Department and volunteers attended agriculture awareness events across the province this spring, reaching over 3,000 students and the public. This past April we were at Aggie Days Calgary, a five-day event that includes both school and public days, Aggie Days Lethbridge, a two-day event geared towards schools, and Amazing Agriculture in Edmonton, a three-day event aimed at grade four students.

Through our interactive games and presentations, students learn about farm animals, companion animals and wildlife. With our activities, we aim to increase understanding and knowledge about animal needs and behaviours, and foster greater respect and compassion for all living things.



Aggie Days at Stampede Park

ALBERTA SPCA NEWS

Your feedback is always welcome. Email us at info@albertasPCA.org

Ties to the Curriculum

Many curricular outcomes are met with the help of classroom animals, including Animal Life Cycles in Science and a variety of outcomes in Health. From encouraging more fruits and veggies as snacks (of course, to share with the animals) to developing personal skills such as managing stress, classroom animals are integrated. For instance, some students regulate their behaviour for the benefit of the animals, remaining calm and quiet so the animals do not become stressed, and brain breaks can include observing the calming motion of swimming fish.

When having classroom animals, issues such as death may arise, like the recent passing of Pop. "It can become emotional for students if the loss is recent, but we work through that together." Mrs. Ainslie-O'Connor uses literature, including the Alberta SPCA AnimalTales book program to discuss animal issues including loss and learning positive ways of dealing with grief.

The Commitment

Classroom animals are a significant commitment for teachers legally, financially and ethically. Teachers are responsible for the health and safety of both their students and animals in the classroom, and adhering to school district protocols. Mrs. Ainslie-O'Connor drives to the school on weekends, holidays or when a substitute teacher has been in her classroom to feed and provide other care duties. She spends between \$700 and \$1,200 per year for the animals which doesn't include the initial set up costs such as cages, tanks, filters, lights, etc. She takes the animals to the vet when required and brings them home over the longer holidays and summer vacation. Finally, Mrs. Ainslie-O'Connor acknowledges and accepts the obligation to "model unconditional regard" and "optimal care," as students are learning about how to treat animals from what they see happening in the classroom.



Mrs. Ainslie-O'Connor

For more information on classroom animals and alternatives, head to our education website everylivingthing.ca/classroomanimals.

One Family Welfare ...continued from p. 1

We worked with Lisa for several weeks to get her pointed in the right direction. About eight months later, Lisa called us to let us know that she was now living in subsidized housing and doing well. Her dog and cat were also doing much better and now were receiving stable care. Lisa thanked our staff for, "treating her like a human"; she was incredibly grateful!

The One Family Welfare department builds on the Alberta SPCA's Pet Safekeeping Program that helps care for animals for people who are fleeing domestic violence. Our expanding scope ensures we will help people who are in crisis situations, even if it is not connected to family violence. Lisa's case is one example of where we were able to help a person, and by doing so, we helped the animals. It ensures we are fulfilling the Alberta SPCA mission to protect, promote, and enhance the well-being of animals in Alberta.

The One Family Welfare Department provides various services:

- Pet Safekeeping Program for individuals fleeing family violence
- Crisis intervention and customized safety planning for people with pets victimized by family violence
- Compassionate, non-judgmental, and confidential support
- Assistance navigating social service system including referrals to community resources
- Info on options and next steps based on geographical location
- Collaborative case management to reach personal goals; companion animals included
- Educational outreach focusing on the Cruelty Connection and the Pet Safekeeping Program



Lottery Tickets at albertasPCA/support-us/

ALBERTA SPCA NEWS

Building Compassion for Animals Since 1959

APA Tune Up...

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That said, it is vital the focus remains on the Act's enforceability, ensuring Peace Officers have the proper tools to better protect animals.

Alberta SPCA Peace Officers rely on the public to report animal welfare concerns. For example, if an individual reports animals without food or water, the Peace Officer will attend the property and attempt to work with the owner to improve conditions for those animals. If the owner cannot, or will not, improve conditions, the Peace Officer may seize the animals to ensure they receive the care they require. This action (seizure) is not punitive in nature but intended to allow the Peace Officer to relieve distress and provide for the animals. As part of this process, the APA contains a mechanism for owners to reclaim the animals within a prescribed time. If reclaimed and returned, the animals are no longer in distress as they have been provided optimal care while in the custody of the Alberta SPCA. This means the Peace Officer does not have authority to enter the property to follow up on the animals unless: 1) the owner invites the Peace Officer to do so, or 2) there is a new complaint lodged by someone who has first-hand knowledge of the situation. This scenario clearly demonstrates a gap in the legislation and places animals at risk.



The Alberta SPCA looks forward to an opportunity to speak with the new Minister of Agriculture and Forestry, Devin Dreeshen, to inform him of our roles and responsibilities, and to discuss animal welfare issues in our province.

The review of any piece of provincial legislation can be daunting and time consuming. For this reason, the Alberta SPCA has sought solutions for animals outside of legislative changes including helping their people. That is why we have launched our One Family Welfare department; you can read about it on the front page of this newsletter.

However, this does not alter the need for the APA to be updated. Often people ask us what they can do to support animal welfare in Alberta. Our response, please take the time to let your MLA know that animals, all animals, are important and must remain a priority for this government. Every email to the government is a voice for animals that may need help, but can't ask for it themselves.

Busy Spring...

...continued from p. 3

We have made a formal request to meet with the new Minister of Agriculture & Forestry, Devin Dreeshen, to discuss our proposals on how to improve the APA, and the lives of animals.

The spring also sees a change in how animal protection is enforced in the City of Edmonton. With the Edmonton Humane Society withdrawing services, Edmonton's Animal Care & Control Centre now investigates complaints within the City's borders. For animal neglect and abuse situations outside Edmonton and Calgary, jurisdiction to investigate continues to reside with the Alberta SPCA.



Tulio is one of the animals that came into the care of the Alberta SPCA in 2019

2019 Statistics (Jan-Mar)

- 665 Investigations
- 280 Animals Seized
- 8 Charges Laid

2016-2018 three-year average (Jan-Mar)

- 527 Investigations
- 255 Animals Seized
- 4 Charges Laid

IN LOVING MEMORY

Tribute donations can be made by cheque, or on our website: AlbertaSPCA.org/Support-us

Annie by VCA Mayfield Animal Hospital

Tanjo Ayre by Deanna Oikawa

Bandit by VCA Mayfield Animal Hospital

Patricia Anne Bauer by Rhonda Shaw

Benoit by Michael Andrew

Bianca by Katie Hooper

Maryke Boer by Core-Mark International

Gloria Campion by Betty Spady, Amy Abbott

Casanova by Shannon Papineau

Sophie Chapelsky by Elizabeth Slatter

Charlie by Annabelle Sydie-Smith

Rudolph Chmilar by Cecile & Ralph E Atkinson

David John Crossan by James Crossan

Daisy by VCA Mayfield Animal Hospital

Dizzle by Brian & Karen Doblanko

Doby & Lady by Brenda Kammermayer

William Eberhardt by Gordon & Laura Hughes

Gordon England by Nora MacGregor

Sophie Entwistle by VCA Mayfield Animal Hospital

Ernest Ettrich by Dena & John Bibo

Michael Gaetz by Isabelle Briski-Somekh

Francis Margaret Griffith by Vivian & Dale Slugoski, Pat Stone

Russell Grant Hamilton by Gertrude Johnson

Marleen & Ross Hamlin by Eben James

Del Hankey by E. Carol Zemrau

Harley by Judy Baxter

Homer by VCA Mayfield Animal Hospital

Sasha Jugnauth by Derek Jugnauth

Bob Kishimoto by Gail Willson

Joanne Klauer by MLT Aikins LLP

Cathy Kolmatyky by Marie T. Mitchell

Glen Lausen by Jane McNabb

Joan Linnen by Patricia Brost

Lily Logan by VCA Mayfield Animal Hospital

Loki by VCA Mayfield Animal Hospital

Marlyss Long by Christine Ezinga

Leonard & Waltraut Lumpe by Marion LaBrie

Nuala Lyder by Karin MacCarthy

Carol Marquis by Kathy Paul

Kaitlyn Matter by Marion Novacaska, Kerri Couch, Neil & Donnell Matter, Juanita Dean, Brenda George, Anonymous

Ethne McEachern by Fraser Brinsmead

Buddy McKay by VCA Mayfield Animal Hospital

Estella McMillan by Mervin & Norma Omstead, Rita Arends, John & Lillian Park, Barbara McMillan & Joel Croteau, Graham & Gloria Collins, Elizabeth Bullock-Storochuk, Donna Dow, Lissi Hansen, Zonnie Newman, Joanne Thomson

Mike Merluk by Mary Bowker

Wendy Moger by Jane McNabb

Doug Murray by Donald Swift

Robert Nelson by Cindy Plantz, Donna & Chris Bauer, Tamara Sutherland, Pattie Sutherland

Noodle by Joane Otto

Nova by VCA Mayfield Animal Hospital
Ocie, Pancho, Frankie & Ollie by Paula Sawatzky

Princess by Barbara Gray

Bill Pyrch by Janice Gordon

Lorna Rennie by Bernie & Lee Lewis

Riley by Mrs Michael-Lea Atkinson

Bud Roberts by Gordon & Laura Hughes

Rocky by Lillian Fesciuc

Rocky by VCA Mayfield Animal Hospital

Jack Rohrer by Joy Mitchell

Rosie by Eric Denbina

Rosie by Buffy Afseth

Bruce Roy by Judy M. Axelson, Heather Letcher, Johanna Looby, Roxanne Sinclair, Verna Zasada, Corey Ann Ehnes, OPGT Financial Services

Sadie & Sasha by Robert Marfleet

Sana by Eileen Townsend & David Savidge

Simon by Chirag Shah

Clem Tauber by Marjorie Hiller

Louise Thomson by Margaret Dudley

Tommy by M. Ann & Leonard Kaplan

Turd by VCA Mayfield Animal Hospital

Herbert Wener & Niki by Ingrid Duft

Laura Wood by Carla McCaugherty

Lawrence Worobetz by Laurieann Chaikowsky

Gearad Wright by Roxana Nechifor

Mary Yaremchuk by Howard Saunders & Lee Onisko, Melody Metcalfe, Long Run Exploration Ltd.

Tribute Listings are for
January to March, 2019

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Spring 2019

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Alberta SPCA, 17904 118 Avenue NW, Edmonton, AB T5S 2W3, or visit us at albertaspca.org.

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