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# THE HUMANITARIAN

SASKATCHEWAN SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS

in this issue

***Family Fun at Agribition***

***Education Update: 2016  
Animal Welfare Conference***

***Keeping Your Pet Safe During  
the Holidays***

***Year In Review***

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**Moving?**

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

# WITH LOVE

The Saskatchewan SPCA would like to recognize those who have donated in memory of a loved one.

- Trevor Dubiel in memory of "my cat Rosie"
- Nellie Dumont in memory of Larry Werchola
- Eve Hayter in memory of "Rocky, a Chihuahua mix"
- Ilya T. Silbar Margoshes in memory of "my dear parents, Ira and Leah Silbar"
- Alicia Miller in memory of Snoopy
- Mitford School in memory of John "Bill" Parker. This donation was made by his daughter's co-workers in Cochrane, AB
- Marla Mitten in memory of Alice and Jake
- Angela and Randy Schmidt
- Jim and Lynda Taylor in memory of "Potter, our beloved dog and friend"
- Marlene Torvik in memory of Bill Duncan

On behalf of the Board and staff of the Saskatchewan SPCA, we extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who has made a donation in memory of someone special.



## SASKATCHEWAN SPCA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

At the Saskatchewan SPCA's annual general meeting on September 24<sup>th</sup>, we said farewell to retiring board members Teresa Johnston and Lorna MacMillan. Thank you to Teresa and Lorna for their years of guidance and support.

We are pleased to announce the election of Jack MacKay and Calvin Nickel to our board. Jack and Calvin are not strangers to the Saskatchewan SPCA. We look forward to once again working with Jack and Calvin as they lend their expertise to the board of directors.

**Saskatchewan SPCA 2016-17  
Board of Directors**

President: Dr. Sandra Neumann

Vice-President: Tiffany Koback

Treasurer: Margaret (Peg) Northcote

Secretary: Janice Howden

Members at large:

Ken Krause

Jack MacKay

Calvin Nickel

Carol Thomson



*Students stop and learn about proper pet care at Agribition.*

# FUN IN THE FAMILY AG PAVILION AT AGRIBITION

As part of our ever-growing community outreach programming, the Saskatchewan SPCA was fortunate to be part of the Family Ag Pavilion at Agribition in Regina from November 21-26. This was a great opportunity for us to educate children on what it takes to properly care for their pets. Students reached inside a pet carrier filled with items that represent what is required to take care of cats, dogs, and other pets.



*Thanks to Wynter (r), Brenda (l), and all volunteers from The Pack Project for their help at Agribition.*

Over six days, an estimated 10,000 students from schools all across Saskatchewan visited Agribition. Hundreds of students stopped by the Saskatchewan SPCA booth to learn more about pet care and to meet a few of the dogs that are available for adoption through The Pack Project, a foster-based rescue from Regina.

In addition to sharing their four-legged companions with our visitors, volunteers from The Pack Project played an integral role in helping to staff our booth. A heartfelt *thank you* goes out to our friends at The Pack Project for all their help! If you would like more information on The Pack Project, including details on the dogs that are available for adoption, visit their website at [www.thepackproject.ca](http://www.thepackproject.ca).

We would also like to extend our gratitude to the team at Canadian Western Agribition for inviting us to be part of the Family Ag Pavilion.



# EDUCATION UPDATE: 2016 ANIMAL WELFARE CONFERENCE

What are the signs of rabies? What is happening with the new registration program for animal rescue organizations? Do you know how to give your beloved older dog the special care he needs? Do cat videos *really* rule the Internet?

Delegates to the 2016 Animal Welfare Conference learned the answers to these and other questions as part of the two-day educational event hosted by the Saskatchewan SPCA.

One of the highlights of the conference was a presentation by Frances Wach of the Saskatchewan SPCA and Crystal Giesbrecht of the Provincial Association of Transition Houses and Services. They discussed the research findings from a new report released in the spring of 2016. The report – *The Link: Interpersonal Violence and Abuse and Animal Safekeeping* – answers two questions:

1. Is the concern for the safety of companion animals and livestock

a barrier to individuals leaving situations of interpersonal violence and abuse in Saskatchewan?

2. Are there existing networks and supports in the province that provide safekeeping of animals for individuals leaving situations of interpersonal violence and abuse?

The research clearly showed that individuals who own pets or livestock may put themselves at risk in order to



keep their animals safe. People may stay in dangerous situations, fearing what will happen to the pets or livestock left behind. The abuser may use threats of violence to the animals as a way to control the behaviour of the family.

Based on the research results, the report provides a detailed list of recommendations aimed at making the province safer for both animals and humans. These recommendations include cross-training of animal protection officers and human service workers, and the development of a list of resources and services for animal care and safekeeping.

The Saskatchewan SPCA would like to offer a special thank you for all the knowledgeable speakers and wet lab presenters at this year's conference. Attendees noted the conference featured a "broad range of topics and speakers ... [with] useful and interesting information even in the presentations not related to their work."

Next year's conference will be held in Regina. The focus of the two-day conference will be on the interrelationship between domestic violence and animal abuse. Everyone is welcome to attend

THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING 2016 CONFERENCE SPONSORS FOR THEIR GENEROUS SUPPORT:



Ernie Olfert, Saskatoon

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

### *The Link*

A two-day conference focusing on the interrelationship between animal abuse and interpersonal violence  
 Thursday, Sept. 21 and Friday, Sept. 22, 2017, Regina



## STANDARDS SHOW CONSUMERS THE LIVESTOCK INDUSTRY IS MEETING THEIR EXPECTATIONS

*By Andy Jansen, Manager, Livestock Operations, Livestock Branch*

More and more consumers are looking for food that has been produced using sustainable practices. For livestock producers, this requires paying attention to animal feeding, animal welfare, and animal health. It also requires paying attention to the environment.

Most consumers do not know what it takes to raise an animal but are quick to respond to images of practices that are – or that they consider to be – unacceptable. The restaurant industry is also responding to consumers' demand based on these perceptions, and is keen to promote its meat products as meeting or exceeding the consumers' expectations.

Recent opinion surveys show that consumers still trust farmers; however, an increasing number are seeking evidence that what they are purchasing is being produced sustainably. Most livestock industry

groups have responded by developing programs to ensure the industry is using appropriate and best practices and then promoting these standards to consumers. These efforts to retain the trust of consumers require more than just words – producers need to be able to back up their claims of sustainability with evidence that their practices are sustainable. Industry and government have made significant effort regarding agriculture awareness to increase the public's understanding of farming practices, why they are used, and why they are important. Effort has also been made to tell the public about the important role livestock production plays in sustaining environmental biodiversity and specifically in the retention of native grasslands.

A similar level of effort is required to meet regulatory requirements. In addition to being a legal requirement, government approval is an indication that livestock operations are doing the right thing. Livestock producers with the required approvals can say that they meet the standard for the protection of water and

there is oversight of their operations. When producers do not comply with these requirements, it undermines consumers' trust in them as individual producers, and as an industry. The requirements of legislation also ensure that sufficient investigation is undertaken to identify and address risks to the environment, which is further evidence that livestock production is occurring in a sustainable way. Saskatchewan Agriculture has staff available to help producers understand and use sustainable production practices.

*This article was originally published in the November 2016 issue of Agriview.*

For more info:

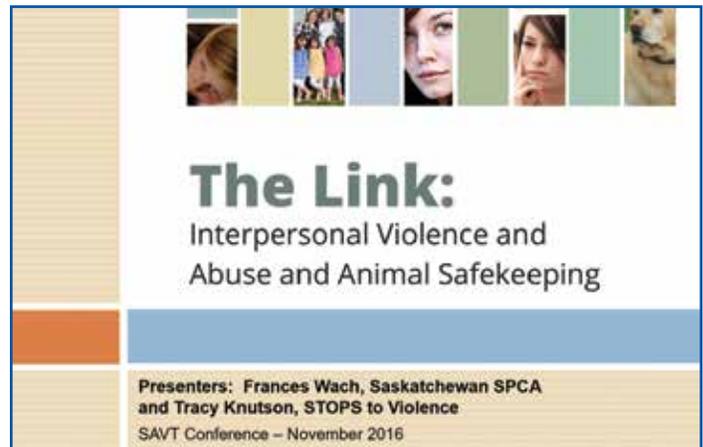
- Contact a Livestock Specialist at a nearby Saskatchewan Agriculture Regional Office;
- Contact a Regional Engineer at the Moose Jaw, Saskatoon, or Yorkton Regional Office;
- Call the Agriculture Knowledge Centre at 1-866-457-2377 or visit [Saskatchewan.ca/livestock](http://Saskatchewan.ca/livestock)

# THE LINK DISCUSSED AT SAVT CONFERENCE

On Saturday, November 5th, the Saskatchewan SPCA's executive director, Frances Wach, along with Tracy Knutson from Saskatchewan Towards Offering Partnership Solutions (STOPS) to Violence, were invited to speak at the annual Saskatchewan Association of Veterinary Technologists conference in Saskatoon.

The focus of the presentation was *The Link: Interpersonal Violence and Abuse and Animal Safekeeping*, a new report released through a partnership with the Saskatchewan SPCA, STOPS to Violence, and the Provincial Association of Transition Houses and Services of Saskatchewan (PATHS). This research study demonstrates how concern for the safety of animals serves as a barrier to individuals fleeing domestic violence in Saskatchewan.

Wach and Knutson discussed the relationship between animal abuse and interpersonal violence. They also offered suggestions on how to recognize possible domestic, child, and animal abuse. "The link between domestic violence and animal abuse is a topic that some folks may find difficult to discuss, but it's a conversation that needs to be had," explains Frances Wach. "When it comes to animal abuse, RVTs and veterinarians can be frontline identifiers for abused animals. As Phil Arkow says, 'when animals are abused, people are at risk. When people are abused, animals are at risk.' If human service



agencies, veterinary medical professionals, and animal welfare organizations can work together, we may be able to identify cases of domestic violence and animal abuse and prevent these situations from escalating any further," Wach said.

If you would like more information on The Link report, please visit our website at [www.sspca.ca](http://www.sspca.ca). For more information on STOPS to Violence, visit [www.stopstoviolence.com](http://www.stopstoviolence.com). For more information on PATHS, visit [www.pathssk.org](http://www.pathssk.org).

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## KEEPING YOUR PET SAFE DURING THE HOLIDAYS

With Christmas right around the corner, it's important to keep in mind that some of the holiday cheer that we enjoy could be harmful, and potentially fatal, for the furry friends in our lives.

When celebrating the season, remember that foods like chocolate and things sweetened with xylitol (gum, some peanut butters, baked goods, etc.), grapes, and raisins can cause your cat or dog to fall ill. Other foods like macadamia nuts, onions, garlic, and chives, and salty snack foods could also result in a traumatic health situation for your pet. Alcoholic beverages can lead to health problems, including coma and possible death. Avoid feeding Fluffy or Fido the leftover turkey bones as these bones could become a choking hazard or do damage to internal organs.

When it comes to Christmas decorations, remember to properly secure your Christmas tree to avoid any injuries



that may result from a falling evergreen. Eating plants like mistletoe and holly may cause your pet to experience nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea. Keep electrical cords out of reach of cats, dogs, and other fuzzy companions that like to chew on loose hanging and easy-to-reach dangling wires. Batteries should also be kept in a secure and safe place. If you choose to bring out a special candle, make sure to use the appropriate candle holders and place the candles in a location that is inaccessible to your

animals. If you leave the room, properly extinguish the candles to avoid any burns or unwanted destruction caused by fire.

If you would like to give your pet a special holiday treat or gift, remember that there are many healthy treats and durable toys that are available all year long. Though these items may not be as festive, we know that they are safe for our companions, and at this time of the year, all we really want is to ensure the health and wellbeing of our loved ones – furry or not.

# YEAR IN REVIEW

Frances Wach, Executive Director  
Saskatchewan SPCA

2016 has been a productive year as the Saskatchewan SPCA moves forward in new directions. Our activities this year include the following:

- We are helping homeless pets through our work to create a **certification and registration program** for rescued animals. Rescues and SPCAs have been enthusiastic in their support of this program, viewing it as an essential step in preventing the neglect of vulnerable animals. We have established a Working Group with representatives from rescues, shelters, enforcement, government, and veterinarians to partner with us on this program. The Working Group has met three times this year to discuss the development of this new program.
- Our province has the dubious distinction of having one of the highest police-reported rates of domestic violence. Not only are people at risk; animals are also in danger as the abuser will often use threats to kill or injure pets and livestock as a way to control the behaviour of the entire family. We are working to **raise awareness of “the Link”** between animal abuse and domestic violence. At our recent presentation at the SAVT (Saskatchewan Association of Veterinary Technologists) Conference, we shared information on how vet techs can recognize domestic, child, and animal abuse.
- In the spring, we completed a research study that looks at the challenges women who own animals face when leaving situations involving domestic violence. The final report, entitled *The Link: Interpersonal Violence and Abuse and Animal Safekeeping*, provides a detailed list of **recommendations to improve access to animal safekeeping services** in the province. (See [www.sspca.ca](http://www.sspca.ca) to read the full report.)
- The Saskatchewan SPCA receives no government funding, making **fundraising** a vital task for our organization. In addition to our Summer and Christmas lotteries and our annual Critter Classic golf tournament, we are exploring a number of new fundraising opportunities. This past October, we launched the month-long Thanksgiving Challenge. We encouraged people to share their messages of support for animal welfare and consider a donation to the Saskatchewan SPCA.
- We hosted our **12<sup>th</sup> Annual Animal Welfare Conference** in September. This year's conference explored a wide range of timely animal welfare issues as well as other topics of interest to those who work with animals in any capacity.
- We are **reaching new audiences** with messages about the human-animal bond, dog bite prevention, and other topics. We provided updates on the registration program for animal rescues at the Personal and Animal Wellness Symposium and educated children about responsible pet ownership through our booth at this year's Agribition.

- We endeavour to stay in touch with our members, donors, and stakeholders. We've updated the design of our quarterly *Humanitarian* newsletter and are revamping our website in order to better reflect the educational focus of our organization. As well, we continue to publish an electronic bulletin (*Saskatchewan HumaneNews*) geared to the interests of the animal welfare industry.
- The strength of the animal welfare sector is built on the contributions of many individuals and organizations. The Saskatchewan SPCA is proud to **work in cooperation** with shelters, rescues, government, enforcement agencies, and other stakeholders in order to help prevent animal cruelty and ensure the humane treatment of animals.
- We continue to **build relationships** with organizations such as STOPS to Violence and PATHS (Provincial Association of Transition Houses and Services of Saskatchewan). Joint projects with these and other human service agencies allow us to address issues of mutual concern, such as the Link between animal abuse and domestic violence.

I am proud of our accomplishments and look forward to the New Year as we continue to promote the humane treatment of animals.

As the year closes I thank our Board of Directors, committee members, staff, and volunteers for their dedication and hard work.

Also, I thank our members and donors for their support and encouragement.

I wish you all a healthy, happy holiday season.

