



AnimalKind

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MEETING WITH THE MINISTER

The Alberta SPCA President & Vice President Meet With Alberta Agriculture Minister

The *Animal Protection Act* (APA) in Alberta supports the work we do to help animals in Alberta, which means every opportunity to discuss the APA with the minister responsible is exceptionally important. On April 25, Alberta SPCA President, Dr. Duane Landals, and Vice President Doug Sawyer, along with Executive Director Terra Johnston, met with the Honourable Nate Horner, Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Economic Development, at his office at the Legislature. Minister Horner was appointed last fall so this meeting offered an excellent opportunity to discuss the Alberta SPCA's role and responsibility in animal protection and how the APA works to support our work, yet sometimes hinders us from helping animals.



Alberta SPCA Pres. Dr. Duane Landals, Minister Nate Horner and Alberta SPCA Vice Pres. Doug Sawyer

The APA gives Peace Officers the authority to remove (seize) animals from a property to relieve their distress. However, while Alberta SPCA Peace Officers have legal custody of the animals, legal ownership remains with owner. There is a mechanism within the Act allowing the owner to reclaim his/her animals within the prescribed timeline, usually 10 days. If the owner fulfills their obligations under the Act the animals are returned. However, once returned the Peace Officer has limited ability to monitor their on-going care, even if charges under the APA have been laid. During our visit with Minister Horner, our board members were able to explain that providing our Peace Officers with additional tools under the Act would allow us to better manage the risks to animals, and in a more expeditious manner.

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INFLATION AFFECTING ALBERTA SPCA



Fueling up in Northern Alberta

Everyone is feeling the effects of inflation this year, and our agency is no different. The costs of many services we use are going up - in some cases quite significantly. Fuel is one of the more obvious expenses where we see a significant increase. Our Peace Officers drive well over 500,000 kilometres a year so when gasoline prices jump, we feel the impact. The cost to operate Peace Officer trucks in a normal year is one of our largest annual expenses. However, with the price of fuel, our costs are up 22% so far in 2022. This coupled with the increase in maintenance and insurance costs has contributed to the unpredictable and worrisome first quarter costs.

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From Our Legal Files
TO REPORT ANIMALS IN DISTRESS
OUTSIDE OF EDMONTON AND
CALGARY, CALL: 1-800-455-9003

HORSE OWNER PATRICIA MOORE HANDED LIFETIME PROHIBITION

Conviction comes more than three years after charges were laid in high profile case

Horse owner Patricia Lynn Moore has received a lifetime prohibition from owning equines after being convicted of causing horses to be in distress; the third time Ms. Moore has been found guilty under the *Animal Protection Act* (APA) of causing horses to be in distress.



Alberta SPCA Peace Officers Investigating Death of Horses

In December 2018, Peace Officers at the Alberta SPCA received a public complaint of horses in distress on a rural property in the Evansburg area. When Peace Officers arrived, the remains of seven horses were found on the property. Dozens of other live horses were removed from the property by the owner. Peace Officers collected evidence from four of the horses and laboratory testing confirmed the four animals died of starvation. Ms. Moore was charged with 27 counts under the *Animal Protection Act* of causing animals 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).

On April 8, 2022, more than three years after charges were laid, Ms. Moore was found guilty in Stony Plain Provincial Court on four counts under the *Animal*

Protection Act of causing horses to be in distress 2(1). Ms. Moore was handed an \$8,000 fine and is prohibited for life from possessing, caring for, or having ownership of any equines. Ms. Moore was given until the end of May to divest herself of any horses in her care.

Alberta SPCA Peace Officers have charged Ms. Moore under the APA four times since 2001, resulting in three convictions. In 2012, Ms. Moore was given a five-year prohibition from owning more than two horses. This most recent conviction is a victory for our organization as the lifetime prohibition will go a long way in ensuring the neglect of animals stops with this conviction.

ANIMAL NEGLECT CASES RETURNING TO PRE-PANDEMIC LEVELS

After period of declining investigations during the pandemic, the number of complaints of animals in distress has returned to pre-pandemic levels

In March of 2020 when the coronavirus pandemic first began to impact us, Albertans were urged to stay home. As a result, the number of complaints received by our organization about animals potentially in distress decreased significantly. This does not mean fewer animals were suffering, but with fewer people out and about, there was less opportunity for the public to see animals in concerning condition.

Over the first four months of 2020, the number of investigations fell by 16% compared to the same period 2019. The number of cases fell again in the first four months of 2021, with

investigations down 32% compared to pre-pandemic levels. Again, this is not to say fewer animals were being neglected, but their predicaments were going unnoticed as Albertans stayed home. Fast forward to the first four months on this year and we're starting to see case loads return to their typical pace. In January to April of 2022, our Peace Officers opened 768 investigations, which is at near normal levels with file numbers being at 93% of the 2019 figure.

Investigations Initiated January - April

2022	- 768
2021	- 563
2020	- 699
2019	- 828



Alberta SPCA Peace Officer During Seizure

WHAT WE NEED WHEN YOU CALL

When calling our Animal Protection Line to report animals in distress, our dispatchers will ask many questions to ensure our Peace Officers have enough information to investigate potential neglect in animals. The number one piece of information that is critical to the file that is often missing is a proper address where the animals are located.

Our Peace Officers travel thousands of kilometres each week, and they arrive at each property unannounced. A blue sign address, or detailed directions, are necessary for the Peace Officers to ensure they can quickly locate and check on the animals and then move on to the next urgent call. Unfortunately, they do not have time to make guesses or assumptions about where the animal may be.

Meeting with the Minister...

Our executive team was also able to provide a broad overview of how many of our investigations are quite complex, and in many cases expensive. The subjects of our files are sometimes difficult to deal with, choosing to ignore the mechanism within the APA for reclaiming animals, instead proceeding with civil action through the courts. This means the proceedings are often drawn out leaving the animals in our care for long periods of time, ignoring what may be best for the animals and at great expense to our agency. It is common for some of our files to cost us tens of thousands of dollars while a case is litigated in civil court. Unfortunately, this process has little to do with the welfare of the animals.

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During our meeting with Minister Horner, we were also able to articulate how animal neglect and human mental health are often interconnected. While our role in any investigation is to ensure distress in the animals is relieved, we cannot ignore that the animal owner often needs help as well. Currently, there is no mechanism to arrange for wellness checks on the subject. Alberta SPCA Peace Officers do take steps to ensure family, or in the absence of family, appropriate mental health professionals, are engaged. However, there may be some difficulty in ensuring assistance is accepted or followed through with. Acknowledging our role is specific to animals, we cannot ignore that in many cases to help animals, we must help their people do better.

While we acknowledge it is unlikely the *Animal Protection Act* will be amended in the immediate future, we appreciate the opportunity to be able to meet with Minister Horner. We look forward to continuing to work with all partners in animal protection and welfare, as our Alberta SPCA donors and supporters expect.

Improvements to animal protection legislation will only come with an open and on-going dialogue, and that starts with that initial face-to-face conversation like the one we had with Minister Horner.

Education

VISIT OUR WEBSITE
FOR TEACHERS:
EVERYLIVINGTHING.CA



One Family Welfare

TO CONTACT THE ONE FAMILY
WELFARE DEPT., PLEASE CALL
780-447-3600 EXT 3750



THE FIVE NEEDS OF ANIMALS VIDEO SERIES

The Five Needs of Animals video series is a new resource for Alberta elementary teachers to help students explore the needs of domestic animals and how animals feel (affective state) when their needs are met, or conversely, not met. Students will also learn more about responsibilities involved in caring for both pets and farm animals.



For additional information and to watch the videos visit:
everylivingthing.ca/FiveNeeds



Alberta SPCA Animal Ambassador Gracie

Mellor, D.J. et al. (2020) 'The 2020 Five Domains Model: Including Human-Animal Interactions in Assessments of Animal Welfare', *Animals*, 10(10), p. 1870. doi:10.3390/ani10101870.

ANOTHER AMAZING AGGIE DAYS!

In April our Education Department attended Aggie Days in Calgary after a three-year hiatus due to COVID-19. This five-day event provides attendees an opportunity to learn more about agriculture in Alberta. Students from Grade 3 to 6 attend on weekdays, and the event opens up to the general public on the weekend. The Alberta SPCA attends to play an educational game where students and the public learn about animal welfare, behaviour, and safety.



Education Program Manager, Don, leads a group of students through the game

This year, students played the 'Get Nina Home' animal game. The game had students 'get Nina home' by answering questions about animals they 'saw' along the way. To answer the questions, students had to move their bodies to different positions to indicate which choice they thought was the correct answer. Students and teachers seemed to enjoy this unconventional approach to answering questions. Every student who played the game received a Kindness Counts button.

Hundreds of people passed through the Alberta SPCA booth over the five days, learning more about animals, their needs and our responsibility to care for them.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING CRUNCH AFFECTS OFW CLIENTS AND PETS



Maria's Cats Chase and Arora

For Maria, the decision to leave her abusive partner was incredibly difficult. On top of years of physical and psychological abuse, Maria was subjected to financial hardship at the hands of her abuser. He controlled the money so when she left the relationship, along with her two cats, Maria had little cash to help navigate her new reality.

Maria's cats stayed in our Pet Safekeeping Program for three weeks while she recovered in a women's shelter, but after that, finding affordable housing that would allow pets was challenging, especially with her limited financial means. Maria was forced to accept renting a single room in a communal setting, and that didn't last long. Soon, her cats were back in our care while Maria returned to a shelter for three months.

Eventually, Maria was able to save enough money to get her own place and welcome Chase and Arora back home with her.

Our Pet Safekeeping Program has experienced increased costs because pets are staying in our care for longer periods of time, and Maria's experience is fairly typical of what we see. Chase and Arora were clients in our care for an additional three months while Maria sought proper housing. The cost of caring for one pet for seven days in our program is just under \$200. That means the three-month stay in the program for two cats came with a \$7,000 tab; a cost that we would not face if clients like Maria were able to find suitable, safe, and pet-friendly housing.

While Maria was eventually able to find a suitable home, due in part to her divorce settlement, many of our clients are not as fortunate. In some cases, owners choose to surrender some or all of their pets to us because they can't find affordable housing that will allow animals. This is never ideal as the pets are often the biggest reason the owner works hard to get their life on track; they are part of the family.

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What is Crisis Care?

How do we decide which animals to accept into our Crisis Care Program

The One Family Welfare Department's Crisis Care Program offers temporary care for pets while owners take steps to manage their life-changing event. But what qualifies as a "crisis"? Well, for our program, a crisis is an unexpected event that could not have been predicted and impacts the owner's ability to properly care for their animals.

For example, a pet owner who is facing eviction may qualify for our program but only if the eviction was sudden and unforeseen. One of our clients qualified for the program because they were evicted on 24-hours notice due to the actions of a guest. In contrast, a tenant who is evicted on 90-days notice would not meet the requirements of our program.

Other examples of a pet owners who qualify for our Crisis Care Program would be someone who has a sudden medical or mental health episode that requires hospitalization, or an owner who has lost their home due to fire or flood. If the client does not have family or friends who can care for their pet, our agency can help. Our Crisis Care Program is designed for individuals that have run out of safe options for their pets. It is a last resort program for individuals experiencing crisis, and an inability to care for their animals temporarily.



Max was a Client of the Crisis Care Program when His Owner was Hospitalized

Alberta SPCA News

BUILDING COMPASSION
FOR ANIMALS SINCE 1959

USED ANIMAL BOOKS FOR SALE!

Are you looking to add some well-loved, animal themed picture books to your home library? We are selling books that have been previously used in the AnimalTales book program for minimal cost. All the books are in fair to good condition.

The books have been grouped into packages based on their age level, with each package containing three books (with the exception of a book on pet loss which is sold separately). There are limited quantities of each package and the package cost includes postage through Canada Post.

Proceeds from the book sale will help fund AnimalTales, our free book-lending program available to Alberta teachers. The program aims to foster empathy and kindness towards animals, people, and the environment. So far over 1,800 Alberta students have participated in the program this school year.

For additional info and to purchase books visit:
everylivingthing.ca/bookfair/



Our Popular Summer 50/50 Raffle is Back!



Sign up and be the first to know when tickets are on sale
www.albertaspca.org/support-us/lottery/

In Loving Memory

TRIBUTE DONATIONS CAN BE MADE
BY CHEQUE, OR ON OUR WEBSITE:
ALBERTASPCA.ORG

Housing...

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There is no easy solution to the affordable housing crunch, but we do know that pets equal stability for many, and finding a way to ensure people can find a safe place to live with their animals is a big part of a supportive, compassionate community. This means our team will continue to offer temporary care for pets, for longer periods of time if necessary, so owners can locate their stable, secure home.

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Inflation...

Another area where we're seeing an increase in spending is with the cost of caring for seized animals - those taken into protective custody to relieve their distress. These costs have jumped for several reasons. First, livestock transportation costs are higher and the cost of feed has jumped significantly due to a feed shortage in much of Alberta. This means the costs of caring for livestock while in our care has nearly doubled. Adding to the problem, many of the animals we seize seem to be more compromised than in past years and often in much poorer condition. This requires our agency to maintain them for longer periods before they can be moved on to the next stage of their journey.

Fortunately, our donors and members continue support us, even though they themselves may be seeing their discretionary income eroded due to inflation. Our revenue from donations, lotteries and 50/50 raffles remains stable, and we have some people specifically donating more to help us with rising expenses. We even had one gentleman attend in person at our Edmonton office to donate \$1,000 to help buy feed for livestock. His support and the generosity from all donors continues to inspire us to do the work we do to help animals in Alberta every day.

Bruce Airth, from Kathy Bargholz, Karen Borwick Hagen
Darlene Sandra Allore, from Cindy White-Elliott
Betty Anderson, from Jessica Lain
Don Anderson, from Patricia Ulmer
Celia Bailey, from Janet Hunter
Davin Bartsch, from Lillian McPhee
Mickey Bear, from Emma Pafford
Effie Beck, from Linda Gross
Percy Beebe, from Jean Young, Sherr Wadson
Biggy, from Terri Sungsook Johnson
Blackie, from Barbara Adams
Blazer, from Dianne & Lloyd Whitehouse
Bligh, from Anonymous
William Bochanesky, from Sherry Riddell
Jennie Bodnar, from Jean Stock, Anne Bremner
Jerome Borrel, from Marta Korwin-Szymanowski
Irene Boulet, from Nicole Boulet
Cheeko, from Dr. Darryl F. Stewart
Murray Clendenning, from Ken & Darlene Kossman, M. Marz
CoCo, from Arawee Phanna
Barbara Jean Cook, from Ardeth Galitzine
Keenan Corbett, from Linda Thompson
Roxy Corns, from Margaret E. Corns
Darrell Costea, from Lynda Sopka, Heather Walden
Daisy, from Carol Mickanuk
Dorothy Davis, from Donna Hryniuk
Dexter, from Karyn Ray
Joseph Henry Dobson, from Jo-Anne Dobson
Dolly, from Barbara Hauck
Marjorie Donais, from Linda Shanks
Darlene Eaglesham, from Dr. Jacquie McCubbin Prof Corp., Beverly Embury
Marilyn Edgar, from Alec & Heidi Janssens
Jack Edwards, from Gwyneth Beynon
Foxy Bella Magnolia Girl, from Mrs Beverley Butler
Donald Fraser, from Bernadette Mandrusiak, Brandt Holt
Jon Gilchrist, from Philip & Judy Lenko
Gizmo, from M. Nanchoff
Gizmo, from Shelley Pitingolo
Elizabeth Groenink, from Steve Fett
Debra Hansen, from Calgary Petroleum Curling Club, Bruce Hanna, George Wojcik, Anne-Marie Jennings, Bruce Seifred & Sandra Sobko
Harry Harbak, from Diane & Larry Kingswood
Harley, from Judy Baxter
Patty & Shel Herrick, from Trisha Herrick
Trish Herron, from Elaine M. Wood
Irene Hill, from Linda Shanks, Gwen Sjogren
George Hinrichs, from Michelle Hinrichs
Nora Mae Hjeltman, from Barbara Wilson

Hollywood, from Anonymous
Hugo Horcica, from Deborah & Mark Charchuk
Leroy Hughes, from Laura Hughes
Java, from Mary E. Brandt
Joe, Josh & Jordon, from Sharon Michaels
Sasha Jugnauth, from Derek Jugnauth
Kia, from Darlene Shuya
Ann King, from E. A. Gentry
Jorge Juan Kirsop-Walsh, from Kirk Nielsen
Michael Kmech, from Pete & Rebecca Starko, Roy & Donna Stasiuk, John Hrycun
Marie Kozak, from Joyce Hrykwik
Lowell William Kulak, from Shirley Jacques
Andre Leclair, from Lori Bamber
Mazie, Fred, Rusty, Patches, Diesel & Alison Madge Lein, from Morgan Lein
Brenda Letendre, from Elizabeth Nett, Faye Cameron
Annabelle Logan, from Kirk Nielsen
Adolph Lovich, from Carolyn Matras, Irene Koroluk, and Kristen & Chris Blunt
Morris Neil MacKinnon, from Jaime Botero
Shawna Matthews, from Michelle Courville, Dave McIntosh
Patricia Ragsdale & George Mayhew, from Elsie Mayhew
Kathy McClellan, from Sandy McClellan
Mary Menagh, from Darlene Davidson
Mika, from Kane Blacque
Stefani Miller, from Lillian Kowalchuk, Doreen Kalyta
Milton, from Violeta Mariscal
Mocha, from Ed Gosewitz
Molly & Janie, from Robert Kerr
Monkey, from Ed Chan
Montana, from Tracy & Stan Wadden
Kay Muzichuk, from Lillian & Cec Hiscock
Nyomie, from Dianne & Lloyd Whitehouse
Ohso Bunny & Jimmi, from Janice Seward
Daryl Owsley, from Lori & Bill Oliver
Adrian Pan, from Pamela Genik-Wilson
Adrian Papirnik, from Darlene Wong
Foxy Parker, from Lesley Wiigs
Squid Parsons, from Lana & Ken Minogue
Sharlene Peets, from Paragi Shah, Elsie Schmude
Gina Pelletier, from Enbridge Family

Ken Phillips, from Jessica Hupka
Phoenix, from Yudhistir van Bostelen
Shane Pickles, from Verna Gagne
Piggy & Kat, from Mr Dean Tamerra Rideout
Pippa, from Barbara Monikowski
Penny Pitzel, from Wesley Pitzel
Shirley Poole, from Bill Poole
Pretzel & Bandette, from Dwayne Steil
Gary Proctor, from Sonia Berg
Baby Rage, from Carolyne Chipiuk
Raisin, from Tanya Barck
Rana & Prissa, from Arlene Schmidek
John R. Reid, from Patricia Reid
Gus Reimann, from Mary Paul, Sharon Blackford
Rex & Tron, from Roy Lee
Casey Reynolds, from Julie A. Reynolds
Mike Robichaud, from Diana Tulodziecki
Jack Robinson, from Kerri Johannson
Rolo, from Brett Poffenroth
Rosie, from Buffy Afseth
Rudy, from Lois Aitken & Mike Hooker
Rusty, from Lois Aitken & Mike Hooker
Myah Irene Saklofske, from Viktoria Saklofske
Samson, Soda & Schneider, from Patty Hicks
PJ Schell, from Karen Moore
Leonard Senn, from Marie Thompson
Tracy Sheppard, from Dianne & Brian Allen, Christine & Doug Paddock
Shilo, from Lori Stafford
Molly Sloan, from Lindsey Fowler
Chris Smith, from Dorothee Smith
Marilia Soto, from Peter & Karen DiPalma
Michelle DeAnn Spent, from Strembiski Dental
Michael William Stone, from Patricia A. McDonald
Cathie Strong, from Jennifer Strong
Murray Swanson, from Patricia Mackie
Doug Thibert, from Roberta Roth
Benji Thomas, from Mr K. Foon Der
Toonie, from Anonymous
Elizabeth Tuxworth, from Josephine Cleopahrt
Lynda Marie Ung, from Jennifer Tse
Simon Upright, from Chirag Shah
Valentine, from Claudette Lachance
Johanna Wall, from Fern A. Pluth
Lawrence Wilson, from Judy & Ray Williams
Winston, Webster & Topaz, from Leona De Boer

Participants in our Pet Memorial Program for Vet Clinics

Bragg Creek Animal Hospital
Range Road Veterinary Clinic
Sundre Pioneer Veterinary Sevices
Foothills Animal Hospital

Olds Pioneer Veterinary Services
Harvest Pointe Animal Hospital
Glenora Family Pet Clinic

