



AnimalKind

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NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR APPOINTED

Leanne Niblock looks forward to building relationships within the animal welfare community

Animals have been a big part of Leanne Niblock's life at every stage. Growing up in northwestern Alberta, her family always had horses and cattle, as well as cats and dogs. Once Leanne embarked on her professional career, it seemed a connection to animal welfare was always nearby.

Leanne was appointed Executive Director of the Alberta SPCA on September 5, 2023, becoming just the fourth person to hold the position in the 64-year history of our organization, a position that allows her to have an impact on animals right across the province.

In Leanne's early years, she spent a lot of time with farm animals, owning and riding horses, and as a member of 4-H caring for and showing steers, heifers and cow/calf pairs. Her agricultural background helped Leanne land her first job in television as the ag reporter in Lloydminster. Her passion for agriculture would be a theme throughout Leanne's television career.

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FINDING FOSTERS

Marley is a sweet boy who came into the care of the Alberta SPCA through our Pet Safekeeping Program back in May, and he was eventually surrendered to us. Unfortunately, after four months the Labrador-mixed breed remained in our care for no reason other than there was no room for him with our sheltering partners; groups that would normally help Marley find a new home.

Our sheltering partners are key to helping the animals in our care find a loving family since we don't maintain our own shelter here at the SPCA. However, those groups are not able to help us in the same manner they used to due to their own backlog of animals requiring homes.

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SURRENDER VS SEIZURE

The number one goal for our Peace Officers when they arrive at a property where conditions are not ideal is to improve those conditions. In many people's eyes, this means seizing animals. However, seizing is a legal process requiring a number of factors to be met before the animals can be removed. The number one component is that the animals need to be in distress, and just because the environment they live in is problematic, it doesn't necessarily mean the animals are in distress as defined by the *Animal Protection Act*.

An alternative tool our Peace Officers can use is to talk to the owner about surrendering animals to us before they come to be in distress. Owners often are aware they are struggling to care for their animals, especially if the number on the property is increasing exponentially.



In a recent case involving Labradoodle dogs, the animals were on a property where the breeder was finding it difficult to place the puppies with families. The numbers on the property were growing and the situation was quickly becoming overwhelming. While the circumstances were concerning, the dogs were being fed and their shelter was acceptable for that time of the year. They were not in distress as defined by the *Animal Protection Act*.

Our team was able to have a conversation with the owner, who then agreed to surrender 18 dogs. This included a number of dogs that were pregnant who gave birth shortly after coming into our care. The dogs all received vet care and spay/neuter surgeries before being transferred to a sheltering partner in order to find them families.



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MAN RECEIVES PROBATION AFTER DOG INJURED

Keagan Darcy Stanley

Keagan Darcy Stanley of Fort Saskatchewan pleaded guilty in July 2023 to both *Animal Protection Act* and *Criminal Code* of Canada charges in relation to the distress of a Shih Tzu named Bella. The charges related to two separate incidents.

In December 2021, Bella was taken to a veterinary clinic suffering from blunt force trauma to the rib cage and head trauma. In February 2022, Bella was once again taken to a veterinary clinic in medical distress. It was determined the dog had suffered scalding to 35% of her body and had choked on an unknown substance. The dog passed away. In both cases, it was determined Keagan Stanley was in care and control of the dog. Stanley was charged by both the Alberta SPCA and the Fort Saskatchewan RCMP for the two incidents.

Stanley was convicted under the *Criminal Code* 445(1)(a) of wilfully permitting unnecessary pain, suffering or injury to an animal. Stanley was also convicted under the *Animal Protection Act* 2(1) of permitting an animal to be in distress. Stanley received a sentence of 18 months probation and a fine of \$1,000.

ALBERTA SPCA ADDS THREE NEW PEACE OFFICERS TO TEAM



Peace Officer Coates



Peace Officer Mohr



Peace Officer Cummings

Fresh faces and new energy - that's the best way to describe the Animal Protection Services department after adding three Peace Officers in September. Dylan Coates, Daniel Mohr and Luke Cummings all completed the Peace Officer Training Program with the Solicitor General's department of Alberta this past August, and received their Peace Officer appointments shortly after.

Welcome to the team!

SURRENDER VS SEIZURE

...cont'd from page 2.

While our Peace Officers enforce Alberta's animal protection legislation, they make their decisions each day with the thought of how to improve the welfare of the animals in question. Sometimes the animals need to be seized under the process set out in the *Animal Protection Act*, but much of the time the best course of action is to work with the owner to improve the conditions on the property. Part of that process can include accepting animals into our care via a surrender, ensuring the animals find loving homes before they have to be seized due to distress.



AnimalKind is published by the Alberta Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Alberta SPCA)
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Executive Director: Leanne Niblock
Editor: Dan Kobe

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.



TEACHER HIGHLIGHT: SUSAN GUBA

Alberta teacher and humane education advocate

Susan Guba, a recently retired teacher, believes humane education plays a vital role in the classroom. Susan has been a long-time champion of Alberta SPCA education programs, particularly the book-lending program Animal-Tales, which helps to build empathy and literacy. Throughout her 15-year teaching career, Susan taught in three different colony schools in Alberta. During this time, she incorporated AnimalTales into her teachings on a regular basis. Susan appreciates that the picture books in the program help facilitate discussion and the activities are centered around compassion towards animals, people, and the environment. Susan noted, "Not only are picture books enjoyable to read and visually attractive, they also promote critical thinking, resulting in some very thought provoking discussions."



Susan believes each book teaches an important lesson. She remembers her students shedding a tear for Chicu, the parrot, as they read about his journey in *Always Blue for Chicu*. They learned the importance of doing research to understand the physical and mental needs of animals before committing to a new pet. Her students explored the needs of chickens while building chicken coop models out of recycled materials, after reading *Sonya's Chickens*.

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ACTIVE TOGETHER - FOR EVERYONE'S WELL-BEING

Incorporating physical activity into our daily routine benefits our physical health and contributes to our overall well-being. Movement can help us feel good physically, engage our senses, and improve our mood. This is also true for animals!

Ensuring animals have opportunities to move and be active is an important part of being an animal caretaker. Domestic animals depend on us to stay active, be it taking our dog for a walk, playing with our cat, or ensuring our chickens have adequate space to move around. It's also important for us to understand the natural behaviours of animals in our care so we can help keep them active in ways that benefit both their physical and mental well-being. Spending time playing with our pets not only helps them (and us) to be active, but also strengthens the bond we share with them.



This year's classroom poster - the eighth in our character education series - focuses on the importance of being active. The accompanying activities focus on how activity make us - and our pets - feel, and explore animals' natural behaviours and how we can ensure we are providing opportunities for their expression.

Follow us on social media for articles, information and updates on being active - together.

ONE FAMILY WELFARE

FOSTERING ANIMALS

...cont'd from front page.

The result, Marley and nine other animals, all of which were adoptable, remained in the care of a kennel last month while we awaited space to free up at shelters.

This issue is connected to the larger problem facing the animal welfare industry in Alberta. Fewer families are looking to adopt due to the challenges with the economy, and more people are looking to surrender pets for the same reason. Since these shelters utilize foster families to care for cats and dogs while they await adoption, if they don't have families available to accept an animal into their home, the shelter can't take in any of our pets.

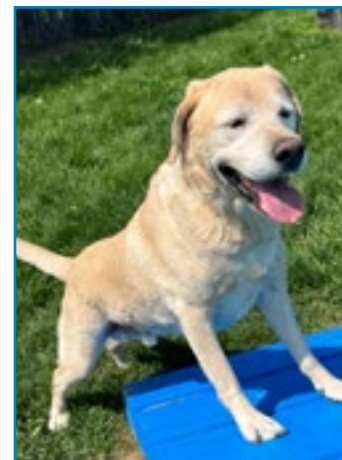
FOSTER FAMILIES NEEDED

The Greater Edmonton Animal Rescue Society (GEARS) is one organization we have relied upon in the past to take our animals and help them find homes. GEARS Foster Director Karla Alsop says they are always in need of additional foster homes. The group has about 100 pets in foster care at any one time, and when a spot opens up at one of the homes, it's filled quickly. While they have added a number of new foster families recently, they always need more.

"Many of the new families just adopt their first foster," says Alsop, "So we're constantly trying to replenish the foster home base because so many of them keep their first pet and sort of drop off our list after that."

ADVANTAGES OF FOSTERING

Fostering animals is an excellent way to enjoy the benefits of having a companion animal in your home without the long-term commitment or cost of owning a pet. GEARS, and most sheltering organizations, cover the cost of food and supplies for their animals in foster homes, as well as veterinary care. Fostering is a great option for animal lovers who would like to have that companionship but aren't certain they will be able to care for a pet for the next 10 to 15 years. And it saves lives!



At GEARS, the requirements for potential foster families is not extensive. The organization requires any permanent pets in the home to be spayed or neutered, as well as to be up-to-date on their vaccinations. They also require the fostered animals to be mostly indoor pets; no wandering cats, or dogs confined to the yard. And foster families also need to be home a reasonable amount of time. Other than that, GEARS works with families to place animals that are right for them, and they provide training to people who are new to caring for pets.

FINDING A HOME FOR MARLEY

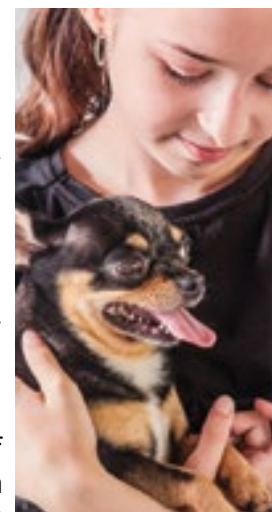
Marley is the type of dog that would be perfect for someone who wants a low maintenance, well-trained dog for a shorter period of time as he's older. As of the end of September, Marley was still in our care.

Our organization, along with our sheltering partners, is asking Albertans to consider becoming a foster family for a cat or a dog. It's a gratifying experience to help animal through times of uncertainty, and the experience goes a long way to meeting the emotional needs of the foster family while ensuring animals do not spend a significant amount of time in an institutional environment.

Considering Becoming A Foster Family?

Here are just a few of the organizations looking for new foster families

Edmonton Humane Society
Calgary Humane Society
Central Alberta Humane Society
Alberta Animal Rescue Crew Society
GEARS Rescue
Bonnyville SPCA
Lloydminster SPCA





EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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Executive Director Leanne Niblock & Hope

Eventually, Leanne switched careers and moved into roles as a strategic planner and communications professional. And still, animals were never far away. While working at the University of Calgary, Leanne was part of the team that helped open the new Faculty of Veterinary Medicine in 2005. Leanne also spent time volunteering with 4-H and agriculture programs at the Calgary Stampede as she worked hard to stay connected to her agricultural roots.

A new animal element found its way into Leanne's life when she moved to Edmonton. She adopted Hope, a rescue dog, and since that time has fostered another 10 to 12 canines. As Leanne has learned, when you foster an animal, you're actually helping two; the one in your home and the one that gets to use the shelter space that opened up when the foster animal came to you. Learn more about the importance of fostering elsewhere in this newsletter.

As Executive Director, Leanne has numerous issues she wants to tackle, and goals she wants to achieve, as she works to support our vision that every animal in Alberta be treated humanely. It starts with bringing a systems-thinking approach to dealing with the challenges facing all animal welfare organizations in our province. As we grapple with helping Alberta's animals, Leanne's hope is that by planning for those challenges, the Alberta SPCA and other dedicated animal welfare organizations in the province can serve their missions with even greater results.

Buy Tickets @ albertaspca.org



TEACHER

...cont'd from page 2.

Susan is a proponent of integrating humane education in the classroom. She believes people who demonstrate kindness and compassion towards animals tend to treat each other in the same manner. Living by this philosophy, she has always been one to model kindness, such as picking up and relocating an insect or spider found in her home or classroom. Susan was thrilled when her students started to adopt this habit!

When asked what she will miss most about teaching, Susan responded, "Reading books aloud to my students! I am an avid reader myself and have added quite an extensive variety of books to my private collection, including a few of the AnimalTales books! My plan is to continue reading aloud to my grandchildren and anyone else who enjoys listening to a good book!"

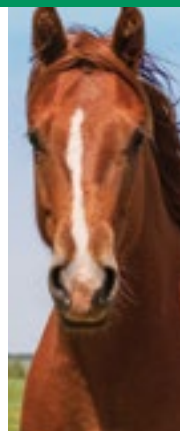
We wish Susan all the best in her retirement and thank her for sharing her love of animals, and modelling compassion for every living thing with her students. Her impact will continue to be felt far beyond the classroom.

IN LOVING MEMORY

Robert Lorence Addley, from Chrisene Addley
Alison Madge, Lein and Mazie, Fred, Rusty, Patches & Diesel, from Morgan Lein
Jennifer Anderson, from Brenda McCallum
Angus, from Carolyn Matras
Helen Mary Anstruther, from John Anstruther
Jack Beattie, from Heather Ferguson, Karen Gordulic, Andre Hebert, John Williams
Gizmo Belecki, from Samantha Belecki
Biggy, from Terri Sungsook Johnson
Blue & Millie, from Tracy & Stan Wadden
Raisin J Bowsers, from Scott Barber
Briggs, from Jennifer Will
Bronson, from Meredith Bryant
Edelgarde Brown, from Margaret Whelpdale
Ellen Marlene Brown, from Anonymous
Indie Burnett, from Superior Propane
Kent Carlson, from Esther Hoerle
Michael David Casselman, from Rosemary Harris
Caviar, from Judith Keep
Chandler, from Anonymous
Charlie, from Anonymous
Charlie, from Evan Martin
Charlie & Milo, from Christine Almond
CoCo, from Julia Stanbridge
Cody, from Sherry Lomax
Beverly Ann Comin, from Larry Comin, Sandra Young
Roxy Corns, from Margaret E. Corns
Mary Louise Corrigan, from Glenda Hayzelden, Joanne & T Corrigan, My Tribute Gift
Ron Despina, from Shannon & Allan Despina
Hubley Donaldson, from Anonymous
Florence & Frank Duggan, from Noranne Dickin
Diane Evans, from Margaret Slowinski
Clarke Ferries, from Jay Ferries
George Filipchuk, from Brenda & Theodore Carter, Larissa Sadlowski
Kelly Fordice, from Wilna Reynolds, Anonymous
Joseph Daniel Garand, from Canadian Forces Real Property Operations Group - Edmonton
The Gartner's, from Juliette Henley
Gracie, from Marg Blondheim-Whetstone
Shauna Hanson's dog and cat (your critters!), from Dianne & Brian Allen
Jean Amy Harris, from Shirley Kemp
Helen (Lynne) Heck, from Angela Bysterveld
Shayla Nicole Heise, from Leona Armstrong
Heather Henderson, from Ken Kellington
Valory Jean Hewitt, from Jo-Anne Caruso
John Hill, from Teresa Hill
George Hinrichs, from Michelle Hinrichs
John "Jack" Rudolph Hovey, from Linda Ferguson, Cheeryl Went, RCMP Veterans' Association Foundation
Ida Hunka, from Earl L. Hjelter
Icy, from M. Nanchoff
Ike, from Beverly Towstiaik & Don Madill
Ike, from Cecile & Ralph E Atkinson
Indy, from Dianne & Brian Allen
Izzy & Gilby, from Daniel Andresen

Jackson Jackson, from Marg Blondheim-Whetstone
James Alexander Jenkins, from Jennifer Keller
Joan, from Belinda Molenaar
Sasha Jugnauth, from Derek Jugnauth
Kaiser, Maximillion, Prince, Willie, & Winston, from MaryLouise Barlass
Bunny Kijewski, from Stewart Orr
Neil Robert Kirkpatrick, from Raeleen Cherry
Fay Krause, from Kathleen Sinclair
Rhonda Gaye Kropf, from Karl Kropf
Joel Kruizenga, from Margaret & Peter Grandia
Kuna, from Kris & Sheryl Bay
Kylie, from Erin Delsing
Maxine Lacey, from Valerie Cornelius
Lane, from Jo-Anne Harris
Dale LaRose, from Clearview Public School
Layla, from Todd Gray
Lina and Ginger, from Elaine Jackson
Linus, from Marliiss & David Savage
Little One, from Theresa Grizell
Logan, from Anonymous
Charles Norman Loree, from Ludwig Schaaf
Robert McNeil, from Margaret Ann & Dean Traboulsi
Matthew, from Paula Phillips
Jane McLaughlin, from Douglas Homes Ltd
Megan, from Suzanne Bensler
Kevin Robert Milner, from Margot Milner, Tracie Milner
Karen Faith Milton, from Marita MacDonald
Milton, from Violeta Mariscal
Rihanna Mork, from Darryl Mork
Myrtle, from Andrea McLean
Newt, from Debra McDonald
James Donald Noble, from Desiree Veltri
Tilie O'Donnell, from Chinook Foot & Ankle Clinic
Orange, from Anonymous
Ozzie, from Sheila Neiman
Parsely, from Jane Ellenor
Larry Paulson, Indi's Rescue Dad, from Alison Spitzer
Liam Pearson, from Jasmine Pearson
Joyce Peters, from Alice Bramley
Piggy & Kat, from Mr Dean Tamerra Rideout
Roy Pocza, from Mark Waage
Poppy, from Catherine Juffermans
Pretzel & Bandette, from Dwayne Steil
Putzy, from Anonymous
Rana & Prissa, from Arlene Schmidek
Ranger, from Jeanne MacMillan
Ellen Ravvin, from Marijane Ashforth, Eleanor & Ron Bell, William Burton, Stephanie & Scott Hillis, Robert McCannel
Anderson, Michael Pasukonis, Ross Smith, Barry & Debby Smolkin, Michael Stiles
John R. Reid, from Patricia Reid
Remi, from Sarah Byström
Rex & Tron, from Roy Lee
Casey Reynolds, from Julie A. Reynolds
Rio, from Tracy & Stan Wadden
Brian Romanchuk, from CUPE Local 30

Gloria Runck, from Andi & Liz Pallas
Rusty, from Sarah & Walter Burry
Samson, Soda & Schneider, from Patty Hicks
Corrina "Cory" Lynne Sankovic, from Diane & John Bacso
Clifford Scheers, from Lucy Scheers
John Douglas Schwengler, from Carolyn Gratton, Rosemarie & Delbert Hack, Peter Lawrence, Melanie Zimmer
Barbara Ann Sedgwick, from Leonard Steele
Fenrir Sobko Seifred, from Robyn Turner
Seija, from Akemi Matsubuchi
Shilo, from Dennis & Linda Christianson
Shiva & Tara, from Joel Rothaizer
Silver & Jake, from Nonna Roth
Burl Sliger, from Susan & Bill Weisenberger
Sparky, from M. Nanchoff
Spike, from Kris & Sheryl Bay
Stella, from Tacey Johnson
Aaron Michael Stelmachovich, from Robert & Tracey Brander
Cathie Strong, from Jennifer Strong
Sammy Sykes, from Mark & Coralee Beaulieu
Greg Scheurwater, from Juliette Henley
Sylvester, from Joanne Pagnucco
Tanis Roberts and her buddy Gus, from Myrna McLennan
Tika, from Shirley Hopper
Elizabeth Tuxworth, from Josephine Cleopahrt
Simon Upright, from Chirag Shah
Sean Robert Vath, from Carol Vath
Cindy Volk, from Charlene Collier, Evelyn & Donald Volk
Betty White, from Lynda Bowes & Donald Patterson, Loni Leslie
Luna Wilson, from Patti Green
Marian Winder, from Jody & Kevin Heinz
Winston, Webster & Topaz, from Leona De Boer
Wolfe, from Tamarka Fabro
Sylvester (Sly) Zemlak, from Marion & Dave Maruszczyk, Mike & Agnes Stephenson, Leroy Story, My Tribute Gift



Pet Memorial Program for Vet Clinics

- Foothills Animal Hospital
- Harvest Pointe Animal Hospital
- Range Road Veterinary Clinic





Fall 2023

If you believe Animal Protection, Education and Pet Safekeeping are vital to preventing animal neglect and abuse, 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 _____

Animal Response Team (ART)

Signature _____

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