

Animal Kind



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Connecting With Partners — A Message from our Executive Director

I was so pleased to be able to attend the Alberta Municipalities Convention recently in Red Deer. Community leaders from across the province were there to share knowledge and debate several resolutions they hoped the Association could shepherd for them.

While there, I also met with local leaders from Airdrie as they were proposing a resolution to bring changes to the *Animal Protection Act* (APA) to ensure it is robust, relevant and responsive to the animal welfare challenges we currently see in Alberta. This is something our organization has been working toward as well.

Unfortunately there were so many resolutions, Airdrie's didn't make it to the floor for debate.

Partners... ..cont'd on page 6.



Celebrating 65

Our work is needed now more than ever

In the 1950s there were several organizations in Alberta working to improve the lives of animals in the province. However, for each, their focus was regional; no organization had a mandate to speak for animals across the entire province, and without that, the Alberta Government was unwilling to enact animal welfare legislation.

With that in mind, two gentlemen — Archie Bruce and Zeke Young — accepted the challenge to eliminate that obstacle. The tireless work of these animal welfare pioneers led to the incorporation of the Alberta Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals — the Alberta SPCA — on September 10, 1959, ensuring there was finally a province-wide focus for animals, including livestock.

While the incorporation of the Alberta SPCA was a historic moment, it would take another eight years before *An Act for the Protection of Animals in Distress* would become law on July 1, 1967. Alberta SPCA leadership played a major role in getting the legislation in place, and our organization has been just as involved each time the Act has been updated over the past 65 years, including the current version of the *Animal Protection Act* which became law in 2006.

Celebrating 65...

...cont'd on page 3.



Sharing our Knowledge of Animal Welfare

There are more than 500 community peace officers in Alberta who enforce both provincial statutes and local bylaws in their communities. And while many of these officers can enforce the *Animal Protection Act* (APA), for most, it's a small part of their job. On the other hand, for Alberta SPCA Peace Officers, enforcing animal welfare legislation is their only responsibility.

This is why our team members are regularly asked to share their knowledge of animal welfare, whether it's advice on how to proceed with an investigation under the APA, or explaining the circumstances in which an animal may be considered to be in distress. Recently, our Provincial Supervisor for Animal Protection Services, Karen Stevenson, was invited to be a guest lecturer at the University of Alberta for their Animal Welfare class. She shared stories of her daily experiences investigating animals in distress and gave students an overview of how and why animals end up in compromising situations. Later this month, Peace Officer Stevenson will also speak to new recruits at the Community Peace Officer Induction Program at the Lac La Biche County Law Enforcement Training Centre so that new community peace officers have some basic knowledge of how to manage animals during their daily duties.

Alberta SPCA Peace Officers work all over the province, and they're responsible for understanding the health and behavioural needs of numerous species including livestock, companion pets, and exotics such as reptiles and birds. When our team members collaborate with others in the animal welfare sector, animals, and their caregivers benefit, and we are happy to share our knowledge and experience whenever asked.



Peace Officer Stevenson speaking to U of A students about her work protecting animals.

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To find out more about the work we do for animals across Alberta, visit our website at: AlbertaSPCA.org.

Celebrating 65...

Currently, the animal welfare community in Alberta is in crisis. Economic pressures mean fewer people can afford pets, and animal owners are finding it more difficult to find housing that will allow animals. On top of that, natural disasters such as floods and wildfires add even more stress to the system. There are too many animals and not enough families looking to adopt them.

Just like in the 1950s, our Alberta SPCA leadership is ready to tackle the challenges before us, including pushing for updates to the legislation to reflect the current state of animal welfare in our province. We also believe strong animal control bylaws in municipalities can play a significant role in helping manage populations, especially when it comes to how many pets someone can have. Without these bylaws, it's too easy for small issues to turn into big problems as we've seen numerous times already this year.

...cont'd from front page.



Rescue dog Poppy indulges in a specially made cake for our canine friends.



Alberta SPCA 65th Anniversary event - Sept. 10, 2024

Last month we celebrated our milestone 65th anniversary of speaking on behalf of Alberta's animals with a small event at our Edmonton head office. While it's important to acknowledge the past, we're not dwelling on it. We're looking to the future as there's too much work to get done.

Back to School for Dogs in Our Care



Heading back to school is an exciting, although anxious, time for many. For us, a dozen canines in our care had their own back-to-school jitters as we transported them to Northwestern Polytechnic in Fairview this fall. The 12 dogs are spending time with the students in the Animal Sciences program, a partnership that helps us, the college and, of course, the animals.

A key component of this field trip for the dogs is some much-needed behavioural training. These dogs, like so many that come into our care, came from circumstances where they did not have much interaction with people. And unfortunately, when a dog's social skills are lacking, especially large breed dogs, it's difficult to place them with a sheltering partner to be rehomed. While these dogs are up north, the students in the Veterinary Technology Program are working on some of the basics such as walking on a leash and obedience training through positive reinforcement.

...cont'd on page 6.

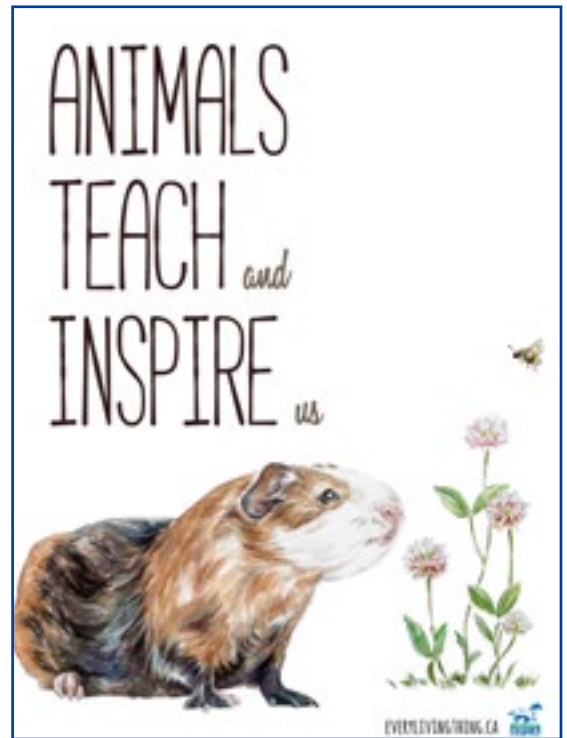
Learning from Animals – Theme for this Year

We teach our animals many things, but have you ever thought about how much animals teach us? Animals can teach us patience, determination and love. They can inspire us to solve problems, consider others and be kinder people. Caring for animals also helps young people develop responsibility and empathy, skills that can be applied to various aspects of their lives.

Our theme this year is ‘Animals Teach and Inspire Us.’ The poster is available in both English and French and has once again been designed by Edmonton watercolour painter, Gloria Ho.

To accompany the poster, a comprehensive, cross-curricular resource with a focus on social emotional learning has been developed.

Encourage the teachers you know to sign up for our e-newsletter to have the poster mailed right to their school for free. The e-newsletter contains information, ideas and resources to help foster empathy and compassion for animals, people and the environment – throughout the school year! To sign up for the e-newsletter visit everylivingthing.ca.



Humane Educators of Alberta Workshop

The Alberta SPCA Education team facilitated a meeting in September of humane educators from humane societies, SPCAs and wildlife organizations across Alberta. Educators from the Alberta Society of Injured Birds of Prey, Calgary Humane Society, Calgary Wildlife, Central Alberta Humane Society, Edmonton Humane Society and Medicine River Wildlife Centre gathered in Red Deer to share ideas and explore ways to elevate humane education efforts throughout the province.



Alberta SPCA Education Department staff members Melissa & Don (5th and 6th from the left), along with other humane educators at their meeting in Red Deer

This was the first time in many years that these organizations gathered to learn more about each other’s education programs and discuss ways to collaborate more effectively moving forward. The group plans to meet regularly and welcome other animal welfare agencies to join to broaden their reach.

The primary goal of this group of educators is to share expertise, collaborate on shared goals and work together to help build a more compassionate Alberta.

Partners...**...cont'd from front page.**

That's not because it's seen as unimportant, Alberta communities just have so many challenges right now they need more help than ever before.

So, the resolution about updating the APA will now go to the Alberta Municipalities' Board for further consideration, and hopefully will be identified as an issue important enough to warrant taking to the provincial government.

Whatever the outcome, focusing on improving legislation protecting animals from distress is going to be a priority for me and my team going forward. The APA hasn't been updated since 2006, and so much has changed since then.

When I talk to counterparts across the country, I learn about how they're updating and changing legislation in their regions, and it brings me hope that we won't have to recreate the wheel when it comes to changes here.

We need to do more as a community to protect the animals in our care, be them companions or livestock. But all of this comes at great cost. We're seeing unprecedented challenges in the animal welfare community across the board, from shelter to veterinary fees, and no lowering of the numbers of animals who need our care.

So, thank you for all you do to support us. You wouldn't be receiving this newsletter if you weren't part of our community.

I hope you enjoy reading the stories of what we've been up to the last few months, and please, if you can contribute, financially or through adoption, or fostering with one of our partners, please do.

Thanks again,

Leanne and Hope

**Back to School...****...cont'd from front page.**

Another aspect of the back-to-school journey involves health care for the animals. Some of the dogs will receive spay or neuter surgeries in the second semester of classes, as well as some other basic health care. This provides hands-on learning opportunities for the college students while ensuring the animals receive important veterinary care at a substantial cost saving to our organization.



The college students from Northwestern Polytechnic will eventually graduate and work in veterinary clinics across the province, and we are thrilled we can assist in their education in this small way.



The dogs too, will complete their studies, and while they will not receive a diploma, their new life skills will serve them well as they move on to live their best lives with new families.

IN LOVING MEMORY

Arnold Scheetz, Garry R. & Rosalie Brewster
Bart the Beagle, Terry Kochut
Bau Cove, Derek Weisbeck
Bean and Scandy, James & Colleen McIlroy
Bella, Manjit Dhensa
Bella, Helen Groschl
Beryl Lukaniuk, Laurie Healey, Fran Perrin, Sharon Saito, Coral Lukaniuk & Kim Croisdale
Betty Walsh, Natalie Prytuluk
Betty Willems, Cheryl McRae
Bonnie Olsen-LeBlanc, Elaine Hale & Rod Hale
Brenda, E. Beulah Evans
Brian Dale Jahn, Robert Avery & Leonora Avery
Bryna Clarke, Sydney Deitch
Cameron Hantiuk, Shelly Wold
Candy, Tracy Wadden & Stan Wadden
Carmen, Sheri Nazarko
Casey Reynolds, Julie Reynolds
Charlie McCutcheon, Cheryl Proppe
Chris Steadman, Beverly Steadman
Christine Ann Steadman, Peter Choy, Julie Durand
Clover, Edwin Reinsch
Cody Bay, David Mielke, Joan Mielke
Dale Clowes, Trevor Vollrath, Benjamin Gross
Don Hamilton, Diane Josephison
Donald Johnston, Amalgamated Transit Union Local 583
Elaine MacMillan, Barbara Jowett
Eleanor May Cattoni, Delia Bagno
Fatima Shivji, Sarah Beltran

Felix, Allen Gitelman
Frank, Tracy Wadden & Stan Wadden
Futie, Connie Smart
Gail Wright, Karen Lavoie
Gauge, Justin Cross
George Hinrichs, Michelle Hinrichs
Gerald Deyell, Kathy Deyell
Ghost and Ginger, Elizabeth Hale
Grant Allen, Barbara Leedham
Greg Scheurwater, Juliette Henley
Harriet Moore, Kris & Sheryl Bay
Irene Carey Donaldson, Dianne Bohaichuk
Jeremy Jagodzinski, Valerie Pratt, Mike Cooper, Daniel & Margaret Miller, Cops for Cancer Ironteam
Jodi Chernoff, Cheryl Cleeve
Joey, Stephanie Carvalho
June Johnson, Cathie Stach
Katie Shaw, Olive Sydor
Keke, Tanya MacDonald
Kenneth Howard Rud, Dale Howard
Laurie Plitt, Stephanie Gordon
Leo, Michele Nanchoff
Linda Klapp, Amanda Klapp
Linda Robbins, Seana Mullen
Lucky, Cecile & Ralph E Atkinson
Macy McMillian, Marilyn Hooper & Tom Emmens
Marion deMan, Heather Colling
Marshall, Elizabeth Farrugia
Marvin Dewart, Trevor Steinke, Gillian Starky
Molly, Johanne Jansons
Morrie C. Parmenter, Lenore Nimmons
Mrs. Reid, Sharon Lewis

Oliver Andrews, Anne Andrews
Patricia (Patti) McEwen, Tung Lei Yeung
Peggy Olafson, Shelley Jankovic
Pretzel & Bandette, Dwayne Steil
Quill, Angela Wu
Randy Dean Drysdale, George Cvorak
Rhonda Gaye Kropf, Karl Kropf
Richard Davies, Theron Schultz
Richard Schmidt, Marina Wirries
Ryder, Cecile & Ralph E Atkinson
Shannon Weatherhead-McCoy, Ebony Verbonac, Gary Elliott, Astro Insurance
Stephanie and her Dogs, Elzbieta Kaminska
Stephanie Laird, Doug Pasnak, Eric Strand, Tracy Dyer, Jennifer Graham Metcalf, Calgary 4th Ave Keg Steakhouse
Summer, Shawna Turner
Susan Altine Rubak, Simon D Hunt Realty Group
Terra, Donna & Terry Crowe
Tessie the Greyhound, Teri King
Tom Cripps, Angela Cripps
Tro Randall Mouck, Jeff Lowey
Trudy Mottern, Patrick Shea, Meryle Kester, Trish Hardy, Fred Woolridge
Turtle, Alem Sium
Uma Dargan, Bernard Florence
Wally DeLuca, Kari Honeyman
Walter Jaburek, Marilyn Dumkee, Byron Reynolds, Janet Hussey, Victoria Cherniak
Wendy May Armeneau, Michelle Armeneau
Zeus, Shona Potts

Tribute Donations can be made in memory of people or animals at any time by cheque or on our website:

AlbertaSPCA.org



Thank You Pet Memorial Program Participating Veterinary Clinics

Harvest Pointe Animal Hospital
Range Road Veterinary Clinic
Foothills Animal Hospital



ANIMALKIND RESPONSE FORM

Fall 2024

If you believe Animal Protection, Education and Pet Safekeeping are vital to preventing animal neglect and abuse, please support the Alberta SPCA's programs by making a donation.

Help us help the animals by filling out this form and mailing it to:

Alberta SPCA, 17904 118 Avenue NW, Edmonton, AB T5S 2W3, or visit us at AlbertaSPCA.org.

Name _____

Address _____

City/Town _____ Postal Code _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Donations and Memberships

Become a Monthly Donor

YES! I support the Alberta SPCA's province-wide Animal Protection, Education and Pet Safekeeping programs.

Enclosed is a donation of \$ _____
(Income tax receipts are automatically issued for donations of \$10 or more.)

I would like to renew my membership or become a member of the Alberta SPCA:

- \$15 student/senior \$20 Individual
- \$30 senior family \$35 family

I'm paying by:

- Cheque Credit card: VISA Amex
- MasterCard

\$ _____ membership + \$ _____ donation = \$ _____ (total)

Cardholder Name _____

Card Number _____

Expiry _____ / _____

Signature _____

I authorize the Alberta SPCA to deduct \$ _____ from my bank account* or credit card on the 1st day of each month or the next business day. I understand that I can change or cancel this monthly donation at any time, subject to providing written notice of 15 days or more.

Signature _____

Date _____

Please withdraw this monthly amount from my:

- Bank Account *(attach a cheque marked VOID)*
- Credit card: VISA MasterCard Amex

Cardholder Name _____

Card Number _____

Expiry _____ / _____

Signature _____