



Vol. 43, No. 1 • Winter 2021

## **Court Costs Rising**



Albertans are incredibly generous and our organization is fortunate to receive ongoing financial support in our efforts to ensure every animal in our province is treated humanely. We could not do our work without you. As you are aware, in our efforts to protect animals, we sometimes have to take animals into protective custody in accordance with the Animal Protection Act (APA). The APA sets out specific parameters for when we can seize animals, and establishes a process for the owner to reclaim those animals by meeting specific criteria including paying the fees associated with the seizure.

Unfortunately, many owners are choosing not to use the mechanisms within the APA to reclaim their animals, instead proceeding with a civil process and filing lawsuits preventing the disposition of the animals. Increasingly, a significant amount of our Animal Protection budget is being used to maintain these animals as the courts often require our agency to continue with care-ship of the animals until the outcome of the APA charges has been finalized.

For example, we have one case where the investigation started

late in 2019 with charges being laid under the APA; the case has not yet been adjudicated. However, we have been to court numerous times to argue what should happen with the animals we seized while we wait for the court case to begin. To reiterate, the Animal Protection Act provided a mechanism for the subject to reclaim the animals within ten days of seizure (and pay associated costs) but the owner chose to ignore this. In the meantime, the animals are living in an environment that does not afford them the lifestyle most of us would wish for animals as they are not in homes with loving families.

As of mid-January, our agency has invested over \$80,000 to ensure these animals have the best care we can offer while awaiting the start and conclusion of the APA trial. This is a cost that increases each day the animals remain in our care.

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## **Cross Border Investigations**

There are regulations in Alberta regarding transportation of animals in distress. When owners make the decision to move them across provincial borders, we work with partners in neighbouring jurisdictions to ensure those animals have a voice.

The Animal Protection Act in Alberta is the legislation that guides our Peace Officers, and while its regulations only apply in Alberta, that doesn't stop us from working with other enforcement agencies. There were several cases in 2020 where it appeared an animal in distress was transported across provincial boundaries, and in each case, we connected with animal protection officers in neighbouring provinces to investigate.

In September, a horse that had recently arrived from Saskatchewan was put up for sale at an Alberta auction market. The group that bought her took the mare to a veterinarian...

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# FROM OUR LEGAL FILES



### **Pandemic Affects Court Cases**

The pandemic has impacted virtually every aspect of our lives including how our cases work their way through the court system. As we mentioned in the previous editon of this newsletter, several of our cases were stayed or withdrawn by the Crown to reduce a backlog created when courtrooms were closed last spring. However, even those cases that are still before judges are experiencing delays. Many trial dates have been moved back as the justice system works to reschedule cases impacted by the initial closure of the courts.

This means the Alberta SPCA had fewer cases resolved over the past six months, and several cases set for trial early in 2021 could be delayed even further. This does not affect the work we do. We continue to investigate complaints of animal abuse and neglect, and lay charges where appropriate, but we acknowledge it will take longer than normal for our cases to be tried by a judge.

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

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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.

PUBLICATION MAIL AGREEMENT NO. 40065555

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#### Cross-Border Investigations...

...continued from front page.

who quickly determined the horse had broken knee caps. She was immediately euthanized.

A public complaint was received because the horse was transported while in significant pain, and it was referred to Animal Protection Services of Saskatchewan for investigation. Our Peace Officers offered any assistance we could to help determine what had happened in the days leading up to the horse being put down.

In another case, a complaint was filed with the BC SPCA of a horse in distress transported from our province to the west coast. Animal protection officers from British Columbia contacted our agency and our Peace Officer conducted a thorough investigation into the care the horse received up to and including the decision to load it into a trailer to head west.

And in yet another case, a horse with a significant leg injury was moved from Saskatchewan to Alberta before being euthanized. Our agency was once again in contact with investigators in Saskatchewan as we worked to understand the circumstances related to transporting the horse while in distress.

Domestic animals in western Canada do not understand provincial boundaries and should not be put at risk because of an invisible border. That's why Alberta SPCA Peace Officers collaborate with our partners in animal protection to ensure all animals receive the highest level of protection regardless of where the journey began.



This Mare With Broken Kneecaps Was Transported To Alberta From Saskatchewan



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

### Perils of a Peace Officer

One of the questions potential new Peace Officers are asked when they apply to work with the Alberta SPCA is, 'do you like to drive?' If they don't enjoy spending hours alone in a vehicle, this job is not a good fit for them.

Our 10 Peace Officers add about 600,000 to 700,000 kilometres to their collective odometers each year. In 2020, the number was a little lower, about 555,000 kilometres, due to the pandemic. That's roughly 60,000 kilometres per officer each year, the same distance as driving around the world one-and-a-half times. It is common for our Peace Officers to drive for hours to investigate the welfare of animals of a single complaint.

With all that driving comes hazards. One of our Peace Officers was recently in a collision in Wetaskiwin when another vehicle pulled out in front of him. Fortunately, our Peace Officer was OK.



Damaged Vehicle in Wetaskiwin - November 2020

Other risks for our Peace Officers are the types of roads and conditions they drive through. As winter weather sets in our call volumes increase and our staff often endure treacherous conditions to check on animals. In some cases, they simply driving on makeshift roads. In northern Alberta, ice roads are common, used to shave hours off of a journey to a remote community. A calm demeanour is required when you hear the ice cracking beneath you as you drive across a frozen river.



Widewater, Alberta

Despite these risks, our corps of Peace Officers carry on without complaint. Animals are located in communities across the province, and some in very remote areas. Regardless of where animals are, if we receive a complaint we will ensure they are checked and their distress relieved. When we use the term "compassion for animals," we are referring to all species and breeds of domestic animals, regardless of where they are in our jurisdictional areas of Alberta.

#### Court costs rising...

...continued from front page.

On top of this, we face significant and ongoing legal bills to have representation on the lawsuit. We anticipate it could be months yet before the trial begins, and a final resolution on the charges and the placement of the animals is determined.

The case we've highlighted is one of our more extreme examples but it's not the only one. Over the past two and a half years our agency has engaged on eight different files where lawsuits were launched by the subjects instead of using the processes laid out in the APA to reclaim animals. We must acknowledge, it is the legal right of the subjects to engage in this process, however, such actions come with financial ramifications and rarely do their arguments have anything to do with the welfare of the animals involved. Instead, the subjects often challenge our Peace Officer's authority to act on behalf of the animals and to alleviate their distress.

Despite the high cost of managing these cases to our agency, we are committed to proceeding in a manner that puts the welfare of the animals first. We will not shy away from making decisions in the best interest of animals because of a potential lawsuit and the ensuing costs. To do so would breach our core values, and we know our donors share our values and support our Peace Officers to conduct themselves in a manner that puts the animals as the first priority. Every animal deserves to live a life free from distress and our Animal Protection Team is committed to that principle when making decisions. It is what being a part of a caring community is all about.

### 2020 Investigations

### 2,064 Investigations

- 577 dogs
- 423 horses
- 241 cats
- 191 cattle

### 695 Animals Seized

- 371 cats
- 83 horses
- 66 dogs

18 investigations that resulted in charges







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## **EDUCATION**

Visit our website for teachers: everylivingthing.ca





Giving Tree

# Challenge Accepted! Alberta Students Spread Kindness Throughout December

For 18 consecutive days, students across Alberta spread small acts of kindness towards self, others, animals, and the environment by participating in the Alberta SPCA Kindness Challenge. The challenge encouraged everyone to contribute to their community in a variety of ways. Some of the activities included: learning about the importance of native plant species and identifying any in their area, finding an alternate use for household items that might otherwise be thrown away or recycled, thanking a member of the community who cares for animals, people, and the environment, and learning about the Five Freedoms and how to improve the quality of care for pets.

In addition to performing daily acts of kindness, students were also encouraged to 'make a difference' by helping a cause or organization throughout the entire Kindness Challenge. Each class decided on what cause to contribute to at the start of the challenge, then collected donations, supplies and/or raised awareness and made their contribution at the conclusion of the challenge. Mrs. Bingley's grade 4 class from Calgary collected toys for CTV's Toy Mountain and supplies for the Calgary Women's Emergency Shelter. Grade 1 to 6 students who attend

the City of Beaumont's After School Care collected donations for The Christmas Elves and The Food Bank. Mrs. Keim's grade 5 class from Beiseker wrote letters to members of the Canadian Armed Forces and made a 'giving tree' that gives back to local families, and Ms. Radtke's and Erin Radloff's grade 2 class from Edmonton raised over \$2,000 for Second

Chance Animal Rescue Society. These are just a few examples of how students across the province made a difference in their community this past December.

After making their contribution, students reflected on the challenge thinking about how it made them feel and how it impacted their class, school and community. One teacher reported a student saying "It was FUN... it felt good doing all these kinds of things!"

The Kindness Challenge is available online for anyone to do anytime of the year. Modeling kindness encourages and inspires youth to practice empathy and prosocial skills which contributes to a caring community. Visit everylivingthing.ca/kindnesschallenge to participate! Who do you challenge?



Writing Letters for Members of the Military

## Humane Education in a Pandemic

This year has been a huge challenge for teachers across Alberta due to the pandemic. Teachers have had to adapt lessons to reflect physical distancing recommendations, continually keep

surfaces and objects sanitized and pendulate between teaching in physical classrooms and supporting students online. Despite the challenges, the Alberta SPCA education program continues to be a resource utilized by teachers.

We have adapted policies and resources to reflect this distinctive year. From extending the time in between loan periods for the AnimalTales book program, to providing versatile activities that can be done safely both in classrooms and online. We are also providing professional development virtually at Alberta Teachers' Association conferences and conventions. We aim to provide teachers with humane education materials and resources they can use with their students, and this year is no exception.

In the spirit of the theme 'Caring Community' we continue to highlight the positive difference Albertans of all ages are making in their communities. In times of challenge, focusing on helping and caring for others, including animals, can boost morale and leave us feeling less anxious and more hopeful.



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

### Crisis Care for Pets and People

On a warm December afternoon, Meiko was anxious, pacing in the Alberta SPCA parking lot. The Husky mixed-breed instinctively knew something exciting would happen this day. The nine-year old had been in the care of the Alberta SPCA for six weeks, the second time in 2020 Meiko had been a resident of our Crisis Care Program. The scene that was about to unfold was not new; he had experienced this before.

Meiko's owner, Dustin, placed his dog in our care so he could go into treatment for addictions. Programs like this do not allow pets and many owners refuse help until they know their animal will be properly cared for. Taking pets from owners is always a difficult and emotional process; reunions are the reward.



Meiko Waits Impatiently



Meiko and Dustin's Reunion

After 30 minutes, a cab pulled into the parking lot and Meiko instantly started pulling on his leash; he knew Dustin was in the vehicle. As Dustin jumped out, Meiko sprinted to meet him, bouncing like a kangaroo once he got to Dustin, whining happily that his best friend had returned. While Dustin didn't have the same jumping ability, he was equally excited.

"I made a promise to him years and years ago that I would never forget him," said Dustin, "And I'd never leave him behind."

### **Crisis Care Program**

The Alberta SPCA's Crisis Care program was launched in the fall of 2019 to help pet owners who do not qualify for the Pet Safekeeping Program. That program was established to help domestic violence survivors flee

abusive relationships by caring for their animals while family members sought refuge in a women's shelter. However, we found there were many people in other crisis situations that were falling between the cracks; people who needed temporary help with their pets and were not accessing critical programs because they were too concerned about their animals to take care of their own needs. The creation of the Crisis Care Program allowed us to help people who need important medical care, are attending an addictions treatment centre, or who are homeless. In the first full year of the

program, 37 animals were cared for by the Alberta SPCA while their

owners took time to look after themselves.

For Dustin, the Crisis Care Program provided a lifeline. "I was able to have the time to focus on the problem instead of focusing on [Meiko]," he said fighting back tears. "So that was a huge relief, and gave me my life back, so that's huge.

#### Time To Go Home

As the tailgate lifted on the taxi, Meiko knew to jump in. Dustin loaded food and other supplies provided to him by the Alberta SPCA that ensured Meiko would be well taken care of while Dustin worked to land on his feet and rebuild his life. He had an apartment and a job and was working on maintaining stability, for himself and for Meiko.

Meiko was his motivation for staying on the right track.

"He was my strength when I didn't have any," said Dustin as he explained the importance of Meiko in his life. "So as this journey carries on and he's getting older, it's my turn to take care of him and let him be a dog instead of me being me."



Meiko Ready To Go

### 2020 Crisis Care Program Statistics

•37 animals helped •29 reunited with owners •8 surrendered to the Alberta SPCA •\$57,000 spent on boarding, veterinary care & other supplies





## **ALBERTA SPCA NEWS**

**Building Compassion for Animals Since 1959** 



The Alberta SPCA is saddened by the recent loss of one of our Board of Directors, Ms. Myrna Coombs. Myrna passed away December 18, 2020 after a long and well fought battle with cancer. She will be greatly missed. On behalf of the Alberta SPCA, I wish to extend sincere condolences to her family and many friends.

While Myrna was new to our Board, being elected in early 2020, she was not a new face to many of us. It

was gratifying to learn that Myrna had accepted a nomination for election to the Board. She clearly represented the objectives and values of the Alberta SPCA. Having a strong background in both companion animals and livestock, as well as a province-wide experience in related organizations, she brought a knowledgeable and passionate commitment to the Board.

I had the personal enjoyment of being able to work with Myrna and her family and their numerous and various animals as their herd veterinarian in Onoway, Alberta. While clinic and farm visits were numerous, I particularly remember the expressions of joy on Myrna's face whenever we needed to intervene and successfully deliver vigorous baby goat kids to join her growing herd.

Myrna's love for animals extended well beyond her farm activities. She is warmly remembered as a member of the Alberta Goat Association Board of Directors and a recipient of their Award of Excellence. She was also a director and chair of Second Chance Animal Rescue Society (SCARS). Through this organization she personally fostered in excess of 400 puppies and kittens and drove thousands of kilometres around the province providing for the welfare needs of animals.

Needless to say that Myrna will be missed and she is fondly remembered.

Duane Landals B. Sc. Ag. DVM President





Tickets On Sale - AlbertaSPCA.org









### Alberta SPCA & Pet Planet Spread Christmas Cheer

A new partnership between the Alberta SPCA and Pet Planet resulted in some colourful Christmas décor at Pet Planet locations in December. Customers at six Pet Planet stores in our province were able to make a donation and place a bulb on store window Christmas trees. The donations were split between our organization and Kali's Wish Caner Foundation, a charity that helps families dealing with the emotional rollercoaster that comes when their pet receives a cancer diagnosis. Each charity received \$450.

"It was great to see Pet Planet stores eager to join this new and unique campaign," said Kate Smitko, Executive Director, Kali's Wish Cancer Foundation. "It was a great partnership with a very fun, creative way to get involved in and give back to our two charities."

We are thankful for the opportunity to work with the Pet Planet locations and Kali's Wish to raise awareness of animal welfare and to spread some Christmas joy. And we are all looking forward to next fall and the opportunity to create holiday displays at even more stores throughout the province.



## IN LOVING MEMORY

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

Akeno by Chantelle Dick Randall Gordon Ames by Ron & Kathy Wasel Amy & Oliver by Valerie Richardson Molly Anderson by Sharon Courchene Archie, Cody & Boots by Chris Ford Ash, Barney & Banjo by June Van Dusen Auntie Pam by Jane Sinden Bashido by Carol Kettlewell Bear by Hazel Jones Patrick Beaver by Joyce Casler Boris by Kathy Fischer Casey Borovan by George Borovan Alan Bott by Rhonda Brewer Dorine Boulton by Norma Boulton Julie Bradstreet by Pam Hutchison **Brodie** by Margaret Collins Carol Brown by Peter & Bonnie Trommelen Diane Byers by Myrna Gordon Vera Cail by Lorena Franchuk Cajun by Nancy Scott Cedar by Pat Herian

Huo Gou Chaulk by Wanda Semashkewich Jacquie Chekerda by Calgary Firebird Club Cher by Sharon Campbell Chico by Richard Kruger Squirrel Christensen by Linda & Bruce Christensen Sidney Chudek by Heather Chudek Irene Chudyk by Marie Khan Cisco by Sharon Fowler Cody by Sherry Lomax Doreen Collins Wallace by Anonymous Myrna Coombs by Judy Clarke, Kathleen & Ken Linder

Eunice Chapman by Ken & Suzanne Bond, Judy

Gish, Wanda & Darren Niehaus, Sheryl & Allan

Rairdon

Carol Cooper by Sondra Bebault Roxy Corns by Margaret E. Corns Lyle Cotton by Donna Prall Lizzie Crittenden by Joyce Crittenden, Nancy

Dave, Jake & Hank by Mike & Twyla Turcotte Zoe Davidson by Duncan Binder Larry Demytruk by Shannon & John Dean Beverly Diotte by Michel Diotte Dobby, Jade, Nashcat, Ginger Beef, Snowball, Pepper & Widdie by Lana Wiens Timothy Dopking by Cecile & Ralph E Atkinson David Edwards by Doreen Templeton Esther Emmett by Anonymous Ernie, Barney & Ralph by Marilyn Irving Marian Ewanchew by Geoffrey Ewanchew

Eynnie by Elisabeth Stoeck Joyce Fesciuc by Kim & Don MacPhee, Georgina

Mary & Einar Finnebraten by Robin Barnes Florence by Vive Rejuvenation Roy Fogg by Helen V. Richards Bonalin Kay Francis by David Francis, Shawna Irwin, Robert & Elaine McPherson, William & Gladys Mojelski, Shauna Newman, Maxine Paton, Bonnie & Robert Scott, Ron Solowan Dr. Rod French by Barbara Furuness Sara Fullerton by Marian MacKenzie Lillian Joyce Fuyarchuk by Roger Fuyarchuk Laura Gardner by Red Deer Region Highland Dancing Assoc.

Garrett by Mary Blackwell Gaylord by Walter Neuman Georgie by Darlene Loitz

Ginger by Anonymous Goldon Girls by Joyce & Dave Paradis Joan Groff by Debbie Metzger & Ryan Haussecker Hallie, Charlie, Mollie, Lacii & Jodi by Audrey Sturm

Hamish by Lis Emerson Harley by Judy Baxter Shirley Harrison by Bev & Dan MacDonald Hila by Judy Clarke Gloria Hill by Mulder's Mechanical George Hinrichs by Michelle Hinrichs Fred Holowack by Charlton Court Condo Corp. Peter Homeniuk by Yvonne Hagel Teddy Hudda by Ali Hansraj Gordon Hughes by Crystal Eberhardt, Olga

Zacharuk Nina Jacobson by Esther Hoerle Jassy by Shannon Despins Karen Cecilie Johnson by Robert & Terrie Fraser Harlan Johnson by Bernard Rostaing Josh Johnston by Wayne & Melanie Johnston Pearl Jones by Duncan MacDonald Sasha Jugnauth by Derek Jugnauth Susan Julius by Stephanie Rushton Wayne Junck by Daniel Acheson Kansas by Michael Swanson Ronald Kauk by Bonnie Weiss Jett Kingsley by Caelea McRae Rhonda Gaye Kropf by Karl Kropf Barbara Lagroix by Robin Lagroix-McLean Kokanee Lastiwka by Tonia & Kurt Schroepfer Mitzie Lee by Valerie Heerema Little Belle & Oatmeal Leinweber by Glen & Maxine Leinweber

Margaret Lesley by Colin Bell Lexy by Patricia Cross Leonard, Waltraut & Ronald Lumpe by Marion LaBrie Brad MacNaughton by Shelley & Ron Kary Maggi & Murphi by Alida Tabor

Maggie by Dave Hodson Maggie, Riley, Murphy, Jiggs, Tuffy & Klutey by Reg D. & Anna Ernst Bernie Mahoney by Jan Armstrong Osito Maxito by Natalia Avila Karrie Mikytyshyn by Y. & G. Mikytyshyn Barry Miller by Don Buchanan, Linda & Brian Minault

Kenneth George Mills by Lac Ste. Anne County -Staff Fund

Milton by Violeta Mariscal Steven Minchau by Deanna Grohn Mitzy by Glen Partridge Mia Moccia by Ian & Joyce Preston Loyal Moe by William Olsen Lyle Molyneaux by Gerry Carter Vernon 'Bud' Monson by Ken & Alice Monson Abigale Munro by Fred Irvine Jean Murphy by Commissionaires-Northern Ab. Div., Robert Courteau, Lloydminster Xtreme Jr. Lacrosse, Kelly McDermott, MD of Wainwright No. 61, Margaret Poppleton

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Sally by Paula Sawatzky Donna Osterhout by Barbara Osterhout Chandy, Penny, Dubie & Mya Paradis by Corrine & Andre Paradis

Norma Park by Martie Workman Patches by Mary Packer Patches & Little Girl by Sue Reynolds and Cecil Patchy by Susan & Roy Ruyselaar Snookums Patterson by Evelyn Patterson Nova Paul by Kathy Paul

Irene Pawlenchuk by Xenia Bubel Sadie & Griffy Pennock by Leah Faucher Copper Penny by Linda M. England Kramer Pezim by Jutta Pezim

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Pretzel & Bandette by Dwayne Steil Mary Proud by Irene Stone Quill by Robert & Chrisene Addley Adelle Reimer by Janet Stacheruk

Riley by Don Reynolds Rosie by Buffy Afseth

Barb Rowe by Shirley Hessler, CANTIRO Rufus by Jane Kern Myah Irene Saklofske by Viktoria Saklofske

Duke Sale by Gloria Cannon Sam Sam & Sophie by Linda Connell Sammy by Roland Gillett Sana by Eileen Townsend & David Savidge

Ann Savage by Linda Deaktor Scarf, Tayah, Sadie, Rudy, Ozzie & Cooper by **Anonymous** 

James Schile by Anonymous Eric Schofield by Anonymous Randall Shalapay by Carolyn M. Shalapay Shancey by Helen Jones Vern Shaw by Linda Shaw Shelley & Ruby by Jeannette Richter

Skeeter Quick Runner by Kathleen & Ken Linder Paul Alexander Smith by Gail Lowe

George Smith by Florence Nelson-Smith Smokey by Jennifer Chafe Smokey by Eileen Morris Caesar Sorensen by Anonymous Sprocket & Socks by Debbie Fenton St Thomas Family Pets by Priya St Thomas

Star by Irena Palka

Mary Steadman by Marion Haller, Darrold Quartly Streaky, Gracie & Bella by Debra Mercer

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Trixie by Patricia Long Jason Lee Trottier by Iris & Ian Mason Jason Trundle by Nadine Anderson Sneeker Tryon by Cassandra Myer Tui by Paige Greenhough Elizabeth Tuxworth by Josephine Cleopahrt Simon Upright by Chirag Shah, Ann Lyseng, Linda

Pachnowski, Mary-Ann & Wayne Parker, Myron & Adeline Solojuk Doug Wenzel by Leslie-Ann Epp, Sunny Ghai

Mark Widgill by Zora Lillis Brenda K. Williams by Leslie Williams Winston, Webster & Topaz by Leona De Boer













### ANIMALKIND RESPONSE FORM

Winter 2021

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 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

Donations and Memberships	Animal Response Team (ART)
YES! I support the Alberta SPCA's province-wide Animal Protection, Education and One Family Welfare programs.  □ Enclosed is a donation of \$	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
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□ \$30 senior family □ \$35 family	Please withdraw this monthly amount from my:
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