

Animal Protection Services

Report

SSPCA Annual General Meeting

The 2010/2011 year has been a year of challenges. The number of complaints received is on the increase; most alarming is the number of horse complaints. The public views horses as companion animals as opposed to livestock; this compounds the difficulty in dealing with these complaints. This year we received 479 farm complaints, 251 companion animal complaints, for a total of 730. I strongly feel the increase in complaints is a direct result of the good job the Society is doing. The summer and fall rains have provided good pasture conditions, however forage quality was affected. The winter weather was mild so we did not see the severity of cases as we did the previous year. All our APO'S are under considerable strain to deal with these numbers. The public and the complainants are demanding immediate response to these complaints, often the demands are very vocal and unrealistic, and this puts added pressure on the APO'S and all staff.

Staff retention continues to be a challenge. Due to our financial position we are unable to pay staff a competitive salary, this will make staff retention difficult if not impossible. Taija WATSON was accepted into Vet College and resigned her APO position in August. Taija's resignation left a huge hole in our investigations team; we wish her well in her future. After a lengthy interviewing process, we hired Ashley MADDEN as a full time APO working out of the Saskatoon office. Ashley is young, bright, ambitious, and we are very happy to have her on board. Ed APPLIN continues as a full time APO working out of Saskatoon. We continue to utilize Les BUCKMASTER, Donna DAVIS, Ray WHITNEY, Barry THIESSEN as casual APO'S, and myself doing limited field work. After a long and somewhat painful interview process, we were successful in hiring Kaley PUGH as Manager of Animal Protection Services. Kaley has a Master of Science and a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture, and a livestock background which will assist Kaley in this position. I spent a short time in the office helping Kaley to phase-in to the position. Kaley is a very quick learner. I am confident that under Kaley's leadership the Animal Protection Unit will continue to grow. Later in the year we started the process to hire the third full time APO to work out of the Regina Satellite office. Ed and Ashley are working very hard; they have a huge work load, and will burn out if we do not get more officers. On the whole our response time has improved with the full time APO'S.

The 2010/2011 year was the year of high Media exposure. We were involved in several high profile cases in which the Media was very active. These cases are very stressful for all staff involved, as well as a huge financial drain for the Society. I wish to thank all staff for their efforts in dealing with these situations.

The Animal Protection Unit has worked through many very difficult situations, we have always had the support of the Board of Directors, for which we are grateful. I wish to thank the Board for their confidence in me as acting Manager.

Respectfully submitted by

Lloyd HOWDEN

Acting Manager of Animal Protection Services

Saskatchewan SPCA