

# **Executive Director's Report**

## **Saskatchewan Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals**

### **September 29, 2012**

The 2011-2012 fiscal year was another busy year for the Saskatchewan SPCA. We faced many challenges, opportunities and uncertainties.

#### **GOVERNANCE**

In September 2011, the membership of the Saskatchewan SPCA approved a new set of bylaws for the Society.

#### **FUNDING**

Our main fund raising activities are two lotteries which are held in July and December, a Work One Hour campaign and a fund raising letter which we send to all the municipalities in Saskatchewan.

A new fund raising initiative is the establishment of an annual golf tournament, the "Critter Classic." The first tournament was held on June 18, 2011 in Avonlea.

A Rescued Animal Sponsorship Fund was established to pay for costs such as boarding costs and veterinary care involved in the ongoing care of rescued animals.

#### **STAFFING**

Our staff members are:

Frances Wach, Executive Director  
Kaley Pugh, Manager of Animal Protection Services  
Sandra Anderson, Project Manager  
Crystal Stubbs, Administrative Assistant  
Laura Vany, Animal Protection Assistant  
Lloyd Howden, Animal Protection Officer  
Ashley Madden, Animal Protection Officer  
Jaclyn Hofseth, Animal Protection Officer  
Ed Applin, Animal Protection Officer  
Les Buckmaster, Animal Protection Officer  
Donna Davis, Animal Protection Officer  
Barry Thiessen, Animal Protection Officer  
Ray Whitney, Animal Protection Officer

We are fortunate to have staff who are caring and, dedicated and who work hard in carrying out their duties whether it be responding to a complaint or answering a lottery call.

#### **ANIMAL PROTECTION SERVICES**

This year we received a \$150,000 from the Ministry of Agriculture to cover the deficits in the investigative services for 2010-2011 and 2011-2012.

The Ministry increased our annual funding to enforce the Animal Protection Act (APA) by \$150,000. In 2012-2013 we will receive funding of \$530,000 to enforce the APA.

We received 666 complaints in 2011-2012; this is a decline of nine percent over the previous year. Our Animal Protection Officers (APOs) worked diligently to resolve complaints of neglect and abuse.

Training for APOs is a priority for our Manager of Animal Protection Services. In March a training session was held for our APOs. Topics included the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, preparation of search warrants, testifying in Court and dog bite prevention.

The Caregiver Program that was established to provide additional placement options for seized or surrendered animals is slowly growing. As of March 31, 2012 we have five individuals to provide care for animals.

#### EDUCATION/PUBLIC RELATIONS

We continue to produce our newsletter the Humanitarian quarterly and we also have a Facebook page.

Our seventh Animal Welfare Conference was held from September 23 to 25, 2011 in Saskatoon. The conference provided participants with useful information and networking opportunities.

Our display booth was at the Saskatchewan Association of Veterinary Technologists conference and at Agribition. I recommend that the Society expand the number of events at which its booth is displayed.

#### FUTURE

Future activities include:

- 1) Working to obtaining adequate funding for the investigative services program.
- 2) Becoming more proactive in the areas of education and prevention. For example: developing more public service announcements.
- 3) Exploring the Link between Animal Abuse and Domestic Violence.

At the Animal Welfare Conference our key note speaker talked about the link between animal abuse and domestic violence. His message was simple – when animals are abused people are at risk and when people are abused animals are at risk. The Saskatchewan SPCA will explore the possibility of working together with animal welfare and human services agencies to address the issue of animal abuse and its interface with domestic violence.

#### CONCLUSION

Thank-you to our staff, who work very hard to ensure humane treatment of animals in our province. A special thank-you to the Saskatchewan SPCA Board of Directors for their dedication and commitment to improving the welfare of animals and establishing the Saskatchewan SPCA as a stable organization. A special thank you to the Saskatoon SPCA who go above and beyond in caring for animals surrendered to or seized by the Saskatchewan SPCA. I also thank the Ministry of Agriculture for their financial support for investigative services.

I look forward to continue working with everyone to meet the opportunities and challenges that lay ahead.

Respectfully Submitted,

Frances Wach  
Executive Director