



# Animal Kind

Vol. 41, No. 3 • Fall 2019

60 Years of Compassion for Animals

## The Alberta SPCA Reflects After 60 Years

By Dr. Duane Landals, B.Sc. Ag., DVM, Alberta SPCA President

The Alberta SPCA recently had the occasion to celebrate our 60th anniversary. Any time a person or organization reaches 60, we have cause to take note. This well recognized benchmark is a sign of maturity and achievement. It is an opportunity to look back on where we have come from, what we have achieved and how we have changed. More importantly, we can reflect on our successes and ask ourselves how we can continue to succeed and improve into the future.

The Alberta SPCA was incorporated in 1959 as a society separate from the Alberta Humane Society which had been registered since 1910. In 1959 we had one person, Archie Bruce, serving as Executive Director and Special Constable for both the Alberta SPCA and the Northern Alberta SPCA. Today, the Alberta SPCA has a staff of 28, including eleven Peace Officers, with offices in Edmonton, Okotoks, Innisfail and northern Alberta (currently operated from Edmonton). Our departments include; Animal Protection Services, Education, One Family Welfare/Pet Safekeeping, Communications, Information Technology, Fundraising and more.



Alberta SPCA Staff & Board - Sept 10, 2019 ...continued on p. 6

### Peace Officer Meets Horse She Saved One Year Earlier

It's rare that an Alberta SPCA Peace Officer gets to see the animals they've helped, once the recovery period is over. The reality is, it takes many months for that recovery to happen and Peace Officers must always move on to the next call. They don't have time to dwell on the many animals they've helped.



That is why it was a big deal for Peace Officer Karen Stevenson to get to see Valour a year after she first set eyes on him. The stallion was so weak in April of 2018, Peace Officer Stevenson was concerned he wouldn't make it. Once the horse had been seized and sent to a veterinarian, it was still questionable whether he would make it. But Valour was a fighter, and his determination became the guide post for the decisions that were made about his health and his future.

...continued on p. 3

INSIDE... p.2 From Our Legal Files p.4 Education Update p.5 One Family Welfare p.7 In Loving Memory

# FROM OUR LEGAL FILES

Building Compassion for Animals Since 1959

## Tofield Area Couple Pleads Guilty to Neglect of Dozens of Horses



Horses at Alberta SPCA Rehoming Sale

Peter Hans Spahr and Linda C. Spahr of the Tofield area pleaded guilty on August 21, 2019 in Vegreville Provincial Court to two counts each of causing an animal to be in distress under the *Animal Protection Act* (APA) 2(1) and for failing to provide veterinary care for an animal that is sick or injured 2.1(b). Peter Spahr pleaded guilty to one additional charge of obstruction of a peace officer under the APA.

In December 2018 the Alberta SPCA received a public complaint of horses in distress on a property in the Tofield area. Peace Officers attended the property and over the course of two months seized approximately 80 horses due to distress and a lack of feed. The horses were of miniature and full sized breeds. A total of nine dead horses were also found on the property.

AnimalKind is published by the Alberta Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Alberta SPCA)

**President:**  
Dr. Duane Landals

**Executive Director:**  
Terra Johnston

**AnimalKind Editor:**  
Dan Kobe

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

PUBLICATION MAIL  
AGREEMENT NO. 40065555

RETURN UNDELIVERABLE  
CANADIAN ADDRESSES TO  
THE ALBERTA SPCA:

17904 118 Avenue NW  
Edmonton, AB T5S 2W3  
Phone: 780-447-3600  
Fax: 780-447-4748  
Email: [info@albertaspca.org](mailto:info@albertaspca.org)

Peter and Linda Spahr received a prohibition order that they may not own or have joint care or custody of more than 14 horses for a period of 15 years. The Court also granted the Alberta SPCA authority to attend properties owned by the Spahrs, without warrant, to inspect the horses and ensure compliance with the order. The Court also granted the Alberta SPCA authority to immediately seize all animals on the property in the event of a breach of the order. The Court ordered Peter Spahr to pay a fine of \$5,000 and Linda Spahr to pay a fine of \$2,000 as part of the sentence.

Many of the seized horses were sold at the first Alberta SPCA Rehoming Sale in July 2019.

---

## Alberta Rancher Pleads Guilty for Second Time in Less Than a Year

Perryvale area farmer Jim Onyschuk pleaded guilty on June 24, 2019 to causing animals to be in distress; the second time in less than a year Onyschuk was convicted under the *Animal Protection Act*. Onyschuk was fined \$8,500.

In November of 2018, Onyschuk pleaded guilty to one count under the *Animal Protection Act* (2)1 of causing animals to be in distress. In that instance, Onyschuk was charged after Alberta SPCA Peace Officers attended his farm and discovered at least 50 dead cattle on the property. Approximately 40 other cattle were found alive and to be in good condition. A post-mortem on one of the animals found it had died of severe malnutrition. Onyschuk was fined \$2,000 at that time and given a lifetime prohibition from owning more than 30 head of cattle.

---

## Central Alberta Couple Receives Lifetime Prohibition From Owning Animals

On April 30, 2019 Garnet and Joann Schultz were handed a lifetime prohibition from having custody of animals other than one dog. ...continued on next page.

# FROM OUR LEGAL FILES

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

## Alberta Woman Receives Second Animal Prohibition

Tammy Thompson of the Boyle area received her second court-ordered horse prohibition in the last 18 years on September 19, 2019. Thompson pleaded guilty to three charges under the *Animal Protection Act* for causing distress 2(1), for failing to provide adequate food and water 2.1(a) and for failing to provide adequate care when an animal is sick or injured 2.1(b). Thompson was fined \$5,000 and is prohibited from owning or having joint custody or control of more than 10 horses for a period of 15 years. The Alberta SPCA removed over 40 horses from Thompson's property in February 2019. Many of the horses were sold during the Alberta SPCA's rehoming sale in July of this year.

This is Thompson's second prohibition. She was fined \$1,000 in July 2011 and was prohibited from owning more than 10 horses for a five-year period.

*...Central Alberta Couple, continued from previous page.*

In December of 2016, the Alberta SPCA received a public complaint of numerous horses, cattle, llamas, and donkeys in distress on a rural property in the Tees area. Forty one cattle, 16 horses, 17 llamas and 32 miniature horses, donkeys and mules were seized by Alberta SPCA Peace Officers to ensure the animals received proper care.

The couple was convicted in October 2018 of causing animals to be in distress, and for providing inadequate food, water and veterinary care. The couple was ordered to pay \$15,000 in fines, along with the prohibition against owning animals. The judge ordered the Schultzes to obtain a veterinary report each April to substantiate their dog is in good health and provide it to the Alberta SPCA.

### Alberta SPCA Peace Officers

Director: **Ken Dean**

Northern Region Supervisor:  
Stuart Dodds

Edmonton Office:  
Colin Loov  
Karen Stevenson  
Emma Fillion  
Cayli Heathcote

Southern Region Supervisor:  
Rick Wheatley

Okotoks Office:  
James Dudar  
Dana Murphy  
Angie Savoy

Innisfail Office:  
Ryan Butterwick

*...Valour, continued from front page.*

"The first time I saw him, he walked up to me and put his head on my chest and he sighed," says Peace Officer Stevenson. "He survived a horrible, situation. He survived on nothing; on twigs and leaves."

Eventually, Valour was well enough to be sent to an equine-facilitated healing ranch. There, he uses his equine instincts to help people who are in search of inner healing. It's at the ranch where Peace Officer Stevenson had the opportunity to see a very different, and healthy horse.



"This makes it worth it," says Peace Officer

Stevenson. "This makes those long days, those long hours, those hard calls, this is trusting our system, trusting our team."

Valour no longer worries about his next meal, and he struts with confidence and full of personality. He is a very different horse than the one Peace Officer Stevenson first came across. He seems to know when there is a camera on him; he seems to be soaking up the attention. Peace Officer Stevenson is enjoying watching him live his best life.

"I can guarantee you that every Peace Officer who starts their day tries to make stories like this happen," says Stevenson.

During their reunion, Peace Officer Stevenson whispers to Valour, "Enjoy it buddy, you deserve this. You fought so long and hard."

It's clear Valour has every intention of doing just that.

*Watch Valour's story:*

[www.albertaspc.org/valours-story/](http://www.albertaspc.org/valours-story/)

# EDUCATION

Building Compassion for Animals Since 1959

## This Year's Theme is Curiosity

Curiosity is powerful. It encourages us to ask questions, seek answers, think critically, and find solutions to problems both big and small. It helps us to be open to others, build understanding and foster empathy - and it needs to be nurtured.

Our theme for the year 'Stay Curious' focuses on nurturing curiosity and wonder about our natural world including the animals in it. Sparking curiosity through animals is supported through the biophilia hypothesis. Put forward by biologist E.O. Wilson, the biophilia hypothesis suggests that humans have an innate drive to connect with nature and other living things - a byproduct of human evolution. As such, children are born intrinsically curious about the natural world around them - which makes animals an effective conduit for sparking curiosity that can be extended to others and the environment.

STAY CURIOUS  
*ask, learn, grow*



### Nurturing Curiosity in Kids!

We are giving away 'Stay Curious' posters (available in English and French) to educators at Teachers' Conventions across the province. To accompany the poster, discussion questions and curriculum-linked activities are available on our [everylivingthing.ca](http://everylivingthing.ca) website to help spark curiosity in classrooms. We have also launched 'Curious Questions,' a social media campaign encouraging young people to tap into their curiosity and ask their most burning questions about animals and their behaviour.

Do you have a curious question? Send questions either on video or written form to [education@albertaspca.org](mailto:education@albertaspca.org). We will be answering one question/week. Visit our social media channels to see past questions.

Current global challenges require that we seek innovative ways of doing things that respect the planet while promoting and improving the well-being of all living things. Young people, with their creativity, imagination and optimism have the greatest potential to create positive change. Through fostering curiosity, we can build knowledge and understanding that will lead to improving the lives of every living thing and the environment we share.



Donna Crawford & Melissa Logan at Oxford

## The Alberta SPCA Goes to Oxford!

Director of Education, Melissa Logan presented at the Oxford Animal Ethics Summer School in July on increasing sensitivity to animals and people through humane education. This conference brought together academics and practitioners of humane education from around the world that recognize the best way to improve the well-being of animals (and people) is through educating youth. Along with a presentation on the Alberta SPCA education program, Melissa also presented with Dr. Donna Crawford on using picture books to foster empathy, and research conducted on teacher and student perceptions of the AnimalTales book program. This free book lending program is available exclusively to Alberta teachers and focuses on inspiring empathy for all living things and the environment while meeting outcomes outlined in the Alberta Program of Studies.

# ONE FAMILY WELFARE

To Contact the One Family Welfare Dept., Please Call 780-447-3600 ext 3750

## Safety Planning When Leaving a Situation of Family Violence

Many studies and an array of anecdotal evidence support the notion, when there is violence in the home, all members of the family are affected, including pets. Many individuals delay leaving a situation of family violence out of concern for their animals, and most emergency shelters do not allow pets. As a result, those suffering from abuse are often trapped in a living situation full of violence.

Pet owners trying to leave a situation of family violence have unique barriers and needs. Our Pet Safekeeping Program offers short-term housing for pets belonging to individuals who are leaving a situation of family violence. In addition, our staff provide other services such as customized safety planning for individuals staying in or returning to a violent relationship.

Escaping a relationship plagued with abuse is complicated, and deciding to leave an abusive relationship is often just the beginning of the journey. Research shows domestic homicide is often higher



during the period of separation. In addition, the intensity of family violence escalates at this time. When the abuser feels they are losing power and control, they often escalate their abusive tactics to force those being abused to stay.

### Tips for Leaving a Violent Relationship

Most shelters do not allow pets but there are several things you can do:

- If you are driving to a shelter and your pets are at risk, take them with you and staff will coordinate to have your pets admitted to the Pet Safekeeping Program.
- If you cannot take the pets with you to a safe place, ask a neighbour, friend, vet, or boarding kennel to hold onto your pets until you get a referral to the Pet Safekeeping Program.
- If you have to leave your pets behind and return home to pick them up, be aware of your own safety. You should contact police to meet you at your home to ensure you are safe. If your abuser will not let you take the pets, you can apply for an Emergency Protection Order (EPO) that includes your pets. Police cannot force your partner to give you the pets if you do not have them included on the EPO.

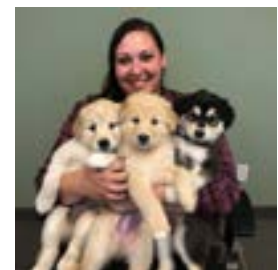
## Meet the One Family Welfare Team

**Patricia Mamak** has worked in the field of family violence for over a decade with an educational background in psychology and women's counselling. As an animal welfare advocate, she has a special interest in the connections between cruelty to animals and violence toward humans, particularly within the family.

Patricia has been with the Alberta SPCA since 2014 and assisted in the development of the Pet Safekeeping Program, a program that protects people and pets from family violence. She recently transitioned to a new role within the Alberta SPCA as Director of the One Family Welfare department, which focuses on the link between animal welfare and human welfare.



Patricia Mamak



Julia Evasiuk

**Julia Evasiuk** comes from northern Alberta; her educational background is in cultural anthropology and sociology, applied to working in a community setting.

Before starting with the Alberta SPCA, Julia's work focused on poverty reduction while assisting clients on a daily basis through working at a food bank. In her free time, Julia is usually spoiling her rescued street dogs and making sure her cat receives the appropriate level of pampering.

# ALBERTA SPCA NEWS

Building Compassion for Animals Since 1959

... 60th, continued from front page.

This growth and expansion in animal welfare and protection



in Alberta reflects much more than growth in provincial population. Society's care and concern for animals has grown over the decades and is reflected in many ways. One of the most significant for us was the proclamation of the *Animal Protection Act* in 1967. This important and evolving piece of legislation was the result of the hard work of many Albertans, and especially the Alberta SPCA. It has become a significant platform for our operations and helps define the unique role of the Alberta SPCA within the animal welfare spectrum.

As society has evolved in our relationship with animals, we have seen a shift from the need to provide the basic requirements of food, water and shelter to a heightened awareness of the importance of how an animal copes with the conditions within which it lives.

The spectrum of individual beliefs

range, from dominionist (people can do whatever they want to animals as a God given right) to abolitionist (animals have the same rights as humans) and many classifications and values in between. How any individual views their own beliefs is influenced by many things, including; region of the world, ethnicity, religion, belief system, culture, gender, age, socio-economic status, education, experience and so forth.

The Alberta SPCA respects the rights of individuals to hold their own beliefs and we believe the



hundreds or even thousands of animal welfare organizations globally each have a unique role to play in ensuring animals are respected and live in a state of good welfare. With that in mind, we must identify our own niche and determine how we can best function in keeping animals in good health and removing them from distressful

situations when necessary. As a not-for-profit society, we identify as an "animal welfare" organization. We recognize that humans engage with and use animals for a wide range of lawful activities. However, using the *Animal Protection Act* and accepted codes and standards of practice as a base line, we insist that the appropriate needs of animals are provided for, and that animals found in distress are removed from that situation as expeditiously as the law will allow.

Our engagement includes: advising the public of their responsibility to animals under their care, insisting individuals failing to do so immediately make appropriate changes, demanding change when animals continue to be in distress, including legal seizure of the animals in question, and enforcing the *Animal Protection Act* by laying charges where appropriate. This includes following up on any Court ordered supervision to maintain ongoing welfare of the animals.

The past 60 years have been remarkable. I wonder where the next 60 will take us!



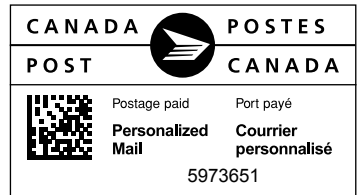
# IN LOVING MEMORY

Tribute donations can be made by cheque, or on our website: [albertaspca.org/Support](http://albertaspca.org/Support)

**Dennis Anderson** by Pamela Price & Paul Rogers, Dr. T. Kovithavongs, Willi Wischlinski, Louise Lepage, Barb Anderson  
**Florida Anderson** by Marlene Pedersen, Sharon Haines, Alicia Humbke, Lori Hannay, Jim & Dianne McIvor  
**Athena** by Glenn & Theresia Williams  
**Marjorie Beattie** by David Kamitakahara  
**Florence Benoit** by Michael Andrew  
**Carolyn Berglund** by Peter J. Murphy  
**Gordon Bonertz** by Helen B. Brown  
**Casanova** by Shannon Papineau  
**Cassie** by Glenn & Theresia Williams  
**Violet Chappelle** by Helen Lukowitch  
**Charlie** by Helen Meier  
**Mike Christie** by Pat & Dave Toth  
**Bryna Clarke** by Sydney Deitch  
**Blanche Cunningham** by George & Elsie Mayhew  
**Daisy** by Rena Pascuzzo  
**Daisy** by Jennifer Heard  
**Eugenia Dorash** by Mike & Shirley Eurchuk  
**Michael Ellenwood** by Sherwood Park Royal Purple Charity Society  
**Emma** by Glenn & Theresia Williams  
**Keltie Fisk** by Nina Hoffman  
**Alice Fitzpatrick** by Maxine Krebs  
 **Scooter Gehlert** by Stephanie Gosselin  
**Christine Gribben** by Sue Ann Nodder  
**David Guerard** by Organizational Solutions Inc.  
**Harley** by Judy Baxter  
**Sherry Lynn Hauck** by Bassano School, John & Molly Douglass  
**Dwayne Havanka** by Marko & Brenda Marcetta

**Charlie Hempstead** by Elisabeth Flaherty  
**Gordon Hill** by Gloria Hill  
**George Hinrichs** by Michelle Hinrichs  
**Laurence Hoye** by John R. & Zennia Trollope  
**Dick Jacobs** by Gordon Zwaenpoel  
**Jersey** by Dr Keri Cronin  
**Joey** by Anonymous  
**Marie Johannsen** by Audrey Glavin  
**Marjorie Sue Johnston** by Karen Wyatt  
**Sasha Jugnauth** by Derek Jugnauth  
**Katana** by Judy Clarke  
**Barbara Kizick** by Brenda Jackson  
**Koko-a** by Alice & Calvin Kenzle  
**Agnes Kovacs** by Ken Horn  
**Elsie Krawchuk** by Violette Keast & Dave Petasky, Sylvia & Albert Deacon  
**Rhonda Gaye Kropf** by Karl Kropf  
**Cliff Kulak** by Margit Vinther, Pat & Al McIntyre, Marshall Palichuk, Dolores & Tom Hansen  
**Lola Langford** by Margie Poirier  
**Buddy Lenkewich** by Mrs. A Johnston  
**Joyce Liddle** by Judith Rodney, Sheila Rodney  
**Audrey Lyons** by Linda Lyons, Juan Segura, Lorrie Stensrud, Jeannie Biochu  
**Maggie, Riley, Murphy, Jiggs, Tuffy & Klutey** by Reg D. & Anna Ernst  
**Magic** by Nancy Farrell  
**Andre Maharaj** by Ann Marie Heffernan  
**Carol Marquis** by Kathy Paul  
**Malcolm McIntyre** by Alice K. Verhun, Professional Singles Club - Edmonton  
**Stacey Edward McLeod** by Tannis Bentley  
**B J Meyer** by Marion & Allan McKort  
**Neil Minogue** by Catherine Cepuch  
**Ronald Moskal** by Leona Sim, Pat

& Brian Barclay, Sandra Welsh, Pat Aslund  
**Riley Myshyniuk** by Marilyn Hooper  
**Autumn Oakley** by Amy Abbott  
**Jennifer O'Neil** by Bee Langabeer  
**Richard Panter** by Karen & Gary Tomiak  
**Bumper Parson** by Graham Kenny  
**John Pawson** by Vermilion Energy  
**Harry Peters** by Claudette L. Walsh  
**Phlea** by Anonymous  
**Rose-Ann Pike** by WIKA Instruments Ltd  
**Rose-Marie Ploof** by Beverley Sampson  
**Laurie Rogers** by Janet Halls  
**Helene Rohn** by Cal & Heather Christianson  
**Rosie** by Buffy Afseth  
**Keith Roth** by Chad & Sarah Finner  
**Connie Rumsey** by Curriculum Division Team  
**Constance Rumsey** by Mrs Rosemarie Randall  
**Fred Rurak** by Amalgamated Transit Union Local 569  
**Sammy** by Don & Bev Penner  
**Sana** by Eileen Townsend & David Savidge  
**Marianne Schmidt** by Dawna Harden  
**Rod Sekora** by Judy Sekora  
**Dr. Lyle Smith** by Louise A. Sauter  
**Squirrel** by Shauna Vander Well  
**Heather Joy Stallard** by Mark & Karen Wallace  
**John Stevenson Finlay & Duchess** by Beverley Finlay  
**Clem Tauber** by Vivian Smith  
**David Taylor** by David Dube, Corinne Chateau, Katiellen Petten  
**Toby Thomas** by Allison Smale  
**Sharon Louise Vinet** by Rhonda Shaw  
**Roger Vye** by Martha Read  
**Doreen L. Wheeler** by Patricia K. Zadunayski



RETURN POSTAGE GUARANTEED  
PORT DE RETOUR GARANTI



Fall 2019

## ANIMALKIND RESPONSE FORM

If you believe Animal Protection, Education and Pet Safekeeping are vital to preventing animal cruelty, please support the Alberta SPCA's Programs by becoming a member and/or making a donation. Help us help animals by filling out this form and mailing it to:  
Alberta SPCA, 17904 118 Avenue NW, Edmonton, AB T5S 2W3 or visit us at [albertaspca.org](http://albertaspca.org)

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City/Town \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

## Donations and Memberships

**YES!** I support the Alberta SPCA's province-wide Animal Protection, Education and Pet Safekeeping programs.

- Enclosed is a donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
*(Income tax receipts are automatically issued for donations of \$10 or more.)*
- 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

I'm paying by:

- Cheque       Credit card:  VISA     Amex  
                                 MasterCard

Cardholder Name \_\_\_\_\_

Card Number \_\_\_\_\_

Expiry \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

## Animal Response Team (ART)

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.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Please withdraw this monthly amount from my:

- Bank Account *(attach a cheque marked VOID)*  
 Credit card:     VISA       MasterCard       Amex

Cardholder Name \_\_\_\_\_

Card Number \_\_\_\_\_

Expiry \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

\* To view a sample cancellation form or learn more about cancelling a PAD agreement, contact your financial institution or visit [www.cdnpay.ca](http://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](http://www.cdnpay.ca).