

President's Report
Saskatchewan Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
Annual General Meeting
September 25, 2010

This past year has been both very challenging and very rewarding for the Saskatchewan SPCA.

For those of you who are not too sure about what it is our society does I would like to share some facts about our organization. Our mandate is to ensure the welfare of animals throughout the province. This, as our name states, we try to accomplish by preventing cruelty to animals. Cruelty includes active cruelty, as in abuse, as well as passive cruelty, as in neglect. We help all animals regardless of their actual or perceived monetary value or usefulness. This includes wildlife as well as animals of species designated as pests. No animal deserves to suffer.

During the past year we were able to improve our investigative services program considerably. Every call was responded to in a timely manner and everyone involved should be extremely pleased with this accomplishment. It also became very apparent that a high level of service does come with a high price tag.

After all, there is a reason why animal welfare usually is taken care of by not for profit organizations – it is not profitable!

If we want to continue this level of service we are in need of more funding for the enforcement of the Animal Protection Act.

At the same time our investigative services program was able to take its service level to new heights we were unable to equally increase our work in the areas of education and prevention.

We must never forget that when we intervene on behalf of neglected and abused animals we have already failed in our main mission to educate the public and to prevent the cruelty in the first place. This can only be achieved through education and my hope for the next year is that we will be able to increase our activities in these areas as well.

Only then will the Saskatchewan SPCA be able to fulfill its mandate of prevention through education and intervention.

However, our ability to consistently provide a high level of service in all areas depends directly on our ability to secure funding for our activities. Animal welfare is a societal responsibility and it appears that the general public begins to acknowledge this. Animals give us so much. Treating them with respect is the least we can do.

I am confident that appropriate funding will be found. Where and how money is spent depends on established priorities and once in a while it is a good idea to re-assess the status quo.

Looking forward I can see this society reaching goals within the next little while we could not have dreamt of even a few years ago.

This is also a great time to get involved. I would like to extend an invitation to everyone out there who believes he or she has something to contribute to the society. Please consider joining us as a board member or a committee member. We need individuals with a variety of backgrounds to form a diverse board. If you believe you can contribute to the growth of the Saskatchewan SPCA please do not hesitate to contact our nominations committee.

A big thank you to Executive Director Frances Wach, Acting Manager of Animal Protection Services Lloyd Howden, Project Manager Sandra Anderson, Administrative Assistants Crystal Stubbs and Elisabeth Elian, Twyla Polson who helps with our newsletter, full time Animal Protection Officers Ed Applin and Ashley Madden, as well as our casual Animal Protection Officers. Your hard work and dedication to animal welfare is remarkable and very much appreciated.

Last but not least an equally big thank you to all our volunteers and donors. Without your support the Saskatchewan SPCA could accomplish very little.

As it is the Saskatchewan SPCA is well on its way to become a strong voice for animal welfare in this province.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Sandra Neumann
President