

**Manager of Animal Protection Services Report  
Saskatchewan Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals  
Annual General Meeting  
September 25, 2010**

The year April 2009 to March 2010 can best be summed up as the “year of change”.

July 2009 the SSPCA hired Taija Watson as a first full time APO based out of the Saskatoon office. Taija has done an excellent job.

The fall saw Ian MacMillan terminating his services as coordinator of Investigative Services. I then accepted the term position of Acting Manager of Animal Protection Services in November.

Ed Applin was rehired in December, as the second full time APO, working out of the Saskatoon office. Another change came when the SSPCA moved to the new office on 45<sup>th</sup> Street, in January 2010.

The SSPCA continues to employ five casual APOs. These APOs are Les Buckmaster in the Caryle area, Ray Whitney from Moose Jaw, Karla Seick in the Guernsey area, Donna Davis in the Frontier area, and Barry Thiessen in the Borden area

Like any growing organization, the SSPCA has met each of these changes head on and worked through the difficulties, changing these hardships into positive results.

The transition from the old office to the new location was a huge task, since it had to be completed while business continued “as usual”. We are proud of the new office. It has the appearance of a professional office, and it goes a long way to promote the image of the SSPCA. I wish to thank all the staff and volunteers who made this transition possible with the least amount of disruptions to the day-to-day business.

The year 2009/2010 was also a year of soul searching. We reviewed our performance and we were not happy with what we saw. At the start of the year, we had in excess of 1200 open files. We implemented a process to bring the files up to date. We have since eliminated this backlog and all the remaining files are current.

We have an obligation to respond to all complaints in a timely manner. Since the hiring of the full time APOs we have noticed an immediate improvement in the way complaints are being handled. The complaints are now being responded to as per the revised response protocols, and case reports and documentation are being entered into the system in a timely manner. More importantly, the animals are being relieved of their distress in an acceptable time frame. This improvement in performance indicates that the SSPCA must continue to employ full time APO’S.

The SSPCA has been very successful in getting prosecutions in court as several of the cases from the previous year have not only come to court but the owners have also pled

guilty. This is very positive as it shows that the SSPCA is doing a very good job of investigating these files and preparing the information for court presentation.

These convictions are providing a case precedence, which will assist in getting convictions in the future. The Court procedure does point out the need to develop a protocol to ensure consistency in the laying of charges.

From April 2009 to March 2010, the SSPCA received 338 farm livestock complaints and 264 companion animal complaints. The number of complaints is on the increase, and the number of animals per complaint is on the sharp increase. During this time period the number of animals included: 19,024 cattle, 7,584 horses, 10,040 hogs, 336 bison, 373 sheep, 340 cervids, 1,000 dogs, and 60 cats, for a total of 39,370 animals. The past winter season was abnormally mild; in a normal winter climate these numbers could have been much higher.

In March of 2009 the SSPCA hosted the first Provincial Training session in Saskatoon. This session was well attended, with people from the SSPCA, Brands Inspections, Game Farm Inspections, as well as representatives from various humane societies. I have heard many favorable comments from this session.

Looking ahead into the 2010/2011 season, the SSPCA will be faced with numerous challenges.

The drop in horse prices and the new legislation has resulted in an increase in valueless horses. Therefore, our horse complaints are on the increase and will continue to do so. The Saskatchewan farmers are in a weather related crisis; the hay crops are poor quality due to the large amount of rain on the forage. The wet weather has not allowed harvest to progress, which will result in a shortage of feed grains and little if any straw. These conditions will cause hardships to the producer as well as the animals. We must not allow animals to suffer as a result of industry hardships.

I take this opportunity to thank the board of Directors for their continued support and understanding during these difficult times.

Respectfully submitted,

Lloyd Howden  
Acting Manager of Animal Protection Services  
Saskatchewan SPCA