



Animal Kind

Vol. 44, No. 3 • Fall 2022

Marvin Thriving at New Home

Marvin captured the hearts of many Albertans when we shared his story over the summer. The Peace Officer who took Marvin into our care described the yearling as the skinniest horse he'd ever seen. Marvin was so thin, he was half the size of a horse of similar breed and age, and he had trouble getting back up each time he laid down to rest. Marvin spent 63 days at a caretaking facility where he was put on a refeeding program to ensure he slowly put weight on while closely watching to ensure he did not colic.



We are happy to report Marvin is now living his best life. Marvin was adopted to a family in central Alberta who were excited to welcome the young, strong-willed horse to their ranch. The family has the knowledge and skills to continue helping Marvin recover over the next six to nine months as his healing journey is far from complete. Marvin was excited to check out the hay on hand when he first arrived at the farm.

Marvin's story continues to inspire us and remind all of our staff why we do the work we do. Marvin would likely have died within a day if he had

remained at his original property, but his will to live was strong, and as long as Marvin was willing to fight to survive, we were excited to give him every chance to do just that. By the time Marvin left our care, it was hard to find the evidence of his neglected self. His bones are no longer protruding, and his pressure sores are fading. And Marvin now has a spunk and swagger that did not exist when he first came into our care.

Unfortunately, Marvin was put in this perilous position needlessly. Alberta SPCA Peace Officers continue to see numerous cases of animals in distress because their owners did not plan for their care properly, or did not take proper steps to ensure their animal population did not grow to unmanageable numbers.

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Anatomy of an Investigation

The work of the Peace Officer continues long after they've left a property

The Alberta SPCA investigates approximately 2,400 complaints of neglect and abuse each year, in both companion animals and livestock. We recognize the public is emotionally invested in many of these files, and there is a desire for updates on how the investigations are unfolding. Unfortunately, in order to protect the integrity of investigations, we are limited in what we can say publicly, but we can explain how an investigation typically unfolds.

Most investigations start with a call to our Animal Distress Line. Our trained staff will ask the complainant about the situation they're calling about and why they believe the animal is in distress. In order for our Peace Officers to have authority to go onto private property to check on animals, they need what's known as reasonable and probable grounds to believe an animal is in distress. Typically, this means we receive information about the animal's condition that is recent, and that the complainant has seen the animals in person. Second hand information or details gleaned from social media does not meet the standard of reasonable and probable grounds.

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Alberta Woman Pleads Guilty to Neglecting Horses

Jamie Ann Palmer pleaded guilty in Provincial Court to causing horses to be in distress under the *Animal Protection Act* 2(1). Alberta SPCA Peace Officers attended a property in Northeastern Alberta in February 2022. On the property, Peace Officers found the remains of several horses. Ms. Palmer was charged with causing animals to be in distress, failing to provide adequate food and water and failing to provide veterinary care for an animal that is sick or wounded. Ms. Palmer was sentenced on June 21, 2022 to a two-year common law peace bond of \$1,100 dollars. As part of the peace bond, Ms. Palmer must notify the Alberta SPCA of the location of any horses in her care, as well as any intention to buy or sell horses. Ms. Palmer must also cooperate with any animal safety compliance checks requested by Alberta SPCA Peace Officers. The Peace Bond expires on June 21, 2024.

Anatomy of an Investigation...

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Our Peace Officers enforce the *Animal Protection Act* (APA) and they are bound by the law. When they arrive at a property, they seek out the owner (or person in charge of the animals), and will explain why they are there and ask to see the animals in question. Often the complaints we receive centre around a lack of food for the animals on property. For livestock however, a lack of visible feed in itself is not a concern as often the feed remains out of sight. Our Peace Officers are trained to body condition score various species of livestock and companion animals. If the animals are thin and there is no feed available, the Peace Officers will engage with the animal owner to check on the age of the animal and whether it has any health challenges that may be a contributing factor to the body condition. In some cases, a veterinarian may be called to provide a professional opinion on the animals' well-being and provide a treatment plan to support the animals' health and welfare.

While our Peace Officers attend at a multitude of different properties within Alberta - some urban and many more rural - they must not prejudice the situation or make assumptions based on the state of the property they attend. There are many situations where the property is in a dilapidated state but the Peace Officers find the animals are healthy. If there are concerns for the health of the animals, the Peace Officer will try to work with the animal owner to improve the conditions at hand. If the owner cannot or will not make adjustments, the Peace Officer has the legal authority to take the animals into protective custody in order to relieve their distress.



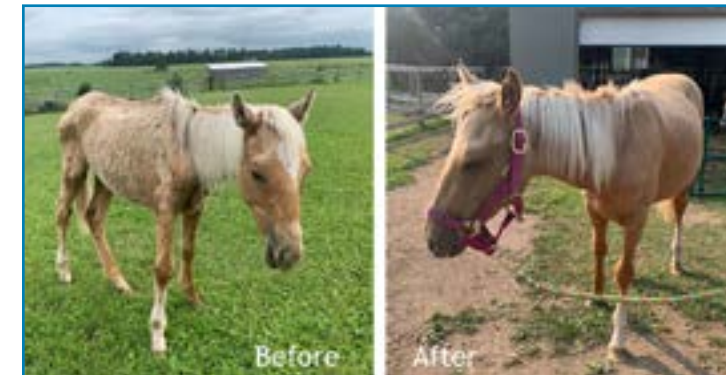
A Peace Officer has six months from the start of an investigation to decide whether to lay charges under the APA. They will take many factors into consideration when deciding whether to charge the owner or caretaker, including the severity of the incident, the likelihood of a successful prosecution, and whether charges are in the public interest. Even if the decision is made not to lay charges, if the distress of the animals has been relieved, we consider our intervention to be successful and our actions in support of our mandate.

Marvin...

...continued from front page.

Heading into winter, we encourage all livestock owners to ensure they've secured a six-month supply of feed for all of their animals. If owners cannot find or cannot afford that much feed, they should reduce their herd accordingly. We also encourage owners of companion animals to take steps to ensure their animals are spayed and neutered to prevent distress caused by an over-population.

Fortunately, Marvin will not have to worry about food this winter and spring. He's in location where his nutritional needs will be met and he will be able to focus on living his best life!



Peace Officer Ryan Butterwick with Marvin after 63 days in our care

Equine Dentist Enters Peace Bond

Grant D. MacKinnon of Saskatchewan entered into a Common Law Peace Bond on April 11, 2022 following an investigation which resulted in his being charged with two counts of causing an animal to be in distress under the *Animal Protection Act* of Alberta. The charges were withdrawn by the Crown after Mr. MacKinnon agreed to enter into a Common Law Peace Bond which includes a condition not to practice equine dentistry in Alberta for a period of 12 months. The prohibition is in effect until May 30, 2023.

Animal Owner Convicted for Failing to Seek Vet Care

In January of 2022, the Alberta SPCA received a complaint of a lame steer on a rural property in the Okotoks area. An Alberta SPCA Peace Officer attended the property and noted a steer with what appeared to be a broken leg. After investigating, it was determined the leg had been injured for several months without treatment. The animal owner, Curtis Ring, was charged with two counts under the *Animal Protection Act* of allowing an animal to be in distress and failing to provide adequate care for an animal that is wounded or ill. On August 16, 2022, Mr. Ring pleaded guilty to allowing an animal to be in distress. He was fined \$1,500, and ordered to allow a Peace Officer to attend his property every three months during daylight hours to ensure the well-being of animals on the property.



AlbertaSPCA.org/support-us/lottery

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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.

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This Year's Theme: Empathy!

Fostering empathy for every living thing is at the heart of our education program and a core value of the Alberta SPCA. Empathy is a critical life skill that helps us to share, understand and care about the emotions of others. It is also a precursor for compassion - through understanding the perspective and feelings of others we are more likely to take action to help.

Empathy for animals is an important component of caring for them. Recognizing that they have physical and emotional needs helps us to understand that animals deserve to be treated with, care, kindness and respect. Furthermore, research shows that humane education programs focused on animals can lead to an increase of pro-social behaviours in children. This suggests that empathy for animals can be translated to people.



Empathy comes to us more naturally for people and animals who we are more familiar with and similar to. However, by practising empathy - considering the thoughts and feelings of others - especially to those who we may struggle to empathize with, is key to treating all living things with respect and compassion.

This year's classroom poster, and the seventh in our character education series, focuses on empathy. The poster and related activities provide students with opportunities to learn more and practise empathy in their classrooms and communities.

Join us and encourage others to "see" through the eyes of animals (and people). Empathy is a skill that can be practised and developed no matter your age.

Follow us on social media for empathy related articles, activities and updates!

Updates for the 2022-2023 School Year

New Provincial Curriculum:

Our education program aims to help teachers inspire empathy, compassion and respect for animals, people and the environment. However, ensuring our resources connect to the Alberta curriculum is key for teachers to include humane education materials in their classrooms. The Alberta government released a new curriculum in Physical Education & Wellness for K-6 and English Language Arts & Literature and Mathematics for K-3 (with grades 4-6 optional for this year). As such, this past summer our education department has been busy realigning our resources, including our popular AnimalTales book program and character education materials, to reflect the new curriculum.



Next year, new curricula for the remaining core subjects including science and social studies are set to be released. We will continue to ensure our programs remain up-to-date and easy for teachers to include in their classrooms.

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OFW Call Volumes Spike

Our One Family Welfare (OFW) department is experiencing a significant spike in calls from people seeking help caring for their pets. The team works with Albertans experiencing crisis situations that prevent the pet owners from properly caring for their animals, such as people fleeing domestic violence or emergency hospitalization are among the most common. Over the first eight months of 2022, our team has fielded 2,129 inquiries for help, a 43% increase from the year before.



One Family Welfare Director
Patricia Mamak

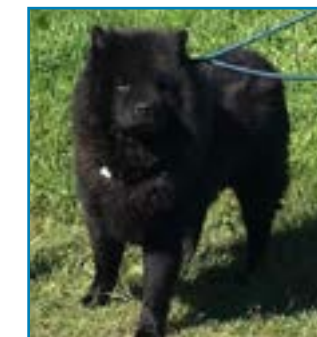


Pet Safekeeping Coordinator
Julia Evasiuk

Unfortunately, many of the people contacting our staff do not qualify for our Pet Safekeeping and Crisis Care programs. Our services are meant to be used when a situation arises that could not have been anticipated, and all other options have been explored. Numerous people are looking to surrender their animals because their work arrangements have changed, or because they were evicted and can't find a home that allows pets. And while these are difficult circumstances to face, in most cases they did not arise from a sudden and unforeseen situation.

However, our work to help pet owners does not end just because they don't qualify for our programs. Our dedicated team works hard to help these owners find other services that may be more suitable to their circumstances. The team has extensive experience in the social welfare sector, and in many cases can assist animal owners by simply referring them to another agency that offers support that aligns with their particular challenge. And our OFW staff do this work while still taking animals into care for people enduring a crisis.

During the first eight months of the year, 151 pets have been accepted into the Pet Safekeeping and Crisis Care programs. These animals receive excellent care and veterinary checkups while their owners work through their crisis situation. Once the crisis has been resolved and the owner is in a safe place, they are reunited with their animal family members. In all situations, we're here to help the animals and recognize that, in order to do that, sometimes we have to help their owners first.



Siren

Finding a New Home for Siren

For nine years Claudette and her Chow Chow, Siren, spent every day together. Along with another Chow Chow named Meri, they explored their surroundings while going on long walks. They enjoyed romps in the backyard and lazy mornings sleeping in. Eventually, old age took Meri so it was just Claudette and Siren for the latter part of their lives.

Siren was an introvert by heart and limited her affection to close friends like Claudette. She was picky and had no interest in making new friends, neither human nor animal.

Tragically, Siren who had been temporarily placed in our Crisis Care program, found herself without her beloved Claudette when her owner unexpectedly passed away. OFW staff understood they needed to find the Chow Chow a special home, one that offered structure and would be able to accept her aloof personality when it came to affection. The OFW team contacted various partner sheltering organizations, and as luck would have it, a family member of an agency representative was looking to add another Chow Chow to her family. A meet and greet was arranged, and at that point, it became apparent Siren had found a home where she could live out her best life on her own terms.

Our One Family Welfare department works with people and pets facing various situations, some predictable, and some more difficult and unexpected. Unfortunately, this means our animal clients cannot always return to their original families. When this happens, our staff works very hard to ensure the pets are placed in situations with new families where they will thrive, just like Siren.



Education update...

Career and Technology Studies: Animal Care Course Materials:

New course material is also available for Career and Technology Studies (CTS) teachers and students. Agriculture 3070: Equine 2 course material has been added to ctsanimals.ca! In this course students continue developing practical skills, based on approved practices, for providing the daily care of a horse, while earning high school credit. AGR 3070 joins the other Alberta SPCA developed courses: AGR 1040: Animal Basics (Equine and Dog/Cat), AGR 2020: Husbandry & Welfare (Equine and Dog/Cat), and AGR 2070: Equine 1, that are available for free for teachers and students to use throughout the province. For additional information visit ctsanimals.ca.

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Alberta SPCA hands out Free Food in Lethbridge

The Alberta SPCA teamed up with Community Animal Services of Lethbridge in late August to distribute free pet food in southern Alberta. A line-up of people formed at our downtown location even before the event started, and approximately 200 bags of cat and dog food were handed out over three hours. The food was generously provided by Nestle Purina Pet Care.



The Alberta SPCA recognizes many pet owners are struggling financially for many reasons, including the high cost of key commodities due to inflation. We hope this small opportunity to receive free food eased the burden a little bit.

Country Junction Donates Feed Rations for Neglected Horses



Cassie Hausauer from Country Junction and Alberta SPCA Peace Officer Ryan Butterwick

When neglected horses come into our care, the number one priority is to relieve their distress. But when it comes to equines, giving them too much food or the wrong kinds of food can lead to other health problems, and potentially death. Horses are always put on a refeeding program to ensure they add weight while avoiding colic. That process will be a little easier thanks to a generous donation from Country Junction in Wetaskiwin.

Country Junction has donated three pallets worth of feed rations for neglected horses. The feed is put together specifically to help horses regain weight in a manageable manner. This very generous gift will go a long way in helping undernourished horses in our care regain their health this winter.

Compassion is a key value of the Alberta SPCA, and we truly appreciate the support and compassion of Country Junction Feeds in ensuring malnourished horses get the opportunity to live their best lives!

Raymond Anderson, from Amalgamated Transit Union Local 583
 Arthur, from Judy Clarke
 Lucy Barber, from The Global Fabulous
 Percy Beebe, from Colleen MacGregor
 John Belik, from Ruth King
 Bella, from Anonymous
 Doug Biggar, from Lyle & Rema-Lynne Huston
 Biggy, from Terri Sungsook Johnson
 Bouncer & Chase, from Durenda Tremblay
 Ethel Brady, from Dan O'Keefe
 Brittany, from Shawna Raven
 Jean Isobel Burton, from Avis & Bob Evans
 Alice Ruth Butt, from Brenda Stevens
 Button, from Mindy Jenkins
 Caramel Caramel, from Elizabeth Hale
 Joseph Harry Chilibeck, from Jane Jess,
 Michael Kousaie, Arnold & Shirley Kvill, Lillian Horudko, Mary Lussier, Valerie Sabyan, Heather Foot & Edwin Snaychuk, Gordon Mallett, Dave & Laurie McInnes
 Bryna Clarke, from Sydney Deitch
 Roxy Corns, from Margaret E. Corns
 Myrtle Irene Crowther King, from Teri King
 Cruz, from Shawna Raven
 Harley Joshua Davidson, from Brenda & Garth Rayment
 Dr. Charles Davies, from David Jarrell, Kenneth Trupp, Larry Stuart, Edda Buck
 Joseph De Franceschi, from Kay & Roy Parker
 Paul Singh Dhanjal, from Athina Di Febo, Dimitra Telalidis
 Phyllis Epp, from Betty Bruntlett
 Jim Fenton, from Marteen Lindstrom
 Bill Ferbey, from Carol McGaughey
 Rae Firth, from Janet Tomkins
 Linda Mae Fossen, from Wanda Copeland,
 Karen Paulgaard, Benita Fossen
 Al Frank, from Marg Blondheim-Whetstone
 Chance Garcia, from Nanette Bullman
 Sarah, Lois & Greg Gartner, from Juliette Henley
 Lorraine Gautier, from Ginette Larocque
 George, from Colleen Roenspies
 Harold Glennie, from Anonymous
 Riley Murray Goggin, from Valerie & Gerald Strashok, Diane Sliwkanich, Carol Pawlenchuk
 Rosalyn Virginia Golinsky, from Chris & Laura Hough
 Camilla Gordon, from Horizon Village Beaumaris
 Gracie Gordon, from Marylynn & Dave Lorenson, Janice Gordon
 Alan Grieves, from Yvonne Holowack, Sharon & Dave Groff, Kim & Bob Werely, Mary-Jo & Gord Norman, Marie & Embry Yakowich
 Diesel Griffiths, from Chris Ross
 Joanne Gyorffy, from Lethbridge Family Services - Social Committee
 David Hagen, from Carrienne Guhle
 Hannah, Tabatha & Missy, from Joanne Thomson
 Debra Hansen, from Chris Love, Anonymous
 June Harder, from Steve Ostergren
 Harley, from Judy Baxter
 Harold, from Anonymous

Henle, from Melissa Setiawan
 Prince & Buddy Hill, from Jean A. Kostyuk Hill
 George Hinrichs, from Michelle Hinrichs
 Gail Hipperson, from Heather & Doug Townsend
 Jienine Hubick, from Sarah Thorsteinson
 Barbara Huzil, from Ruth Liska, Bob McCready,
 Pat Webb, Blair Morton, Doug & Linda Daley
 Idaho & Kansas, from Michael Swanson QC
 Ruby Jahn, from Leonora & Robert Avery
 Jersey, from Cecile & Ralph E Atkinson
 Sasha Jugnauth, from Derek Jugnauth
 Les Katona, from Tyler Kanten, Terry Hydromako
 Kitty, from Brenda McCallum
 Christian Kopeck, from Luba Feduschak
 Gregor Kronebusch, from Marg Blonheim-Whetstone
 Rhonda Gaye Kropf, from Karl Kropf
 Arran Lamont, from Harvest Pointe Animal Hospital
 Vivian Jean Lamoureux, from Katie Mabbutt,
 Rita & Joe Milligan, Heather McWhirter, Donald & Lynda Bland, Lindsay McRae, Virginia Toane
 Steven Lantz, from Aimee Watson
 Mazie, Fred, Rusty, Patches, Diesel & Alison
 Madge Lein, from Morgan Lein
 Louis, from Celanese Foundation
 Paul Low, from Ryan Keller
 Jack Ma, from Chris Chan
 Cindy MacPheat, from Sandra Norlin, Beverly Kunz
 Joyce Magas, from Kelly Cyba
 Robert Thomas Magee, from Jo-Anne Van Sickle
 Andre Maharaj, from Ann Marie Heffernan
 Mara, from Theresa Keenan
 Marley, from Rahul Patel
 Shawna Matthews, from Karissa Felix, Huguette & Jacques Marchand, Anonymous
 Bobbie May, from Maxine Kettleison, Grace Wetter
 Avril Mayhew, from Debra D. Leibel
 Darryl McBride, from Anne Chery
 Gerrit Meindersma, from Dorothy Meindersma
 Midgie, from Judy Clarke
 Mila, from Lillian Fesciuc
 Milton, from Violeta Mariscal
 Molly, from Rhonda From
 Helen Stella Muller, from Dwayne Sawchyn
 Nancy Dale Muller, from Peter Cahill,
 Anonymous
 Robby Murphy, from AHS
 Mark Murray, from Anonymous
 Joseph Harry Nassichuk, from Karin Schwerdtner
 Lorna Grace Nassichuk, from Gary & Jeanne Roths, Robert & Sharon Antoniuk, Kenneth & Julia Roy, Donald F. Stott, Hugh Balkwill, Violet Bamber
 Kit Nilson, from Beverley Nilson

Noir, from Elizabeth Goodwin
 William David Odell, from Patricia Jevne,
 Shirley French, Gil Gauthier, Barbara Gerolamy
 Joyce Parmar, from Ruth Keon
 Amber Kathleen Patch, from Kevin Waters
 Ken Phillips, from John & Margaret Mitchell
 Piggy & Kat, from Mr Dean Tamerra Rideout
 Penny Pitzel, from Wesley Pitzel
 George Pollock, from George & Elaine Dowler
 Edward Pooke, from Dorothy Warawa
 Pretzel & Bandette, from Dwayne Steil
 Rana & Prissa, from Arlene Schmidek
 Cindy Raycroft, from Carol Hooey
 John R. Reid, from Patricia Reid
 Rex & Tron, from Roy Lee
 Casey Reynolds, from Julie A. Reynolds
 Fred & Inge Riesle, from Stephanie Riesle-Greenhalgh
 Nemue Risk, from Anne Mowat
 Cory Ritter, from Beate Sawatzky
 Rosie, from Buffy Afseth
 Myah Irene Saklofske, from Viktoria Saklofske
 Samson, Soda & Scheider, from Patty Hicks
 Samsonite, from Alexander Forsey
 Greg Scheurwater, from Juliette Henley
 Pamela Joan Schindler, from Elaine Morris
 Irene Scott, from KY-ABRI at The University of Louisville
 Shadow, from Louise & Wayne Forgues
 Eva Shumay, from Southeast Office - CS
 Celtie Slinger, from Susan & Bill Weisenberger
 Janeen Smith, from Andrew Downard
 Skipper P. Smithies, from Rose Marie Smithies
 Sophie, from Linda M. England
 Quincie Srogen, from Fellow PB players, Ryk & Linda Lee Visscher, Harry & Kathy Skocdopole,
 Sheila Webber, Adele Campbell, Anonymous, Clara Reinhardt, Carlo Dangelo
 Don Stephenson, from Colleen Smart
 Clara Stewart, from Chelsea Hotel Toronto
 Michael William Stone, from Barbara & Dale Olsen
 Cathie Strong, from Jennifer Strong
 Teddy, from Judy Clarke
 Tessa, from Rhonda Enns
 Edward Tkachuk, from Samuel, Son & Co., Ltd
 Torchy, from Kaitlin Osterlund
 Elizabeth Tuxworth, from Josephine Cleopahrt
 Simon Upright, from Chirag Shah
 Walter, from Leanne Zaharichuk
 Lionel Wasylshen, from Bill Williams
 Betty White, from Lynda Bowes & Donald Patterson
 Willis Willis, from Vicars School of Massage Therapy
 Winston, from David & Neda McClelland
 Winston, Webster & Topaz, from Leona De Boer
 Zaz, from Anne Allison
 Ziggs, from Jon Watson

Pet Memorial Program for Vet Clinics

Bragg Creek Animal Hospital
 Foothills Animal Hospital
 Harvest Pointe Animal Hospital

Olds Pioneer Veterinary Services
 Range Road Veterinary Clinic
 Sundre Pioneer Veterinary Services



ANIMALKIND RESPONSE FORM

Fall 2022

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 \$_____ (Income tax receipts are automatically issued for donations of \$10 or more.)
- I would like to renew my membership or become a member of the Alberta SPCA:
- \$15 student/senior \$20 Individual
 - \$30 senior family \$35 family

I'm paying by:

Cheque Credit card: VISA Amex
 MasterCard

\$_____ membership + \$_____ donation = \$_____ (total)

Cardholder Name _____

Card Number _____

Expiry _____ / _____

Signature _____

I authorize the Alberta SPCA to deduct \$_____ from my bank account* or credit card on the 1st day of each month or the next business day. I understand that I can change or cancel this monthly donation at any time, subject to providing written notice of 15 days or more.

Signature _____

Date _____

Please withdraw this monthly amount from my:

- Bank Account (attach a cheque marked VOID)
- Credit card: VISA MasterCard Amex

Cardholder Name _____

Card Number _____

Expiry _____ / _____

Signature _____

* To view a sample cancellation form or learn more about cancelling a PAD agreement, contact your financial institution or visit www.cdnpay.ca. You have certain recourse rights if any debit does not comply with this agreement. For example, you have the right to receive reimbursement for any debit that is not authorized or is not consistent with this PAD agreement. For more information on your recourse rights, contact your financial institution or visit www.cdnpay.ca.