



THE HUMANitarian

The Saskatchewan Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

Fall 2015

WORKING TOGETHER WORKS

The summer of 2015 was a stressful one for pet owners in northern Saskatchewan as a result of the record-setting number of wildfires in the area.

More than 10,000 people were forced to leave their homes, often with little notice. Emergency shelters established to help the evacuees were not able to accommodate pets, so many families were forced to leave their dogs and cats behind.

Individuals and organizations from across the province quickly stepped in to help. Animal shelters opened their doors to care for animals from the affected northern communities. Individuals volunteered to provide temporary foster care. The Prince Albert SPCA, Northern Animal Rescue, and the Western College of Veterinary Medicine collaborated to provide temporary shelter and transportation for dogs and cats from fire-ravaged communities.

A Regina-based volunteer group known as the Pack Project collected and distributed donated supplies to northern communities. Members of the RCMP, community leaders, and northern residents distributed food to pets that had to be left behind in evacuated towns and villages.

Saskatchewan people donated cash and held fundraisers. Local and national companies gave food and other valuable supplies to help during the crisis and in the days after families returned home. Facebook groups were created to reunite owners with their evacuated pets.

The Saskatchewan SPCA provided cash donations totalling \$2,000 to help with rescued animals cared for in Prince Albert.

“Saskatchewan people have a long tradition of helping each other in times of crisis,” says Frances Wach, Executive Director of the Saskatchewan SPCA.

“Thank you to all those who worked so hard to help northern families and their pets during this stressful time.”



King was happily reunited with owner Wendal Roberts after a 3-week stay at the Prince Albert SPCA.



A group of volunteers cared for dogs in the old Prince Albert SPCA building.

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Saving Fluffy to Changing Society: THE MANY FACES OF ANIMAL WELFARE

By Dr. Sandra Neumann

Tuesday morning. Media are exploding with the story of Fluffy. Found in a dumpster Fluffy is seriously injured and needs major veterinary care. Unfortunately, we're all too familiar with this or similar scenarios. Abandoned, neglected, abused pets left to die and rescued at the last minute.

These stories grab the headlines and touch our hearts. Animal welfare in action. Thinking about a topic for this newsletter I thought it may be a good opportunity to give some recognition to the countless individuals who improve the welfare of animals but are rarely the focus of such media attention. They work behind the scenes and usually do not make the headlines. For them there are no spotlights, no interviews on *Oprah*, no going viral. They work quietly. Stubbornly. And sometimes at personal and professional risk, questioning the status quo.

They are the ones who butt heads with their colleagues and superiors trying to offer alternatives to things that "...we've done like this for over fifty years." They are the ones who shift societal values, setting new directions that will improve the welfare of hundreds of thousands of animals in the future. They are the ones who propel society forward to a new level of animal welfare. They are a hundred people changing the minds of a thousand, changing the minds of ten thousand, changing the minds of a hundred thousand.

Who are these relentless fighters for animal welfare? And where can we find them?

Everywhere.

Animal welfare advocates work in the most likely and the most unlikely of places. They can even be found amongst groups that are often attacked for their lack of animal welfare. And they are active in some areas we may not even directly associate with animal welfare in the first place.

They are:

- The many employees of SPCAs and Humane Societies who, often underpaid, work so very hard trying to improve the lives of animals in their care and spend hours taking care of them the best they can with often very limited resources.
- Individuals who volunteer their time at a shelter or a sanctuary or provide expertise as a member of a board, a committee, or a working group.
- Researchers changing testing protocols so fewer and fewer – and maybe at some point in the future, no animals at all – need to be used to get results.
- Producers who recognize that if they treat their animals well and keep them healthy and happy their animals will provide for them and their families.

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IN LOVING MEMORY

We are pleased to acknowledge the following donations made in memory of special friends and family:

Verna Allinson, in memory of:

- Wylie (owned by Jade Odermatt, Beechy)
- Lark (owned by Norman Tuplin, Beechy)
- Babe (owned by Gordon Berdan, BC)

Gordon Silverthorn, in memory of Ken Bowler

Kathy Fabish, in memory of her boy, Toby

Gloria Hilsendager, in memory of John Florence (North Battleford)

Tom and Faye Campbell, in memory of Bob Rogers (Saskatoon)

SOMETHING TO CELEBRATE: WINNING THE SUMMER CASH LOTTERY!

Carey Howie was getting gas when her husband phoned to tell her that she was a big winner in the Saskatchewan SPCA Summer Cash Lottery. She said she was thrilled with the news, but a little disappointed there was no one there to witness her \$25,465 happy dance.

“Winning right now was like fate or something. It was perfect timing,” says Carey Howie. She explained that her dog, Shylo, had recently injured her leg and required expensive surgery to repair the damage. (We’re all happy to hear that Shylo is expected to make a full recovery and be back to her usual self very soon.)

Congratulations to Carey and all the other winners in this year’s Summer Cash Lottery. And thank you, Saskatchewan, for your enthusiastic support of the Summer Cash Lottery. Each ticket purchased helps us continue our work to promote animal welfare and prevent animal abuse.



50/50 Kitty Pool winner Carey Howie was thrilled to receive a cheque for \$25,465 in the Summer Cash Lottery

DRAW DATE	NAME	ADDRESS	AMOUNT	TICKET NUMBER
Early Bird Draw				
June 21, 2015	Walter Stefaniuk	Naicam	\$ 2,000.00	11811
Daily Cash Prize Draws				
July 1, 2015	Dolores & Gordon Reid	Regina	\$ 500.00	03209
July 2, 2015	Jim Bruynooghe	Battleford	\$ 100.00	05742
July 3, 2015	Donald Bieber	Duff	\$ 100.00	24504
July 4, 2015	Greg & Jackie Procyshyn	Saskatoon	\$ 500.00	05165
July 5, 2015	Karen Lorenz	Raymore	\$ 100.00	24454
July 6, 2015	Bob Robertson	Liberty	\$ 100.00	17750
July 7, 2015	Bob & Grace Westad	Saskatoon	\$ 100.00	22260
July 8, 2015	Emelie Forster	Esterhazy	\$ 100.00	16469
July 9, 2015	Emmanuel Oystreck	Yorkton	\$ 100.00	06122
July 10, 2015	Coralee Unser	Martensville	\$ 100.00	11773
July 11, 2015	Laren Valen	Rosetown	\$ 500.00	04565
July 12, 2015	Shannon Giles	Saskatoon	\$ 100.00	04951
July 13, 2015	Beverly & Brian Nattress	Marsden	\$ 100.00	20295
July 14, 2015	Pat Hughes	Abbey	\$ 100.00	18179
July 15, 2015	Carol Lorenz	Christopher Lake	\$ 100.00	18952
July 16, 2015	Carol & Daryl Savage	Porcupine Plain	\$ 100.00	10789
July 17, 2015	Shawn Stefanowich	Canora	\$ 100.00	00163
July 18, 2015	Lampman Service Station Ltd.	Lampman	\$ 500.00	01569
July 19, 2015	Mary Onufreychuk	Yorkton	\$ 100.00	21649
July 20, 2015	Marilyn Nagel	Southey	\$ 100.00	17837
July 21, 2015	Greg & Jo-Anne Sundquist	Watrous	\$ 100.00	12011
July 22, 2015	Tena Bannerman	Prince Albert	\$ 100.00	22868
July 23, 2015	Lynnette Bock	Rocanville	\$ 100.00	07482
July 24, 2015	Russ Malach	Saskatoon	\$ 100.00	22784
July 25, 2015	Wendy Willoughby	Weyburn	\$ 100.00	09060
July 26, 2015	Bob & Susan Todd	Theodore	\$ 100.00	07568
July 27, 2015	Gail Schafer	Brownlee	\$ 100.00	02623
July 28, 2015	Delphine Gelowitz	Esterhazy	\$ 100.00	06696
July 29, 2015	Bryan Milton	Melville	\$ 100.00	06927
July 30, 2015	C. Fredy McDougall	Saskatoon	\$ 100.00	06204
July 31, 2015	Pat Enright	Saskatoon	\$ 5,000.00	05118
July 31, 2015	Patricia Fensom	Bankend	\$ 15,000.00	16634
50/50 Kitty Pool				
July 31, 2015	Carey Howie	Kindersley	\$ 25,465.00	07840F

EMERGENCY PLANNING: JUST IN CASE

Wildfires were one of the biggest stories of the summer of 2015 in Saskatchewan. While you may not live in an area where there is a danger of wildfire, that doesn't mean you can be complacent. Consider the possibility of severe flooding. A tornado. A major chemical spill. Severe winter weather. An extended power outage.

What if you were forced to remain in your home for several days until emergency help arrived? What if you had to evacuate your home suddenly?

The bottom line is that a bit of preparation now can make a world of difference, *just in case* of disaster.

People living in urban areas may find the following tips useful in creating a pet-friendly emergency plan. Livestock producers and farmers may also wish to review the information on the provincial government website at <http://www.saskatchewan.ca/live/public-safety-protection-and-emergency-services/disaster-prevention-and-preparedness>

Start with the basics

While the prospect of creating an emergency plan can seem daunting, it doesn't really have to be. It's a matter of common sense and thinking realistically about the potential dangers that might be encountered in your area.

As a responsible pet owner, you are probably already doing many of the things you need to do to protect your pet in an emergency situation.

- Ensure vaccinations and identification tags are current and make sure your pets wear a collar with an identification tag at all times. Consider having your pets microchipped to provide permanent identification.
- A picture is worth a thousand words, especially if you ever have to search for a missing pet. Grab your cellphone or camera and

snap some colour shots of your pet; make sure to get pictures of any unique identifying marks or features. And while you're at it, take a picture of you and your pet together. It's a simple way to help establish ownership if your pet becomes separated from you for any reason.

- Monitor your pet's health and seek veterinary care promptly if you notice any signs of illness or serious injury. Consider taking a pet first aid course, where you can learn how to handle and transport a sick or injured pet.
- Create a pet first aid kit suitable for use at home or when traveling. **(See page 5 for a list of items.)** A sealable plastic container, a tackle box or a small tool kit can be used to keep the contents clean and organized. Remember to store the kit safely out of the reach of children and pets.
- Changing weather conditions can be stressful for some pets. Animals may become agitated during a storm and try to run away to hide. Bring your pets inside and cover bird cages when there are storms in the forecast.

Emergency supplies for pets

Experts recommend having a family emergency kit with water, food, medicines, and other items that will help you and your loved ones manage for a minimum of three days. If you have pets, you need to plan for their needs as well:

- food (enough for each pet for at least 3 days)
- water (enough for each pet for at least 3 days): allow 4 litres per day of water for each dog; 1 litre per day for each cat
- food and water dishes and a manual can opener
- a pet first aid kit
- medicines and medical records for your pet
- an extra leash and collar
- crate or carrier lined with blankets or towels



- pet toys
- plastic garbage bags and paper towels
- disinfectant
- newspapers, pet litter and a litter box
- for birds: a catch net, blanket or sheet to cover the cage, and a cage liner
- for small pets such as gerbils and hamsters: a salt lick, an extra water bottle, a small box or tube for the pet to hide in, and a week's worth of bedding.

Gather all these items in one location and store them in an easy-to-transport box or duffel bag. You might not be home when disaster strikes, so make sure all family members know where to find the pet emergency supplies.

In case of an evacuation

If it becomes necessary to leave your home, try to take your pets with you. However, depending on the circumstances, that may not always be possible. Always follow instructions from the local authorities in charge of the emergency response in your area.

Depending on the severity and the duration of the emergency, evacuation centres and other temporary services may be established in your area. In general, pets are not allowed to stay at evacuation centres.

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EMERGENCY PLANNING...

In some situations, you may have sufficient warning to self-evacuate prior to the emergency. You may be able to stay with pet-loving friends or family who live outside the immediate emergency area. Hotels and motels that accept pets are another option; have a list of phone numbers ready so that you don't have to scramble during an already stressful situation.

You may need to board your pets in the event of an emergency. Kennels and some veterinarians may be able to care for your pets. Remember that you will likely be asked to provide proof that your pet has had all the appropriate vaccinations.

If you are ordered to leave your dogs or cats behind, leave a sign in the window of your home indicating

that there are animals inside. Do not tether or cage your pets. Leave a generous supply of food and water in the house for them, ideally in battery-operated timed dispensers. Also, you may want to leave the toilet seats up as an additional source of clean drinking water for your dog. <http://www.getprepared.gc.ca/cnt/plns/ptsndsrvcnmls-en.aspx>

When the emergency is over

Once the danger has passed, you still need to be diligent. You may want to put your pets on a leash for a few days to keep them away from downed power lines, wild animals or other hazards in the area. Talk with your veterinarian if you have any concerns about behaviour issues in your pet following an emergency.

Our pets depend on us to protect them from harm, every day. A bit of advance planning can make a world of difference to you, your family and your pets in the event of an emergency.

CREATING A PET FIRST AID KIT

You can purchase a ready-made pet first aid kit or assemble your own kit with the following items. Talk with your veterinarian to discuss additional items that might be useful for your pet.

Remember to check the contents of the kit periodically to replace any expired or depleted supplies.

The Canadian Veterinary Medical Association recommends that your pet first aid kit include:

- muzzle
- protective gloves
- digital/rectal thermometer
- rubbing alcohol
- lubricating jelly
- pen light
- blanket for pet transport
- Q-tips®
- adhesive tape
- gauze squares
- gauze roll
- stretchy bandage
- no-stick sterile wound dressing
- hydrogen peroxide (3% strength)
- antibacterial soap
- sterile rinse solution (saline, used as a wound flush or eyewash)
- clean syringes (1 cc and 5 cc)
- cotton roll
- splinting item (e.g., a wooden coffee stir stick or tongue depressor can be used for small pets)
- bandage scissors
- tweezers
- first aid ointment or cream
- corn syrup

From: <https://www.canadianveterinarians.net/documents/creating-a-first-aid-kit-for-your-pet>



For further information

- See the provincial government website <http://www.saskatchewan.ca/live/public-safety-protection-and-emergency-services/disaster-prevention-and-preparedness> for detailed information for homeowners, farmers, rural landowners, and municipalities.
- The Government of Canada's website, [GetPrepared.gc.ca](http://www.getprepared.gc.ca), provides useful information on identifying potential safety hazards, making a family safety plan, and creating emergency kits.
- Canadian Red Cross: www.redcross.ca
- St. John Ambulance: www.sja.ca
- Canadian Veterinary Medical Association: <https://www.canadianveterinarians.net/>

...Continued from page 2

THE MANY FACES OF ...

- Hunters who ensure an animal is killed with a clean shot and sometimes spend hours tracking a wounded animal to minimize its suffering.
- Trappers working on the development of more humane traps that kill instantaneously so animals are spared the panic they experience in live traps.
- Members of the entertainment industry who are slowly moving away from animal-based performances and look toward groups like the Cirque du Soleil for inspiration on how to entertain people without the use of animals.
- Individuals working for pest control companies trying to find the most humane way of removing so-called "pests."
- Social workers who understand the link [between domestic violence and

animal abuse] and try to encourage interagency cooperation and reporting.

- Legislators who try to change the status of animals in law so they are no longer considered "property."
- Animal Protection Officers who enforce animal welfare legislation, often removing animals from impossible situations and laying charges so that these crimes can be appropriately punished.
- Prosecutors who take animal abuse seriously, recognizing it as a both a legal and a community safety issue.
- And yes, even some politicians (though few and far between) have

been known to brave the ingrained opposition to propose changes that benefit animals.

For some animal welfare is part of their job or profession but many more go above and beyond because animal welfare is their passion. Their fight continues long after the spotlight has been shut off and the media frenzy has died down.

Let's not forget these individuals who work quietly and tirelessly to improve the lives of countless animals, one day at a time, one project at a time. If you have a minute, think of them. If you meet any of them, thank them.

"The most important legacy you will ever leave is your vision planted in the minds of your disciples and a passion as strong as a storm in their hearts."

- Shannon L. Alder

The Saskatchewan SPCA is pleased to recognize our newest Gold Sponsor, Arlington Animal Hospital (Saskatoon)



NOTICE OF AGM

The Saskatchewan SPCA Annual General Meeting will be held:

Date: Saturday, Sept. 26, 2015

Time: 5 p.m.

Place: Travelodge Hotel, 106 Circle Drive West, Saskatoon
Proposed bylaw changes will be discussed.
The AGM is open to the public.

Draft bylaws are available for review on the Saskatchewan SPCA website at <http://sspsca.ca/draft-bylaws/>

CRITTER CLASSIC 2015

5th Annual Critter Classic Golf Tournament
Saturday, September 12

10 a.m. tee off
Green Acres Golf Club (near Regina)

Proceeds to support animal welfare in Saskatchewan.

Registration fee: \$150/golfer (income tax receipt for \$50 issued)

To register or for more information: email tammy@prairiead.com or call 306.337.1948.



PREVENTING THE SPREAD OF EQUINE INFECTIOUS ANEMIA

By Brenden Van Wyk, *WCVM Today*

Equine infectious anemia (EIA) – also known as swamp fever – is a viral disease of horses, mules, and donkeys that should be taken very seriously by owners, says a veterinary researcher at the Western College of Veterinary Medicine (WCVM).

“When a horse is infected [with EIA], it is infected for life,” says Dr. Sara Higgins, a resident in large animal medicine at the veterinary college. Her research for her Master of Veterinary Science program focuses on EIA, a federally reportable disease in Canada.

In the past few years, the number of detected EIA cases has risen – especially in parts of Western Canada. Since there’s no available vaccine or cure for EIA, animals that test positive are quarantined for life or euthanized to break the transmission cycle and to protect susceptible horses.

The EIA virus is spread by the transfer of blood between animals. In nature, large biting flies mediate this transmission by transferring blood from one horse to another through successive bites.

Horse flies are the main natural vector for mechanically transmitting the virus, but Higgins points out that people can also have an important influence on spreading the disease. Contaminated blood transfusion products, needles, surgical instruments, and other equipment are all potential sources for infections. Humans can then transport these contaminated items for much greater distances and in far greater volumes than any insect vector.

“Blood is handled in a more unregulated manner within the animal world compared to the human world where there are very stringent rules,” says Higgins. “We need to start treating horse blood in the exact same way. If we keep this in mind, maybe we can help to reduce EIA and limit the numbers of horses affected by it.”

Once transmission occurs, the EIA virus is very resilient to the horse’s immune system, and it employs several mechanisms to avoid being eliminated. One key factor is that the EIA virus keeps mutating in the body. It continuously changes its surface proteins, preventing the immune cells from effectively binding to the virus. This is one of the actions that limit the ability of the horse’s immune system to effectively clear the virus from the body.

While some EIA-infected horses will become sick, most animals are asymptomatic for their entire lifetime. Since these healthy-looking animals are unlikely to be removed from horse herds, they represent a potential source for viral spread, says Higgins.

If a horse does show clinical signs of disease, these signs are often non-specific, which makes the clinical diagnosis challenging. In cases of acute infection, a horse may develop a mild fever or go off its feed; these signs often go unnoticed by the owner.

“[Horses] can alternatively display chronic signs of disease,” says Higgins. “These horses lose weight, have no appetite and can become anemic with low platelets (blood-clotting cells). This is when your veterinarian may suspect the disease and want to test for EIA.”

She adds that the lack of specific symptoms associated with EIA makes blood screening a critical component in identifying the disease. Originally, veterinarians used a Coggins test as an initial method to identify infected horses. Since its development in the 1970s, this test helped to significantly reduce the number of EIA-positive horses in the tested population.



Photo courtesy Corbin Fraser

A more sensitive ELISA (enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay) is currently used as the initial screening test for EIA. All samples that screen positive are then tested using a “confirmatory protocol” that includes an agar gel immunodiffusion test (Coggins test). A horse is considered infected with the EIA virus if there are positive results from confirmatory testing.

“The virus itself can be difficult to detect in some EIA-positive patients because the virus quantity in the blood may be very small,” says Higgins. “What we currently do is to test for antibodies: proteins that demonstrate the animal was exposed to the virus.”

While screening is the most effective way to protect the horse population from the spread of EIA, Higgins says owners can also help to reduce the risk by following safe health management practices.

In particular, people need to avoid reusing blood-contaminated instruments. Even small quantities of blood on these tools are enough to harbour virus particles and increase the risk of transmission.

While it’s more difficult to control flies, Higgins recommends keeping horses away from wooded areas and using appropriate insect repellents.

A vaccine would be the ideal defence against EIA, but since that’s not available, proper health management practices and public awareness are the next best tools to combat the disease.

“By educating people and [being aware of] how we manage horses, we can potentially limit the spread of this disease,” says Higgins.

Brenden Van Wyk is a Master of Science (MSc) student at the Vaccine and Infectious Disease Organization (VIDO).

[Article originally appeared in the Spring 2015 issue of *Saskatchewan Horse Connection*.](#)

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ANIMAL WELFARE CONFERENCE 2015

We hope to see you!



Join us for our 11th annual Saskatchewan SPCA Animal Welfare Conference, in Saskatoon,
Sept. 25-27, 2015.
The conference is open to everyone!

FRIDAY, SEPT. 25

Catching the Fourth Wave:

The Past and Future of Animal Welfare

9 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. ♦ Patricia Cameron, Executive Director, Saskatoon SPCA

Community TNR:

Getting a Handle on All Those Cats!

9:30 a.m. to noon ♦ Bryan Kortis, Program Manager, PetSmart Charities

Make the Call:

How and When to Report Suspected Animal Cruelty

1 p.m. to 2 p.m. ♦ Kaley Pugh, Executive Director, Animal Protection Services of Saskatchewan

Letting Go: Assessing Quality of Life of Cats and Dogs

2 p.m. to 3 p.m. ♦ Dr. Sandra Neumann

Roundtable discussion: euthanasia protocols

3 p.m. to 4 p.m.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 26

Crisis Communication Planning 101:

"Prepare for the worst, hope for the best"

9 a.m. to 10 a.m. ♦ Tony Playter, ABC, Outlaw Communications

Do you know the secret? Saskatchewan Pension Plan

10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. ♦ Katherine Strutt, General Manager, Saskatchewan Pension Plan

The Stryker K-9 Care Fund

11:30 a.m. to noon ♦ Sandra Anderson, Program Director, Saskatchewan SPCA

The Pack Project: Uniting Hearts and Paws

1 p.m. to 2 p.m.

"I Don't Have Time for That."

Conversations About Self-Care

2 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. ♦ Erin Wasson, MSW/BSW/RSW, Veterinary Social Worker, Western College of Veterinary Medicine

SUNDAY, SEPT. 26

Wet labs: 10 a.m. to noon

Health Assessment of Dogs and Cats

Dr. Sandra Neumann

(Note: Session is filled)

Pet First Aid & CPR Demonstration

St. John Ambulance

REGISTRATION

<http://sspca.ca/education-resources/>
or call 1.877.382.7722

2-day Friday and Saturday: \$150

1-day Friday or Saturday: \$90

Wet lab: \$35 each session

Cancellations: refunds will be provided for cancellations received by Sept. 15

Thank you to our sponsors & donors:

