

President's Report
Saskatchewan Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
Annual General Meeting
September 29, 2012

You have no idea how much I would like to stand here and tell you it has been a great year for the Saskatchewan SPCA. That we were able, due to our abundant resources, to widely educate the general public, prevent cruelty to countless animals and intervene on behalf of all animals abused and neglected in this province.

Well – unfortunately I cannot. Instead it has been yet another challenging year for the society.

Animal welfare problems seem to be popping up all around us and there is more than ever a dire need to teach empathy and compassion. Only by instilling these values can we look forward to a more humane society. That is the reason humane education should be our primary area of activity. Unfortunately that is not yet so.

Once again intervention dominated our time and appears to be our largest contribution to animal welfare in Saskatchewan. Even though our education reaches far more individuals than our enforcement of *The Animal Protection Act* where we are often dealing with just one individual and sometimes, it is sad to say, an individual who is past the point of education.

The moment we intervene we have failed to prevent.

So once again our activities in regards to education and prevention have been limited due to simple time constraints. Our staff deserves to be complimented on how much they were able to accomplish in both areas despite these limitations.

Let us talk intervention, then. Animal welfare issues make the news. The public is very sensitive to these cases and expects action on behalf of the animals. Now! Not in two days. This puts pressure on animal welfare organizations to respond quickly to complaints.

The cost to ensure the welfare of animals is high and continuously rising.

To achieve an adequate level of service in the area of intervention we need far more resources than those we have at present. While many organizations publicly announce that animal welfare is one of their priorities only very few put their money where their mouth is.

It is unfortunate that tens of millions of dollars are spent on projects of questionable value while the willingness to invest in the improvement of animal welfare which is directly related to human welfare appears to be dwindling.

It is imperative that over the next couple of years we achieve an adequately funded service level we as an animal welfare organization can be proud of.

Over the past few years the Saskatchewan SPCA has become more and more professional and is on its way to be the authority on animal welfare in this province. That is a wonderful development we can all be proud of. Let us continue to work on strengthening that reputation so we can look forward to an organization strong in education and prevention.

Thanks to all our staff for their hard work and dedication to animal welfare. Also thank you all for standing by the organization through difficult times. You can be assured your loyalty to the cause is greatly appreciated.

Thank you to the members of the board for their willingness to share their knowledge and expertise and for their passion and common sense approach.

It has been a pleasure as well as a privilege to work with such dedicated individuals.

The Saskatchewan SPCA could not do its work without support from the general public. So here is a big thank you to all members and donors. It does not matter if you are able to give your time, a dollar, or a hundred dollars or more. Everything counts.

Here we are again looking forward to another interesting and without a doubt exciting year.

“Wherever you go – there you are.” (*Anonymous*)

The next few years will be a time of transition for the organization. So let's keep going, one step at a time – to ensure the humane treatment of animals.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Neumann