

Help for Animals Program

Unprecedented Response for an Unprecedented Time

The Alberta SPCA has an abundance of experience helping animals during situations of disaster, but our staff quickly recognized the COVID-19 situation would be much different. During the Fort McMurray fires the Alberta SPCA helped animals by taking care of them until owners could welcome them back home.

Animals play a unique and vital part in our family dynamic and keeping families together during this time was our primary goal. Alberta's animal shelters, like most businesses, were trying to limit public traffic in the early days of the pandemic, so this meant there was less staff on site to care for animals and fewer opportunities for adopting out pets. We wanted to ensure Albertans were not surrendering animals due to owner illness, self-isolation or economic hardship.

From those early discussions came the idea to help Alberta animals by ensuring they would remain at their homes and with their owners by offering feed. The **Help for Animals** program was born.

Alberta SPCA staff began by calling pet food manufacturers to see what they may have available. Their response was inspiring. Very quickly Purina PetCare said it could donate about 600 bags of pet food, and Champion Pet Foods offered another 70 bags of dog food. Purina then followed with another donation of nearly 1,000 bags.



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Separation Anxiety in Dogs

Prepare Now for When Your Family Returns to Work and School and the Dog is Home Alone

One of the good news stories during the COVID-19 crisis has been the overwhelming number of people offering to foster or adopt pets. It seems many had wanted to include an animal in their family and decided that since they were home most of the time, it was an ideal time to make the commitment to add a pet. Doing so during the pandemic afforded them the necessary time to train and acclimate their new addition to the family. However, as families begin to return to life as they knew it, dogs in particular may have difficulty adjusting to their new-found solitude at home. And as we know, dogs can be destructive when they are experiencing stress.

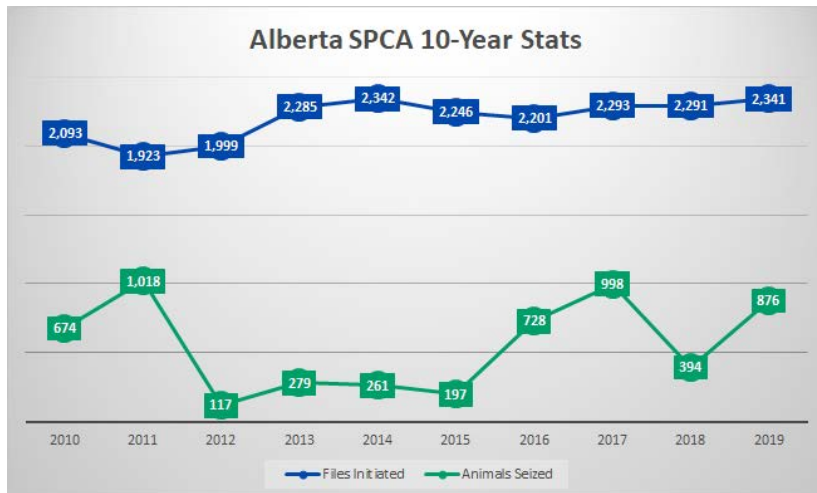
"Chewing is a calming behaviour for dogs," says canine behaviour specialist Kris Rooney of Dogspaw in Edmonton. "That's why you're going to find the remote control chewed [when you come home]."

Separation anxiety is a common issue for dogs, and a new canine family member who is used to having people around all day may not be OK suddenly being left at home for long periods of time.

"It's just an anxiety the dog feels because he's just not sure that you're coming back," adds Rooney. "And that makes him feel uneasy."

...continued on p. 3

FROM OUR LEGAL FILES



Investigations Steady but More Complex

The Alberta SPCA opened 2,341 investigations in 2019, and while this was one of the busiest over the past ten years, our annual total has remained relatively stable in that time. However, the Animal Protection Services team is finding many of the files to be more complex, requiring more time and money to manage.

There are numerous factors causing the files to become more complex. In some cases, there are multiple species of animals that need to be responded to, including companion animals and livestock. These animals have very different needs that are managed in their own unique ways. However, the biggest challenge with many files is managing the people involved.

When engaging with animal owners, many will accept our advice to improve conditions for the animals. However, if there is a need to seize the animals due to distress, we are finding many owners choosing not to utilize the mechanism within the *Animal Protection Act* (APA) to reclaim them. The seizure or hold period in the APA is not intended to be punitive but instead to provide time in our care to allow the animals to return to better health. However, in some cases, animal owners use the courts and civil processes in an effort to get their animals back.

...continued on next page.

Dog Owner Pleads Guilty to Failing to Provide Vet Care

Channing Napio pleaded guilty on February 13, 2020 in Valleyview Provincial Court for failing to provide an animal with adequate food and water, and failing to provide veterinary care when an animal is wounded or ill under the *Animal Protection Act* 2.1(a) and 2.1(b). On September 10, 2018 an Alberta SPCA Peace Officer accompanied the RCMP to a rural residence. The police officer had earlier euthanized a dog on the property that had part of its foot missing and a bone exposed. During the investigation, it was determined the owner of the dog had taken it to a vet when it was first injured but failed to ensure the wound was properly cared for due to the cost of the surgery. Mr. Napio was fined \$1,000 and given a two-year prohibition from owning any animals. In addition, the Court granted Alberta SPCA Peace Officers the right to inspect Mr. Napio's property for a period of four years to check on the welfare of any animals in his care.

Man Receives 10 Year Prohibition from Owning Horses

On February 26, 2020 Henri (Sean) Barrette pleaded guilty in Hanna Provincial Court to three charges under the *Animal Protection Act* (APA) of causing an animal to be in distress 2(1), for failing to provide adequate food and water 2.1(a), and for failing to provide adequate care for an animal that is wounded or ill 2.1(b). The Alberta SPCA attended a property in the Hanna area on March 6, 2019 where four horses were observed to be in distress. One horse was euthanized while the other three were taken into protective custody. The Court sentenced Mr. Barrette to probation for one year and 50 hours of community service. As part of the sentence, Mr. Barrette is prohibited from owning horses or cattle in Alberta for a period of 10 years. During the prohibition period, Mr. Barrette must permit a Peace Officer, without notice or warrant, during normal business hours, to attend on any property Mr. Barrette owns, rents, or otherwise has control over of to ensure compliance with the order.

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President:
Dr. Duane Landals

Executive Director:
Terra Johnston

Editor:
Dan Kobe

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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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

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

In many cases, the animals have significant monetary value so there is a financial stake in trying to reclaim them without meeting the requirements of the APA. In other cases, the owners simply disagree with our Peace Officer's assessment, and the assessment of a veterinarian, that the animals are in distress. This means we are spending significant resources in civil court proceedings that have little to do with the care of the animals. The result, we are keeping those animals in our care longer, which in turn drives up our costs.

The end result is that our Animal Protection Services team is working harder than ever. What has not changed is our commitment to the animals and to ensuring our decisions are focused on their welfare first even if it requires increased Peace Officer time and additional financial resources.



Separation Anxiety ...continued from front page.

Rooney says the time to start working on addressing this potential problem is now. Begin adjusting your routine to prepare the dog in order to prevent unwanted surprises when you return home from work or school in the weeks and months ahead.

Rooney suggests start paying attention to your routine at home and the signals you are sending the dog that you are leaving the house and change them. If you stay in pajamas all day and only get dressed when it is time to take the dog for a walk, your dog is going to recognize that as a clue that he's going outside as soon as you get dressed. Rooney advises you may need to start the routine of leaving the house and then do nothing at all.

"Their whole world is about is observing," explains Rooney. "Make those [leaving the house] behaviours become quite meaningless and of no consequence to the dog."

Try some practice runs of leaving the house for short periods of time to help prepare your dog for the time when he will be home alone. Also, if your dog is used to numerous walks a day, you will need to start reducing his expectations by reducing the number of walks now to the level he should expect when your busy life resumes.

The next tip is to begin introducing treat puzzles for your dog. That may include a Kong with peanut butter in it or kibble hidden throughout the living room.

"Give the dog something to do while you slip out," says Rooney. Often destructive behaviour is a result of the dog being bored and this will help.

Once the time has come to leave your dog at home for periods of time during the day, ensure morning walks for your dog are done early enough that the dog has about a half an hour to wind down before you leave. Going for a walk and then leaving immediately will leave an energy-filled pet bored in the home.

When you return home, don't make a big deal that you've returned. Greet your dog but in a calm way.

"Make coming and going low key," says Rooney. This will ensure the dog is more relaxed and calm. "We want to redirect their enthusiasm so it's not annoying or destructive."



Despite your best efforts, you may find surprises of destruction in the house when you come home. Rooney urges that you do not discipline the dog for this behaviour.

"For a dog that has anxiety, that's not going to make it any better," adds Rooney. "You have to understand what your dog is going through." Even if the dog is giving you that sad, guilty look, don't assume the dog is feeling the way you think he is. "He's just sort of uncomfortable because you are yelling, he's not connecting it to the act."

Ultimately, your dog may still suffer separation anxiety despite your best effort to address it and you may have to consult with a veterinarian on how to calm him. However, if you give your dog time to adjust to your family's changing schedule, he should hopefully learn quickly that his favourite people do return home and the love and affection he's used to is still there.

EDUCATION

Visit our website for teachers: everylivingthing.ca



Cat Corner: Play - It's more important than you might think!

The Alberta SPCA strongly encourages cat owners to keep their cats indoors for the protection of their cat and the wildlife they predate. Additionally, many cities and counties have bylaws that prohibit cats at large so allowing cats out to roam outdoors may violate local bylaws. Cats appear to adapt very well to living indoors, however this environment has its own unique challenges that can impact their well-being. Although more safe, indoor environments are less stimulating than the outdoors which can lead to boredom, stress and reduced physical activity if not mitigated by their owners.

Domestic house cats have maintained a strong instinct to display predatory behaviours that help them hunt for food. These behaviours are even present when cats are well fed! In the wild, cat species engage in predatory behaviours for a significant part of their day requiring both physical and mental engagement.

It's our responsibility to provide opportunities for cats to exhibit normal behaviours and one way to do this is through play. When cats hunt they perform a variety of behaviours including locating, chasing, pouncing, stalking, and killing their prey.



Feeding Device Helps Elicit Predatory Behaviour in Cats

Think about eliciting these types of behaviours when playing with your cat.

Tips to engage in play with your cat:

- **Use food:** To help with expression of feeding behaviours, scatter cat food to induce chasing, hide cat food to promote hunting and provide food puzzles/devices that encourage cats to “work” for their food.
- **Provide an assortment of toys:** Provide toys in a variety of sizes and textures that cats can chase, bite and pounce on. Cats typically enjoy crinkly paper, balls, soft toys, and toys with feathers or fur that mimic their prey. Just make sure toys do not have string or small bits that your cat might ingest.
- **Novelty is key!:** Cats become habituated to toys very quickly, so rotate them in and out to keep them fresh.
- **Use play to provide exercise and imitate predatory behaviour:** Feathers, fur or fleece on a wand or stick can imitate typical prey. When cats make a “catch” reward them with food or a treat.
- **Play with your cat daily:** Or multiple times a day if possible! Cats typically prefer to interact and play in short but frequent durations so a few minutes at a time can help them get out energy and engage their hunting instincts. Make playing with your cat part of your daily routine.
- **Play with your cat one-on-one:** Cats typically prefer individual play, so if you have more than one cat, give each one individualized attention.
- **Avoid using your hands or feet:** This teaches cats that it's OK to bite and scratch people which may cause injury.
- **Age matters:** Kittens typically require greater duration and intensity for play than adult cats. Older cats still need play - it's just less robust compared to when they were younger.

Not only is playing with cats important for their physical and mental well-being, it can also help build trust and strengthen the bond you share with your cat. For more information on providing enrichment for cats, visit our website.

Humane Education @ Home During COVID-19

The Alberta SPCA website now features Humane Ed @ Home - curricular-linked activities that are designed for kids and their families to learn about animal needs and behaviour. Activities are focused on fostering positive character traits including: compassion, curiosity, kindness, respect, and responsibility. Visit our website to explore these activities - albertaspca.org/humaneedathome

Families that complete Humane Ed @ Home activities can let us know about what they've learned and be added to our Kindness Map. Send us an email: education@albertaspca.org or tag us on social media.



ONE FAMILY WELFARE

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

One Family Welfare Client Spotlight Story



Maggie and Lilly & Billy

Maggie emailed One Family Welfare (OFW) inquiring about programs and services. She told us she wanted to leave her abusive partner but did not know how and she wanted to ensure her teenage daughter did not know about the planning process as it would be traumatizing. OFW staff provided information to her and advised she could call when she was ready to leave.

One month later, Maggie called OFW and asked if we would still be able to help. She was immediately accepted into OFW's Pet Safekeeping Program and arrangements were made to bring her pets into care.

An intake was scheduled for the next morning. At that time Maggie informed the Pet Safekeeping Coordinator she had been in an abusive relationship for decades. Her partner, who was incarcerated, was due to be released in a few days. Maggie stated she had stayed with him through previous incarcerations but she could not stay and live with daily abuse any more.

As part of her safety plan, Maggie decided to relocate to a different city. Maggie was reassured by OFW staff she would not have to worry about Lilly and Billy, but rather she could focus on keeping herself safe and rebuilding a new life.

Lilly and Billy stayed in the program for just over a month and once Maggie had found a new home in another city, the cats were reunited with Maggie and her daughter.

Giving Tuesday, Giving Thanks

Giving Tuesday is a global day of giving dedicated to helping charities. Normally it is held near the end of November after the American Thanksgiving but an additional day was created on Tuesday, May 5th of this year in order to help charities deal with the increased costs and dwindling donations associated with COVID-19.

Fundraising efforts supported our **Help for Animals** program that is providing feed to owners so they do not have struggle to meet their animals' needs or make the difficult decision to to surrender pets or livestock during the pandemic. Our supporters have once again inspired us with their concern for the welfare of animals, and with their generosity. We raised over \$25,000; an amazing total considering these uncertain times. Your dedication and support of the work we do leaves us in awe and we are incredibly grateful. The funds will be used to help deliver pet food to animals in need across Alberta as well as for our other programs dedicated to the welfare of animals.

If you would like to give, visit our website at AlbertaSPCA.org/Support-Us.



ALBERTA SPCA NEWS

Building Compassion for Animals Since 1959

COVID-19 Message from the Executive Director

As a dedicated supporter of the Alberta SPCA, you may already be aware our mission is to protect, promote and enhance the well-being of animals in Alberta. Our first priority has, and will always be, the animals. We are an organization firmly rooted in our core values and reflect these values on a daily basis: **Responsibility • Compassion • Kindness • Collaboration • Stewardship • Progressive • Trustworthiness • Respect.**

The Alberta SPCA is staffed with extraordinary individuals managing their responsibilities on behalf of animals seriously and with a sense of urgency. Never has this been more apparent than during what is now known as the COVID-19 pandemic. Our organization took immediate **responsibility** to safeguard our staff and the public ensuring we remain available to help animals province-wide. Given this incredibly difficult environment, serious illness and economic hardship many were facing, we approached our new normal with **compassion** and **kindness** understanding that many would not take care of their own needs if their animals' needs were not addressed first. We were fortunate to be able to work in **collaboration** with the pet food industry, municipalities and sheltering organizations to ensure both people and their animals were assisted through our Help for Animals program. While the Alberta SPCA relies heavily on donations we remained concerned about continuing to fundraise as it might appear insensitive given the seriousness of the COVID-19 illness and associated economic impacts. That said, our supporters have continued to generously donate allowing for the **stewardship** of resources, both financial and human, to ensure we can continue to pursue good outcomes for animals. While the pandemic has wreaked havoc for so many and there is very little we can point to that is positive, the pandemic has confirmed the Alberta SPCA is nimble, responsive and **progressive** in our approach where animals are concerned. In all situations, we must seek to understand the conditions that exist, we must approach the situation with compassion, and we must find solutions that place the animals, and their welfare, as the first priority. This approach shapes our work and serves to build **trustworthiness** in our staff and our organization. We remain grateful to our supporters and remain hopeful that we have earned your **respect** for how we have managed this sometimes difficult work.



Terra Johnston

It is incumbent we remain diligent, both to our core values, and to the animals we serve to protect. The pandemic has not eased the suffering of pets and livestock in Alberta, but our ability to help them remains strong thanks to the hard work of our staff and the support of people like you.

Help for Animals ...continued from front page.

In all, the Alberta SPCA received over 70 pallets of food, but that presented another challenge. Our head office in Edmonton is not set up to receive large deliveries, and it was clear we were going to need assistance unloading it. We started calling our neighbours to see if any of them would loan us equipment as well as the staff operate it.

Once again, the response was incredible. Four of our neighbours sent over forklifts, pallet jacks, and operators. That meant a task that would have been nearly impossible to do with our existing employees was completed in just a few hours. The list of those who helped includes TireCraft, Ames Tile, Blue Water Group and Arctic Glacier Premium Ice.

With a warehouse of food in place, Alberta SPCA staff established parameters for the program and set up a phone number and webpage where Albertans could request assistance for feed-in-place services for pets and livestock.



Food Delivery in April



Daisy Received Food from the Program

As of mid-May, the Alberta SPCA has received hundreds of requests for help and delivered food to numerous owners, ensuring animals stay at home where they belong. Often, the response from owners has been emotional. Our Peace Officers have reported meeting very grateful recipients with some shedding tears as we delivered bags of food.

The program remains active as we head into the summer. While some of the uncertainty on how our communities will cope with COVID-19 has eased since those early days in March, the economic questions are likely to continue for months, and so will the support of the Alberta SPCA.

If you need help feeding your animals, visit - AlbertaSPCA.org/helpforanimals.

IN LOVING MEMORY

Tribute donations can be made by cheque, or on our website: albertaspca.org

Angie, by Christine de Ruiter
Jack Armstrong, by Bonalin Francis
Margaret Baldwin, by Patrick Gallupe, Jacquie Stroud, Dawn Hall
Florence Benoit, by Michael Andrew
Santana Betteridge, by Marilyn & Ian Cowling
Oscar Bohachyk, by Anonymous
Boris, by Cecile & Ralph E Atkinson
Cajun, by Nancy Scott
Carl, by Deanna Young
Jessie Carlson, by Esther Hoerle
Cinco, by Julianne & Brian Malone
Bryna Clarke, by Sydney Deitch
Daisy 'Diddy', by Jennifer Rideout
Dorothy, by Tracy & Stan Wadden
Wanda Edgecombe, by Margaret & Donald Fregren
Ron England, by Nora MacGregor
Epi, by Eileen Townsend & David Savidge
Laurie Frangos, by Marilyn Sutton
Peter Gilbert, by Linda Strandlie & Lynne Lagace
Brian Hallonquist, by St. Bernard's Secular Franciscan Order
Harley, by Tracy Heidt
Harley, by Judy Baxter
George Hinrichs, by Michelle Hinrichs
Jade, by Lana Wiens
Jasper, by Judy Clarke
Marjorie Sue Johnston, by Karen Wyatt
Sasha Jugnauth, by Derek Jugnauth
Anita J. Klein, by Catherine Dupuis
Grace Koppenol, by C Dean & Michelle Viste
Rhonda Gaye Kropf, by Karl Kropf
Mary Losinski, by Carol Russ

Leonard, Waltraut & Ronald Lumpe, by Marion LaBrie
Bob Matthew, by Elizabeth Tokariuk
Ron McGill, by Cheryl Singer
Purdy McGuinness, by Esther Williams
Fiona McLeod, by Antonia McLeod
Cameron McLeod, by Robert & Laura Nelson, Laurel & Dale Kotch, Edward & Pamela McLean, Grant Nelson, John Lewis, W. Peter & Norma Barton, Da-lene & Duncan McLeod, Paul Gutteridge, PIB & RWAM Insurance Adminis-trators Inc., Stellar Homes Inc, Karo Dental Care, Reynolds Mirth Richards & Farmer LLP, Sarah Kalinocka, Jim & Janet Warren, Tom Stevenson, Iris & Pete Zaharko
Bernice McNeil, by Roberta Jensen
Christopher Ian Joseph Menage, by Donna Stewart Ent Inc
Mia, by Patti Gugala
Pierrette Augustine Michaelis, by Alco Gas & Oil
Milton, by Violeta Mariscal
Donna Moorhouse, by Barb Anderson
John Myson, by Laura Hryniw
Karen Nelson, by Brenda Smith
Joyce Oakes, by Vern Dyer
Dewie Owens, by Christine Owens
Scott Park, by Gary Greenwall, Dana Grande, Oryssia Lennie
Pedro, by Robert Neal
Rose Pollitt, by David Pollitt
Trudy Arlene Pope, by Peter Carter
Ann Bart, Alfred Puccinelli and Andria Puccinelli, by Linda Hilbig
Lenore Rampling, by Lorraine & John Juhl
Ken Rausch, by Jacki & Len Skoreyko

Geoffrey Readman, by Donaldson Park Comm League
Roach, by Elsie Patterson
Rosie, by Buffy Afseth
Larry Ruddock, by Kathryn Clark
Saki, by Gary D. Prideaux
Myah Irene Saklofske, by Viktoria Saklofske
Robert Arthur Sanders, by Christine Armstrong, Brian & Darlene Clappison
Beverly Scholz, by TOPS BC #2925
Schooner, by Barb Philips
Zena Skakun, by Mary Ann & Raymond Aldus, Nadine & John Harder, Nikki & Peter Pohynayko
Arlo Slade, by Jeanne Kimber
Paulette Slade, by Reg Wiest & Michelle Wiest
Zoe Smilski, by Kimberly Gable
Debra Snow, by James Snow
Sophie, by Anna Dagnall
Kathy Stern, by Martha Mindus
Kristin Stewart, by Yvonne Jensen
Streaky, Gracie & Bella, by Debra Mercer
Lloyd Tanton, by Barbara L. Stewart
Tosca, by Susan M. Glover
Trixie, by Ashley Blanchard
Elizabeth Tuxworth, by Josephine Cleopahrt
Terry Vallette, by Melonia Nicol
Andrew Van Niekerk, by Sigrun McCarthy
Winston, Webster & Topaz, by Leona De Boer
Katherine Zerebeski, by Marlene Giles
Zobaka, by Cecile & Ralph E Atkinson

Community and Stakeholder Relations Manager

The Alberta SPCA would like to welcome Andrea Edwards to the team in the new position of Community and Stakeholder Relations.

Andrea grew up on a horse farm in Leduc County and has always had a love for all animals. She is a Registered Veterinary Technologist who has worked in mixed veterinary practices as well as with small animals and exotics. She has been the veterinary manager at several animal hospitals and has been active with both the Alberta Veterinary Medical and the Alberta Veterinary Technologist Associations.

In her role, Andrea will contribute to our work in promoting the humane treatment and responsible ownership of animals by building and maintaining relationships within the animal welfare community, and by working collaboratively to develop strategies that address animal welfare issues.



Andrea Edwards

The image shows the top portion of a Canada Post envelope. At the top, the words "CANADA" and "POSTES" are printed in a bold, sans-serif font, separated by the Canada Post logo (a stylized bird in flight). Below this, the words "POST" and "CANADA" are printed, also separated by the logo. A horizontal line runs across the middle. Below the line, on the left, is a square QR code. To the right of the QR code, the text "Postage paid" and "Port payé" are printed. Below that, "Personalized Mail" and "Courrier personnalisé" are printed. At the bottom, the number "5973651" is printed in a large, bold font.



Spring 2020

Help us help the 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.

Name _____

Address

City/Town _____ Postal Code _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Animal Response Team (ART)

☐ 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:

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$$\text{\$ membership} + \text{\$ donation} = \text{\$ (total)}$$

Cardholder Name _____

Card Number _____

Expiry _____ / _____

Signature _____

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. 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.