ALBERTA SPCA

AlbertaSPCA.org

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ANIMAL Kind

A Legacy of Compassion

For more than two decades, Joy Ripley helped shape the future of animal welfare in Alberta.

As a dedicated board member for 21 years, including 16 years as board president, Joy's leadership helped guide the Alberta SPCA through years of growth, change and innovation. Today, her legacy continues through the Joy Ripley Scholarship in Animal Science at the University of Alberta, supporting students who are passionate about learning, compassion and animal welfare.

Reflecting on her years with the organization, Joy thinks less about personal accomplishments and more about the people around her.

"The board and staff were very committed. They were all there for the right reasons, working together to accomplish good things on behalf of the animals. Those were truly wonderful years with great people — some of the best years of my life."

Investing In Education

One of the defining moments of Joy's leadership was helping establish the organization's Humane Education program in 1983 — a role she viewed as transformative.

"At the time, very few organizations were doing the work the Alberta SPCA was doing. Having an education component was completely new, and it was so important."

Joy has long believed that education is one of the most powerful tools in advancing animal welfare. Her own connection to animals began in childhood with a small white terrier named Peggy, followed by a lifetime of beloved pets including bulldogs, cats and pugs. Over time, her understanding of animal welfare deepened as she became more aware of the challenges animals face.

"You begin to understand the effect animals have on your life, and you see the problems that exist. Right away, you feel you have to do something to help."

A Legacy of Learning

That same spirit of learning and compassion is at the heart of the University of Alberta scholarship that bears her name. Since 2006, $50,000 in funding has been awarded through the Joy Ripley Scholarship.

For Joy, the scholarship represents an opportunity to inspire future generations to better understand animals and their place in the world.

"It's such an amazing opportunity to reach out to students and help them learn about animal welfare. I hope they develop compassion and empathy and understand that everything in this world has something to offer."

She hopes recipients approach the opportunity with curiosity, openness and a willingness to keep learning.

"Learn and understand. Continue to inquire and observe."

Looking ahead, Joy hopes the scholarship will encourage more people to explore the lives of animals and recognize their intrinsic value.

"Every animal is alive and feeling. Every animal is here for a reason."

Still Making a Difference

In addition to her leadership role with the Alberta SPCA, Joy also served as president of the Canadian Federation of Humane Societies, member of the Canadian Council of Animal Care, community representative on the Animal Welfare Committee at the University of Alberta and is the current chair of Pets for Life Society

Alberta. Even after stepping away from formal leadership, Joy remains deeply connected to the mission of animal welfare. She believes the challenges facing animals today are also opportunities for people to step forward and create change.

"When there is a challenge, don't just stand aside. Get in there and do what needs to be done."

She also believes the Alberta SPCA's unique strength lies in its broad approach to protecting animals, from companion animals to livestock, and its ability to work directly with government, industry and communities to improve animal welfare across the province.

Today, the Joy Ripley Scholarship in Animal Science continues her lifelong commitment to education, compassion, and advocacy. Through every student it supports, her legacy lives on — inspiring future generations to build a kinder future for all.

The Joy Ripley Alberta SPCA Scholarship in Animal Science is awarded to a student with superior academic achievement entering the third year of a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture (Animal Science major) or BSc. in Animal Health program in the Faculty of Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences.

Get Your Tickets & Help Animals!

Scan Here

2026 Animal Welfare Symposium

On September 10, the Alberta SPCA hosted our second annual Animal Welfare Symposium in Calgary, bringing together animal welfare professionals, community leaders and advocates from across Alberta to explore this year's theme, "Improving Communities through One Health."

The symposium, presented by our partners at Vétérinov, featured a diverse lineup of speakers who shared insights and practical solutions to address animal welfare challenges and strengthen communities. Sessions explored topics including modernized community services, livestock welfare, One Welfare/One Health approaches and the importance of collaboration across sectors. Through presentations, discussions and a dedicated networking event, participants shared ideas, learned from one another and built connections with others working across the animal welfare sector. Speakers shared real-world experiences and stories, highlighting both the challenges facing the sector and opportunities for change.

The day reinforced the importance of collaboration and looking beyond individual cases to better understand the broader factors and root causes that affect animals and the people who care for them. By bringing together diverse perspectives, the symposium created space for new ideas, connections and conversations that can help strengthen animal welfare in Alberta.

Thank you to everyone who attended, presented, sponsored and helped make the 2026 Animal Welfare Symposium a success. We're grateful for the connections and conversations that came out of the day, and we can't wait to see everyone again next year!

PEACE OFFICER TRAINING

Peace Officer Rachel Vandenkroonenberg leads Alberta SPCA peace officer training.

Peace Officer Preparation

After Bill 22, the *Animal Protection Amendment Act*, passed this spring, our team went to work identifying what these changes would mean for our peace officers on the front lines of animal protection. With big changes coming to the definition of distress, caregiver duties, prohibition orders and more, preparation plays a critical role for **Peace Officer Rachel Vandenkroonenberg**, who leads peace officer training for the Animal Protection team.

Q: How do you work to ensure the peace officers are properly prepared for the changes coming to the Animal Protection Act?

A: It starts with our team really understanding what these changes mean in practice. Laws are written in a very specific way for a specific purpose, but in reality, how those laws are interpreted and enforced can vary.

We've identified which changes will add more tools for our peace officers to protect animals. But it's important for our team to know when and how to use them. For example, we will have the ability to issue corrective action orders, which are clear, concise and enforceable directives issued when distress has been identified. But there are limitations and guidelines on these orders, so it's crucial our officers are up to speed on when and how to apply these new tools responsibly.

Q: What is one specific change to the APA that has previously been a barrier in animal welfare investigations?

A: Before we can effect change on a file we have to determine if distress is present. Before the legislation was changed, the definition was very limited. Now, we can look at and assess an animal's opportunity for appropriate exercise and space to express natural behaviours, as well as sanitary living conditions and access to adequate light.

Thanks to those changes, there will be more instances where we can step in and ensure that animals are being treated properly.

FOLLOW US!

BEHIND THE SCENES OF ANIMAL PROTECTION

Q: How important is regular training for peace officers to effectively enforce the APA?

A: Our peace officers bring a wide range of animal welfare knowledge and expertise to the table. Some of them are lifelong caregivers of all types of livestock, some have extensive experience in other jurisdictions in and outside of Alberta and some have worked with other animal welfare organizations.

We truly have an experienced team of officers. But, regardless of their backgrounds, we believe that you can always benefit from training and education, especially with the legislative changes. Regular training sessions are an important part of the job.

It's also important to bring external voices to the table. Last month, we brought in a forensic veterinarian who specializes in assessment of animals from animal welfare cases. She spoke to our team about how and when the use of a forensic veterinarian can benefit our cases, and how those findings have been used in court to support stronger outcomes when appropriate. We've had training with other law enforcement officers, mental health experts and national animal welfare agencies to get a wide range of perspectives and expertise for our already knowledgeable officers.

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

Have an Animal Concern?

Q: How do you think these changes are going to help keep animals safe?

A: A lot of the changes add tools to our toolkit to help achieve our goal of relieving distress. As I mentioned, the definition of distress expanding is really key. The definition of distress defines our authority, so the new comprehensive definition will help us intervene in more cases where animal welfare is compromised. Being able to seek prohibition orders in certain cases without a conviction keeps the safety of animals the top priority. New inspection powers give us more opportunity to engage caregivers and owners in what proper animal welfare looks like and how they can remain compliant with the law.

Our goal remains the same: to identify and relieve distress in animals. An ideal case is one where we don't need to seize animals. It's usually a last resort. These legislative changes provide us with more flexibility and opportunity to keep animals safe, improve their wellbeing and keep them out of harm's way. If we can do that without seizing an animal, then we've done our jobs.

We're confident these changes are going to increase positive outcomes and help us keep animals in our province safe.

TO OUR SUPPORTERS

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.

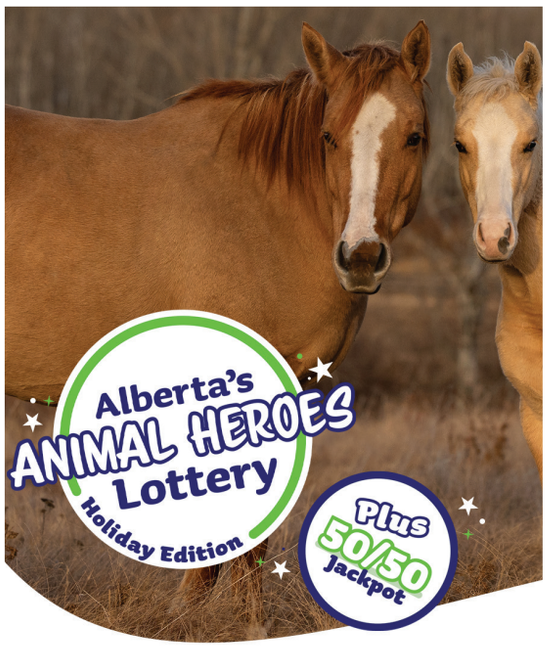
Thank you for making this important work possible!

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

Changes Coming to the Alberta's Animal Heroes Lottery!

We're excited to share that next year we'll be making some big changes to the Alberta's Animal Heroes Lottery! Starting in January, we're giving our supporters more chances to win, convenient membership options and bonus prizes! It's your chance to support animal welfare while winning big prizes. Stay tuned for more details coming in early 2027!

In the meantime, our Animal Heroes Lottery – Holiday Edition is on now. Get your tickets at AnimalHeroesLottery.ca or by calling us at 1-888-802-0780.



IN LOVING MEMORY

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Anna Alice Harder, Erin Harder
Anna Alice Harder, Pat Feenstra
Anna Alice Harder, Laurie Barr
Anna Alice Harder, Patricia Badry
Anna Alice Harder, Cindy Lou Hansen
Anna Alice Harder, Sonja Richaud
Anna Alice Harder, Louise Koehli
Anna Alice Harder, Blaine Harder
Annie Roberts, Dorothy Goodale
Annie Roberts, Joan Reid
Annie Roberts, Darlene Wright
Barbara Henderson, Laurie Boadway
Barbara Henderson, Janis Noble
Barbara Henderson, Harry Hole
Bear, Stefanie Kirk
Bev Comin, Larry Comin
Birdie Murphy, VCA Royal Oak Animal Hospital
Blu McCormick, Patti Gugala
Bryna Clarke, Sydney Deitch
Carol J. McLeod, Sandra Reed
Casey Reynolds, Julie Reynolds
Cyril Rebalkin, Robert & Emmet Meehan
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Mabel, Robert MacVicar
Maggie, The Rhydderch Family
Mai Tai, Theresia Williams & Glenn Williams
Marion Louise Fordyce, Dale Groves
Marlene Stetson, Patricia Patter
Marlene Stetson, Susan Gilbertson
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Nick, Rome & Enzo Olivares
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Quill, Angela Wu
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Rhonda Gaye Kropf, Karl Kropf
Rooster, Michele Nanchoff
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Sam Muirhead, Edward Topolniski
Sam Muirhead, Rita Donovan
Scheurwater, Juliette Henley
Skipper P. Smithies, Rose Marie Smithies
Terry Dingwall, Sheila Bent
Turtle, Alem Sium
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Vivian Lamoureux, Lindsay McRae
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ALBERTA SPCA

ANIMALKIND RESPONSE FORM

OCTOBER 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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