ALBERTA SPCA

AlbertaSPCA.org

June 2026

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

ANIMAL Kind

MODERNIZING LEGISLATION: THE ANIMAL PROTECTION ACT



MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

It's hard to believe we're already halfway through 2026. It's been a significant year for our organization, with even bigger changes ahead. Over the past several months, our team worked with the Government of Alberta to help draft potential updates to the *Animal Protection Act*, outlining practical changes to strengthen animal welfare.



The legislation was introduced in early spring, and we were thrilled that many of the changes we advocated for were included. Later this spring, the bill received Royal Assent, marking a major step forward for animal welfare in Alberta.

While these changes won't take effect until regulations are finalized, our team is already preparing — developing new procedures, training peace officers and ensuring we're ready to enforce the new legislation when it becomes effective.

This progress is only possible because of the compassion and advocacy of Albertans who have called for stronger protection. To our donors, supporters, and everyone who stands up for animal welfare, thank you.

LEANNE NIBLOCK

THE ANIMAL PROTECTION AMENDMENT ACT

What's Changing for Animal Protection in Alberta?

For the first time in 20 years, significant changes are coming to strengthen animal protection in Alberta.

This spring, the Government of Alberta passed the ***Animal Protection Amendment Act*** **(Bill 22)**, updating animal protection laws and positioning Alberta as a leader in animal welfare. This legislation introduces a number of changes, targeted at expanding peace officer tools, closing legal loopholes and increasing accountability.

These changes are a result of a collective call for better protections and stronger accountability. Modernizing legislation through ongoing advocacy has been a key priority for the Alberta SPCA, fueled by our generous donors and supporters.

Bill 22 will not come into force until the regulations are finalized by the Government, but we're preparing our peace officers to step in and implement these changes as soon as they come into effect.

So, what are some of the key changes in Bill 22? And what does this mean for animals in Alberta? Let's break it down.

Definition of Distress

Current *Animal Protection Act* (APA): The definition of an animal in distress is very narrow, and doesn't fully capture the range of conditions that affect animal welfare.

If a peace officer finds an animal in distress, they can work with the caregiver to relieve that distress. However, if they believe that distress cannot be relieved, or if the situation is not resolved, the animal may be seized. Certain generally accepted practices that may cause distress are exempt, such as animal management practices used in hunting or pest control.

New APA: The definition of distress is expanding. Animals will be considered in distress if they are deprived of adequate light, exercise, the ability to express natural behaviours and more.

Furthermore, peace officers will be able to seize animals if they have reasonable grounds to believe an animal will *become* distressed without their help and that the caregiver will not act.

Why this matters: We know animals need to be able to live in sanitary conditions, move naturally and exercise. Caregivers have a responsibility to provide appropriate care for their animals, and Bill 22 recognizes a broader range of animal needs. Expanding the definition of distress and raising the bar for caregivers will help our peace officers intervene in more cases where animal welfare is compromised.

Continued on the next page...



THE ANIMAL PROTECTION AMENDMENT ACT



Harsher Penalties

Current APA: Anyone found guilty of an offence faces up to a $20,000 fine, as well as a court-written prohibition outlining restrictions around owning or caring for animals.

New APA: Penalties are set to rise. Fines will rise to a maximum of $250,000, and a jail sentence of up to one year will be introduced.

Why this matters: The Alberta SPCA takes an education-first approach; our peace officers work with caregivers to improve conditions and ensure animals are kept out of distress. However, ideal outcomes are not always possible. Increasing fines and introducing jail time strengthens accountability and deterrence while showing the public that animals deserve strong protection. Fines are paid directly to the Government of Alberta, not to the Alberta SPCA, meaning our goal simply remains to relieve distress.

Prohibition Orders

Current APA: If an individual is found guilty under the APA, the court may issue a prohibition order placing restrictions on their ability to own or care for animals. Prohibition orders are only issued following a conviction, meaning individuals who have previously failed to provide appropriate care — but were not convicted — may still legally own or care for animals.

If a guilty individual is found in violation of a prohibition, Alberta SPCA peace officers do not have authority to intervene. Additionally, if someone received a prohibition in another province, it does not apply in Alberta.

New APA: Bill 22 introduces a major overhaul of prohibition orders. Peace officers will have the ability to seek a prohibition order without the need for a conviction, remove animals from individuals violating their prohibition order and enforce prohibition orders written in other provinces.

Why this matters: Prohibition orders are issued to protect animals from offenders and prevent distress. Separating convictions from prohibitions keeps enforcement focused on animal welfare, while legal consequences can proceed on their own timeline.

Empowering our peace officers to enforce prohibition orders helps remove animals from distress more efficiently. By enforcing prohibition orders from other provinces, Alberta can hold offenders accountable regardless of where they come from, and importantly, before they offend here.

Continued on the next page...

BILL 22 HIGHLIGHTS

Key changes include:

- Expanding the definition of distress.
- Increasing penalties for offenders.
- Broader prohibition orders.
- More useful corrective action orders.
- Better inspection tools.
- More robust animal care duties.

If you see an animal in distress, please visit our website, AlbertaSPCA.org, and click on:

Have an Animal Concern?

THE ANIMAL PROTECTION AMENDMENT ACT



What's Next?

These are just some of the many changes coming to the *Animal Protection Act.*

Most Albertans, whether they care for pets or livestock, already exceed the requirements in the Act. Providing appropriate care, living conditions and exercise was already part of humane animal care long before being formalized in legislation.

These changes were made in response to identifiable gaps that left animals in distress.

Although we are encouraged to see changes we have advocated for on the horizon, **our work is far from over**. Strong legislation needs strong enforcement.

The animal welfare system is strained. Shelters and rescues are full, veterinary costs continue to rise and fuel prices are spiking. All these factors contribute to financial uncertainty for the Alberta SPCA, creating barriers in enforcement operations like officer hiring and retention, long-term planning and specialized training.

Eighty percent of Alberta SPCA funding comes from our donors. Now more than ever, we are relying on generous Albertans to support the protection of animals. You can contribute to the welfare of animals in our province with a one-time donation today or as an ongoing monthly donor. Details are on the back cover.

New legislation is a major step in protecting animals, but it is just that: a step. Our commitment to Albertans remains the same — we will ensure our team is ready to adapt to these new challenges and keep animals safe.

Thank you for joining us on this journey.

2025 ANNUAL REPORT OUT NOW

Read our 2025 Annual Report online!
AlbertaSPCA.org/news



GROWING OUR ORGANIZATION

Expanding Our Animal Protection Team

Keeping animals safe requires the right people. This spring, we welcomed new provincial supervisor **Stacey Greke** to our Animal Protection Services team. Stacey will be responsible for overseeing peace officers across the province, ensuring high standards of enforcement while maintaining proper oversight and assisting with training.

Stacey joins the Alberta SPCA with 16 years of experience in animal welfare. After completing her education in Saskatchewan, she worked in child abuse investigations in the United States before returning home to join the Saskatoon SPCA as an Animal Protection Officer in 2010. Through progressive experience in both the Saskatoon and Saskatchewan SPCAs, Stacey built her knowledge of effective animal protection enforcement.

She will play a pivotal part in supporting our peace officers in understanding and enforcing the changes made to the *Animal Protection Act*, a role she has played before.

"Through my time in Saskatchewan, I saw firsthand how stronger legislation brought better protection for animals," said Stacey. "With the 2018 revisions, our team was able to relieve distress in more cases and improve outcomes for animals. I am encouraged to see a lot of the same changes coming to Alberta's legislation."

Stacey and the APS team are currently training to properly implement the legislation once it goes into force.



STACEY GREKE
APS PROVINCIAL SUPERVISOR

"Stacey brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to our Animal Protection team. We're thrilled to have her join us in advancing animal welfare in Alberta."
- Bob Fraser, Director of Animal Protection

FOLLOW US!



Leila Hickman Dr. Ernest Miciak Erica Cheung

Welcome To Our New Board Members!

Please join us in welcoming three new members to our volunteer board of directors. Leila Hickman, Dr. Ernest (Ernie) Miciak and Erica Cheung bring a powerful combination of experience in animal welfare research, veterinary practice, agricultural education and community leadership.

Their collective expertise strengthens our ability to advance animal wellbeing across Alberta and support the people and communities who care for them.



TO OUR DONORS, THANK YOU!

It's because of you, and your belief that we can make this province a better place for animals, that we have been able to push for these significant updates to the *Animal Protection Act*. Every time you make a donation, explain our work to someone or share our stories, you are helping us to take a step towards our shared vision for the future — an Alberta where every animal is treated humanely.

Thank you for making this important work possible!

Call us at 780.732.3746 or visit our website to set up a monthly gift today.

Animal Welfare Symposium

We are proud to announce the annual Animal Welfare Symposium presented by Vétérinov returns this September 10 in Calgary! This event brings together community leaders to address complex issues that impact animal welfare in Alberta communities.

We've also teamed up with PetSmart Charities Canada to offer the People and Pets Summit, which they will host the following day. Aimed at shelters and animal rescue staff and volunteers, this free event is focused on best practices in sheltering and reducing barriers to pet adoption.

Attendees can purchase tickets for the Animal Welfare Symposium and register for the free Connecting Pets and People Summit through our online registration portal.

Learn more at AnimalWelfareSymposium.ca

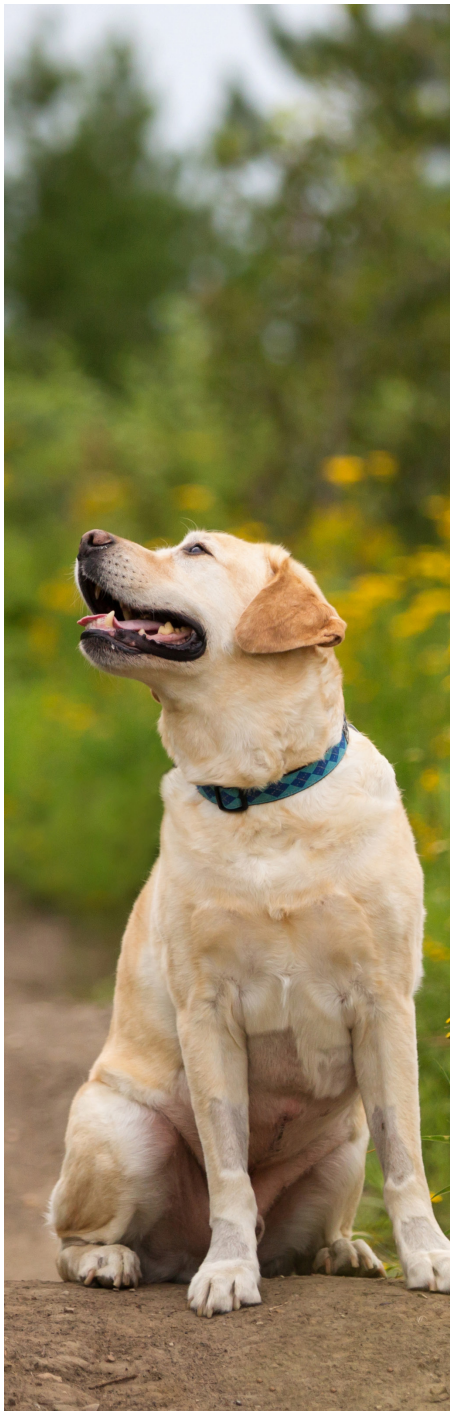
Animal Welfare Symposium
Improving Communities through One Health

presented by veterinov



IN LOVING MEMORY

Allison Turner, BD & Affinity Team, belairdirect
Andrew Pachovsky, Dolores Duncan
Annisa, Svetlana Almaeva
Aviraj Singh, Amrit Klair
Aviraj Toor, Karanveer Klair
Aviraj Toor, Amaroop Klair
Aviraj Toor, Saabia Toor Professional Corporation
Buddy, Beverley Butler & Paul Butler
Cali, Barb Philips
Carol Gorsline, Catherine Harley
Carol Gorsline, Leanne Mentz
Carol Gorsline, Jim Ifko
Carol Gorsline, Laurie Helland
Casey Reynolds, Julie Reynolds
Cecile Kotowich, Sherry Lomax
Chomsky, Kirat Purohit
Chuwy, Roger Dubon
Colin Joseph Krywiak, Barbara Hauck
Daisy Schreiner, Shawna Guy
Derek Hoyle, Alice Hoyle
Derrick & Marilyn Bradley, Darlene Bradley
Dezzie, Linda Baziuk
Dorothy Howarth, Sandra Howarth
Doug Ternovatsky, Karla Bergstrom
Frances Mary McGlynn, Karen Middleton & Wayne Berge
Giget, Darlene Robb
Jessie, Marylou Webster
Jim Cummings, NJ Lalani Prof Corp
Joan Redinger, Lorraine Rattell
Joan Snuverink, Millie Tsuji
June Clarkson, Keith Spencer
June Clarkson, Jennifer Oakes
Kalee, Ben & Allie Demoe
Kathleen Linder, Phyllis Salter
Kathy Lynn Merrison, Jillian Barber
Kirby, Barb Philips
KP Allen, Unifor Local 71
Marion deMan, Heather Colling
Marty, Cecile & Ralph E Atkinson
Max Tompkins, Christine Loo
Miley & Tina, Marina Lajtman
Millie, A Janet Darcy
Ole & Tedi, Cheryl Harvey-Molander
Pasht, Pumpkin, Topas, Mira, & Sophie, Sandra M. Cockfield
Patricia Connors, Beste Edguer
Patricia Helen Bagwell, Marie Birkbeck
Patricia Kennedy, Jan Rodak
Peanut, Madison Arnold-Smith
Pepper, Sandra Madvid
Quill, Angela Wu
Rambo, Tawny Wadden
Remy, Kaitlin Osterlund
Rhonda Gaye Kropf, Karl Kropf
Ruth Pilz, Harry Abbink
Scrappy, Candace Nieckar
Steve Sereda, Brae Anne McArthur
Tear-Along & Rex, Sylvia De Angelis
Tigg, Pam Pulis
Tom Menczel, Natalie Prytuluk
Trevor Moch, Pat & Shaunna Steil
Trevor Moch, Gloria Baker
Trevor Moch, Janet Hussey
Trevor Moch, Janice Merrick
Tux, Olivia Dillon
Zoey Blondheim/Gallie, Marg Blondheim-Whetstone



ALBERTA SPCA

The Front Line of Animal Protection

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ALBERTA SPCA

ANIMALKIND RESPONSE FORM

JUNE 2026

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 becoming a member and/or 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

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

- O **Enclosed is a donation of $_____**
  (Income tax receipts are automatically issued for donations of $10 or more.)
- O **I would like to renew my membership or become a member of the Alberta SPCA:**
  - O $15 student/senior
  - O $20 Individual
  - O $30 senior family
  - O $35 family

I'm paying by:

O Cheque O Credit card: O VISA O Amex O MasterCard

$_____membership + $_____donation = $_____(total)

Cardholder Name _____

Card Number _____

Expiry _____ /_____

Signature _____

Monthly Giving

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:

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

Cardholder Name _____

Card Number _____

Expiry _____ /_____

Signature _____

* *To view a sample cancellation form or learn more about cancelling a PAD agreement, contact your financial institution or visit www.cdnpay.ca. You have certain recourse rights if any debit does not comply with this agreement. For example, you have the right to receive reimbursement for any debit that is not authorized or is not consistent with this PAD agreement. For more information on your recourse rights, contact your financial institution or visit www.cdnpay.ca.*

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