



THE HUMANitarian

The Saskatchewan Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

Winter 2015

CERTIFICATION PROGRAM FOR RESCUE GROUPS IN SASKATCHEWAN

By Dr. Sandra Neumann

Over the past few years the Saskatchewan SPCA has been approached by several rescue groups as well as SPCAs asking us to develop a program to ensure a minimum standard for rescue organizations in the province. Having been responsible for the enforcement of the *Animal Protection Act* for Saskatchewan until spring 2015 our Animal Protection Officers have also encountered their share of so-called rescues that provided insufficient care.

Rescue organizations come in many forms. They range from those operating a shelter to those working solely within a framework of foster homes. What unites them all is their desire to help homeless animals.

The concern is the existence of organizations calling themselves rescue groups without even providing a minimum of care for the animals they are taking in, thereby misleading the public and giving legitimate groups a bad name.

Right now anyone can stack a hundred cats in crates in a garage or keep thirty-five dogs in a basement and call themselves a rescue group. But in reality these are hoarders valuing quantity of life over quality of life and showing total disregard to animal welfare.

Members of the public supporting these organizations believe they are dealing with a legitimate rescue group when in reality they are dealing with hoarders who neglect their animals' needs to fulfil their own.

Therefore it is imperative to develop a system to ensure that rescue groups adhere to a minimum standard of care to ensure the welfare of animals they took responsibility for.

Ensuring the humane treatment of animals has been the Saskatchewan SPCA's mission since 1928 so this is certainly a worthwhile undertaking for us and at the last animal welfare conference Executive Director Frances Wach announced that we are now prepared to embark on this major project.

Right now we are in the process of researching existing programs in North America and worldwide to gain a better

understanding of how these can be structured and to develop one that would work best for our province.

The intent of such a program is to

- Acknowledge rescue groups that provide proper care to their animals.
- Provide guidelines to ensure that such care is consistent and follows the most current standards.
- Provide a code of ethics and best practice resources for rescue organizations.
- Encourage more collaboration and improve the cooperation between rescues.
- Assure the public, including adoption event hosts, businesses, donors, adopters and potential volunteers that certified rescue organizations operate according to the standards set by the certification program.
- Assure donors and animal welfare funders of the organizations' credibility.
- Improve the welfare of animals.

Who benefits from such a program?

Having certified rescue organizations is a win-win-win situation. The group wins, the public wins, and the animals win.

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For the rescue group it's a great way to let everyone know it strives to provide the best possible care for the animals it has taken responsibility for.

A certification program protects members of the public from being taken advantage of by unscrupulous hoarders by providing the public with a useful tool to be able to recognize a legitimate and reputable rescue group.

And it benefits the animals.

Everyone wanting animals treated with respect and dignity should be embracing and supporting such an initiative.

This is a huge project that requires input from many stakeholders. We look forward to putting a program in place that will ensure all rescued animals in Saskatchewan are treated humanely.

The Humanitarian is published quarterly by the Saskatchewan Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Saskatchewan SPCA) Box 37, Saskatoon, SK S7K 3K1 1.877.382.7722 Fax: 306.384.3425 Email: info@sspca.ca www.sspca.ca

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- * Members of the Saskatoon Police Service Canine Unit
- * Arlington Animal Hospital
- * The Saskatchewan SPCA: 306.382.7722 or 519 - 45th St. W, Saskatoon

\$10 each

Proceeds to support the Saskatchewan SPCA Stryker K-9 Care Fund. This new fund helps owners with the cost of veterinary care for retired police dogs.



DID YOU KNOW...

We're social animals.



Saskatchewan SPCA



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RECOGNIZE THE SPECIAL MOMENTS IN LIFE

Our thanks to:

Elmond and Beverly Kirk for their donation to celebrate the 80th birthday of Uncle Keith Kingsley (Regina)

Evelyn Adams for her donation made in honour of all her current and former pets

ANTIFREEZE: WHAT MAKES IT UNSAFE FOR ANIMALS?

Antifreeze is necessary for the safe and proper operation of your vehicle, but even a teaspoon of the toxic chemical can prove fatal for your pets. Antifreeze is used in the radiators of cars, trucks, tractors, and other motor vehicles to prevent overheating in the summer and freezing over in the winter.

Ethylene glycol is the ingredient used in antifreeze that makes the product deadly to both humans and animals. Ingestion of even a small amount is enough to cause severe medical distress, and even death, in the average sized cat, small dogs, and other wildlife. American figures estimate that between 10,000 and 90,000 animals are poisoned each year. Nearly 88% of animals that come in contact with antifreeze do not survive.

If you suspect that your pet has been poisoned by antifreeze, it is important to take the animal to a veterinarian immediately. Any delay in medical attention greatly diminishes your pet's chance of survival. "Vomiting typically develops rapidly after ingestion and at this point the animal may also show signs of depression, incoordination, weakness, and faster than normal breathing; as well, they may be drinking a lot, and urinating more than usual," explains Dr. Sandra Neumann president of the Saskatchewan SPCA Board of Directors. "The animal may seem better for a couple of hours before there is a swift decline in health, six to 12 hours post-ingestion. It can cause kidney failure in cats as soon as 12 hours after exposure," advises Neumann.

Although some antifreeze is made with propylene glycol, it is not safe for animals either. "It is about three times less toxic in dogs than ethylene glycol, but can also cause signs of toxicity like depression, weakness, incoordination, and seizures if ingested in larger quantities. It can also cause liver failure and kidney insufficiency," warns Dr. Neumann.

In an attempt to make the antifreeze less palatable, the addition of a bittering agent, such as denatonium benzoate, to the antifreeze may deter animals from consuming the noxious substance. However, even with a bittering agent, the toxicity of antifreeze is unchanged. According to Dr. Neumann, "There is no real safe antifreeze out there," recommending it's best to avoid all types

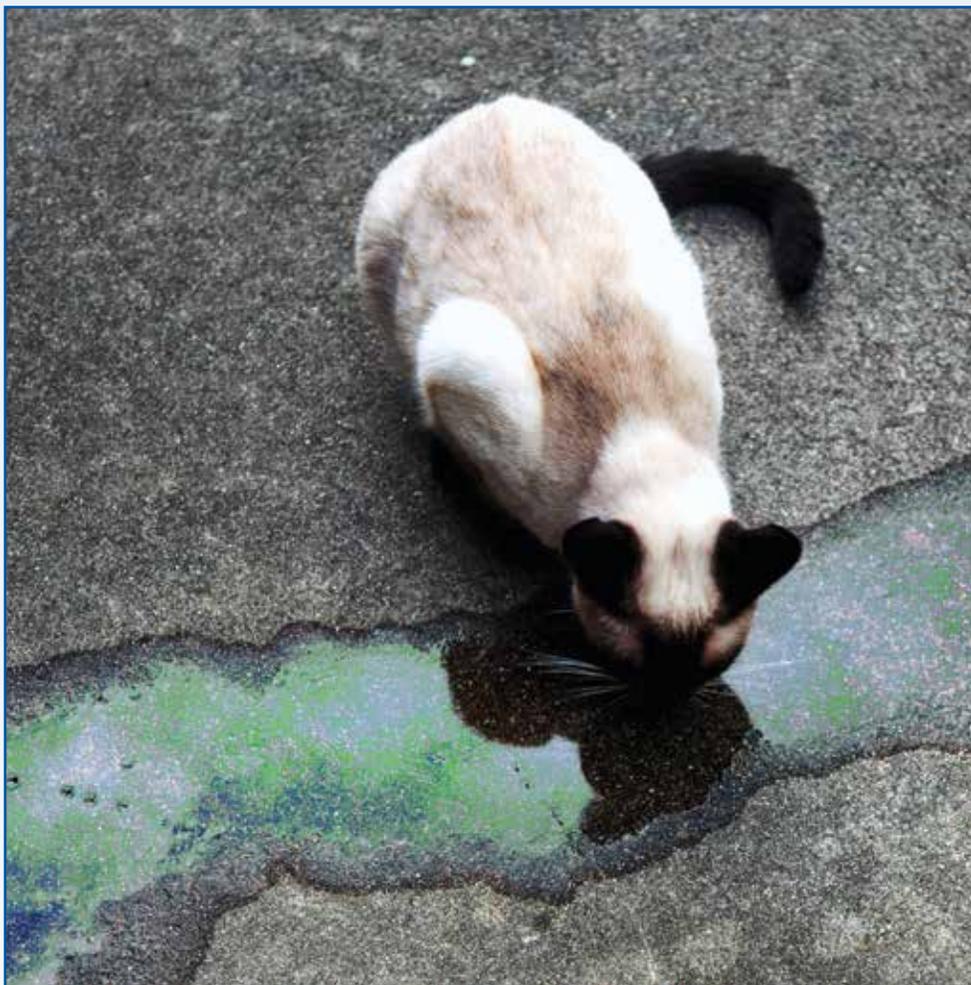


Image was modified to show a water puddle turned green/beloved pets drink from puddles
by Robert Couse-Baker / via Flickr

of antifreeze. Dr. Neumann concludes the addition of the bittering agent may be "the best way to go."

Steps are being taken by governments and manufacturers to insure animal safety. In 2009, the Government of British Columbia passed a regulation requiring the addition of a bittering agent to all antifreeze sold to B.C. consumers. Although it is a movement in the right direction, this regulation does not require service stations and automotive repair businesses to use the embittered antifreeze. Since the auto service industry is the largest user of antifreeze, the majority of antifreeze used in the province's vehicles does not contain the bittering agent. In the United States, all antifreeze manufacturers have voluntarily agreed to add the bittering agent to their antifreeze products.

Options are available for those in need of antifreeze disposal services. The

Saskatchewan Association for Resource Recovery Corporation (SARRC) has a network of 200 collection facilities and eco-centres throughout the province that operate year-round. SARRC collects old antifreeze, used oil, filters, and oil, antifreeze, and diesel exhaust containers. Information on SARRC's collection facilities and guidelines can be found at www.usedoilrecylingsk.com.

The prevention of antifreeze poisoning begins at home. Be diligent in the proper disposal of old antifreeze products, including empty containers. Clean up any antifreeze spills using the appropriate equipment and materials. Avoid pouring old antifreeze down storm drains, sinks, toilets, or on the ground. Educate your family and friends on the dangers of antifreeze. Following these suggestions will help safeguard your pets from the disastrous effects of antifreeze poisoning while sparing your family from mourning the loss of a beloved companion.

THE SASKATCHEWAN SPCA WELCOMES JOSH HOURIE

In October, Josh Hourie joined the Saskatchewan SPCA as our new Community Relations Coordinator.

Josh started his career at the Western Development Museum as a member of the Museum's marketing and fundraising team. Prior to joining the Saskatchewan SPCA he spent two years as the Promotions Coordinator for Rawlco Radio.

"I would like to thank everyone at the Saskatchewan SPCA for making me feel welcome. I am thrilled to have been given the opportunity to join the team and I look forward to new challenges and meeting the wonderful supporters of the Saskatchewan SPCA," explained Josh.

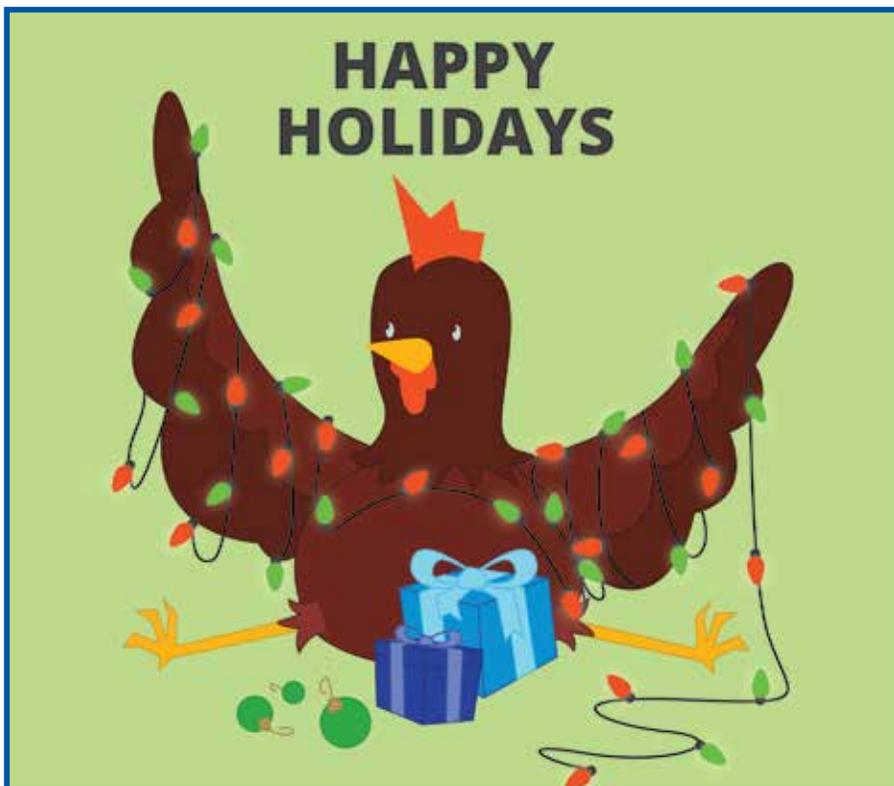
On a personal note, Josh lives in Saskatoon with his wife, Julie, and their son, Jack. Josh's family also includes their dog, Shotze, and two cats, Rasputin and Ewing.

Welcome, Josh!



Josh attended the SAVT Conference and Tradeshow on behalf of the Saskatchewan SPCA.

FROM ALL OF US AT THE SASKATCHEWAN SPCA ...



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Our thanks to retiring board members Constance Roussel and Calvin Nickel for their years of service and their deep personal commitment to animal welfare in Saskatchewan. All of us at the Saskatchewan SPCA truly appreciate all your hard work.

We are pleased to welcome Tiffany Koback to our board of directors.

Watch for future issues of *The Humanitarian* as we profile all of the individuals who serve on our board of directors.

Saskatchewan SPCA 2015-2016 Board of Directors:

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11TH ANNUAL ANIMAL WELFARE CONFERENCE WRAPS UP

Individuals from 14 different organizations took part in this year's Animal Welfare Conference. The two-day educational conference offers a unique chance for people working with rescues and animal shelters to learn new skills and network with their peers.

One of the highlights of this year's conference was the workshop led by Erin Wasson from the Western College of Veterinary Medicine. As a Veterinary Social Worker, she deals with a diverse clientele, including veterinarians, veterinary students, pet owners, and livestock producers. Wasson's workshop was particularly important for everyone working in the animal welfare field. She explained that it is not a question of "if" a person will suffer from empathy fatigue, but "when" and "how much." She helped conference participants develop their own personal self-care strategies to deal with the negative impact of prolonged emotional exposure.

Bryan Kortis, a nationally recognized expert in the area of trap-neuter-release programs for feral cats, was our featured speaker. A family emergency prevented Kortis from flying to Saskatoon to be at the conference in person. Fortunately, Kortis was still able to share his insights via phone. He discussed strategies to manage free-roaming cat populations.

In her thought-provoking presentation, Dr. Sandra Neumann

discussed the use of quality of life scales as a tool to help owners with the difficult decision about pet euthanasia. Tony Playter of Outlaw Communications provided tips on crisis communication. He noted the importance of being open and honest at all times, and delivering



Therapy dog Lucy dropped in for a visit.



Erin Wasson prepares for her presentation on self-care.

clear and consistent messaging to the media, staff, and the public.

Kaley Pugh of Animal Protection Services of Saskatchewan discussed the investigation of reports of animal neglect and abuse. We also heard from the Pack Project, a unique new rescue organization based in Regina. During this summer's wildfire emergency, the Pack Project helped collect and distribute much-needed food and other supplies for northern pets.

Copies of the PowerPoint presentations from this year's conference are available at <http://sspca.ca/education-resources/>



We hope to see you next year at our 2016 Animal Welfare Conference.



Frances Wach discusses the new certification program for animal rescues.

Thanks to the following conference sponsors for their generous support:

- Saskatchewan Veterinary Medical Association
- SaskMilk
- Indian Head Animal Clinic
- Balcarres Animal Clinic, Balcarres
- Ernie Olfert, Saskatoon

CELEBRATING 31 YEARS OF THE SAVT CONFERENCE

On November 6-7, the Saskatchewan SPCA attended the 31st Annual Saskatchewan Association of Veterinary Technologists (SAVT) Conference and Tradeshow. The theme for this year's conference was "Renew, Refresh, Refocus," which seemed appropriate for the Saskatchewan SPCA and our refreshed mandate of education and prevention of animal cruelty.

Program Director Sandra Anderson, and our new Community Relations Coordinator, Josh Hourie, represented the Saskatchewan SPCA at the conference's tradeshow. Our presence at the event provided an opportunity for us to remind the veterinary technologists about the recent changes to our organization.

The 2015 edition of the conference offered several highly informative presentations and discussions led by a group of Canada's veterinary elite.

Thank you to everyone involved with organizing the SAVT Conference and Tradeshow. Your continued hospitality and support of the Saskatchewan SPCA is truly appreciated.

If you would like to learn more about the SAVT, please visit www.savt.ca.



Caitlyn Botterill was the lucky winner of the Saskatchewan SPCA door prize at the SAVT Conference. Caitlyn won a Saskatchewan Roughriders jersey.

UPDATED BYLAWS

Updates to the Saskatchewan SPCA Bylaws and Constitution were approved at the 2015 Annual General Meeting held in September. To view the approved Bylaws and Constitution, please see our website at: <http://sspsca.ca/about-us/constitution-and-bylaws/>
If you have any questions, please call us at 1.877.382.7722.

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Register your debit or credit card today at changeit.com to start making a big difference today.

ANIMAL CRUELTY COMPLAINTS

To report suspected animal cruelty, please contact **Animal Protection Services of Saskatchewan (APSS)**:

- Call anonymously, weekdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.: **306-382-0002** or **1-844-382-0002** (toll free).
- For after-hours emergencies, please contact your local RCMP.
- Visit: www.animalprotectionservices.ca
- Email: info@animalprotectionservices.ca

A GREAT DAY OF GOLF AT CRITTER CLASSIC 2015

Green Acres Golf Course was THE place to be for the Saskatchewan SPCA Critter Classic 2015.

Thank you to everyone who helped make this day a success: golfers, sponsors, donors, organizers, Green Acres staff, and our volunteers.

Planning has already begun for Critter Classic 2016. Mark your calendar and join us on Saturday, Sept. 10th at Green Acres Golf Course, near Regina. Watch for more details in future issues of *The Humanitarian* or check the "News" section of our website: www.sspca.ca.

Many thanks to this year's Hole

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IMPORTANT REMINDER FOR MEMBERS AND DONORS

In order to minimize our mailing and processing costs, the Saskatchewan SPCA sends official donation receipts for income tax purposes once a year. Receipts are mailed in late January for all donations and membership fees received during the previous year (receipts can be sent via email, upon request). If you haven't received your receipt by February, or have a question about your receipt, please contact our office: info@sspca.ca or 1.877.382.7722.

IN LOVING MEMORY

Doug and Donna Auld in memory of Henry Lorne Siddon

Don Wilson in memory of Fred Ahrens

Lloyd McLennan in memory of Kirby

Allan and Verna Allinson in memory of Deacon, a red & white Collie owned by Sandy Facca Richert (Lloydminster)

Allan and Verna Allinson in memory of Ariel, a Bulldog owned by Lee Foster (Winnipeg)

GONE WILD FOR WILDLIFE

It was a family affair for the animal lover in all of us! For the fourth year in a row the Wildlife Rehabilitation Society of Saskatchewan (WRSOS) hosted Gone Wild for Wildlife. This educational event is aimed at "raising awareness and knowledge about wildlife, nature preservation, and wildlife rehabilitation in Saskatchewan," according to the WRSOS.

The event, held in concert with the Saskatoon Parent & Tot Expo, featured live wildlife, exhibitor booths, lectures, silent auctions, and games and activities for children. An enthusiastic group of volunteers from the Saskatchewan SPCA shared their paper crafting skills with kids wanting to learn something new. Before the day's end, origami cats and dogs, all created by handy boys and girls, swarmed Prairieland Park.

On behalf of everyone at the Saskatchewan SPCA, a special thank you goes out to Sheri Hodgson and her team at the WRSOS. We are pleased to be associated with such a wonderful event, and we commend all of your hard work and commitment. Congratulations on another success!

For more information on the Wildlife Rehabilitation Society of Saskatchewan, visit their website at www.wrsos.org.



Young Jack meets Ziva the Dog.



A young crafter hones his origami skills.



More origami crafts with Spiderman.



Waiting for the kids to arrive at Gone Wild for Wildlife.



Saskatchewan SPCA volunteers share their origami knowledge.