



## Improving Animal Protection Through Effective Prohibition Orders

When it comes to protecting animals from ongoing neglect, court-ordered prohibitions are one of the most powerful tools available. Under Alberta's *Animal Protection Act*, judges can prohibit individuals convicted of permitting an animal to be in distress from owning, caring for, or even living with animals. These orders can be tailored to specific species, limit the number of animals allowed, or ban all animal contact for a set period – even for life.

While prohibition orders are critical for preventing further distress, their effectiveness depends on clear and specific language. Orders that lack sufficient detail are difficult to enforce, which can leave animals at risk.

To address this, the Alberta SPCA has prioritized building strong working relationships with Crown prosecutors. By collaborating closely, we help ensure prohibition orders are written with clarity and precision.

One of our most significant successes came in a recent case involving a woman who was irresponsibly breeding dogs – ultimately pleading guilty to allowing animals to be in distress. In this instance, the Crown prosecutor worked directly with our Animal Protection team to craft a comprehensive and enforceable prohibition order.

The resulting 10-year order prohibits the woman from owning, possessing, controlling, boarding, breeding, or residing with any animal – except for one dog and one horse. The dog must be spayed or neutered, with proof of surgery provided to our peace officers. If the condition is not met, our peace officers have the authority to seize the animal without a warrant.

Crucially, the order also grants Alberta SPCA peace officers the right to enter the woman's residence to inspect living conditions throughout the prohibition period. If they find any animals beyond the allowed one dog or one horse – or if any animal is found in distress – our peace officers can act immediately, without needing a warrant.

These inspection rights are essential. Without them, our peace officers would have no legal means to verify compliance or ensure the individual hasn't returned to breeding animals in secret. Breaching a court order is a Criminal Code offence, and enforcement of the Criminal Code falls to the police – not to the Alberta SPCA. This makes judicially granted inspection rights a more practical way for our peace officers to follow up after a conviction.

In every case we investigate, our goal is the same: to protect animals and prevent future suffering. Well-crafted prohibition orders empower us to continue that work even after the court case has concluded. They close enforcement gaps, eliminate ambiguity, and equip our peace officers with the tools they need to ensure animals remain safe – now and into the future.

# New Director of Animal Protection Services

We are pleased to announce that Nancy Simmons has been hired as the new director of Animal Protection Services. Early in her career, she served as a peace officer with our Animal Protection team, investigating animal welfare complaints.

A registered veterinary technologist, Nancy has also held investigative and regulatory enforcement roles with the Alberta Veterinary Medical Association (ABVMA) and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA). Her background includes working collaboratively with enforcement agencies such as the RCMP and Livestock Inspection Services.

Our director of communications, Dan Kobe, sat down with Nancy to discuss her decision to return to the Alberta SPCA and her vision for the future.

**Dan:** Hi Nancy, welcome back. What was it about the position that enticed you back to the Alberta SPCA?

**Nancy:** I've always had a passion for animals, and my career has been dedicated to improving the welfare of both companion animals and livestock. While working at the CFIA, I saw so many opportunities for the Alberta SPCA, CFIA, and other animal welfare organizations to collaborate in ways that would truly benefit animals. Given my experience, I felt I could help bridge those groups and bring them together to make a real difference.

**Dan:** There is always talk about modernizing Alberta's *Animal Protection Act*. What changes would you like to see?

**Nancy:** One area that stands out is the definition of "distress." We often come across situations where animals are clearly not in good condition, but because the legal definition of distress is quite narrow, we're limited in how we can respond. Adding language about basic sanitary conditions, for example, would strengthen our ability to act.

**Dan:** What is different now compared to your time as a peace officer earlier in your career?

**Nancy:** As I review case files, I'm still seeing the same kinds of animal distress situations we dealt with 20 years ago. And now, we're handling even more complaints, simply because Alberta's population has grown.

It feels like we're constantly reacting to problems instead of working proactively to prevent them. That's why collaboration is so important. By partnering with others in the animal welfare space, we can educate animal owners about appropriate care and hopefully reduce the number of distress complaints.

Animal caretakers have a serious responsibility. When someone chooses to bring animals into their life, they're accepting an obligation – one the animal didn't choose. The onus is on the caretaker to ensure their animals are treated with the respect they deserve, and that their needs are being met.

It's a big challenge, but I'm excited about the opportunity to help move the needle and make meaningful improvements to animal welfare in Alberta.



AnimalKind is published by the Alberta Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Alberta SPCA)

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To find out more about the work we do for animals across Alberta, visit our website at: [AlbertaSPCA.org](http://AlbertaSPCA.org). The mission of the Alberta SPCA is to protect, promote and enhance the well-being of animals in Alberta.

# New Stock Trailer Plays Big Role in Removing Horses from Property



It didn't take long for our new stock trailer to prove its worth.

Thanks to your incredible support during our 2024 Giving Tuesday campaign, we were able to raise an astonishing \$93,135 – well above our \$75,000 goal. Because of your generosity, we purchased a new stock trailer this spring, and it's already making a significant difference.

This trailer improves our ability to respond faster, reach more animals, and ensure safe transport. Its size and internal dividers make it possible to move multiple animals at once, even when they need separate space during transport.

And the trailer proved exceptionally useful in its first big test earlier this year.

We used the trailer to remove several horses from a property, including mares with their foals – all were in distress. Transport regulations stipulate mares and their foals must be transported together in the same compartment and separate from other horses. Thanks to the dividers in the new trailer, we were able to transport the animals safely in a single trip – which wouldn't have been possible with a small stock trailer.

Your generosity is transforming animal welfare in Alberta. Because of your support, we're better equipped to respond when animals need us. Thank you for helping save lives, provide care, and create better futures for animals across Alberta.

We look forward to sharing more updates from our Alberta SPCA peace officers as they continue using the trailer in the field. And, thanks to the funds raised beyond our initial goal, we are able to add even more emergency response tools – like a small cargo trailer and essential medical and safety equipment – to our resources.

Your impact is real. Your generosity is saving lives.



## Purchase Student-Designed T-Shirts!

This spring, the Alberta SPCA T-Shirt Design Contest encouraged students from across the province, through their original artwork, to showcase how animals have taught or inspired them. The entries were reviewed by a panel of Alberta artists and three winning designs were selected to be featured on Alberta SPCA T-shirts.

Congratulations to Laurel, a Grade 4 student from Edmonton, Marjorie, a Grade 6 student from Wetaskiwin, and Hattie, a Grade 8 student from St. Albert for having their artwork chosen from more than 90 entries!

Available in both youth and adult sizes, and a variety of colours, these student-designed T-shirts are now available to purchase. Proceeds support the Alberta SPCA's work helping animals across the province. To purchase yours, visit: [everylivingthing.ca/TshirtContest](http://everylivingthing.ca/TshirtContest).



## Building Connections and Leaving Lasting Impressions

As the school year winds down, it's a natural time to look back at the meaningful connections we've made with teachers, students and communities across Alberta.

This year's theme, 'Animals Teach and Inspire Us,' invited students to explore the lessons we learn from animals and the ways they inspire us. To support this, over 1,500 classroom posters were distributed to teachers and included a teacher's guide with ideas to spark curiosity and discussion.

Over five weeks in February and March we engaged directly with thousands of passionate teachers at seven conventions – discussing the importance of humane education and how it can be integrated into classroom learning. These events gave us an opportunity to hear how humane education is making a difference in schools and how we can keep growing it.



*Advancement Officer Justine chatting with a teacher at teachers' convention.*

In April, we connected with students and the public at Aggie Days in Calgary. This five-day annual event gives students the opportunity to learn more about agriculture in Alberta. More than 1,650 people took part in our interactive animal game, gaining insight into animal welfare, behaviour and safety.

Planning is currently underway for the 2025-2026 school year. A new theme will be developed, along with updated and newly created resources to reflect curriculum changes and foster compassion toward animals, people and the environment – every living thing.



*Volunteer, Alice, playing the animal game with students at Aggie Days.*



## Honour and Celebrate Your Loved Ones with the Alberta SPCA

When you make a tribute gift to the Alberta SPCA, we will mail a heartfelt card by post or email to the person you want to honour. Let your friends and family know you are thinking of them, while supporting efforts to protect animals in Alberta.

We have a variety of cards appropriate for celebrations and thoughtful sympathy cards for moments of loss, whether of a pet or a loved one.

Simply use our online form at [albertaspca.org/ways-to-help/tribute-giving/](http://albertaspca.org/ways-to-help/tribute-giving/), provide us with the name and address of the person you would like to receive a card, and we will do the rest.

## New Look 50/50 Raffle Coming This Summer

We know Albertans love 50/50s which is why we introduced the popular raffle in the summer of 2020. And five years later, we're celebrating with a new look and a new name.

The Heads & Tails 50/50 will launch this August with a maximum jackpot of \$250,000. The name better reflects why we host these raffles – the animals. Your purchase directly helps both livestock and companion animals across the province.

While the 50/50 has a new look, ticket prices remain affordable: 1 for \$10.00 20 for \$50.00  
4 for \$20.00 100 for \$100.00

Order forms for the Heads & Tails 50/50 are not sent in the mail. Watch for information in your email inbox, on our website, and on our social media channels this August.

## Alberta SPCA to Host Inaugural Animal Welfare Symposium

This September, the Alberta SPCA will bring together a diverse group of animal welfare advocates and community thought leaders for the inaugural Animal Welfare Symposium: Improving Communities through One Health.

As communities across Alberta continue to face increasingly complex issues affecting animal welfare, the Alberta SPCA is working to shift the conversation – from reacting to urgent issues, to addressing the root causes behind them. This symposium is a key step in that effort, providing a platform for learning, meaningful dialogue, and collaborative problem-solving as we work toward lasting, systemic solutions to Alberta's most pressing animal welfare concerns.

This one-day event will feature expert-led sessions on topics such as barriers to veterinary care, farmer mental health and well-being, animal welfare from an Indigenous perspective, the shared responsibilities in animal welfare, and the role of effective animal bylaws.

The symposium is being held September 9th in Nisku, just south of Edmonton. Learn more about the inaugural Animal Welfare Symposium at [AnimalWelfareSymposium.ca](http://AnimalWelfareSymposium.ca).



## Message From Our Executive Director

Despite our hopes, and some spring rain, it looks like we aren't going to avoid wildfires this season. Just today we had someone at our door asking if we could shelter his dogs while he was out of his home. He had registered at a reception centre and was sent to a hotel, but the hotel wouldn't allow his pets.

We need to do better. As an animal welfare community, we've come together in various ways to support emergency management and planning – but we need municipalities and emergency response teams to be on the same page.

In order for evacuations to be truly inclusive of people and their animal companions a few things need to be accepted and put into practice:\*

1. Local authorities need to accept and then include companion animals in emergency response plans.
2. There needs to be effective education and training plan for the local or regional emergency management/emergency social services staff and animal care workers and volunteers who would be involved (directly or indirectly) with the companion animal disaster care plan.
3. There needs to be validation of the plan through functional and full-scale exercises involving local authorities, the Government of Alberta and animal rescue and care organizations associated with a provincial animal disaster response capability.
4. The requirement for an effective public communications plan must not be underestimated. People must be aware of any registration portals, websites or processes through which their companion animals can be pre-registered, registered and be looked after during emergencies.

Concern for their animals is one of the top reasons people don't want to evacuate. I can't blame them; it must be terrifying. And it's why we always encourage people to evacuate with their pets, if possible.

When it's not possible, we're hopeful municipalities have infrastructure in place to ensure the well-being of the animals left behind. This includes:\*

- a system where pet owners can request their animals be fed in-home
- description of the animals and their needs
- permission for someone to go into the home to feed animals
- team of three to go into each home;
  - peace officer
  - locksmith
  - one other person to help the peace officer (peace officers can go into a dwelling without a warrant if they believe an animal to be in distress but it's easier to do it with the owner's permission)

If you aren't aware of your community's emergency response plan – ask. And, if they haven't included animals in that response – help them understand why it's so important.

Stay safe,

Leanne & Hope



# IN LOVING MEMORY

Alexandra Mackey, Ann Mackey  
Allan Holbrook, Deborah Holthe  
Allan Thompson, Ethel Storhaug  
Barbara Kenmuir, Christopher Kenmuir  
Barbara Smith, Olivia Webb & Stanley Webb  
Bern Polvi, Lynn Sveinbjornson  
Betty & David Milner, Amy Brooks  
Betty White, Colleen Harris, Angela Braitenbach  
Bill Lyle, Kay Anderson  
Bonnie Edwards, Gwyneth Beynon  
Brenda VanPetten, Cheryl & Murray Henderson  
Cactus, Twila Guinand  
Casey Reynolds, Julie Reynolds  
Cosby, Beverley Butler  
Darlene Greenough, Borea Construction ULC  
Daulat Jadhav, Vaishali Jadhav Jindal  
Fergus, Barbara Rankin  
Delores Berte, Patricia Herrmann, Ruth Liska, Kathie Betts-Geddes  
Dianne Stretch-Strange, Faculty of Native Studies  
Dolce, Lorelei Anselmo  
Don, Beverly Lynn Crockett  
Don MacDonald and Barkley, Darryl Stewart  
Donald Philip Sayer, Paul Sayer  
Dorothy Jean White, Carol Watkins, Judy Brenzing  
Doug Armitage, Heather Thomas  
Eugene Kysela, Amalgamated Transit Union Local 569  
Fatima Shivji, Sarah Beltran  
Floyd Doering, Diane Bertrand  
Gladys White, Ken Bonowicz  
Henry Edward Roberts, Tayler Amatto, Carrie Amatto

Herbert Ebel, Eleanor McLeod, Sandra Nikolai-Mankasingh, Linda Cantlay  
Jarrett B. Unland, Janet Unland, Alan Kaye, Andrea Falt  
Kasha, Caroline Breakey  
Kasha Ziegenhagel, Carol Conrad  
Kuno, Natalie Prytuluk  
Larry J Luft, Barb & Terry Shearer  
Lindsey Carr, Shiela Patterson  
Little Bella Mantik, Jody Forester  
Lorraine Standing Alone, Mary-Lynn Murray  
Luna, Karina Spark  
Maggie, Elaine Hale & Rod Hale  
Mary Kousaie, Lorne Chilibeck  
Mel Binder, Anne Fanning Binder  
Mia, Kimberley Lester  
Mickey and Minnie, Sandra Mackenzie  
Mika, Jacqueline Jamieson  
Mirci, Helen Groschl  
Mr. Big Hashbrown, Alexander Ladd  
Olga Fehsl, Jennifer Forrest  
Paige Laura Mitchell, Brittany Grant

Paulette Arbour & Chantelle Gale, Lise Gale  
Penny, Wendy Hamer  
Phoenix, Amaarah Dhalla  
Portia Swift, Ian Swift  
Quill, Angela Wu  
Raven, Barb Philips  
Rhonda Gaye Kropf, Karl Kropf  
Richard Kosinski, Natalie Prytuluk  
Rocket Petrini, Johanna Ordenez  
Sarah "Sally" Connelly, Joanne Thibert, The Cowleys  
Shannon Nyback, Wawanesa Insurance  
Shirley Dalby, Eileen Matthews  
Steve Adams, Ally Gylander  
Susan Carol "Sue" Harlan, Nancy Poon, Lanna Kelly  
Susan Wong, Terrie Wispinski  
Tim Windle, Janice Elliott  
Toby, Maisey, Twilight, Molly, & Barclay, Mabel Wrigley  
Tom Ewanchuk, Judy & Ray Williams  
Trey Jack Louis Maruyama, Tracey Wendy Webb  
Willie White, Lisa Roughley



\*From Companion Animal Disaster Response Capability Steering Committee working documents.

