

## Mental Health & Animal Welfare

We're here to help animals. That may seem like an obvious statement for an agency like ours, but it helps put into perspective what we do every day.

Our goal in every investigation is to help the animals and relieve any distress. The *Animal Protection Act* (APA) provides our Peace Officers the legal authority to take animals into protective custody (seize) to relieve their distress. This ability allows us to help animals which is our first priority in all investigations. Dealing with the owners of animals can be more challenging and can take a number of different forms based on the circumstances our Peace Officers encounter.

In some cases our investigations, which deal with animals in distress, intersect with owners in distress in the form of mental or physical health issues. It isn't uncommon for a Peace Officer to arrive at a property and realize there may be welfare issues with the person responsible for caring for animals, leading to the health of the animals being compromised. There is no need to approach these types of predicaments with a heavy hand and our Peace Officers are trained and can provide support to the individual as well as the animals.

One example our Peace Officers have encountered many times over



*Cattle that were removed from a property this spring*

the years is the individual who is in charge of a large number of livestock and may not be able to adequately take care of the herd. Recently our Peace Officer arrived at a rural property to find about 100 head of cattle in poor condition. Once the Peace Officer started talking to the owner, it became clear the owner may have some form of cognitive deficit or possibly a form of dementia. The owner acknowledged he needed to sell his animals due to his inability to properly care for them but needed assistance to do so. Once the owner agreed, we facilitated the transportation of the cattle to a caretaking facility so we could have the animals assessed by a veterinarian.

*...continued on p. 2*

## Puppy Importation

*Importers have new guidelines to follow when transporting puppies to Canada*

The Alberta SPCA fully supports new measures affecting the importation of dogs less than eight months of age into Canada. The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) introduced the measures effective May 15, 2021. The CFIA's requirements are not regulatory in nature but reflect a policy change to the permitting requirements. They represent a good first step to ensure positive outcomes for dogs being imported into Canada. The changes are as follows;

- Importers must obtain a permit that only allows for a single entry with a specified number of dogs.
- Kennel of origin must be certified by an official veterinarian.
- Dogs require a rabies vaccination at least 28 days before export to Canada.
- Dogs must be treated for both internal and external parasites prior to importation.
- Importers are required to provide information about the travel route from the country of origin to their final destination in Canada, including the airport or land border crossing that will be used.

*...continued on p. 6*



## Mother & Daughter Guilty of Neglect

A mother and daughter received significant fines after pleading guilty to causing distress to dozens of animals on a rural property west of Edmonton.

In March 2020, Alberta SPCA Peace Officers exercised two separate warrants to check on the welfare of numerous animals. During the first warrant, seven cats, a dog, two pigeons and two potbellied pigs were taken into protective custody. During the second warrant, 20 horses, seven cattle and six donkeys were seized after being determined to be in distress due to lack of food, shelter and appropriate care. Peace Officers also found numerous dead animals on the property including chickens, a duck, cow, horse and a cat.

In March of 2021 Tammy Janet Morrison and Natalie Catherine Morrison each pleaded guilty in Stony Plain Provincial Court to a single count under the *Animal Protection Act* of causing animals to be in distress. A number of additional charges were withdrawn. At the time of the offenses, Tammy Morrison was under a court-ordered prohibition to not have custody or control of more than eight horses. Tammy Morrison was fined \$5,000 dollars while Natalie Morrison was fined \$3,500.



2 Pigeons Were Among  
Animals Seized

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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.

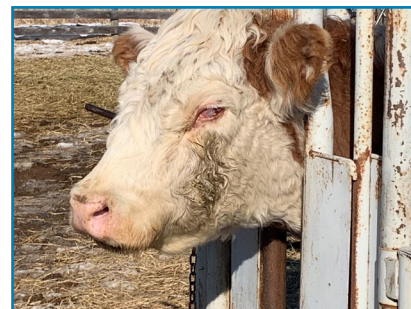
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## Dog Owner Receives Significant Prohibition

Goran Radukic is prohibited from owning any animals or having any animal in his care for a period of 10 years. On February 18, 2021 Mr. Radukic pleaded guilty in Leduc Provincial Court to one count under the *Animal Protection Act* of failing to provide adequate care for a dog that was sick or wounded. Mr. Radukic was also fined \$100 dollars.

*Mental Health ...cont'd from front page.*

Some of the cattle required euthanasia, others, like the cow in this photo, required treatment for acute healthcare needs. Others were in a position where they could be transported to an auction for sale. The proceeds from the sale were passed along to the former owner after our costs for transporting them had been deducted.



Cow with cancer eye

In another recent investigation, the owner of numerous cats was unable to properly care for himself because he was too focused on providing for the cats. We were able to offer temporary care for the animals while the owner was admitted to hospital. It was the first step in helping the owner reduce the cats on his property to a manageable number. The man's family sent our Peace Officer a very nice card thanking her for her compassion for everyone in the house.

In both of these cases, we were able to help the animals, and neither situation warranted charges under the APA. Mental health is a contributing factor in a significant number of our cases and approaching these with a kind heart and an open mind allows us to help the animals; our first priority. We don't need a conviction to establish our involvement with the owner was successful, we just need to know the animals are in a better situation due to our involvement, and hopefully we can help the animal owner along the way.

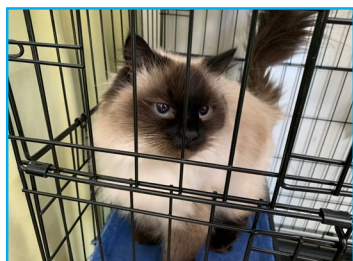


To report animals in distress outside of  
Edmonton and Calgary, call: 1-800-455-9003

## Prohibition Restricts Number of Horses Woman Can Have

In February 2021 Lenna Percheson pleaded guilty in Wetaskiwin Provincial Court to one count of causing animals to be in distress. In May of 2020, Alberta SPCA Peace Officers, acting under the protection of a warrant, seized 15 horses and 13 cats from a property in central Alberta due to distress. A number of the horses were pregnant at the time of the seizure and a total of six foals were born while in the care of our agency.

Ms. Percheson was charged with eight offenses under the *Animal Protection Act* for causing animals to be in distress, for failing to provide adequate food and water, for failing to provide adequate care for an animal that is ill or wounded, and for failing to provide adequate shelter.



As part of her sentence, Ms. Perscheson was handed a prohibition from having care and control of more than seven horses for a period of two years. Alberta SPCA Peace Officers have the authority to seize any horses in excess of seven that are in her care and control, as well as to seize

any other animal in distress on her properties. Alberta SPCA Peace Officers have the right to inspect animals on Ms. Percheson's properties, without warrant, after providing 12 hours notice.



## Multiple Owners Plead Guilty to Causing Distress

In the fall of 2020, Sherry Elder, Crystal Mosher and Adam Wiseman each pleaded guilty to a single count of causing animals to be in distress under the *Animal Protection Act* 2(1).

Alberta SPCA Peace Officers removed 65 animals from a rural property in Wheatland County in February of 2020 due to distress. Among the animals were 36 horses, 22 goats, four pigs and three rabbits. Peace Officers had been trying to work with the owners to improve conditions for the animals on the property for some time before making the decision the animals needed to be in protective custody.

Sherry Elder was fined \$1,000 and handed a 10-year prohibition from owning livestock. The order gives Alberta SPCA Peace Officers the right to inspect Ms. Elder's property, without warrant, during the period of the prohibition. Crystal Mosher was fined \$500 and the Alberta SPCA has the right to inspect the animals on her property without warrant. Adam Wiseman was fined \$1,000 and the Alberta SPCA has the right to inspect the animals on his property, without warrant, for a period of 10 years.

## Animal Protection Statistics for First 4 Months of the Year

The first four months of 2021 have been quieter than the same period over the past few years. We initiated 563 investigations, a 40% decline from the spring of 2019. The drop in cases is likely the result of two factors; due to the pandemic fewer people are travelling in the province and therefore fewer problems are being identified by the public, and the mild winter we experienced means animals likely endured less weather-related stress.

However, many of the files we have investigated this year have been complicated, including cases involving many species of animals, large numbers of animals, cases where there were numerous owners of the animals, and scenarios where the custody of seized animals

is delayed given the owner seeks a civil decision instead of using the mechanism provided in the legislation. As a result, our Animal Protection Team has been consistently busy despite the reduced case load.

### 2021 Animal Protection Statistics January - April

563 Investigations

273 Animals Seized

- 19 Dogs
- 29 Cats
- 191 Cattle
- 7 Horses
- 27 Others

# EDUCATION

Visit our website for teachers: [everylivingthing.ca](http://everylivingthing.ca)



## The Artist Behind the Posters, Meet Gloria Ho

Each school year the education department introduces a new theme to foster positive character traits in students including empathy, compassion, responsibility, curiosity and respect. Every year a classroom poster is designed that features beautifully painted animals to help convey the current theme. The Alberta SPCA is fortunate to have collaborated with Alberta artist Gloria Ho for the past six years. Thanks to the efforts of this talented artist, thousands of these posters have made their way into Alberta classrooms, bringing humane education to schools across the province.



For as long as she can remember Gloria has loved drawing and colouring, but it was in grade 6, while learning different paint techniques during an after-school art class, when she fell in love with watercolour. Although Gloria's passion is painting human portraits, she has been experimenting with animal portraiture for almost nine years. She enjoys the variety of textures she is able to achieve with watercolours which lends well to painting animals. Her preferred animals to paint are bison due to the interesting colours and textures in their fur, along with their unique shape. Gloria effortlessly conveys emotion in the animals she paints, which is evident by the body language and facial expressions of the animals in the character education posters.

Gloria is also an educator. For more than eight years she has taught English to newcomers to Canada. She helps her students adapt to life in Canada by teaching them how to complete real-world tasks in their communities like going to the doctor, reading bank statements, and speaking to a cashier. When asked about her favourite part of teaching, she replied:

"Interacting with my students and forming meaningful connections with them. They've all faced tremendous challenges coming to Canada but they are so resilient and hardworking."

Gloria believes in the messages the posters promote and she has three of the posters hanging in her classroom. Her favourite, 'Choose Compassion', sits right beside her door to remind her students, and herself, to be kind and compassionate to others and themselves every day.

When asked how it feels to know her artwork helps build character in students throughout Alberta Gloria responded:

"It's very exciting! It makes me happy that my artwork goes beyond my little home studio and can reach a wider audience. It's wonderful that I was given the opportunity to use my artwork to help promote a positive message for students in Alberta."

Visit [everylivingthing.ca/building-character/](http://everylivingthing.ca/building-character/) to see the posters Gloria has created for the Alberta SPCA. You can also see more of Gloria's work by visiting her website: [gloriaho.ca](http://gloriaho.ca). The next poster in our series will be released in the fall.

## Online Game to Learn About Animal Welfare

### Can You 'Get Nina Home?'

Typically in the spring, our Education Department attends several agriculture awareness events throughout Alberta engaging elementary students and the public using interactive games on animal welfare. However, due to COVID-19 these events did not take place, so instead, we developed an online version of the game for people of all ages to play from the comfort of their own home.

In the game, you work your way through different scenarios answering multiple-choice questions to get Nina, the border collie, home! Players learn about animals, animal welfare, and safe interactions with different species. It's also a great opportunity for adults to test their own knowledge of animal welfare and behaviour.

Can you get Nina home? Visit [everylivingthing.ca/getnina-home](http://everylivingthing.ca/getnina-home) to test your animal smarts. You will also find videos and other resources related to the questions on the website.



# ONE FAMILY WELFARE

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

## One Family Welfare Endures A Baby Boom



Oh, they're so cute. But, unfortunately many of our animal clients in 2021 have been a part of what can be termed 'unwanted litters.' Our One Family Welfare (OFW) staff has had an influx of little ones this year, and in many cases, the kittens and puppies were born while in our care; often the owners of the mother cats and dogs didn't even know their pet was pregnant.

During the first four months of 2021 our agency has helped care for 46 puppies and kittens. This is in addition to our adult animal clients, that number was 135 up to the end of April. The puppies and kittens certainly grab a lot of attention, but they also require a considerable amount of work. Puppies and kittens have needs their adult companions do not, from bottle feeding in some cases to puppy play dates to ensure they are properly socialized.



So why are we seeing so many kittens and puppies this year? The simple answer is that a high number of pets coming into our programs have not been spayed or neutered. Three out of four animals entering our Pet Safekeeping and Crisis Care Programs this year have not been altered, an increase of nearly 40 per cent over our normal rate. As we know, pets that are not spayed or neutered tend to have no problem finding a mate leading to unwanted litters.

That leads to the next question, which is why are so few animals being spayed and neutered? Our OFW staff has identified that over the past 18 months many animals coming into our programs have not received even the most basic of veterinary care, including their primary vaccines. This is likely a result of the downturn in the Alberta economy which, of course, has been exacerbated by the pandemic.



For our organization, the ramifications are many. The additional animals come with significant costs for their care until they are old enough to be transferred to other organizations for re-homing. When babies are in our care, we arrange for and pay the cost of getting them spayed and neutered to ensure we are not contributing to the pet over-population. We also foot the bill for three rounds of vaccinations to make sure the kittens and puppies have a good and healthy start in life. This vet care costs us about \$500 per animal, which means our agency has paid out about \$23,000 in the first four months of the year just for the babies in our care. This does not include any additional boarding costs that may come with having to keep a family of puppies or kittens with their moms.



Unfortunately, this trend does not appear to be coming to an end anytime soon. However, this provides a good opportunity to remind everyone about the importance of getting your pets spayed and neutered, and it's a great chance to thank our loyal donors. Your generosity goes to help these animals, ensuring we're all doing our part to limit unwanted litters and the suffering many cats and dogs endure due to a lack of homes for all the animals in need.



# ALBERTA SPCA NEWS

Building Compassion for Animals Since 1959



## *Puppy Importation ...cont'd from front page.*

- Importers are required to schedule a CFIA inspection at the airport or land border crossing where the animals will enter Canada.
- Importers transporting dogs by air must have a post-import quarantine facility that has been pre-approved by the CFIA so that should animals require quarantine there is a facility available to accommodate this.
- If importers are found non-compliant, or the puppies don't meet the health and vaccine requirements to enter Canada, the puppies may be shipped back to their country of origin.

These new measures represent an improvement from previous requirements. [A summary of changes can be found on the CFIA website.](#)

Our agency has identified dog importation as an area with large potential for serious welfare issues for quite some time. This was underscored in June 2020 when a flight from Ukraine arrived with numerous dead and suffering dogs. There was significant public outrage, and rightly so, prompting efforts to better manage the permitting process for commercial dog importation. Alberta SPCA President, Dr. Duane Landals B.Sc. Ag., DVM, is a member of the Canine Importation Working Group which includes members of the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association, CFIA, Humane Canada, Canadian Kennel Club and Humane Society International. The group worked to discuss the risks to animals and identify solutions to this very serious issue. To be clear, Dr. Landals and the Alberta SPCA have recognized the issue of importation of dogs to be a serious problem long before the Ukraine tragedy occurred.



Our agency has increasingly been concerned with individuals and groups bringing dogs in for commercial purposes with an unknown vaccination history, impacting both dogs and people. Also, there's been concern with dog's entering Canada with a heavy parasite load, compromising the dogs' health and Canada's otherwise healthy dog populations. This placed puppies and adult dogs at risk due to long travel periods and arriving to less than ideal conditions where their ongoing care was not managed, and their health and well-being not prioritized.



It must be noted however, not all commercial operators are created equal. With the advent of Hurricane Katrina, we witnessed the emergence of kind-hearted individuals and groups dedicated to saving companion animals from dire circumstances. That said, we also saw the emergence of groups capitalizing on a steady supply of dogs marketed as "rescue dogs" or those who imported specific breeding dogs to support a thriving desire for small breed puppies.

The CFIA's measures are a great first step and will assist in supporting conscientious consumers in welcoming a healthy and happy dog to their family. The changes should help our country better understand just how many puppies are being imported to

Canada, and what their health status is upon arrival. This will help guide future decisions on dog importation regulations. Our organization would like to see similar changes implemented for adult dogs to ensure health and welfare is a top priority for all canines.

The Alberta SPCA understands the significance of the human-animal bond. A year into the global pandemic many Albertans are appreciating the benefits of having a companion animal to sooth fraying nerves. However, it's vitally important those looking to add a pet to their family ensure they do not contribute to the suffering of animals by financially supporting those who import dogs from questionable sources. Be informed, do your research and ask lots of questions. Be a conscientious consumer, don't secure a puppy from anyone who might not have the animal's well-being as a priority.



# IN LOVING MEMORY

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

Abby, by Anonymous  
Abby, by Jessica Stoner  
Billie, by Duncan & Dianne Hahn  
Bokollo, by Linda M. England  
Rudiger Borden, by Sarah Boechler  
Dorine Boulton, by Fred Umeris  
Helen Brauer, by Marvin & Anne Garton  
Buddy, by Nicole Cote  
CeeCee, by David J. & Brenda Hewko  
Chopper, by Jana Grekul  
Cinnamon & Ciara, by Melynn Wiltsie  
Bryna Clarke, by Sydney Deitch  
Barbara Colbourne, by Taylor MacDougall  
Gail Joan Coles, by Valerie Heerema  
Myrna Coombs, by Maureen Manning,  
Elaine Yakiwchuk  
Carol Cooper, by Sondra Beault  
Roxxy Corns, by Margaret E. Corns  
Shawna Cossette, by Nicole Noseworthy  
Henry Couture, by Fay McCready  
Quincy Cruikshank, by Norma Wark  
Cujo, by Judy & Bill Chahley  
Dandy, Dandy, Candy & Muffy, by Kyla Fleck  
Eileen Deacon, by James Loy  
Jane Mady Ilse DeHaas, by June Fong  
Kohl Delnea, by Tamara Alexander  
Rick Derko, by Kelly Ballard, Aimee St Laurent  
Diesel, by Brian Hardie  
Dobby, by Cozens Wiens LLP  
Heidi Drusul, by Zane Rasmussen  
Jeannette Ellis, by Glen Ellis  
Fatcat, by Joan McBurney  
Stella Gammie, by Benny Chen  
Rio Michael Gavinchuk, by Mary Berrevoets  
Tess & Beau Gillard, by Marg Blondheim-Whetstone & Brian Whetstone  
Janet Goodall Evans, by Catherine Seward  
Tiger Hamer, by Wendy Hamer  
Don & Doris Harbridge, by Deb Northfield  
Harley, by Judy Baxter  
Janene Eleee Harris, by Duncan McKitrick  
Brad Harrison, by Pro Stride Hockey  
Ira Hayes, by Kimberley McDonald-Kingston  
George Hinrichs, by Michelle Hinrichs

Iris Eudora Hurst, by Joanne Pagnucco  
Jimi, by Patricia Brost  
Betty Johnson, by Shelley Simmonds  
Sasha Jugnauth, by Derek Jugnauth  
Jules, by Tracy & Stan Wadden  
Diana Keller, by Blueberry School  
Richard Kimmel, by Frances & Richard Preston  
Joan Kinshella, by Norma & Brian Gourley  
Helmut Klenke, by Elden Kipke, Lisa Truscott  
Doris Martha Lavorato, by Laurie Guest, Diane & Larry Kingswood  
Donna Leavens, by Cliff & Dorothy Watt  
George W. Loh, by Natalie Jerwak  
Miss Lucy, by Rose Thompson  
Maddy, by Lorraine McFarlane  
Edeltraud Maran, by Renate Josuttes  
Marley, by Rahul Patel  
Hugo McConnell, by Danielle Brown  
Norman & Kory McLeod, by Morry & Dawn Banner  
Gailadawn McNabb, by Matthew McNabb  
Tinsle Menczel, by Nikky Reynar  
Milton, by Violeta Mariscal  
Miss May, by Marilyn Hooper  
Nuisance, by Max & Mary Wiese  
Donna Peel, by Pamela Purkis  
Peppy Platt, by Randy Platt  
Rose Pollitt, by David Pollitt  
Jago Powell, by Jim & Katie Bowers,  
Irene Chen, Dave & Karen Finlay,  
Chelsey Heyworth, Chad Lemay,  
Anonymous  
Pretzel & Bandette, by Dwayne Steil  
Elsie Pyrcz, by Beth Haverslew  
Quill, by Angela Wu  
Razor, by Kerilynn Hnatuk  
Robert Reid, by The Co-operators Insurance/ Appraisal Department  
Gloria Rein, by Marvin & Anne Garton,  
Nicole Hudson  
Rex, by Kathleen Dempsey  
Casey Reynolds, by Julie A. Reynolds  
Kirstin Rockwell, by Lillie Mae Baker  
Rocky, by Abbey Marusiak  
Jack William Rogers, by Linda Ambury  
Helga Roggisch, by Nadine & Neil Erickson  
Classy Muffin Rolof, by Mary Rolof  
Rosie, by Buffy Afseth

Patricia Rudko, by Brian Rudko  
Myah Irene Saklofske, by Viktoria Saklofske  
Shayna, by Wayne & Kathy Cormier  
Edward Leslie Shipka, by Irene Miller  
Snuggles, Pinky & Smudgy, by Donna Hryniuk  
Sophie, by Marilyn Hooper  
Sharilyn Sorensen, by Darlene Wong  
Speedo & Keeker, by Gerald & Deborah Pearen  
Elly Spekking, by Diana Goodfellow  
Kay Squire, by Tori Taylor  
Robert Stockley, by Shari Stockley  
Storm, by Lois Aitken & Mike Hooker  
Fred Swinerd, by Marilyn Cropp Wall & Jeff Wall  
Sylbuster, by Anonymous  
Donna Taylor, by Shirley Felker  
Taz & Peanut, by Kyla Fleck  
Teemo & Murphy, by Patricia Williams  
Benji Thomas, by Mr K. Foon Der  
Karen Thompson, by Theresa Brisbane,  
Robert Campbell, Bonnie Fairweather,  
Travis Fairweather, Brooke & Brandon Huebert, Roselyne Kulak, Dean & Susan McLeod, Kevin O'Donnell, PetersSon Pipelines Ltd.  
Tuffy, by M. Thomson  
Karen Turner, by Kathleen Hengelmann  
Elizabeth Tuxworth, by Josephine Cleopahrt  
Fenway Underhill, by Tracey Savoie  
Simon Upright, by Chirag Shah  
William John Ursulak, by Shona MacLachlan  
Mocca Vanhoutteghem, by John Kingston  
Kristie Vinet, by Jenny Cooper  
Molly Ward, by Janet & Paul Sparks  
Webber, by Catherine Binder  
David White, by Marie Danielson,  
Terrie Schock, Cathy & Joe White  
Lyle Wiebe, by Lavina Belik  
Willow, by Sandi Madvid  
Winston, Webster & Topaz, by Leona De Boer  
Hazel Yakiwchuk, by Paul & Margaret Blinzer, Debra & Peter Lange, Marie Wowchuk  
Ramona Zentner, by Andrew J. & Gail Jarema  
Mary Teresa Zywockiewicz, by Samantha Belecki

The Alberta SPCA gratefully acknowledges the generous support of the following clinics participating in our Pet Memorial Program for Veterinary Clinics: Barr-North Veterinary Services Ltd, Foothills Animal Hospital, Parkland Veterinary Hospital Ltd, Range Road Veterinary Clinic, Woodlands Veterinary Hospital & Animal Dental Centre



Alberta SPCA, 17904 118 Avenue NW, Edmonton, AB T5S 2W3, or visit us at [albertasPCA.org](http://albertasPCA.org).