

Executive Director's Report

The 2010 – 2011 fiscal year was another year that was challenging for the Saskatchewan SPCA.

Our move to our new office at 519 – 45th Street West has been beneficial. This office gives us more space, provides for individual offices and a more professional image for the Society.

Funding

We continue to face major funding challenges due to the number of complaints of neglect and abuse that we received as well as the complexity of some cases.

The Saskatchewan SPCA made a request to Ministry of Agriculture for additional funds for Investigative Services to hire a permanent Manager of Animal Protection Services, an additional full time Animal Protection Officer and a clerical support person. We are grateful that the Ministry provided the much needed funding.

We held two lotteries, one in July and the other in December. These lotteries bring in needed funding for education, public relations activities and investigative services.

We requested financial assistance from rural municipalities, small towns and villages in Saskatchewan and raised \$19,699.

The Saskatchewan SPCA appreciates the finding we have received from the Cattle Marketing Deductions Fund (\$35,000) and the Horned Cattle Purchases Fund (\$6,000).

We received \$17,500 from PetSmart Charities to assist with the costs of two major seizures.

We have 55 individuals who make monthly donations to the Society.

The Work One Hour Campaign raised \$9,028.

Staffing

The Society was able to make the two term Animal Protection Officer (APO) positions permanent and create an additional full time APO position. An Animal Protection Assistant position was created and Laura Vany was hired for that position.

In August 2010, Taija Watson, Animal Protection Officer, resigned to attend the College of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Saskatchewan. We were fortunate to hire Ashley Madden as a full time Animal Protection Officer. Ed Applin continues to work as a full time APO.

Lloyd Howden was Acting Manager of Animal Protection Services until a permanent Manager was appointed. Kaley Pugh assumed the Manager of Animal Protection Services position in February.

Lis Elian filled in for our administrative assistant Crystal Stubbs when she was on maternity leave.

Sandra Anderson continues to work as our Project Manager. Les Buckmaster, Donna Davis, Ray Whitney and Barry Thiessen continue to work as APOs on a casual basis. Twyla Polson continues to do clerical work for us on a casual basis.

Investigative Services

The complaints we received increased by approximately 21 percent from the previous year. We received 730 complaints; there were 479 farm complaints and 251 companion animal complaints.

Two cases were very expensive to manage. The first one involved the seizure of 84 dogs and the second involved the seizure of 64 cats, 7 turtles, an iguana and a dog. The cost of seizing the animals, caring for them and paying legal expenses in these cases was approximately \$147,000.

In March, 2011 we held a training session for our Animal Protection Officers. The agenda included body conditioning scoring, employee safety, bio-safety, standards of care for sheep and euthanasia guidelines.

We revamped our Investigative Services Program; it is now Animal Protection Services. Animal Protection Services includes education, public relations and intervention.

Education/Public Relations

The Education Committee considered definitions of various terms regarding animals and animal welfare; decided on definitions best suited for the Saskatchewan SPCA. These definitions will be presented to the Board of Directors for review. The Committee is developing position statements on the following: companion animals, farm animals, animal testing, animals in entertainment and breeding.

The display booth was at the StockGrowers Convention in June. We had a display at Saskatchewan Association of Veterinary Technologists (SAVT) conference.

We developed a new display booth which is composed of four panels. We used these panels at Agribition.

We prepared a report on Investigative Services and hosted a meeting in May with industry and government representatives to discuss the report.

New Initiatives

Caregiver Program

In order to provide additional placement options for seized or surrendered animals the Saskatchewan SPCA established a Caregiver Program. The Society wants to develop a network of preapproved caregivers that we can call on when we need to house and care for animals.

Rescued Animal Fund

The Saskatchewan SPCA established a sponsorship program to help with specific costs involved in the ongoing care of animals that have been rescued. This fund will be used to pay for costs such as boarding costs, veterinary care and vaccinations.

Conclusion

Thank –you to our staff who work hard to ensure the humane treatment of animals in our province. Thanks to the Saskatchewan SPCA Board of Directors, Committee members and volunteers for their dedication and commitment to the animals and the Society. A special thank-you to Dr. LeeAnn Forsythe of the Ministry of Agriculture for her advice and support.

I am pleased with the progress we are making towards becoming an organization with more stability and a broader funding base. Funding is needed for educational, preventive and intervention services.

I look forward to working with everyone to improve the welfare of animals.

Respectfully Submitted,

Frances Wach
Executive Director