



AlbertaSPCA.org

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Kind ANIMAL

Progress with Purpose

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

To our donors, partners and friends,

Summer has come and gone too quickly again this year, but with the seasons changing we're excited to be able to bring you another edition of AnimalKind. It's been a busy few months for us.

Our team has been investigating a record number of reports, hosting system-wide events, building new relationships and preparing for the recent changes to our animal welfare legislation.

Connecting with individuals and organizations across the sector who share our vision of a province where every animal is treated humanely has been the focus for our organization.

Whether it's bringing law enforcement experts in to offer new training opportunities for our peace officers or collaborating with caregiver-focused organizations, we're working to bring new perspectives and expertise to our team. To see so many committed people standing up for animals is inspiring and encouraging.



And, of course, the support from you, our donors and partners, has been nothing short of incredible. Your generosity and compassion enable our work. You are at the heart of animal welfare in Alberta. Thank you.

We're excited to give you a snapshot of what your support has powered us to do over the past few months and what's on the horizon.

In friendship,

LEANNE NIBLOCK



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 your 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?

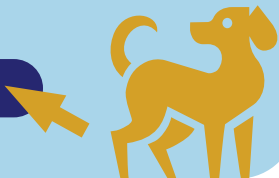
A: Our peace officers bring a wide range of animal welfare knowledge and expertise to the table. Some of them are lifelong caregivers of all types of livestock, some have extensive experience in other jurisdictions in and outside of Alberta and some have worked with other animal welfare organizations.

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](https://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.

PROMOTING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES



Strong Partnerships for Healthy Communities

Over the past several months our team has been busy growing partnerships that support healthy animals and healthy communities.

This summer we joined forces with the Canadian Centre to End Human Trafficking to reduce barriers for victims and survivors of human trafficking by providing temporary care for their animals. Through this partnership, people referred through the Canadian Human Trafficking Hotline can access safe, temporary care for their animals while they receive support. This helps prevent animals from being surrendered or abandoned and gives people one less thing to worry about during an already difficult time.

More recently, our team met with Alberta Council of Women's Shelters to explore ways to make domestic violence shelters more pet-friendly — keeping pets and people together. We know that one reason people are afraid to seek help for an abusive relationship is concern for their pets. While some shelters allow people to bring their pets, most are not currently equipped to provide this option. Programs across the province, including our own Pet Safekeeping program, fill this gap, but demand continues to exceed available space.

By partnering across sectors, we can find new ways to remove barriers and strengthen the systems that support people and animals. When we work together, we can help create safer communities where people and animals can thrive.



Get Your Tickets & Help Animals!



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ANIMAL WELFARE SYMPOSIUM



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.



Wealth Management
Dominion Securities

Stephen Michalyk
Portfolio Manager & Wealth
Advisor



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!



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

Andrew Roger Burgess, Reid Newman
Anna Alice Harder, Feyannie Hung
Anna Alice Harder, Joan Stavne
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
Daisy, Marlene Tymko
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Debra Snow, James Snow
Derek Hoyle, Alice Hoyle
Domino B, Garry Guy
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Douglas Hugh Younie, Ruth Younie
Douglas Hugh Younie, Karen Younie
Douglas Hugh Younie, Christie Young
Dr Anson Olin Beach, N F. Paron
Earl Kenneth James Cook, Gwen Lancaster
Elaine Marie Donald, Paul Crouser
Elsie Marie Osmak, Glenn Osmak
Ethel Iona Elder, Sandi Irvine
Felix & Roxy, Nancy Farrell
Frank Kimball, Cheryl McRae-Stelmach & Malcolm McRae



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Joan Redinger, Edith Schneider
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Skipper P. Smithies, Rose Marie Smithies
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Turtle, Alem Sium
Vivian Crandall, Dawn Zohar-Sharpe
Vivian Lamoureux, Lindsay McRae
Wolfgang, Marianne Brown
Ziggy & Tasha, Heather Harding



The Front Line of Animal Protection

You Can Help Protect Animals

Your donation funds the rescue and care of
animals in distress.

If you believe animal protection, humane
education and pet safekeeping are
vital to protecting animal neglect and
abuse, please support the Alberta SPCA's
programs by clicking below.

[**Donate Today**](#)