



AlbertaSPCA.org

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# Kind ANIMAL

## 2025: A Year of Courage, Compassion and Community

### MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Reflecting on the past year, my heart is full of gratitude – for the Albertans who stood beside us, and for the remarkable community of advocates and caregivers who support us in helping animals.

### MEETING ANIMALS' NEEDS WITH URGENCY AND CARE

This past year, our Animal Protection team was faced with a significant number of complex files, many of which included multiple species, and large numbers of animals.

One example is a file involving more than 70 dogs living outside on a rural property. Just trying to catch them all was a huge challenge. Many needed veterinary care and behaviour training, since they had never been socialized.

Once they were healthy, they were transferred to our shelter partners and, ultimately, adopted into new homes. Their journeys underscore why our mission matters every day.

### INNOVATING HOW WE SERVE ALBERTANS AND ANIMALS

We embarked on a meaningful evolution of the Alberta SPCA brand and resources. On our 66th anniversary in September, we unveiled a refreshed identity and redesigned website –



including tools to make help easier to access when it matters most. A new online decision tree guides Albertans step-by-step on what to do if they're concerned for an animal's welfare, helping reduce confusion and speed the connection to the right support.

This year also marked the inaugural Animal Welfare Symposium, a significant milestone in collaborating across sectors to find solutions. Held in Nisku, the symposium brought together advocates, municipal leaders, educators and animal welfare professionals. This event provided an opportunity to explore complex issues through the lens of One Health and to strengthen our collective capacity to address the root causes of animal welfare issues.

### STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY SUPPORT AND OUTREACH

Our remarkable donors remain essential to sustaining our work. In early 2025, we launched the refreshed Animal Heroes Lottery and 50/50 raffle, commemorating ten years since one of the largest seizures in our history, in Milk River, and inviting supporters to "be an animal hero" to support frontline responses.

Another impactful moment this year was distributing nearly 23,000 bags of pet food, valued at \$2.2 million, with support from Greater Good Charities and ZIWI – helping feed hungry animals, relieving pressure on shelters, and supporting struggling pet guardians across the province.

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# MODERN MUNICIPAL BYLAWS

Continued from page 1...

## ADVOCACY AND ENFORCEMENT

Our enforcement work remains anchored in accountability and animal protection. In April, a joint investigation with RCMP and Parkland County Enforcement Services resulted in the seizure of horses found in distress — reinforcing how community reporting and law enforcement collaboration can protect animals and secure justice.

We engaged with the Government of Alberta on meaningful updates to Alberta's *Animal Protection Act*, advocating for more tools for our peace officers to improve efficiency and effectiveness in resolving animal care concerns. We also had success collaborating with crown prosecutors ensuring prohibition orders are clear and precise.

To every supporter — from donors to lottery purchasers to everyday Albertans who look out for animals in their communities — thank you. It's your compassion that fuels this work. Together, we stand on the front lines every day, speaking for those who cannot speak for themselves.

Here's to a compassionate 2026 and countless lives changed through kindness, action and community.

Leanne Niblock, Executive Director



## The Importance of Modern Animal Bylaws

Animal welfare in Alberta is a shared responsibility, and municipalities of all sizes play a vital role. While the Alberta SPCA enforces the provincial *Animal Protection Act*, municipalities have the authority to create and enforce local bylaws that guide everyday interactions between animals, people and communities.

Traditionally, animal bylaws focused primarily on animal control; however, modernized bylaws can go much further. They reflect today's realities and our evolving relationship with animals by promoting responsible care and guardianship, supporting public safety, and addressing community-specific needs. Clear expectations and proactive standards empower municipalities to help prevent neglect, distress, conflict and harm before enforcement or intervention is needed.

For example, the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo mandates that animals be provided with potable water, species-specific food, regular opportunity for exercise, clean and sanitary shelter, and veterinary care to relieve or prevent pain. By outlining care standards that help animals thrive, modern bylaws can address the root causes of common nuisance behaviours — such as excessive barking, aggression, or repeated complaints — before they become more serious concerns.

Across Alberta, there are opportunities to strengthen municipal animal bylaws and address root causes of animal welfare concerns at the local level. To support this work, the Alberta SPCA is advancing the conversation through education, collaboration, resource development, and engagement with municipalities, including recent discussions with municipal leaders at the Alberta Municipalities Convention.

We encourage Albertans to learn more about the animal bylaws in their community, explore our resources, and engage with municipal leaders to advocate for strengthening local bylaws. Together, we can build strong, compassionate communities that protect both animals and people.

To learn more, visit our website: [AlbertaSPCA.org](https://AlbertaSPCA.org)



## WORKING TOGETHER: PROTECTION IN ACTION



### Fifty-four dogs in one house.

When Alberta SPCA peace officers received a call about 54 small-breed dogs discovered during an emergency response to a house fire, they acted immediately, advising first responders on how to safely remove the dogs. All the dogs were rescued and surrendered into our care. While most did not require immediate veterinary care, it was clear they had been neglected.

Our community partner, the Parkland County Animal Shelter, stepped up to temporarily house the dogs while we worked to find available spaces to transfer them – a significant challenge in an already overburdened animal welfare system. Animals requiring urgent medical care were transported to veterinary partners. The remaining animals were transferred to adoption centres once spaces were available. The dogs will be spayed or neutered before being adopted to loving new homes.

Animal protection is complex, and wouldn't be possible without a network of support, including donors, community agencies and adoption partners. Thank you to everyone who helped keep these dogs safe.

If you see an animal in distress, please visit our website, [AlbertaSPCA.org](https://AlbertaSPCA.org), and click on:

Have an Animal Concern?



This useful new tool will guide you in reporting your concern to the appropriate agency so that animals receive the help they need.

# CONNECTING WITH OUR COMMUNITY

## Using Social Media to Engage and Educate Albertans

This past year, we used our social media platforms to highlight the Alberta SPCA's mission and values while educating Albertans about animal welfare. By sharing content about our work in animal protection and enforcement, fundraising campaigns, animal care tips, and humane education initiatives, we were able to engage with the community and reinforce our commitment to protecting animals and supporting the people who care for them.

One way we did this was through our myth-busting social media series, which addressed common misconceptions about animal welfare. Covering topics from myths about shelter animals and behaviour issues to myths about hypoallergenic pets, these posts provided educational information and encouraged more compassionate, informed choices for animals across Alberta.

We also used our social media to highlight the work of our dedicated staff through our People Who Protect social media series. This series offered a behind-the-scenes look at the variety of roles within the organization, allowing staff members to share their experiences, expertise, and passion

## Alberta SPCA Myth Busting

SHELTER ANIMALS  
AND BEHAVIOUR  
ISSUES



## People Who Protect

DON SELLER



for animal welfare. By putting faces to the work we do, the series helped connect us with our community and provided a better understanding of how the Alberta SPCA protects animals across the province.

Using social media has allowed us to reach and engage more Albertans, raise awareness, share knowledge, and deepen understanding of animal welfare issues. We will continue to use these platforms to educate, inspire, and connect with Albertans in the year ahead.

STAY CONNECTED  
FOLLOW US



## Exploring Animal Needs: A new classroom poster

We've developed a new classroom poster focused on The Five Needs of Animals, a resource that explores what both animals and people need to feel their best. The Five Needs are based on the internationally recognized Five Domains Model, which was developed to assess animal welfare and highlights the impact of human interactions with animals.

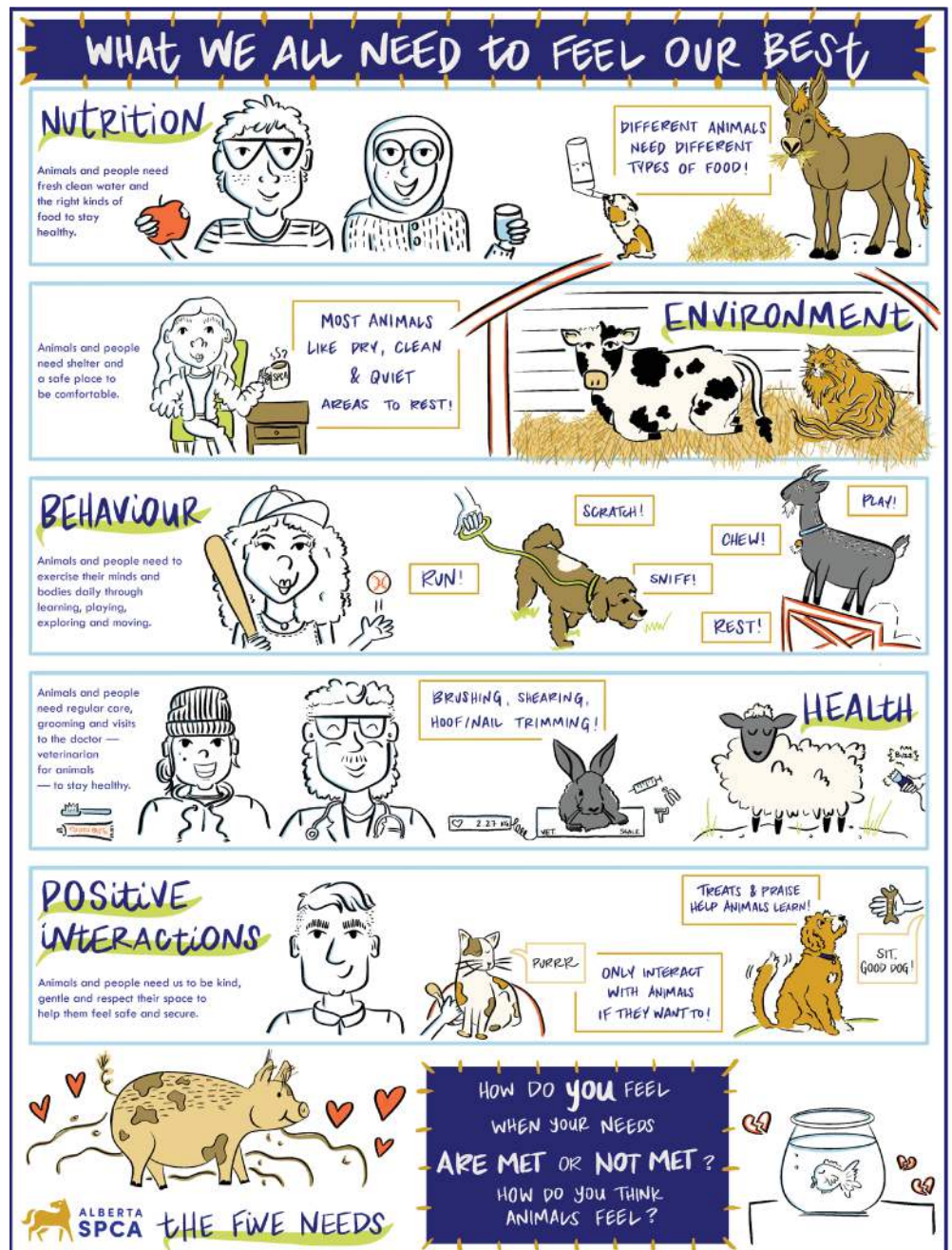
While food, water and shelter are often the first needs people think of, animal well-being also includes a safe and comfortable environment, prevention and treatment of disease, opportunities to express normal behaviours and interactions with people that reduce fear, anxiety

and distress. Together, how these needs are met, and the experiences animals have, shape the way they feel. The poster illustrates each of these needs and draws parallels to human needs, helping students see the connection between the well-being of animals and people.

By bringing this poster into classrooms, we're supporting thoughtful conversations about empathy, responsibility and respect. It's one of the ways we continue to encourage learning that helps students better understand animals, their needs, and the impact of our choices on others.

This poster is included in the recently updated Humane Educator Toolkit that is available for free to teachers across Alberta. For more information on the poster or toolkit visit: [everylivingthing.ca](http://everylivingthing.ca)

In 2025 we gave out  
**1650**  
 classroom posters and  
**1174**  
 students participated  
 in our Animal Tales  
 book lending program





## MONTHLY DONORS MATTER

Become a monthly donor to the Alberta SPCA and save animal lives. Monthly donors are the steady, dependable supporters who make sure that our work to protect, promote and enhance the well-being of animals in Alberta continues. Monthly giving is automatic — providing reliable funding when animals are in distress and need help the most. You can stop or pause your monthly gift at any time. Join the other animal lovers who make a monthly gift to keep animals in Alberta safe.

Call us at 780.732.3746 or visit our website to set up a monthly gift today.

Are you interested in supporting the Alberta SPCA's Mission in a more meaningful way? **We're looking for board members!** Our board meets regularly, and sometimes in person in Edmonton. If you have an interest or expertise in advancing animal welfare, send a short bio to [info@AlbertaSPCA.org](mailto:info@AlbertaSPCA.org)



The Front Line of Animal Protection

### Alberta SPCA Annual General Meeting (AGM)

All current members are invited to join us for the 2026 AGM on March 28 from 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. The AGM will be held at the Alberta SPCA office, 17904 – 118 Ave. NW, Edmonton. If you would like to attend, please RSVP by email to [DonorRelations@AlbertaSPCA.org](mailto:DonorRelations@AlbertaSPCA.org) or by phone to 780.732.3746.

If you'd like to become a member, please download and complete the membership application found on our website, under Ways to Help.

# IN LOVING MEMORY

Alexandra Mackey, Ann Mackey  
All Family Cats, Yue Xing  
Allan Potter, Darlene Wong  
Alysa Young, Simone Marshall  
Anissa, Svetlana Almaeva  
Annette McChullough, Fitzpatrick  
Reverence Horsemanship Inc  
Audrey G, D. M. Hiltz-Schlotter  
Avery Ann Cunningham, Caroline  
Bunton  
Barbara Ann Alton-Carlson, Ada Jacobs  
Shevantibai Killedar & Sandy,  
Mrunmayee Nikam  
Beverly Ann Comin, Larry Comin  
Beverly Diotte, Michel Diotte  
Bill Bots, Lorraine Anglin  
Bishop, Lori Elrick-Woods  
Blue, Shelley and John-Paul Trottier  
Brian Fergeuson, Marg Blondheim-  
Whetstone  
Bryan Liden, Neil & Lilyon Luntz  
Bryan Roland Linden, Lorraine Foster  
Buddy, Sheila Hellevang  
Buster Bear, Wade & Lori Harper  
C. Diego, Elisabeth Stoeck  
Cali, Morsel, Sandy, Tozer, Angus, April,  
& Smudgie, Alice Nimmo  
Carson Brosnikoff, Ashley Lavoie  
Casey Reynolds, Julie Reynolds  
Catherine Chilibeck, Heather Foot  
Catherine Chilibeck, Edwin Snaychuk  
Catherine Chilibeck, Dave & Laurie  
McInnes  
Catherine Chilibeck, Gordon Mallett  
Catherine Chilibeck, Michael Kousaie II  
Charlie & Tommy, Jill A. Winterson  
Colleen Anne Judge, Kathleen Neilson  
Colleen Judge, Wanda Krywiak  
Colleen Judge, Sharon Beitel  
Cooper, Marg Blondheim-Whetstone  
Daniel Roger Sobon, Dallas Sobon  
Darryl Sandquist, Kevin Nichiporik  
Dash, Debbie Cameron-Laninga  
David Edwards, Doreen Templeton  
David Gaber, Joseph Van Weelden  
David Paradis, Joyce Paradis  
Dear Cat Fergus, Barbara Rankin  
Denae, Karen & Brad Manastyrski  
Derek Hoyle, Alice Hoyle  
Diana Purdy, Jamie Johansen  
Diana Purdy, Michelle Smarsh  
Don, Beverly Lynn Crockett  
Don Frederickson, Dayle Nelson  
Don Kozdrowski, Linda Ostafichuk  
Donald Frederickson, Bernice Larsen  
Dorothy Sichkaryk, Debbie Sichkaryk  
Dr. Ken Keeler, Duane Landals  
Dr. Brian Easton, Dwight Lindsay  
Dr. Dave Hewko, Gerald Moan

Dr. Davide Hewko, Darcy MacNaughton  
Ed Aziman, Heather Khan  
Lady, Roger Fuyarchuk  
Riley, Roger Fuyarchuk  
Gracie, Elizabeth Haigh  
Gracie, Karen Cantine  
Gunner, Barb Philips  
Hades, Cecile & Ralph E Atkinson  
Hank Emmerling, Skippy Emmerling  
Harriet Jacqueline Benson, John Benson  
Irene Hallet, Lillian & Cec Hiscock  
Irene Wiebe, Debra Kidd  
Jacob, Brea Bevan  
Jake, Ecostone Products  
James (Jim) Tenhove, Darryl Wolter  
Jean Appleby, Judy Birkbeck  
Jean Appleby, Joan Berardi  
Jean Goudie, Dawn Power  
Jean Murphy, Kelly McDermott  
Jeff Jelskey, Gerard Young  
Jim Delaney, Dale Collins  
Jim Tenhove, Wilhelmina Rommens  
Joan Markiwsky, David & Carrie Hinds  
Joan Meyer, Sheila Teske  
Joyce Crittenden, Nancy Farrell  
Joyce Harding, Heather Harding  
JR Lee, Betty Lee  
Judith Foster, Kathryn Matter  
Julia Colleen Darcy, Judy Ring  
Julia Pallidino, Caiti Farquharson  
Justin Duff, Renee Minville  
Justin James Duff, Teresa McCarney &  
Terry McCarney  
Kaitlyn Matter, Donnell Matter  
Keeper, Mary L. Rehill  
Kipper, Patricia Plottel  
Kona Pinder, Laura Lee Life  
Kylie Louisa Schlender, Marion Chitwood  
Laryssa Whittaker, Diana & Dallas Hehr  
Laryssa Whittaker, Linda Whittaker  
Leonard, Waltraut, & Ronald Lumpe,  
Marion LaBrie  
Lesley Joan Campbell, Judith Campbell  
Little Frying Pan Man, Angela  
Mimnaugh  
Lois, David Street  
Lorraine Forsberg, Calla Daly  
Louise Morrison, Cynthia Olsen  
Lucca, Anthony Barnfather  
Maria Henriques, Laine Mulholland  
Maria Soto, Peter & Karen DiPalma  
Marie Kachmarski, Eleanor Frandsen  
Marjorie Dorethia Ward, Megan  
Crosland  
Mary Burke, Gordon Burke  
Mary, Atty & Leo, Karen Serrett  
Matt Lovsin, Troy Woudwyk  
Michael Reed, Carrie Reed  
Mimi, Jeanette Coulstring

Mom, Elizabeth O'leary  
Mr. Neall Paterson, CPSA: College of  
Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta  
Mrs Dale Bailie, Sherilyne Beaudoin  
Mrs. Linda Klapp, Amanda Klapp  
My Angel Friends, Jody Forester  
New Jersey, Barbara Geweth  
Nim, Linda McCutchen  
Ozzy, Glen Partridge  
Penny Radakevitz, Barbara Furuness  
Piper, The LEMPD Team  
Raffi, Leanne Musak & Doug Musak  
Randall Shalapay, Carolyn Shalapay  
Ranger Lee, Alison Lee  
Reba, Carol Kettlewell  
Reggie, Ira, Friskey, & Simon, Kimberley  
McDonald-Kingston  
Rhonda Gaye Kropf, Karl Kropf  
Richard & Michael Sangster, Edward  
Cheng  
Richard Hillson, Jane & Kevin Hillson  
Rick Hessels, Eileen Sullivan  
Riley, Kris Hokazono  
Robert Kuzio, Michael Kuzio  
Rocco, Geneva Moore  
Romeo, Onyx, & Cookie, Naseem Jaffer  
Ron Mullin, Allison Porter  
Ronald S. Blond, George Buck  
Rose Pollitt, David Pollitt  
Rosie, Jane Robinson  
Rover, Rupal Bhatt  
Sadie, Kevin & Sonia Berg  
Sandy, Mrunmayee Nikam  
Sara Fullerton, Marian & Cameron  
MacKenzie  
Scarf, Tayha, Sadie, Rudy, & Ozzie,  
Leonard Dunn  
Sharon Woolcock, Stephen Yard  
Shauna Dee O'Sullivan, Shannon  
O'Sullivan & Gregory Emann  
Shirley Brogan, Pamela Chaput  
Sierra, John Williams  
Silver, Tommy, & Tiger, Shanthi Koraganji  
Sprite, Diane Hollingdale  
Steve, Christopher McMillan  
Susan Harlan, Penny Erickson  
Taz & Rookie, Lynn Gregor  
Tebo Peterson, Kim Peterson  
Ted, Gail, & Bev Schoff, Carol Bonham  
Travis Flinn, Mike Bate  
Ursula Schnelle, Sturgeon Rural Crime  
Watch  
Ursula Schnelle, Leslie & Noel Dowler  
Ziggy Kutzyk, Ute Kutzyk & C Kutzyk  
Zorro, Krishna Rudra  
Quill, Angela Wu  
Esta, Dell Richardson