

2019-2020 ANNUAL REPORT



SASKATCHEWAN

SPCA





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An organization built on collaboration

Collaboration has been integral to the way things are done at the Saskatchewan SPCA. This year was filled with highlights made possible by working collaboratively with our partners on a variety of major projects.

The Provincial Association of Transition Houses and Services of Saskatchewan (PATHS) and STOPS to Violence have been long-term partners of the Saskatchewan SPCA. This unique trio of organizations shares the key goal of addressing the Link between interpersonal violence and animal abuse while creating safer communities for people and animals.

Our commitment to working together moved forward on a number of fronts. In August, the Working to End Violence 50/50 Online Lottery launched to raise funds to print the *Getting Out Guide*, an educational resource for the victims of intimate partner and family violence. Staff from the Saskatchewan SPCA worked closely with PATHS and STOPS to update the Guide and include new information such as 211 Saskatchewan, HealthLine 811, and internet safety. When the project is complete, print copies of the *Getting Out Guide* will be available to service providers and other agencies, and an online version of the Guide will be available on the Saskatchewan SPCA's ViolenceLink.ca website. The project is expected to be complete in mid-2020. This project was made possible with the support of the Prairie Action Foundation, Signature PrintIt, and the Government of Saskatchewan.

In January, the Society and PATHS began work on a joint research project examining how animal ownership creates barriers for victims of intimate partner and family violence. The surveys were aimed at individuals who have owned pets, livestock, or service animals and have experienced violence or abuse from an intimate partner; domestic violence service providers; animal service providers; and the public. The results of the survey will be available in 2020.

Emergencies can affect anyone at any time. The Saskatchewan SPCA is working with a broad variety of organization to address the need for emergency planning for animals. Our partners include the livestock industry, veterinary medicine, animal protection, and the emergency planning sector. Upcoming initiatives include planning the 2020 Saskatchewan SPCA Conference: Emergency Planning for Animals.

The Saskatchewan SPCA continues to work with other animal welfare organizations in the development of the Saskatchewan Animal Rescue Certification Program. Once finalized, the program will include newly developed standards of care for pet rescues; reference materials for animal rescues and shelters; a voluntary certification process; and guidelines for pet owners and potential adopters. The Working Group consists of representatives from Animal Protection Services of Saskatchewan, Battlefords Humane Society, Government of Saskatchewan, Saskatchewan Association of Veterinary Technologists, Saskatchewan SPCA, Saskatchewan Veterinary Medical Association, and SCAT Street Cat Rescue.

The Saskatchewan SPCA is honoured to work with a wide range of community leaders as we strive to make our province safer for animals and people.



Raising awareness of the Link between all forms of violence

The Saskatchewan SPCA continues to raise awareness of the importance of the human-animal bond as well as the Link between violence to animals and people. During the past year, our Animal Safekeeping Coordinator made presentations to over 570 individuals from law enforcement, human services, animal welfare, academia, and the general public.

Highlights of the past year include:

- Delivered a training session on the Link to members of the RCMP during their family violence education session at Depot in Regina.
- Discussed pet safekeeping in situations of domestic and interpersonal violence as a panelist at the Humane Canada national violence link conference.
- Presented at the 2019 University of New Brunswick conference on *Ending Gender Based Violence: Harnessing Research and Action for Social Change*.
- Worked with PATHS to co-host a webinar on the SAF-T Program, a global initiative aimed at promoting the development of on-site pet housing at domestic violence shelters.
- Updated content on the ViolenceLink.ca website. The site offers information for the victims of intimate partner and family violence who own animals, as well as individuals working in the human services and animal welfare sectors.

We were pleased to welcome two social work practicum students to our office during the year. Our thanks to Autumn Tuttroen and Laura Zmud for all their hard work during the weeks they spent with us. We wish them all the best in their future careers.

Funding from Community Initiatives Fund helped make it possible for us to continue our work to promote the Link.



Animal Hoarding Workshop

Working together to educate the public on the science behind animal hoarding was the goal of a multi-agency initiative in June.

The Saskatchewan SPCA, in conjunction with the Saskatchewan Veterinary Medical Association, Animal Protection Services of Saskatchewan, the Saskatchewan Health Authority, Community Safety and Well-Being, and the Ministry of Agriculture, presented a one-day workshop at the Queensbury Convention Centre in Regina.

Workshop speakers Dr. Christiana Bratiotis and Dr. Colleen Marion explored interagency approaches to animal hoarding through a case study that focused on the roles and responsibilities of various animal welfare and human services organizations.

Thank you to our sponsors:



In her address, Dr. Bratiotis noted "Where there's conversation, then there's understanding, and out of that grows [the] will to make changes."



Warming Hearts & Paws

The people of Saskatchewan came together through the Warming Hearts & Paws event to help pet owners struggling with homelessness. Following the success of the Saskatchewan SPCA's Emergency Pet Care Collection Blitz in February 2019, a new formal program was developed and launched in November to collect donations of new and gently used pet care accessories and pet food. Warming Hearts & Paws will be an annual event aimed at filling a gap in services for our province's most vulnerable.

In Saskatoon, our partners at the Saskatoon Food Bank Clothing Depot and the Friendship Inn ensured pet owners in need received assistance by distributing items to members of our community. Local businesses provided support by serving as donation drop off points and a team of volunteers collected and sorted through the donations.

Warming Hearts & Paws expanded to the cities of North Battleford and Prince Albert thanks to partnerships with the Battlefords Humane Society and the Prince Albert Food Bank. Each organization served as a collection and distribution centre in their city. An exciting addition to the program came in the form of the province's first pet-friendly warm up shelter at the Prince Albert Food Bank.

The program also received support from Laura Zmud, a social work intern working at the Saskatchewan SPCA. Laura organized Deck the Paws, a fundraising brunch with proceeds supporting Warming Hearts & Paws. Thanks for your support, Laura!

Warming Hearts & Paws is possible due to the support of those in our community. Our thanks to everyone involved in making this event a success!

Putting mental health front row and centre

The Saskatchewan SPCA was honoured this year to be recognized with a Workplace Excellence Award from the Saskatoon branch of the Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA).

"Not only do the awards exemplify best practice in workplace mental health, they also speak to the capacity of employers to care deeply about their staff and contribute to the health of our community," says Faith Bodnar, CMHA Saskatoon Executive Director. CMHA Saskatoon is a non-profit organization that assists and supports people with mental illness to maximize their potential and to achieve positive mental health in their lives as community members.

The Workplace Excellence Awards were established to recognize employers that demonstrate innovation and a commitment to creating positive mental health.

In selecting our organization for this award, CMHA Saskatoon noted the Saskatchewan SPCA "ensures that the values of empathy, compassion, and respect are part of the entire agency and all that it does. Staff experience a judgement free workplace that supports growth and development. Volunteers from all backgrounds are integral in bringing the mission to life."

The Stryker K-9 Care Fund

The Saskatchewan SPCA Stryker K-9 Care Fund provides annual grants to assist with the cost of routine and emergency veterinary care for dogs that served with the RCMP, a municipal police force, or Canada Border Services Agency.

In our 2019-20 fiscal year, we assisted 13 retired law enforcement dogs, providing \$10,114.06 for expenses such as surgeries, vaccinations, physical therapy, and medications.

The Saskatoon Police Service once again provided their very generous support for the Stryker fund by producing and selling a calendar featuring photos of a day in the life of their K-9s. Our thanks to the Saskatoon Police Service for their continued support.



Blankets and vacuums and vets, oh my! Fundraising on behalf of the Saskatchewan SPCA

The Saskatchewan SPCA is fortunate to have many great supporters within our communities. Highlights from the past year include campaigns in support of the Saskatchewan SPCA from the Prairie Animal Health Centre of Estevan and national chains, London Drugs and Urban Barn.

The Prairie Animal Health Centre (PAHC) of Estevan hosted a barbecue, bake sale, and pet food raffle in support of the Saskatchewan SPCA's Stryker K-9 Care Fund. Tickets were sold for a chance to win a one-year supply of Royal Canin pet food. The raffle raised \$1,350 to support the Stryker Fund for retired law enforcement dogs. PAHC chose to support the Stryker Fund as a way to honour the service of Holly, a PAHC patient who served with the Canada Border Services Agency.

"Buy Bissell, Save Pets!" was the theme for London Drugs' campaign in support of the Saskatchewan SPCA. With every purchase of qualifying Bissell products at London Drugs stores in the province, \$20 was donated to the Saskatchewan SPCA. During a two-week period in September, \$560 was raised for the Society.

Urban Barn selected the Saskatchewan SPCA as a recipient of their Blanket the Country campaign. During the holiday season, Urban Barn stores in Saskatchewan sold faux fur blankets with \$5 from the sale of each blanket being donated to the Saskatchewan SPCA's Warming Hearts & Paws program. Urban Barn and their customers raised \$410 for the program.

A heartfelt thank you goes out to the folks at Prairie Animal Health Centre, London Drugs, and Urban Barn for their support!

Leaving a legacy: Planned giving and the Saskatchewan SPCA

During the 2019-2020 fiscal year, the Saskatchewan SPCA was the recipient of a series of bequests from the estates of Ms. Elaine Bewcyk, Mr. Peter Pasechney, and Ms. Mary Adelaide Richiger. It is our distinct honour to have been included in the final wishes of local philanthropists with a desire to help animals in our province.

What is a bequest?

A bequest is a charitable contribution that may be decided upon during your estate planning and included in your will. While a major decision, it's a simple process that can be discussed with your lawyer or financial advisor.

A bequest to the Saskatchewan SPCA is one of many ways that you can support the important work of the Society. A bequest allows you to continue supporting a cause that you cherish. If you would like to learn more about the planned giving options available at the Saskatchewan SPCA, please contact our executive director, Frances Wach at 306.382.4471 or email frances@saskspca.ca.

All settled in: A new home for the Saskatchewan SPCA

In June the Saskatchewan SPCA relocated to a new office in Saskatoon. Just two doors down from our old office, the new space provides private workspace for all existing staff and additional offices for future growth. A small warehouse also allows the Society to keep records and files in-house. A dedicated board room, kitchen, and a fully-accessible bathroom are also included in the new location.



Our new domain: SaskSPCA.ca

In July the Saskatchewan SPCA launched a redesigned website, complete with a new web address: www.saskspca.ca.

The new site highlights all Saskatchewan SPCA programs, news, and upcoming events in an easy-to-navigate format. Information on our programs and services, including the violence link, animal care, and emergency planning, is available online. Links to other SPCAs and Humane Societies and animal welfare organizations in the province and around the country can also be found.

Information on who to contact with concerns of animal abuse or neglect, as well as matters relating to livestock and wildlife, are also provided.

A new web address also means a change to our email addresses. Our updated general email address is now info@saskspca.ca.

On the road again!

People are showing their respect for animals in a big way through their purchase of Saskatchewan SPCA licence plates. These specialty plates are available through SGI motor licence issuers across the province. Funds raised through licence plate sales go to support the work of Saskatchewan SPCA.

Making Connections: The 2019 Saskatchewan SPCA Human-Animal Bond Conference

In September the Saskatchewan SPCA hosted a one-day conference focusing on the special relationship between humans and their animals.

The conference opened with a fascinating look at the potential benefits of the human-animal bond in a prison environment. In their keynote address, Drs. Colleen Dell and Darlene Chalmers provided insights on a canine assisted learning program offered at Drumheller Institution in Alberta. The PAWSitive Support Program promotes human development skills, personal growth, and overall mental health of inmates taking part in the program.

Other conference topics include:

- **Meeting the Needs of the Human Spirit: The Role of Sherbrooke Community Centre Pets:** How pets help alleviate loneliness, helplessness, and boredom in the lives of elders.
- **Requiem Sessions: End of Life Pet Photography:** Honouring the special bond between pets and their owners.
- **Animal Safekeeping Programs:** Resources to assist the human and the animal victims of domestic violence.
- **Taking a Bite out of Crime:** Police dogs, on and off the job.
- **Warming Hearts and Paws:** A new Saskatchewan SPCA program to help individuals struggling with homelessness and their pets
- **An Update on the Saskatchewan Animal Registration Certification Program:** A joint effort to improve the welfare of rescued animals.

Thank you to our conference sponsors:



OUR SPECIAL CONFERENCE SUPPORTER: ERNIE OLFERT



Buddies get muddy!

The 2019 Muddy Buddy was held on Saturday, August 24 at Blackstrap Provincial Park. The second annual event saw participants from across Saskatchewan join us for a beautiful summer day filled with sun, fun, and mud!

Building on suggestions from the previous year, the event saw improvements that included new high quality obstacles, two new mud pits, trail marking enhancements, and dedicated photographers.

A new approach to planning the event came in the form of the Muddy Buddy Planning Committee. The Saskatchewan SPCA would like to thank members of the committee for their dedicated service toward making this event a success.

The Muddy Buddy could not have happened without the support of our sponsors. A generous group of local businesses came together to support animal welfare, and for that, we are truly grateful. A sincere **THANK YOU** goes out to everyone who provided financial and in-kind support to the Muddy Buddy.

Muddy Buddy Committee Volunteers:

- Deb Edmison
- Gazelle Farhady
- Sylvia Raginski
- Danielle Wieler



Muddy Buddy Sponsors:

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Our staff

- ◆ Frances Wach, Executive Director
- ◆ Autumn Tuttroen, Social Work Practicum Student
- ◆ Sandra Anderson, Program Director
- ◆ Laura Zmud, Social Work Practicum Student
- ◆ Josh Hourie, Community Relations Coordinator
- ◆ Ariana Arnold, Animal Welfare Assistant (summer student)
- ◆ Leanne Sillers, Animal Safekeeping Coordinator
- ◆ Twyla Polson, Administrative Support (casual)
- ◆ Crystal Stubbs, Administrative Assistant
- ◆ Jenny Marriott, Researcher (volunteer)

Contact us



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The Saskatchewan SPCA is a registered Canadian charity: 119140440 RR0001

Canadian registered charities can issue official donation receipts for gifts they receive from individuals and corporations. Financial information including the public portions of our annual information return is available on the Government of Canada website: www.canada.ca. Follow the links under Taxes / Charities and Giving / List of charities and other qualified donees / Charities. Search "Saskatchewan Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals."

Copies of our audited financial statements are also available upon request. Please phone 1.877.382.7722 (306.382.7722).