
THE HUMANITARIAN

SASKATCHEWAN SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS

A special issue of *The Humanitarian* focusing on the link between interpersonal violence and animal abuse.

***Children Abusing Animals
Indicators of Violence***

***How are Animal Abuse and
Family Violence Linked?***

The Link Conference Schedule

FALL 2017





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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:

Executive Director:

Frances Wach

Program Director:

Sandra Anderson

Administrative Assistant:

Crystal Stubbs

Community Relations Coordinator:

Josh Hourie

Animal Safekeeping Coordinator:

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or email info@sspca.ca

REPORT EXPLORES THE LINK BETWEEN VIOLENCE TO ANIMALS AND HUMANS

"She came into the shelter with her three children. Lots of physical abuse. She feels really guilty for having to grab her kids and leave the animals behind ... it makes her feel even more guilty because not only have the kids lost their home, but they've lost the one thing that was comfortable to them and that was really important. It's like they lost their home and they lost their friend, their pet."

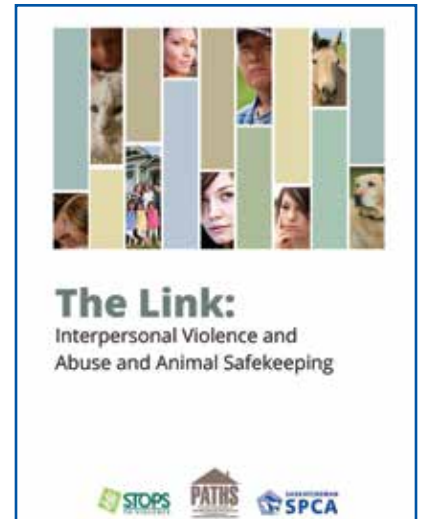
A new research study demonstrates how concern for the safety of animals serves as a barrier to individuals fleeing domestic violence in Saskatchewan.

The Saskatchewan SPCA worked in partnership with Saskatchewan Towards Offering Partnership Solutions (STOPS) To Violence and the Provincial Association of Transition Houses and Services of Saskatchewan (PATHS) to complete the study.

Representatives from 39 animal welfare organizations and 56 human service agencies shared their experiences working with the victims of domestic violence where there were concerns about animal care and safekeeping.

Participants noted that abusers were able to exercise control over victims and children with threats to harm or kill animals. Victims were often afraid to leave, fearing that something would happen to the pets or livestock left behind.

The study revealed that there are only a limited number of options available to care for the animals of individuals fleeing domestic violence. Most women's shelters do not allow



pets. A small number of animal safekeeping programs are available to care for pets but these programs are typically short-term in nature.

Individuals living in rural areas are often dependent on livestock for their financial security and livelihood. Victims may stay in an abusive situation, feeling they have no other option.

Frances Wach, Executive Director of the Saskatchewan SPCA, notes that it is important to help ensure the victims of domestic violence have better access to the resources they need to protect their pets and livestock.

"The Saskatchewan SPCA is seeking funding that will make it possible for us to move forward with the recommendations generated in this report," says Wach.

Read the full report under "The Link" on the Saskatchewan SPCA website: www.sspca.ca.

NOTICE OF AGM

The Saskatchewan SPCA Annual General Meeting will be held:

Date: Saturday, Sept. 30, 2017

Time: 11:00 a.m.

Place: Saskatchewan SPCA Office, 519 45th Street West, Saskatoon
Everyone is welcome. The AGM is open to the public.
Questions? 1.877.382.7722 or info@sspca.ca



CHILDREN ABUSING ANIMALS

It is often thought that when children are cruel to animals it is an exploratory stage of development. This may be partly true but the intensity, frequency and motivation for their actions must be considered. When a child grows up in an environment filled with violence — as a witness, victim or perpetrator — there may be many factors behind his or her motivation to harm animals.

Link researchers have connected children's acts of animal abuse with bullying, corporal punishment, school shootings, sexual abuse, and developmental psychopathic behaviours. Children often feel powerless when they are abused by adults and may find their own victims to exert control over and gain a sense of power. They may abuse a pet of a sibling or peer for revenge or emotional maltreatment. Animal abuse can also be part of an initiation ritual for becoming a gang member. Adolescents have been known to videotape their torturing of animals to play back later when they feel bored. All animal abuse situations must be taken seriously. Understanding why children may abuse animals is the key to appropriate intervention strategies.

What are the effects of animal abuse on abusers?

Animal abuse can be an indicator and a predictor of other violent acts. This has been well documented in numerous research studies and has led to animal abuse being listed as one of the criteria for a diagnosis of conduct disorder in childhood. Abusers and impressionable children who witness abuse become desensitized to violence and the ability to empathize with the victim. It is well known that abuse is often

cyclical and that the only way to stop the cycle is intervention; the earlier the intervention the higher rate of success.

Not all children who abuse animals grow up to become serial killers ... but a child who does display unusual or continual fascination with harming animals is in need of professional counseling. Several psychological assessment tools are available to help therapists respond to juvenile animal abuse, both in clinical settings and as part of sentencing adjudication.

What should I do if animal abuse is suspected?

Identifying cases of animal abuse as soon as possible enhances the safety and well-being of children, animals, other family members and the community. Assess the seriousness of the situation: talk to the child and friends, teachers and classmates to try to uncover the child's motivations. The incident could be exploratory, pathological, delinquent or criminal in nature or in response to mental health issues or reaction to trauma. A trusted family member, friend, teacher, counselor or therapist may be brought in to the discussion.

The child should be held accountable for the actions and made to appreciate empathy for the animal's feelings. In more serious incidents, counseling, other professional intervention, referrals to other social services agencies, or the filing of criminal charges may be warranted. A child's revelation of other family violence may require reporting to child protection officials, and to animal care & control officials for removal of the animals.

Article provided by the National Link Coalition



Allison Bokitch and her golden retrievers

WHAT IS PET THERAPY?

By Allison Bokitch, BA., M.A. — Psych
Owner/Operator KENRO Dog Training Services & Registered Golden Retrievers
www.kenrodogtraining.com

St. John's Ambulance defines pet therapy as "... bringing comfort, joy and companionship to members of the community who are sick, lonely or reside in full-time care facilities. Residents reap the therapeutic benefits of the unconditional love of a four-legged friend." Along with this explanation, it is also a proven fact documented by the medical profession that the patting and stroking of a dog has a calming effect and can result in lower blood pressure and can ease tension (St. John's Ambulance Therapy Dog brochure, 2005).

What is a good therapy dog? What qualities and characteristics must my dog have in order to be a good

therapy dog? Is there a specific breed used as a therapy dog? These are all questions that seem to arise when talking about potential therapy dogs. When it comes to pet therapy, there is no one breed of dog that is only allowed to participate. I have seen many breeds participate in therapy work; everything from Yorkshire terriers to Irish wolfhounds. I must share my bias now as I'm partial to thinking that golden retrievers are THE best therapy breed choice but I know that is not true. Having a dog that is well suited for therapy work goes well beyond knowing some obedience commands and being able to comply. Therapy work is for the dog that wants to do this work. When I was going through my testing there was a sheltie

that was very obedient and listened and responded to every word her owner said; however she was reluctant around people and you could tell she did not enjoy herself at all. It was purely another task she was being told to do. Your dog has to want to be around people all the time. Your dog has to want to be constantly touched and sometimes roughly. Your dog has to thrive on being in the limelight so to speak!

Therapy dogs must not startle easily. In health care facilities, schools or prisons there is a lot of activity going on regularly. Your dog will be exposed to people moving very quickly. For this reason, you do not warn your dog to chase them or get extremely excited

if this happens. Things bang and fall and if your dog startles and does not recover extremely quickly, it will hinder your work. You will encounter people that look different, they maybe don't respond to your dog at all, or they might be wearing something different. Exposing animals to medical equipment is also very beneficial. Equipment that makes funny noises like an oxygen machine that has long hoses and attached equipment also makes some dogs either too curious or afraid. Socialization is the key when it comes to thinking about therapy work.

A dog you choose to do therapy work has to be calm and gentle. They do need to know some commands such as the basics like sit, down, and stay. Knowing how to walk on a loose leash is also very important. I always like to suggest that the dogs doing this work know a few other things as well. Teaching the command "leave it" is extremely important as there have been situations where Mr. Jones has spilled his lunch or Mrs. Smith has dropped her medication on the floor. I also use the command "paws up," which means the dog is permitted to put his front paws on the side of the patient's bed. Even if you have trained your dog to do this, please ask the patients if they would like you to do this as some individuals would not like a dog on their beds. This is particularly useful when you have a patient who is bedridden but still wants to interact with your dog. Many people think that if they want to participate in therapy work with their dog they will just get a breed that is usually friendly and that is it! Well, I can speak from experience that that is not always the case. You can not always predict that your animal is going to have what it takes to do this work, or more importantly, enjoy it. We have to remember that doing this work can be very stressful for dogs. Having a dog that is stressed can lead to many situations that you would want to avoid. Many dogs have great temperaments, are very obedient and listen well but you have to truly see a sparkle in their eye, or their eyes light up, or they smile when it's time to go work. I am going to take that as my cue to retire them when I no longer see that sparkle when we get ready to go.

Visiting pets, therapy dogs, and therapy pets are just some of the names given to describe programs in which animals help people just by visiting with them.

As participation in such programs grows so does the vocabulary describing different aspects of pet visiting. For example, the preferred use for the term *Animal Assisted Therapy* is for formal treatment programs, usually involving one particular animal and handler assigned to one particular client. The handler and the health care provider consult on specific goals to be accomplished and planning on how to accomplish those goals. The preferred use for more informal programs is *Animal Assisted Activities*. You will see a great variety of terms as groups struggle to find terms that are descriptive without being confusing. The most commonly used term for a dog visiting in residential care facilities is *therapy dog*.

Visiting with animals can help people feel less lonely and less depressed. Visits from dogs can provide a welcome change from routine or the renewal of old friendships. People become more active and responsive both during and after visiting with animals. An animal visit can offer entertainment or a welcome distraction from pain and infirmity. People often talk to the dogs and share with them their thoughts, feelings, and memories. Animal visits provide something to look forward to. Stroking a dog or cat can reduce a person's blood pressure. Petting encourages the use of hands and arms, stretching, and turning. The pet makes it easier for two strangers to talk. It gives people a common interest and provides a focus for conversation. Many people in hospitals or group homes have had to give up pet ownership and they miss the casual acceptance a pet gives them. A dog pays little attention to age or physical ability but accepts people as they are. The benefits continue even after the visit. The visit leaves behind memories, not only of the visit, but of past experiences. It offers something for people to share.

First and foremost, we must acknowledge that a therapy dog is not a service dog. A therapy animal has no special rights to go into a building unless he is invited. There are certain documents that must be produced for the facility in order for you to be allowed entry with your dog. Please be aware that since pet therapy has not been around for long, there are still some facilities that have difficulty with allowing animals into a clean hospital. When you are allowed entry into a

facility with your canine companion, please respond with a sincere thank you because you will be getting thanked in the end. Many think that they are doing you a favour by letting you come with your furry friend, but not long after they will realize that you are providing something to the residents of the facility that is almost unexplainable.

Providing pet therapy is merely allowing individuals who are sick, mentally challenged, lonely, or incapacitated in some way an outlet to receive some unconditional love and attention. Through this, it has been medically proven to lower blood pressure, ease tension and anxiety, foster communication, inspire a willingness to continue to live despite their medical condition, and to instill hope in whatever they may be clinging to.

In my experience, pet therapy can help a whole range of people. In the past we have worked with Alzheimer's patients, shut-ins, blind people, physically and mentally challenged people, and people who are just plain lonely. The benefits to these people are immeasurable and the animals reach them in ways that we are not even able to realize. We must appreciate that even though we have documented medical evidence that shows us the physical things dogs and other animals can do for these people, we have to remember that sometimes we don't really see anything with our eyes. When we think that we wasted our visit with Mr. Jones today, please stop and think about what you did for Mr. Jones. Maybe Mr. Jones had not talked for quite some time. Maybe he hadn't sat up in his chair for even longer. Or maybe he hadn't shown any emotion for a long time, and today he smiled. We must remember to notice the little things, because you probably have just made Mr. Jones' day and you never even knew it! We also have to remember that when we visit with these people, our dogs see them as just another person. Our dogs don't care if they are blind, drool a little, cannot speak properly, or tell the same story over and over again. Our dogs also provide them with unconditional love and non-judgmental interaction so that these patients can just be themselves; and for a moment they can forget about their disability.

For a personal story from Allison, visit our website at www.sspca.ca.



INDICATORS OF VIOLENCE

The manifestations of animal maltreatment — cruelty, abuse, hoarding and neglect — and domestic violence, child maltreatment, and elder abuse are many — and often not obvious. Many incidents occur behind closed doors, and victims may be unwilling or ashamed to reveal it. (Neighbours may actually be more willing to report suspected animal abuse than other forms of family violence because the incidents may occur outdoors and concerned observers recognize that the animals cannot call for help themselves.)

Often, victims who are reluctant to talk about abuse that has been inflicted on them may be more comfortable talking about abuse to their pets, which can then lead them into opening up about their own abuse. When children report having many pets that have died or disappeared, it may mean a chaotic home life with little stability or that their pets have been killed

or abused and further investigation is necessary. Abusers often brag about the animal cruelty they have perpetrated as they do not perceive animal abuse to be a serious crime. They will often admit to animal abuse, but not family violence, which can be a starting point for criminal investigations and prosecutions.

Assessing the Risk Factors of Animal Cruelty and Abuse

Dr. Randall Lockwood, Senior Vice President for Forensic Sciences and Anti-Cruelty Projects of the ASPCA and an internationally recognized expert on the animal cruelty/human violence connection, has identified a number of risk factors to evaluate a level of dangerousness in an animal abuser who may be at risk of committing violence against others in the future. These factors can be applied in risk and lethality assessments when reviewing case histories. Determining factors include:

- The number of victims, severity of injury, and repeated injuries on individual victims. Several animals killed or injured in the same instance or infliction of multiple wounds suggest a greater potential for uncontrolled violence.
- Victim vulnerability: Violence against particularly small, harmless or non-threatening animals indicates that perpetrators gain a sense of power and control through violence against those least likely to retaliate.
- The act was premeditated; the act involved overcoming obstacles to initiate or complete the abuse; the victim was bound or otherwise physically incapacitated.
- Long-term planning of violent acts suggest the possibility of psychopathic thought processes. Abuse that includes binding, securing with tape, confining to a box or otherwise rendering an animal incapable of escape is suggestive of a higher degree of intentional, premeditated violence.
- Intimacy of infliction of injury
- Abuse that involves direct physical contact or restraint and obvious opportunity to witness the victim's response (e.g., beating, strangling, crushing) may be a more serious indicator than actions that are more remote (e.g., shooting, poisoning, hitting with a car).
- Absence of an economic motive suggests that the act itself was sufficiently rewarding to the perpetrator.
- The animal victim was sexually assaulted or mutilated, or the perpetrator indicated sexual arousal as a consequence of the abuse.
- Many serial rapists and sexual homicide perpetrators report sexual arousal through violent dominance of animals. Erotic violence toward animals should be considered a warning sign for more generalized violence.
- The perpetrator documented the incident through photos, videos, or diary entries; the perpetrator returned to the scene of the abuse to relive the experience.
- The documentation of cruelty indicates that acts of violence are a continuing source of pleasure for the perpetrator and may indicate the likelihood of re-enactment, repetition or escalation of violence to reach the same rewarding emotional state.
- The animal victim was posed or otherwise displayed
- This indicates the use of violence to gain feelings of power and domination or to alarm or intimidate others. It should be considered a serious warning sign of potential for escalated or repeated violence

Article provided by the National Link Coalition.

HOW ARE ANIMAL ABUSE AND FAMILY VIOLENCE LINKED?



The connection between interpersonal violence and animal abuse is commonly referred to as "the Link."

Animal abuse and family violence are usually perceived and treated as separate issues, handled independently by animal care & control or human services agencies that until recently have had little incentive to work together. Professionals in all these fields are not surprised when they learn that often they are dealing with the same families, the same perpetrators, and the same overarching problems. Where animal abuse used to be trivialized by people saying, "It's only a dog!" or "Boys will be boys!", leaders now recognize that cruelty, abuse or neglect in any form should be taken seriously. Animal maltreatment is often "the tip of the iceberg" and the first warning sign of an individual or family in trouble. Knowing that these forms of family violence are linked, it is important that the agencies involved understand their role in communicating, collaborating, and reporting with each other.

Violence towards humans or animals can take the form of physical, sexual or emotional abuse or neglect. While most animal cruelty investigations involve unintentional neglect, many uncover intentional neglect and abuse. All cases have the potential to be connected to other forms of violence or dysfunction in the home, and animal control officers and humane law investigators are often "first responders" and the first point of contact for a family in need of assistance.

How are animal abuse and other family violence linked?

In domestic violence, child abuse and elder abuse cases, actual or threatened animal abuse can be a way for the abuser to silence victims about the incident or to prevent them from leaving a violent relationship. Abusers kill, hurt or threaten animals to exert power over the human victims and to show them what could happen to them. Killing a family pet can eliminate a source of comfort and support for the human victim. Sometimes the victims themselves abuse animals, either to protect the animal from worse harm or to displace their hostility towards their abuser.

Hoarding of excess numbers of animals, especially by elders, has been linked to a wide range of mental illnesses, illegal criminal activities, and public health and safety problems demanding the concerted, coordinated efforts of multiple municipal agencies.

Dog fighting is an insidious problem that has been linked to guns, gangs, drugs, and gambling. Children are often exposed to this toxic environment, further desensitizing them to violence and drawing them away from the healing powers of empathy.

Many elders try to provide loving care for their pets, but lack the financial resources, transportation, or physical capability to do so. As a result, either many companion animals suffer, or the animals are well-maintained but the person neglects her or his own well-being.

The emotional impact upon impressionable children who witness or perpetrate acts of animal cruelty can be lifelong and devastating.

What Does The Link Look Like?

Animal abuse is "the tip of the iceberg": the way animals are regarded in a family is a window into interpersonal relationships and family dynamics. Investigators who find animal cruelty, abuse or neglect are rarely surprised to see other issues lurking beneath the surface.

Animal abuse is part of an inter-generational cycle of violence. Children living in homes with domestic violence and animal abuse absorb unhealthy attitudes and family norms ... and hand these values down to their own children when they grow up.

Animal abuse is a form of power and control used to manipulate, intimidate, and retaliate against others in domestic violence. It is one part of the Duluth Model of Power and Control used widely in the domestic violence field. When animals are abused, people are at risk; when people are abused, animals are at risk. Increasing awareness of the link is encouraging legislators, community agencies, and caring people to take action by giving greater importance to suspected animal abuse, knowing that they may be also preventing other forms of violence.

Article provided by the National Link Coalition

CAN ANIMALS BE USED TO TREAT CHILDREN WHO ABUSE THEM?

By Allison Bokitch B.A., MA — Psych
Owner/Operator KENRO Dog Training Services & Registered Golden Retrievers
www.kenrodogtraining.com

Being an individual who works professionally with children and youth in a mental health capacity, as well as an active volunteer providing pet visitations and therapy, the question of treating children who abuse animals with animals has sparked some discussion. Pet therapy and animal assisted therapy has become a huge phenomenon and is portrayed sometimes as a “quick fix” for challenges that are very intense. This is not always the case. Many times when discussing this issue, the immediate response from clinicians, doctors, social workers, parents, and caregivers is “absolutely not!” They do not want to see animals being hurt by these individuals any more than what has occurred in the past. Typically one would side with this thought and it would make sense in theory; however, in my experience, there are cases in that the use of animals, primarily dogs, can work with children who have harmed animals previously.

In my experience, children who hurt animals are doing it as a way to express themselves or repeat what they have seen or endured themselves. Children often lack the ability to express themselves appropriately so we see their behaviour as a reflection of what has gone on, or is going on, in their environment. Most of the time when asking a child if they like animals they respond positively and appear to have no negativity towards them. Similarly, when asking a child why they hurt animals they don't usually have a concrete reason. Animals, primarily dogs, are very useful in helping children to understand emotions and to regulate them as well. Many times with children who have abused animals there is no emotional intelligence to the world around them and sometimes almost appear flat or ignorant toward emotions. Many of us can immediately identify with what happy feels like and looks like – and even go one step further and empathize should someone not look this way or act this way. Children in these situations have either endured much abuse themselves to where all of the emotional intelligence is gone or they never had healthy emotions in the first place and thus do not know what any of those emotions look or feel like. Even though it's hard to believe, some children simply don't know how it is to feel happy or loved or excited and we find them doing inappropriate things to others or animals because that's all they know.

Bringing a dog in to work with a child who has abused them in the past carries a few rules and boundaries. Firstly, the child is never to be left alone with the dog so as to alleviate the chance of any harm to the dog or the child due to inappropriate behaviour on the child's part and the dog reacting. Children who experience anxiety are more likely to have increased behavioural challenges. The undesirable behaviour typically increases when the anxiety they experience increases. A dog is only introduced into a therapeutic setting once some conventional work has been done and tried. The clinician really needs to get to know their client and evaluate if using an animal is a good option in the treatment plan.

Although these cases don't come up on a daily basis, the ones I have been involved in were successful. The child learned how to regulate emotions and act appropriately, but no success

would have occurred had they not been introduced into a stable nurturing environment. I have learned that these two things go hand in hand. In order for change to happen in this child's life, there needs to be a support team to help them along and that dog just may be one of the necessary supports to make progress.

Time and time again, many will ask what exactly does that dog do to help with all these complex emotional deficiencies? It seems almost like an impossible task for a dog to be used in a situation where the treatment piece is usually screaming for multitudes of professionals to intervene. However, the simplistic and non-judgemental way a dog approaches humans is the best tool around in working with kids who fall victim of emotional dysfunction. Dogs see you for who you are: nothing less, nothing more. If a dog doesn't like something you are doing, he will let you know in usually very subtle yet simple ways and those ways are what the clinician has to help the child identify with. Once work has been done with the dog and the child is progressing to more complex emotions, and they can identify those in the dog, all those skills are then transferred to identifying the same in humans. The dog is used as a catalyst to get the process going with a tool that basically has a clean slate and can just be who they are every single encounter. Children then start to learn what they get in return from the dog if their behaviour is appropriate or they learn what they need to do and empathize with what needs to be done should a problem arise.

Treatment of this nature has proven to be successful, but not in every situation. Factors such as an unskilled clinician or untrained dog are the biggest reason for failure. Having an unwilling client also has an impact, but usually this type of treatment isn't used should the client not want to participate. In other cases the use of dog may be because the clinician is struggling to find something that works or gets through to the client. Therapy or treatment can be very effective using a dog, but the bottom line is both parties have to be willing and the dog being used has to be well trained and exposed to many different social settings and situations.



THE LINK CREATES A NEED FOR ANIMAL SAFEKEEPING PROGRAMS

There has been a lot of attention about Saskatchewan having the highest rates of domestic violence rates in Canada recently. In fact our province is double the national average. The concern is for all victims of domestic violence. Usually we think of the children, but what about the animals? There is a strong correlation between animal abuse and domestic violence -- this relationship is often referred to as *The Link*. Studies show that one form of violence does not happen in isolation from another.

Pets are used as a way of controlling and intimidating the victims. It is another tool for the aggressors to prevent the victim from leaving the relationship. Domestic violence does not happen to just one member of the family; it affects all the members in the household. When children are exposed to animal abuse they are eight times more likely to continue the cycle of violence and become perpetrators themselves. And in the case of animal abuse, when domestic violence is involved, this happens in front of the children 75% of the time.

A history of pet abuse is a strong indicator of who will possibly become a batterer in the future. By understanding the connection between domestic violence and animal abuse this allows earlier intervention with the family and hopefully earlier support.

These domestic violence situations result in the need for animal safekeeping programs. The Saskatchewan SPCA has hired Leanne Sillers as our Animal Safekeeping Coordinator. Leanne is working to improve animal safekeeping services and supports in the province.

Funding for the Saskatchewan SPCA's Animal Safekeeping Program has been provided by the Community Initiatives Fund (CIF).

The CIF invests in the quality of life of Saskatchewan residents by offering grants for community projects that help support community development, inclusion, leadership and vitality.



SASKATCHEWAN SPCA 2017 SUMMER CASH LOTTERY WINNERS LIST

DRAW DATE	NAME	ADDRESS	AMOUNT	TICKET NUMBER
June 19, 2017	Frank Masich	Saskatoon	\$1,000.00	16084
July 1, 2017	Merv Doroshenko	North Battleford	\$200.00	04934
July 2, 2017	Susan Parish	Imperial	\$200.00	06669
July 3, 2017	Joe & Lucy Roske	Regina	\$200.00	10870
July 4, 2017	William Stewart	Prince Albert	\$200.00	11540
July 5, 2017	Roxane Rommel	Eagle Ridge	\$500.00	14295
July 6, 2017	Ed Desgagnes	Kuroki	\$200.00	16006
July 7, 2017	Lana Auzenne	Regina Beach	\$200.00	10036
July 8, 2017	Donna Leigh	Eyebrow	\$200.00	04998
July 9, 2017	Dorothy Chickowski	Fort Qu'Appelle	\$200.00	17081
July 10, 2017	Ruben Weinheimer	Langenburg	\$200.00	17616
July 11, 2017	Donna Lozinsky	Saskatoon	\$200.00	17856
July 12, 2017	William Stewart	Prince Albert	\$500.00	11537
July 13, 2017	Cecilia Desjardins	Calder	\$200.00	09716
July 14, 2017	Celine Heyden	Leoville	\$200.00	14847
July 15, 2017	Walter Coba	Canora	\$200.00	15677
July 16, 2017	Courtney & Terry Lavoie	Blaine Lake	\$200.00	10923
July 17, 2017	Terry-Jo Bishop	Cut Knife	\$200.00	15530
July 18, 2017	Herb Holoien	Melfort	\$200.00	15101
July 19, 2017	Ken & Georgia Dangstorp	Oxbow	\$500.00	17886
July 20, 2017	Cindy Ingram	St. Walburg	\$200.00	06986
July 21, 2017	Douglas Riendeau	Riverhurst	\$200.00	13940
July 22, 2017	Delphine Gelowitz	Esterhazy	\$200.00	10895
July 23, 2017	Michael McLean	Regina	\$200.00	03369
July 24, 2017	Wendy Kowbel	Saskatoon	\$200.00	16606
July 25, 2017	Colette Bussiere	Spiritwood	\$200.00	18230
July 26, 2017	Allen & Marsha Dawe	Invermay	\$500.00	06756
July 27, 2017	Leo Wieggers	North Battleford	\$200.00	14913
July 28, 2017	Cheryl Pelchat	Shell Lake	\$200.00	07805
July 29, 2017	Carm & Alex Moroz	Nipawin	\$200.00	06271
July 30, 2017	Rhonda Kirkness	Saskatoon	\$200.00	16725
July 31, 2017	Bev Leshchyshyn	Wynyard	\$15,000.00	16345
July 31, 2017	Rosemarie Schmaltz	Sceptre	\$5,000.00	12839
July 31, 2017	Leah Murphy	Yorkton	\$21,257.50	F007129

WITH LOVE

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

The following individuals have donated in memory of a loved one:

- Friends and family in memory of Alan Glasrud
- Friends and family in memory of Alice Lang
- Friends and family in memory of Kathy Weinrauch
- Friends and family in memory of Brent Richmond
- Vi Werchola in memory of Diesel, the great Dane
- Jim Bilokreli in memory of "pets Cleo, Cookie, and Lucky"
- Lorna Foster in memory of Spunkee
- Friends and family in memory of Walter Weir
- Lois Elder in memory of Ken Elder
- Mike Devaney in memory of Emma
- Parkland Fuel Corp in memory of Lois Wog
- Ms. Donna Yelland in memory "of all my pets in Heaven"

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

PARTNER SPOTLIGHT



Provincial Association of Transition Houses and Services of Saskatchewan (PATHS) is the member association for twenty-one member agencies that provide intimate partner violence (IPV) services across Saskatchewan. Our members are women's shelters (also known as domestic violence shelters, safe shelters, transition houses, or interval houses), second stage shelters, and counselling centres that offer counselling and support to survivors of IPV.

PATHS office is located in Regina and has 2.5 staff members (two full-time positions and one part-time). PATHS has worked on issues related to violence against women and supported our member agencies in the sheltering movement for over 30 years. PATHS' vision is a society free from violence. PATHS' mission is to collaborate with PATHS members, and to provide research, program development, awareness, and education on interpersonal violence to all. PATHS staff regularly speak to the media and consult with legislators and partners on issues of violence in Saskatchewan. PATHS offers training to member agencies, other professionals, and the public.

Current funded projects include: *Intimate Partner Violence & the Workplace* (funded by Status of Women Canada) and *Nato'we ho win* (funded by the Public Health Agency of Canada). PATHS partners with Research and Education for Solutions to Violence and Abuse (RESOLVE), Saskatchewan Towards Offering Partnership Solutions (STOPS) to Violence, Sexual Assault Services of Saskatchewan (SASS), and the Saskatchewan SPCA on an ongoing basis.

More information can be found on PATHS' website: pathssk.org



Saskatchewan Towards Offering Partnership Solutions (STOPS) to Violence is a province wide network built on partnerships, information sharing and education to promote healthy relationships and build strong, peaceful communities. Our network is made up of community organizations, government partners, service providers and individuals from across the province. We share the common vision of a healthy, vibrant Saskatchewan where all people are valued equally and live free from violence and abuse.

Through our province wide partnership, we promote healthy relationships and strong, safe, violence free communities. We celebrate the unique contribution of every person and value the experience, knowledge and resources that everyone brings to our network.

We are pleased to partner with many groups across the province to enhance capacity, increase awareness and develop initiatives to address interpersonal violence and abuse. These initiatives include our Kids Matter program, Engaging Young Leaders, and our work with the Saskatchewan SPCA related to the link between interpersonal violence and animal abuse and developing animal safekeeping supports in Saskatchewan. Many thanks to the staff and volunteers of the Saskatchewan SPCA for your dedication to improving the safety and wellness of both animals and humans across our province!

For more information about STOPS to Violence, go to www.stopstoviolence.com

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE: CONCERNED ABOUT YOUR CLIENT AND WANT TO HELP?

*By Erin Wasson, MSW, RSW
First printed in SVMA News, May 2017 issue*

Follow the guidelines published by the Animal Welfare Foundation (AWF) A.V.D.R.:

- **A=ASK**

While daunting, many people want to be asked about domestic violence and this may mark the first time that anyone has shown interest or sympathy towards them. The AWF recommends soft opening questions like “sometimes when I see injuries such as this it means the animal has been hurt by someone they live with. Is this possible?”

- **V=Validate**

Follows ‘the ask’ and provides support and empathy. Statements that are helpful include: “I am concerned for your welfare and safety” or “It’s not okay to be hit or hurt” and may provide comfort and encourage a survivor of violence to access help.

- **D=Document**

Documenting and noting the facts helps to ensure that the appropriate history and presenting concerns are properly recorded. Cases of animal welfare may come before the courts and if a survivor of violence discloses information about abuse in the home this should be recorded in their private record.

- **R= Report/Refer**

A veterinarian’s main responsibility is to the animals in their care. However, it is appropriate to encourage the human counterpart to seek help by having resources ready that outline domestic violence support services available in your area.

(AWF, n.d.)

Other potentially helpful actions include:

- Ensure the client’s pet’s medical records are all in the client’s name.
- Place a note at the front of the record indicating safety concerns – that ensures information is not accidentally released to the abuser.
- If the pet is not registered with a town or city, encourage the client to register the pet in their name.
- Consider whether as a practitioner you have anything that might help prove that the abuser has hurt the animal (e.g. veterinary bills, records, or photographs).
- Help the client safely plan for their animal as a part of exiting a violent relationship by having resources readily available and familiarize yourself with resources in your community (e.g. Animal Safekeeping, Free counselling services, crisis intervention services).
- Familiarize yourself with information on the links between human and animal violence.
- Report suspected animal abuse and get to know your local animal protection supports before you have a problem.
- As noted by the Saskatchewan Veterinary Medical Association (2016) “reporting (animal abuse) is not yet mandatory in Saskatchewan”; however, “the Saskatchewan law already provides immunity from prosecution to veterinarians who report suspicion of abuse in good faith” (para. 3). Additionally, “the duty to report overrides professional confidentiality codes when there is reason to believe an animal is being abused or neglected” (SVMA, 2016, para. 5).

Remember, as a veterinarian you are not expected to be an expert in domestic violence. This information is only intended to help guide clients towards resources available to them. **At no point should the veterinarian become involved in counselling the survivor, nor is it your responsibility to report the abuse without the survivor’s consent.**

References

Animal Welfare Foundation (n.d.) Recognising abuse in animals and humans: A short guide for the veterinary team. Retrieved from https://www.bva-awf.org.uk/sites/bva-awf.org.uk/files/user/20160415_awf_links_12pp_v11_web.pdf

Saskatchewan Veterinary Medical Association (2016). Saskatchewan veterinarians: When you suspect animal abuse or neglect [Pamphlet]. Saskatchewan: Saskatchewan Veterinary Medical Association

THE SASKATCHEWAN SPCA 2017 LINK CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

DAY ONE: THURSDAY, SEPT. 21

7:30 – 8:30 AM	Registration & Breakfast	
8:30 AM	Opening and welcome, day 1	
8:45 – 10:15 AM	The Link Between Human and Animal Abuse: An overview Dr. Randall Lockwood, ASPCA	
10:15 – 10:45 AM	Refreshment break	
10:45 AM – noon <i>Concurrent sessions</i>	Recognizing Animal Abuse: Kaley Pugh, Animal Protection Services	Recognizing Interpersonal Violence and Abuse: Kirsten Lawson
Noon – 1 PM	Lunch break	
1 – 2 PM	Knowing the Law: Legislative tools to protect animals and humans: Kaley Pugh (Animal Protection Services) and Rod McKendrick (Victims Services - Regina)	
2:00 – 2:30 PM	Refreshment break	
2:30 – 3:30 PM	The Human-Animal Bond in Theory and Practice: Dr. Darlene Chalmers, University of Regina Faculty of Social Work	
3:30 – 4:30 PM	Trauma, Secondary Trauma and the Need for a Self-Care Plan: Dwayne Yasinowski, Regina Palliative Care	
4:30 PM	Close of day 1	

DAY TWO: FRIDAY, SEPT. 22

7:30 – 8:30 AM	Registration & Breakfast	
8:30 AM	Opening and welcome, day 2	
8:45 – 10 AM	Implementing Change: The next steps in addressing the link Dr. Randall Lockwood, ASPCA	
10 – 10:30 AM	Refreshment break	
10:30 AM – noon <i>Concurrent sessions</i>	Establishing a Collaborative Coalition to Provide Pet Safekeeping and Other Assistance to Domestic Violence Victims in Alberta: Tim Battle	Promising Practices: What exactly does a veterinary social worker do?: Erin Wasson, Western College of Veterinary Medicine
Noon – 1 PM	Lunch break	
1-2 PM	Working Together: Steps, tools and processes to build and sustain effective intersectoral partnerships: Tracy Knutson, STOPS to Violence	
2 – 2:30 PM	Refreshment break	
2:30 – 4 PM	Identifying Saskatchewan-based Resources and Options, including an update on animal safekeeping resources: Tracy Knutson (STOPS to Violence) and Leanne Sillers (Saskatchewan SPCA)	
4 PM	Conference close/wrap up	