

## Morinville Bylaw & Vet Clinic Team Up to Care for Strays



Beefcake loves to lounge around the vet clinic's waiting area, stretching out on a chair or investigating strange bags near the counter. The adult male cat is very calm and relaxed. He acts like he owns the place. However, Beefcake is not a permanent resident. He's available for adoption after being brought in to the Morinville clinic as a stray.

The Morinville Veterinary Clinic operates as shelter and holding facility for the town's at-large and lost cats. It's a role the staff relishes!

"It makes us feel good because we're contributing to our community," says clinic floor manager Gail Cooper. "It's a great satisfaction to the staff."

For many smaller municipalities, finding an effective way to deal with stray or lost cats in the community is challenging. Managing the cats can be both time consuming and expensive. However, in the town of Morinville,

the bylaw team and staff from a local vet clinic work together to ensure the cats are cared for while keeping the town's animal control budget from being decimated.

"Our relationship really does maximize our ability to take care of the animals while minimizing the costs that we experience," says Sgt. Will Norton, the peace officer in charge of enforcement for the town of Morinville.

The Morinville Vet Clinic has staff working most days of the week as it manages its patients so caring for a handful of at-large cats at the same time is not a burden. Yet, accepting the task of caring for the town's lost and found felines removes a significant challenge for the town's peace officers in managing free roaming cats.

The town pays about \$140 for each cat that is turned in to the clinic and needs to be re-homed, plus any needed medical care. The clinic operates the service on a cost recovery basis, but does benefit from the ongoing veterinary care of the cats if the new owners choose to keep utilizing the clinic's medical services.

*...continued on p. 5*

## A Stressful Time for All

*Alberta SPCA staff see first-hand the stress our communities are under*

Alberta SPCA staff are caring, compassionate people. We understand the importance that animals play in our daily lives. Companion animals provide comfort and unconditional love in these unpredictable times. We also recognize that many Albertans depend on farmed animals as a source of food and other products, and the industry provides income and employment for many.

Unfortunately, when people suffer, so do their animals. With the extreme weather and resulting drought conditions, financial hardship, separation from family and friends, illness and the continued unpredictability which COVID-19 brings, our staff are regularly experiencing high call volumes reporting animals in difficult conditions. The call could be a concerned member of the public reporting their neighbour's animals or even someone self-reporting that they, themselves are no longer equipped to manage their animals. It will surprise no one that Albertans are struggling in terms of their mental health.

*...continued on p. 2*



## Rancher Fined after Distressed Animals sent to Auction

The owner of a large cattle operation west of Edmonton was fined after pleading guilty to sending distressed livestock to auction. In June of 2020 the Alberta SPCA received a public complaint that over 600 cattle had been sent to auction, with more than 50 of the animals in distress due to pink eye and blindness. An investigation was opened and Peace Officers were assigned to investigate.

The owner of the cattle, Joe Foster, was charged with six offences under the *Animal Protection Act* of causing animals to be in distress, of failing to provide adequate food and water, and for failing to provide adequate care for animals that were sick or injured.

On May 26, 2021 Joe Foster pleaded guilty to one offense under the *Animal Protection Act* 2(1) of causing animals to be in distress. He was fined \$2,000. As part of the sentence, Alberta SPCA Peace Officers, without warrant, have authority for a period of five years to attend any property owned, leased or used by Joe Foster, or any of his associated businesses, to check on the welfare of any livestock present. The remaining charges were withdrawn.

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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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## Trail Riding Horses Seized - Owner Pleads Guilty to Causing Distress

Rose Lee Adamsen admitted in court on July 27, 2021 to causing animals to be in distress. In March 2019, the Alberta SPCA received a public complaint that horses at a trail riding operation west of Rocky Mountain House were in distress. An Alberta SPCA Peace Officer found two horses on a remote property that appeared to be in distress due to a lack of food and water. Both horses, along with a dog, were seized, and both owners of the animals were charged under the *Animal Protection Act* for causing animals to be in distress 2(1) and for failing to provide adequate food and water 2.1(a).

As part of her sentence, Ms. Adamsen was fined \$1,500 and is prohibited from having care of or being responsible for the feeding and care of one or more horses for a period of three years.

Charges against the other owner, Neil McBride, remain active before the courts.

*Stressful ...continued from front page.*

Our staff regularly encounter individuals who are frustrated, angry, and often times difficult to communicate with. While Alberta SPCA staff remain concerned about animals - every conversation must begin and end with an animal - we must acknowledge that human and animal well-being are inextricably connected. This concept is called ONE WEFARE and shapes how our agency approaches the work before us.

Our first priority is always the animal. We need to protect animals AND remember there is a human being involved. And that person is likely struggling as well. This is why we approach every situation with compassion. We hope the public will be equally compassionate towards our staff as we navigate a stressful and unpredictable landscape. Please be kind - give each other some grace and understand these are tough times for everyone.





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

## Theft of Hay Highlights Plight of Livestock Owners

It was supposed to be a positive story.

Hay that had been cut at Lois Hole Centennial Provincial Park near St. Albert was going to be donated to our agency to help feed the animals that may come into our care this winter; 70 bales in all. The hay had been cut and baled illegally, and a conservation officer with Alberta Environment and Parks who seized the bales now wanted to offer them to our organization. Unfortunately, before we could arrange for pick up, the bales disappeared.



Peace Officer Stuart Dodds Inspects Hay From One Bale That Was Left Behind After Theft

The effort to load and remove so many large bales would not have been easy and demonstrates the lengths some seem willing to go to secure feed in a year where supplies are low and prices are high. Our agency is not the only one to see hay disappear from a field, our Peace Officers have heard several anecdotal stories of farmers becoming victims after leaving bales in a field for too long. The cost of feeding animals will be extensive this winter and spring.

The feed challenges this year highlight the need for ranchers to take a hard look at their situation. If farmers cannot secure enough feed for their entire herd to get through winter and spring they'll need to make difficult decisions and reduce the number of animals they have. It is not appropriate for any owner to allow animals to starve because they could not find or afford feed.

In our case the value of the feed stolen was worth about \$10,000, a significant amount of money for an organization that relies on the generous support of our donors to conduct most of the work we do. Fortunately, our Peace Officers were able to accept a donation of 11 large bales, and others in our caring community have made similar offers, as we try to ensure all animals in Alberta are treated humanely.



Peace Officer Dodds Accepts 11 Bales From Conservation Officer Rob Spellicy

## Cattle Owner Pleads Guilty to Failing to Provide Adequate Food and Water

On December 3, 2019 Alberta SPCA Peace Officers executed a search warrant on a property in southeastern Alberta. The Peace Officers, along with a veterinarian determined the cattle on the property were in distress due to a lack of adequate food and water. 208 animals were seized from the property. Six cattle were found to be deceased on the property.

Bradley Cecil Hoover was charged with two offenses under the *Animal Protection Act* for causing animals to be in distress 2(1) and for failing to provide adequate food and water 2.1(a). On June 18, 2021, Mr. Hoover pleaded guilty to one count of failing to provide adequate food and water and was fined \$2,500. The sentence also gives Alberta SPCA Peace Officers authority to attend Mr. Hoover's property, without warrant, for a period of five years for the purpose of checking on the welfare of animals in his care.





## Encouraging Kids to Think Critically About Animal Stories

Animals are ubiquitous in the lives of children. Many young people have pets, visit zoos, or go to schools where classrooms include a living creature. Children's art, films, and books also heavily feature animals. This is likely, according to research, because children tend to have a natural affinity towards living things.

However, the messages we send to children through these media are not always positive or accurate. For instance, many stories glorify the taming or taking in wildlife. In reality, these actions are problematic for both animals and people. People may become injured by wild animals, either physically, from scratches or bites, or through zoonotic disease infection. Animals can also suffer from inappropriate interactions with people. Bears that become habituated to campsites, usually from food or garbage left by humans, can be killed as these bears become less fearful and present a danger to people. Furthermore, taking in wildlife is harmful to animals as most of us are not equipped to care for a wild species (and is in fact illegal without appropriate permitting in Alberta).

Regarding pets, it's rare to see a film with a cat that isn't drinking milk. Although this scene commonly plays out, it does not reflect appropriate care as many cats past the kitten stage are lactose intolerant so milk would cause them to feel ill (water is best for cats). Although there are plenty of great stories that might not accurately demonstrate appropriate care or relationships with animals, they can provide opportunities for teachable moments if they are reflected on critically.



Here are a few things to consider when reading books or watching movies with an animal theme:

### How are attitudes about animals portrayed?

- How are people's attitudes towards animals reflected in the story? Or are any species depicted negatively? For instance, are snakes or rats made out to be bad or evil? We know from research the animals we have negative attitudes towards have poorer animal welfare outcomes. These negative attitudes can be reinforced through stories. Ask kids if they think these depictions are fair.

### Is animal care represented in a realistic way?

- Does the story demonstrate realistic/appropriate care? Or does the story promote misconceptions? Cats drinking milk is a good example of this! We also have a great book in our AnimalTales book program that features a pet fish. However, in the story the boy brings his pet fish on the bus to school. We would ask kids how the fish might feel being carted around all day. Is this the best way to care for a fish? Encourage kids to point out when stories get things wrong.

*Animal Stories... continued on page 6.*

## New Resources for Alberta Teachers!

A key element of providing humane education materials to teachers is ensuring resources reflect the latest in animal welfare science, animal welfare/humane education, as well as current classroom practices. While small updates happen on an ongoing basis, this summer our education department significantly updated two popular programs.

AnimalTales, a free book lending program available to elementary teachers, is aimed at inspiring empathy while building literacy. The program was updated to include new books from a diverse group of authors, including representation of Indigenous authors at each grade level. Updated activities reflect current classroom practices and pedagogical strategies while meeting outcomes in the Alberta curriculum. New videos, podcasts, and games have been added to supplement these resources and enhance student engagement. The updated program will be available this fall for elementary teachers across Alberta. Visit [everylivingthing.ca/animaltales](http://everylivingthing.ca/animaltales) to learn more.

*New Resources ...continued on page 6.*



# ONE FAMILY WELFARE

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

## Alberta SPCA Team to Speak at Violence Link Conference

The Alberta SPCA's Patricia Mamak and Julia Evasiuk will be presenting at the 2021 Canadian Violence Link Conference in November. The two-day online event will bring together experts and stakeholders to discuss the link between family violence and animal abuse.

Patricia and Julia work in the Alberta SPCA's One Family Welfare department where we offer temporary care for pets while their owners seek help for crisis situations such as domestic abuse. And while the link between family violence and animal abuse is well established, Patricia and Julia will discuss how animals are put at risk due to numerous other crisis situations, and why the Alberta SPCA expanded the scope of the work we do help people and their pets.

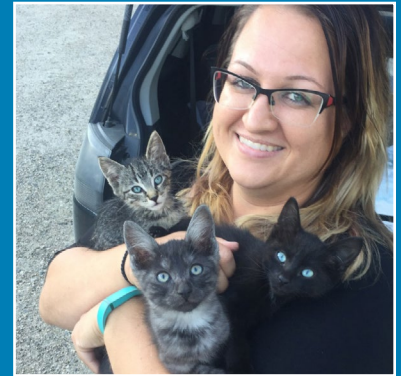
Our agency recognizes when people suffer so do their animals. And we know most people will not invest the time to heal themselves until they know their pets will be safe and cared for. Our team routinely has contact with people who refuse important medical care for themselves because they do not have anyone who can care for their animal while that owner is in hospital. And research consistently shows domestic abuse survivors often refuse to go to a shelter if they cannot take their pets with them because they fear the abuser will harm the animals in their absence. Since most shelters do not accept pets, survivors routinely leave themselves in harm's way to ensure the animals are not subjected to abuse.

### Why Do We Offer This Service?

The Alberta SPCA is one of the first organizations to offer temporary pet care for people who are in a crisis that is not connected to family violence. We expanded our scope in 2018 to ensure these pets owners also have options for pet care, because the sooner the owner is in a better situation we know the welfare of the animals will improve too. The pets are often the most important part of a

person's life. Ensuring the pets are in a safe place is essential to ensure the owners heal themselves.

Kierstyn (left) is one Albertan whose life changed dramatically for the better thanks to our programs. She refused to leave an abusive relationship because she had nowhere to send her dog Bentley while she entered a shelter. That changed when Kierstyn learned of our services. Now Kierstyn is safe and living on her own with her daughter and Bentley. Kierstyn is in school to become a social worker so she can pay it forward to others facing crisis situations.



Patricia Mamak  
Director of One Family Welfare



Julia Evasiuk  
Pet Safekeeping Coordinator

*Morinville ...continued from front page.*

Sgt. Norton notes the public-private partnership benefits all involved, especially the cats, and he believes it's a concept worth exploring in other communities.

"This is an example of how it works very well."

As for Beefcake, he's no longer prowling the clinic waiting room. A few days after we visited the clinic, the handsome boy was adopted, taking his green eyes and easy-going disposition to a new home and a loving family. He will not have to face the bitterness of another Alberta winter outdoors.

# ALBERTA SPCA NEWS

Building Compassion for Animals Since 1959



*New Resources ...continued from page 4.*

We have also added resources for two CTS Courses. AGR 1040 - Animal Basics (Dogs & Cats) and AGR 2020 - Animal Husbandry & Welfare (Dogs and Cats) allow students to learn the latest in dog and cat welfare while earning high school credits. The two new course updates join two equine courses already available on our website. These online course materials are free and are available for teachers and students throughout Alberta. For more information, visit [CTSanimals.ca](http://CTSanimals.ca).



*Animal Stories ...continued from page 4.*

## Does the story depict appropriate human-animal relationships?

- Domestic animals depend on us to meet their needs. Is this reflected? There are plenty of stories that depict domestic animals thriving without human care, which in reality is not typically the case. Does the story show potentially dangerous interactions with animals? We see many picture books where children lay on or hug their dogs. Although many dogs will tolerate this behaviour, most tend to not like it and the inability to read dog body language may lead to injury. The vast majority of dog bites children receive are from a family or friend's dog. Ask kids to point out interactions that may be unsafe.

## Does the story depict animals with human characteristics (anthropomorphize)?

- There are loads of stories where animals are anthropomorphized, or depicted with human characteristics - Disney has plenty of examples of this. Although these can be wonderful stories, they don't typically build empathy for, or understanding of, different animal species. But some degree of anthropomorphization can be positive if relationships with, and treatment of animals are realistic or if the story fosters moral lessons about how to recognize self in others which helps to build perspective taking.

## Are wild animals realistically portrayed?

- Does the story glorify the taming of wildlife? As mentioned, this can have negative (and sometimes lethal) consequences for both animals and people. Respecting wildlife by protecting their habitat and giving them lots of space is an important concept for young people to learn. Critically thinking about the messages in books is a great way to evaluate our own attitudes, and foster empathy for and understanding of animals.

Our website for teachers, [everylivingthing.ca/books](http://everylivingthing.ca/books) includes many popular animal-themed books with accompanying discussion questions and animal welfare considerations to encourage critical thinking and promote positive attitudes towards living things. Do you have an animal-themed book you would like reviewed? Send your requests to: [education@albertaspca.org](mailto:education@albertaspca.org).



Alberta SPCA Executive Director Terra Johnston accepts cheque from Shauna Hansen of Vintage West Wine

## Alberta SPCA Supporters Love Animals & Wine

It seems wine and animals go together. During the month of July, 50 cents from every bottle of Bread and Butter wine sold in Alberta was donated to our organization. The result? A \$20,000 cheque delivered by Shauna Hansen of Vintage West Wine. Shauna's dogs Stella and Annie, along with Alberta SPCA office dog Bochy, were more than happy to pose with such a big cheque.

Thank you to Vintage West Wine and everyone who purchased a bottle for their part in this amazing fundraiser.



# IN LOVING MEMORY

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

Hank Alexander, from Tracey Demuyneck  
Baloo, from Dr Joanne Swersky  
Sheldon Barton, from Joan Cowden  
Doreen Batterham, from Cecile & Ralph E. Atkinson  
Bear & Steed, from Shirley Hopper  
Biggy, from Terri Sungsook Johnson  
Shamara Blacher, from Allison Smale  
Dale Bolton, from Brenda Farrell  
Boss, from Robert Darrah  
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Alvin Bryant, from Keith Spencer  
Buddy, from Jean A. Kostiuk Hill  
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Q Giles, from Allyson Giles  
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Barbara Grauman, from Glynis Dorey  
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Allan John Hofs, from Joan Goebel  
Rebecca Holmes, from Dan & Velta Smith  
Jasper, from E. M. Sim  
Jessie, from Susan Churchill  
Joey & Hollywood, from Anonymous  
Sasha Jugnauth, from Derek Jugnauth

Keira, from Jane Hillson  
Lynx Knynsberg, from Harold & Marilyn Knynsberg  
Leonard Kohn, from Cenovus Energy Inc., Heather & Gerard Mercier, Webb's Ford Ltd  
Rhonda Gaye Kropf, from Karl Kropf  
Barb Lambert, from Donna Wadley  
Creedence LeGroulx, from Leva Hendeson  
Linkin, from Tracy & Stan Wadden  
Louis, from Judy Clarke  
Lucy, from Ann Morris  
Magnum, from Diane Buchan  
Malaika, from Allison Smale  
Lorraine McFarlane, from Len & Judy Acker, AMA Governance Committee, Georges & Mary Binette, Melanie Grace, Richard Kennedy, Eric Papsdorf, Jason Rodberg  
Shea-Lynn Marie McGaw, from Jane Kratochvil  
Cherrie McMillan, from Complete Group  
Molly Dog Mescall, from Kelly A. & Darcy Tomyn  
Thomas Richard Mills, from Gwen Erickson  
Milton, from Violeta Mariscal  
Evelyn Margaret Mitchell, from Carolyn Kiss  
Moo face, from Sarah Spisak  
Moose, from Judy Clarke  
Joan Murphy, from Carly Lavallee  
Tony Dale Nayyab Hefford, from Evan Hefford  
Oliver, from Jane Adams  
Ann Pare, from Madison & Jesse Andeson, Don Kashuba  
Pretzel & Bandette, from Dwayne Steil  
Rex, from Leva Henderson  
Casey Reynolds, from Julie A. Reynolds  
Clara Rosenow, from Henry & Pat Lockhart  
Rosie, from Buffy Afseth  
Roz, from Marlene Gold  
Myah Irene Saklofske, from Viktoria Saklofske  
Sammy, from Lindsay Adrian

Samson, Soda & Schneider, from Patty Hicks  
Greg Scheurwater, from Juliette Henley  
Shao Shao, from Ke Peng Au Yong  
Roy Singer, from Mitchell Grotkowski-McGill  
Zena Skakun, from Nadine & John Harder  
Skylar, from Lorelei Anselmo  
Blue Smith, from Anonymous  
Skipper P. Smithies, from Rose Marie Smithies  
Debra Snow, from James Snow  
Caesar Sorensen, from Anonymous  
Teal Carolyn Speelman, from Audrey Knodel  
Arlo Stade, from Jeanne Kimber  
Leigh Stohl Wilson, from Eylin Gilbert & Bob Webb  
Gary Stoich, from Kenilworth Community League  
Cathie Strong, from Jennifer Strong  
Deb Switzer, from Barbara Bartee, Allyson Bazin, Sharon Larsen, Riordan Tayles, An Tran  
Nancy Louise Tomkins, from Barbara Jenkinson  
Elizabeth Tuxworth, from Josephine Cleopahrt  
Simon Upright, from Chirag Shah  
Jessie Voaklander, from Jason McCrank  
Ashley Wagar, from Shelley Brzak  
Dan Wallis, from Susan Boyce, Marilyn Dumkee, Neda Koziol  
Joseph Walter, from Eric & Elexis Schloss  
Rachel Walton, from Rosheen Bagshaw  
Brian Whetstone, from Gwen Germain, Barbara Trincherio  
Willow, from Anonymous  
Charly Wingerak, from Richard Wingerak  
Winston, Webster & Topaz, from Leona De Boer  
Ziggy, from Justin Bernard

The Alberta SPCA gratefully acknowledges the generous support of the following clinics participating in our Pet Memorial Program for veterinary clinics:

- Range Road Veterinary Clinic
- Foothills Animal Hospital
- Sundre Pioneer Veterinary Services
- Olds Pioneer Veterinary Services
- Glenora Family Pet Clinic





## Fall 2021

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](http://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

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

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

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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](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).