
THE HUMANITARIAN

SASKATCHEWAN SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS



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 Box 37, Saskatoon, SK S7K 3K1
 1.877.382.7722
 Fax: 306.384.3425
 Email: info@sspca.ca
 www.sspca.ca

Staff:

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Program Director:

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Moving?

Please let us know your new address.
 Call 1.877.382.7722
 or email info@sspca.ca

GOLFING "FORE" THE ANIMALS

Golfers from around Saskatchewan hit the green at Green Acres Golf Club near Balgonie for the sixth annual Critter Classic Golf Tournament. Teams enjoyed 18 holes of golf, a closest to the pin contest, silent auction, and tasty food and beverages. On behalf of the Saskatchewan SPCA Board of Directors and staff, thank you to everyone who made the annual tournament a tremendous success!

2016 Critter Classic

Major Sponsors:



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Author Janice Howden and her Tibetan Terrier, Rahj

NEW BOOK BENEFITS ANIMAL WELFARE

Janice Howden, long-term Saskatchewan SPCA volunteer and current Board member, is releasing a new book entitled *Rescued*. The book tells the story of Hawkeye, the Tibetan Terrier who was raised in a place where dogs are bred and sold for profit. One day, he and his brother Freddie are forced to leave the "puppy mill" and head out into a large, unknown world. Although scared at first, they manage to find a place to sleep and enough food to eat, for awhile. One day, two men come to the park where Hawkeye

and Freddie are hiding. The men are carrying a net and Freddie is caught and taken away. Hawkeye's life will never be the same.

Rescued is published by Driver Works Ink and will be available on September 26th. A donation from the sale of the books will be made to animal welfare organizations. For more information on Janice Howden, including upcoming events, like her Facebook page by clicking on www.facebook.com/prairieauthorunleashed.



EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS FOR LIVESTOCK PRODUCERS

*By Kathryn Tonita, MSc, PAg
Animal Health and Welfare Specialist
Livestock Branch*

Are you prepared if a natural disaster affects your farm or surrounding community?

Natural disasters, such as wildfires and floods, can strike at any time, so developing a plan is critical to safeguarding the people and animals on your property. **In any emergency situation, the safety of people comes first, followed by animals and then the protection of property.**

The first step in developing a farm emergency plan is to understand the risks specific to your region. Animals housed indoors have a different set of risks than those housed outside. All animals need to be marked with some form of permanent identification in the case of loss or displacement. As well, a list of all animals present on the farm should be created

and kept up to date to ensure you have some form of proof of ownership. Registering in the Saskatchewan Premises Identification (PID) program is important to ensure rapid notification in the event of an emergency. As well, the information in the system is crucial to locating animals during rescue efforts. Register your premises at <http://premiseid.saskatchewan.ca>.

Your written emergency plan should include a list of emergency telephone numbers, including employees, neighbours, your veterinarian, the poison control centre, the local humane society, Animal Protection Services of Saskatchewan, transportation resources and local volunteer organizations. Include a contact on the list who is unlikely to be affected by the same emergency and ensure that person has a copy of the plan. Your emergency plan should include procedures to shelter animals on the farm as well as a plan for evacuation.

Having a well-stocked emergency kit is essential to emergency preparedness. Some items to include are: food, water and emergency supplies for your family, a list of all animals on your farm, supplies to temporarily identify animals (eg. plastic neckbands and permanent markers), a basic first aid kit, livestock handling equipment, water, feed, buckets, tools, cleaning and disinfecting equipment, and emergency equipment (eg. cell phone, flashlight, portable radio and batteries).

The Government of Canada has a website to assist you with creating an emergency plan. It also provides information on risks and tips to develop an emergency kit.

For more information visit www.getprepared.gc.ca.

Originally published in the September 2016 issue of Agriview.



COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT ANIMAL SEIZURES

Submitted by Kaley Pugh, Executive Director, Animal Protection Services of Saskatchewan

In Saskatchewan, Humane Societies (HS) are defined by the *Animal Protection Act, 1999* (APA) and designated by the Ministry of Agriculture. There are a number of Humane Societies in the province, including Animal Protection Services of Saskatchewan (APSS). All Humane Societies and SPCAs in the province are separate organizations, with no oversight by any one umbrella organization.

Only five Humane Societies in Saskatchewan have APOs and do animal cruelty investigations:

- Animal Protection Services of Saskatchewan
- Saskatoon SPCA
- Regina Humane Society
- Moose Jaw Humane Society
- Prince Albert SPCA

RCMP members and other police officers are also recognized as Animal Protection Officers.

When APSS, or any other Humane Society/SPCA with an APO, seizes

animals from an owner during an animal cruelty investigation, the public often has questions about how the procedure works and the outcomes for the owners and the animals. Here are some of the most commonly asked questions about animal seizures:

What is a Humane Society's legal authority to seize an animal?

Section 6 of the *Animal Protection Act, 1999* (APA) gives an APO working for a Humane Society the authority to relieve animals of their distress, and Section 7 of the APA gives the authority to get a search warrant.



Where is an APO allowed to go during an inspection or investigation?

This depends on what stage the case is in, and what type of facility it's at. Anywhere animals are for sale, hire or exhibition can be inspected or investigated during regular business hours without a warrant, unless it's a private dwelling. (See Section 5 of APA.)

APOs can observe anything in "plain view" during execution of their duty to contact the owner to verify or discuss a complaint, but they can't trespass. If APOs have evidence of an offence, they are then in investigation mode, and Charter of Rights issues regarding unreasonable search and seizure can come into play, meaning that they can only proceed with proper consent from the owner, or if they have a search warrant.

APOs have authority to get search warrants, and then can search the areas named in the warrant, including private dwellings if necessary, and can gather evidence that can be used in court. There are also very specific circumstances when APOs can investigate and gather evidence without a warrant, but they have to be careful to only use those provisions when truly necessary. If APOs are found to be searching or gathering evidence without the proper authority or right to do so, any evidence they gather can be thrown out, and result in the prosecution being severely compromised.

Why do people get so many "chances" before animals are taken away?

Section 6 of the APA says that APOs have authority to seize animals if the owner has failed to relieve them of their

distress. In practical terms, this means that owners have to be given a chance to fix the problems that are causing the distress. The opportunity to relieve the distress and the timelines to do that have to be reasonable. For example, the APO cannot require that an owner put 300 pounds on an underweight horse, and then seize the horse the next day because it hasn't gained 300 pounds. However, some distress is more severe and must be rectified in a more urgent manner. Acutely injured animals must immediately be treated or euthanized, and failure to do that could result in a nearly immediate seizure of the animal and only one "chance" for the owner to fix the problem.

Who decides when animals need to be seized?

If an investigation has progressed to the point where APOs feel animals may need to be removed, usually they will have a veterinarian go to see the animals onsite. In some cases, the APO may bring the animal to the veterinary clinic instead. The veterinarian assesses whether the animal has adequate food, water, shelter, and care (which are the elements in question for distress under the APA), evaluates whether any corrective actions were taken or if action was appropriate, and recommends that the animal be seized or not. Veterinarians are considered experts by the courts, so investigations rely heavily on veterinary opinion regarding the adequacy of care. The APO is the one who actually seizes the animal.

APOs can seize animals without a veterinary consultation, but APSS doesn't use that option as often because APOs are not considered experts by the courts. In cases where animals are seized by an APO alone, the distress is generally very obvious, and/or previous requirements have obviously not been followed.

Can veterinarians seize an animal without an APO?

No, the authority to remove an animal is the APO's, not the veterinarian's. Remember that RCMP members and other police are also APOs, and so they can authorize seizure in an emergency.

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What happens after animals are seized by APSS?

This depends somewhat on the condition of the animal. There are provisions for animals in severe distress that are discussed below.

In general, animals are held in the care of the HS that seized them for a 3-business day period. During that time the HS will have made arrangements for whatever care is appropriate for the animal.

For cases handled by APSS, livestock are often held at auction market facilities, while companion animals are usually held at an animal shelter facility. Sometimes private caretakers are asked to care for smaller numbers of horses or other livestock. Occasionally, veterinarians are asked to care for companion animals in need of medical attention, or where an animal shelter facility is not available.

After the 3-day holding period, animals are usually sold or given away. Large herds of livestock are usually sold at auction as soon as possible after a seizure. Horses and small numbers of livestock like pigs and goats are sometimes given to their private caretakers. Companion animals are usually given to the shelter where they were housed; the shelter then becomes responsible for their ongoing care, adoption, etc.

Occasionally, livestock are in a condition where immediate sale is not appropriate. For example, when the Saskatchewan SPCA seized nearly 900 sheep in 2014, the ewes were lambing, hadn't been sheared in a long time, and were severely under-condition. In that case, the Saskatchewan SPCA paid a caretaker to look after the sheep for several months in order to supervise their lambing, wean lambs, shear the ewes, and get them into better condition before sale.

Animals are also sometimes held for longer periods if there are special circumstances such as legal action preventing their sale, or if the owner has been granted an extension because they are making arrangements to pay the seizure expenses.

Who pays for the care of animals during the holding period?

The Humane Society that seized an animal is responsible for all costs, including the costs of the seizure and the care of the animal for as long as it is held. APSS rarely recovers these costs in companion animal cases because the animals are usually given to shelters. Where livestock is sold, the revenue is used to pay the seizure expenses, with any surplus being returned to the animal's owner.

Can the owner get the animals back?

Section 10 of the APA says that the HS can sell or give the animal away if the owner has not paid the seizure expenses within the 3-business day holding period. What this means is that if an owner pays the expenses, the HS cannot sell the animal or give it away. Where an owner has paid the expenses, the animal is sometimes returned, since otherwise the HS would have to hold the animal and incur care expenses for an extended period of time, possibly until the outcome of a trial.

This section used to be interpreted to mean that if owners pay the expenses, they can automatically have their animals back, but this is no longer the case. Now, arrangements for the return of animals upon payment of expenses include that the animal's conditions have been improved.

Humane Societies also have the ability to apply to the courts for custody of animals when charges have already been laid, which would prevent the return even if expenses are paid. This option is not used often, if ever, since it may have the consequence of the HS being responsible for an animal (not being able to sell it or give it away) until the outcome of a trial.

Police also have the option of arresting owners and laying charges immediately, and releasing them on conditions that they must not own or care for animals, essentially preventing the return of the animals. This is done in only the most serious cases.

Can seized animals be euthanized?

After the 3-day holding period, the animal belongs to the HS and they can then euthanize it, give it away, sell it or whatever else is legal for the owner of an animal to do.

Section 6 (3) of the APA also gives an APO the authority to euthanize an animal if it's in critical distress and cannot be relieved of its distress. So, if an animal cannot be kept free from pain, it can be euthanized during the holding period.

Does every seizure mean the owner gets charged?

No, every seizure does not result in charges, but generally if APSS has the grounds to seize an animal, they have the grounds for charges. Sometimes charges are not laid if there is nothing to be gained from the prosecution, or if there is a low likelihood of a successful prosecution. As an example, if an allegedly abandoned dog is seized, but APSS does not have good proof that the dog was abandoned and the owner's story gives reasonable doubt, then charges may not be laid.

Can you charge someone if animals haven't been seized?

Yes! Charges depend on evidence of distress, and the ability to prove that distress occurred. Seizure relates to whether the owner relieved the animal of its distress. APSS can, and has, laid charges where no animals have been seized. In one recent dog case, the owners voluntarily surrendered about 45 dogs to a rescue during the course of the investigation. APSS was not forced to seize the animals as they had been relieved of their distress. However, APSS did have sufficient evidence that the animals had been in distress during the APO's visits, so charges were laid.

In another case, approximately 900 layer hens were in distress, but there was no way to seize them due to biosecurity, welfare risks during capture and transport, and quota issues. As a result, the birds were left on the farm but the owner was charged and ordered to depopulate.



Thanksgiving CHALLENGE

Become a member. Make a donation. Get involved.

This October, we're issuing the **Thanksgiving Challenge!** We are working to end animal cruelty in Saskatchewan but we cannot do it alone. We are challenging YOU, the citizens of Saskatchewan, to get involved by either making a donation or becoming a member of the Saskatchewan SPCA.

There are a variety of ways to get involved. Visit our website to make a donation or learn more about our membership options. Collect donations on behalf of the Society at family gatherings throughout October. Record a video message to share on your social media channels explaining why you support the Saskatchewan SPCA and the humane treatment of animals. Remember to tag the Saskatchewan SPCA in your post so we can share your message.

If you want to learn more about the Thanksgiving Challenge or the Saskatchewan SPCA, please give us a call at 1-877-382-7722. We hope you'll accept our challenge and join us as we strive to end animal cruelty. Animals need your help and together we can create a humane world for all.

WITH LOVE

The Saskatchewan SPCA recognizes those who have donated in honour or memory of a loved one.

- Alexander Wong in memory of James Coles
- Allan & Verna Allinson in memory of Gabby
- Angeline Bruyn in memory of Edward Remenda
- B. Briere in honour of Barry Hill
- Bev Ashwin in memory of Smokie
- Brenda Ackerman in memory of Beta
- Dianne Dreger in memory of Dakota and Smokie
- Don and Gale Metherell in memory of Karen Anne Marsch
- Doris Blodgett in memory of Elenor Wotherspoon
- Estevan Comprehensive School English Social Studies Department in honour of Tim Lee's retirement
- Gail Genest in memory of Beta Balkwell
- Jack Isherwood in memory of Daisy
- Jean Whyte in memory of Murray Whyte
- Joan Hageness in memory of Brenda Bakker
- Kathy Baumgartner in honour of Liola Staub
- Linda Murray in memory of Toffee Handwork
- Linda van Zandbergen
- Marianne Costron in memory of Ginger
- Marilyn Boechler "in memory of my husband"
- Mrs. Evelyn Adams "in memory of all my passed pets"
- Mrs. Jeannie Johanson in memory of Mr. Henry DeWinter
- Mrs. Ruth Robinson in memory of Ray Boechler
- Rainer and Ilka C. Feller in memory of Harry Dahlem, QC
- Sandra Jensen in memory of Don Jensen
- Saskatoon Police Association
- Sonja Orban in memory of Doris Shaheen

PET LOSS SUPPORT: WHERE TO TURN FOR HELP

Losing a family pet is one of the most difficult situations we may endure. The Saskatchewan SPCA wanted to learn more about the options that are available for those who need a support system to help cope with the loss of a furry family member. We reached out to Bev Ashwin with a pet loss support group in Saskatoon. Bev shared her personal story with us and explains how she got involved with the support group.

I have always loved animals – especially dogs – and losing one is a heart-wrenching experience. I have lost four dogs over the past 17 years. The first one, Mocha, was a peke-a-poo. I had to take three weeks off from work. I was a basket case. Mocha had been with me through the good and the bad; the happy and the sad. I did not know losing a companion animal would be so devastating. At the time, I was not aware that there was a pet loss support group. I grieved alone although I did have support for awhile. But then many people said "just get over it." They just did not get it. I started volunteering to provide pet loss support about fifteen years ago. I found it quite rewarding – being able to support those in need, either by phone or in person. Unfortunately, that original group folded and there was not a support group for a few years.

About six years ago, Family Pet Cremation Services and the Edwards Family Centre in Saskatoon started another pet loss support group. We are all volunteers that understand what losing a pet is all about. We will listen. You can cry. You can laugh. You can share without fear of being judged.

About four years ago, I retired from the financial industry after 35 years. I was in the need of a change. I now work full time at Family Pet Cremation Services in Saskatoon. Although it is a sad time for the families, I am able to comfort them in their loss. I provide some grief support as they are making their final goodbyes or picking out a special urn. In the same office is Prairie View Cremation and Memorial which is pre-need and at-need for folks that have lost a family member or are looking to prearrange their funeral. I am very fortunate to be able to bring my dog to work. Therefore, Tiffy, my 15-year-old deaf rescue poodle, accompanies me on most days. I adopted her at age 10. Tiffy welcomes all that walk through the door and often puts a smile on many a sad face.

I certainly like to keep busy. I am a volunteer with the Saskatoon SPCA Auxiliary. We fundraise for the Second Chance Fund with garage sales, open houses at the shelter, bake sales, and raffle ticket sales. Our fundraising has also helped shelter pets with medical issues.

I recently have gotten involved with the Saskatoon Dog Rescue. It is a foster home dog rescue. I am one of the persons responsible for home checks after an individual has applied to adopt one of our dogs.

I have two other rescue dogs at home; Lenny, 15, adopted at 10, and Sally, 3, adopted at 2.

I have been a member of the Saskatoon SPCA for 40+ years and have just recently become a member of the Saskatchewan SPCA but have followed them for several years. Animal welfare and protection and

the animal-human bond is very important to me and I feel there should be more public awareness.

Article submitted by Bev Ashwin, Saskatoon Pet Loss Support. For more information on the support group, please contact Bev at 306-343-5322. The Pet Loss Support Group meets at 2:00 p.m. on the first and third Sunday of every month at Edwards Family Centre, 333 4th Ave N, Saskatoon.



Bev Ashwin's dog, Mocha

SUMMER CASH LOTTERY WINNERS LIST

DRAW DATE	NAME	ADDRESS	AMOUNT	TICKET #
June 19, 2016	Janet Beck-Trofimenkoff	Weyburn	\$2,000.00	11131
July 1, 2016	Thomas Grywachski	Norquay	\$500.00	08100
July 2, 2016	Dennis E. Kopp	Qu'Appelle	\$500.00	03351
July 3, 2016	Laurent St Cyr	Ponteix	\$100.00	02353
July 4, 2016	Susan Thiessen	Langham	\$100.00	19299
July 5, 2016	Walter Dupin	Beatty	\$100.00	11201
July 6, 2016	Judy Meier	Star City	\$100.00	13111
July 7, 2016	Paul Housen	Saskatoon	\$100.00	05263
July 8, 2016	Lionel & Helen Bolen	Lestock	\$100.00	00997
July 9, 2016	Bert Stueck	Abernethy	\$500.00	03405
July 10, 2016	Doreen Anderson	Estevan	\$100.00	04462
July 11, 2016	Myrna Sand	Birch Hills	\$100.00	01297
July 12, 2016	Mary Martinka	Middle Lake	\$100.00	05549
July 13, 2016	Rob MacDonald	Saskatoon	\$100.00	16791
July 14, 2016	Ken Faltermeier	Lloydminster	\$100.00	19894
July 15, 2016	Lillian Forster	Outlook	\$100.00	12570
July 16, 2016	Susan Davidson	Wawota	\$500.00	13742
July 17, 2016	Dale Gerhardt	Regina	\$100.00	13758
July 18, 2016	Wendy Humenuik	Rosthern	\$100.00	07932
July 19, 2016	Blanch E. Pott	Shell Lake	\$100.00	12637
July 20, 2016	Larry Mullis	Eston	\$100.00	00689
July 21, 2016	Charlene Pierce	Weyburn	\$100.00	06754
July 22, 2016	Maureen Hughes	Lashburn	\$100.00	16638
July 23, 2016	Jake Siemens	Saskatoon	\$500.00	16525
July 24, 2016	Terry Toews	Swift Current	\$100.00	18259
July 25, 2016	Paul Housen	Saskatoon	\$100.00	05273
July 26, 2016	Trudy Mahussier	Bjorkdale	\$100.00	19820
July 27, 2016	Doreen & Frances Gourley	Regina	\$100.00	17570
July 28, 2016	Marcus Koeberlin	Prince Albert	\$100.00	12416
July 29, 2016	Laura Klassen	Saskatoon	\$100.00	11841
July 30, 2016	Adam Fletcher	Pilot Butte	\$500.00	02291
July 31, 2016	J & J Toles	Saskatoon	\$5,000.00	19138
July 31, 2016	Blanche White	Nipawin	\$15,000.00	17051
50/50 Kitty Pool				
July 31, 2016	George Perry	Wynyard	\$21,737.50	F013095