



**SASK
SPCA**



Photo courtesy of Valley Ford Hague

**ANNUAL
REPORT
2020-2021**

SASKSPCA.CA



**SASK
SPCA**

OUR VISION & MISSION

Our vision: A Saskatchewan in which all animals are free from hunger, thirst, discomfort, pain, injury, disease, fear and distress, and able to express normal behaviour.

Our mission: To coordinate and amplify a system of best practices in animal welfare across the Province of Saskatchewan.

CONTACT US

SaskSPCA
PO Box 37
Saskatoon, SK S7K 3K1

Phone: 306.382.7722
Toll Free: 1.877.382.7722
Email: info@saskspca.ca
www.saskspca.ca



OUR BOARD & STAFF

2020-21 Saskatchewan SPCA Board of Directors

Dr. Sandra Neumann, Saskatoon, President

Carol Thomson, Saskatoon, Vice President

Margaret (Peg) Northcote, Arelee, Treasurer

Karen Skirten, Saskatoon, Secretary

Members at Large:

Chris Brueckner, Saskatoon

Ken Krause, Meadow Lake

Jack MacKay, Yorkton

Calvin Nickel, Saskatoon

Our special thanks to retiring board member, Anne Allen, DVM, for her service to the SaskSPCA.

Our staff

Frances Wach, Executive Director

Crystal Stubbs, Administrative Assistant

Josh Hourie, Community Relations Coordinator

Sandra Anderson, Program Director

Twyla Polson, Administrative Support

Jenny Marriott, Researcher (volunteer)


Summer Students:

Nathan Metivier, Animal Welfare Writer

Kellan Matthews, Videographer

“A small group of thoughtful people could change the world. Indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.”

- Margaret Mead



"Alone we can do so little;
together we can do so much."
- Helen Keller

A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The SaskSPCA has always been an organization that believes in working in collaboration in order to accomplish our goals. In spite of the challenges presented by COVID-19 this past year, we have been able to maintain strong working relationships with our existing partners and stakeholders, and establish new connections as well.

In March 2020, many offices and businesses closed in order to comply with COVID-19 restrictions. SPCAs and Humane Societies were deemed an essential service in Saskatchewan, so our office was able to continue to operate, albeit with a number of changes.

We set up home-based work stations and learned to colour coordinate face masks with our standard office attire. We used videoconferencing to hold board meetings and meet with people from across the country. Since we were unable to hold our traditional in-person annual conference, we hosted educational webinars targeted to the needs of specific audiences.

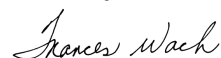
We were keenly aware that the entire province was affected in some way by the pandemic. While many Saskatchewan people were fostering and adopting new pets during the pandemic, others were struggling to pay for the cost of pet food. In response, we worked with food banks across the province to launch an emergency pet food bank.

During a year when people were urged to stay home to avoid a dangerous virus, the victims of domestic violence and their animals were at greater risk. We worked with our human service partners to share the message that if home is not safe, there are safe places to go – even during a pandemic. We completed a joint research study exploring the impact of animal ownership on the victims of domestic violence. In January, we began work on a feasibility study to establish pet-friendly domestic violence shelters and transition houses.

While we have missed the human connections provided by in-person meetings and public events (and look forward to their return), we have been pleased to see how much we have been able to accomplish during this past year by working in collaboration with partners from the human service and animal welfare sectors.

In closing, I would like to thank our members, donors, and funders for their unfailing support of our organization and our work to ensure the sustained humane treatment of animals. And I offer a special thank you to our board members and staff for their continued efforts to improve the lives of animals and their people.

Sincerely,



Frances Wach, Executive Director

HOW WE ARE MAKING AN IMPACT

Research animal safekeeping in Saskatchewan

How does animal ownership impact individuals planning to leave a violent situation? The SaskSPCA collaborated with the Provincial Association of Transition Houses and Services of Saskatchewan (PATHS) to conduct research on this topic.

We surveyed 128 individuals working in human services and 43 individuals from the animal welfare sector. The study also included a public survey and interviews with survivors of interpersonal violence and abuse.

We learned that domestic violence shelters and transition houses are available in some communities to assist victims of violence; however, most facilities are not pet-friendly. This means that victims who own pets may struggle to access safe shelter.

One survey respondent explained that “some women who called the crisis line refused to leave a dangerous situation as they didn’t want to be separated from their pets.”

The need for pet-friendly domestic violence shelters was a resounding theme in this study.

Another respondent noted “sometimes animals are used in situations where the violent partner harms or threatens to harm an animal and justifies it by saying ‘this could be you’ to the survivor.”

Building on what was learned in this research, the SaskSPCA is now working on a feasibility study with PATHS and Saskatchewan Towards Offering Partnership (STOPS) to Violence. This study, to be complete in late 2021, will help guide the development of new pet-friendly domestic violence shelters and long-term housing options in Saskatchewan.

We are grateful for the support received for the feasibility study from Community Initiatives Fund.



In a violent home, both animals and people are at risk.

Develop new strategies to deliver humane education

The COVID-19 pandemic challenged us to find new ways to share information on topics relating to animal health and welfare. Unable to host our traditional in-person conference, we looked to technology to help us stay connected with audiences across the province.

After consulting with local SPCAs and Humane Societies, we developed a new webinar focusing on COVID cleaning protocols for animal shelters.

In February, we hosted a series of three webinars focusing on Animals & Emergencies. Topics included:

- Lessons learned during major wildfire emergencies in Alberta and Saskatchewan about animal care and transport
- The processes and systems used by Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency to coordinate emergency response efforts
- Strategies to cope with feelings of loss individuals may experience following a disaster situation



Help police dogs enjoy a healthy retirement



Jet served with the Saskatoon Police Service K-9 Unit for four years. RIP, Jet. Photo courtesy of Lorne Ingram.

The SaskSPCA's Stryker K-9 Care Fund is one of the very first in Canada, assisting owners with the cost of routine and emergency veterinary care for retired law enforcement dogs. The program is open to dogs that have retired from active service with the RCMP, a municipal police force, or Canada Border Services Agency.

In 2020-21, the SaskSPCA provided \$8,952.59 to the 12 dogs enrolled in the Stryker program. Annual grants for up to \$1,500 per dog are available.

We were delighted to receive the following email regarding the Stryker Fund:

My name is Jet. My dad and I worked for Saskatoon Police for over four years from 2012 to 2016 (that's 28 in dog years). I get pain killers every few days for my myopathy in my hips. I get eye drops every day for pannus so I am able to see. I get a cytopoint shot every three months for my allergy. Thanks so much for the support. Please share this to show how the Stryker Fund is truly helping our K-9 partners.

Our thanks to representatives from the Saskatchewan Veterinary Medical Association, SaskPork, Saskatchewan Cattlemen's Association, and the Saskatchewan Poultry Council for their assistance with the planning and promotion of these webinars.

We've also launched the SaskSPCA YouTube channel to help make it easier for audiences to locate all of our video resources.

Check out the educational videos and webinars now available on the SaskSPCA YouTube channel.



Provide assistance with the cost of pet care

The SaskSPCA believes that in order to improve the lives of animals, we need to consider the wellbeing of people as well.

The COVID-19 pandemic created financial hardships for a number of Saskatchewan residents. We realized that we could help animals and alleviate some of the stress felt by owners who were struggling with the cost of pet care.

In November 2020, we launched the SaskSPCA Emergency Pet Food Bank. We continue to work in partnership with local food banks in Fort Qu'Appelle, Maple Creek, Melville, Moosomin, Nipawin, Rosetown, Rosthern, and Swift Current. We provide the pet food and they distribute the food to their local clients as requested. As well, pet food is available by appointment every Wednesday afternoon at the SaskSPCA office in Saskatoon.

In the five months since the food bank launched, we have been able to assist over 1,000 pets across the province.

Community support has been key to the success of this initiative. Saskatchewan people donated food and pet supplies. Horizon Pet Food Manufacturing gave us 20,000 pounds of pet food, and arranged for Jay's Transport to deliver the food to participating food banks across the province.

In February, we received funding from the Humane Canada National Pet Food Bank Grant Program. This grant will make it possible for us to purchase additional pet food and expand the program in the future to include pet care items such as leashes and collars.

The Emergency Pet Food Bank provides pet food in Saskatoon and eight other communities across the province.



Helping people, helping pets





Promote the safety of animals and their people

GETTING OUT:

A Process Learned from the
Courage + Wisdom of Survivors



Abuse can affect any person, regardless of age, gender or sexual identity, culture, or income. Animals are also at risk in a violent home.

The SaskSPCA was pleased to work with STOPS to Violence and the Provincial Association of Transition Houses and Services of Saskatchewan to produce the updated Getting Out Guide and Safety Planner. Our organizations share a common interest in building safer, healthier communities for both people and animals.

The Guide provides information on recognizing the many forms of abuse, finding help, and staying safe after leaving a violent situation. In the Safety Planner, pet owners will find suggestions on ways to protect their animals from the impact of interpersonal violence and abuse.

The release of the Guide during the pandemic was particularly important. We wanted to share the message that if home is not safe, there are safe places to go – even during a time of social distancing.

A total of 10,000 copies of the Guide and Planner have been distributed to animal welfare organizations and human service agencies in Saskatchewan. The Guide and Planner are also available at www.violencelink.ca/GO.

The development of the Getting Out Guide has been made possible with the support of:



Signature PrintIt Saskatchewan



Develop standards for animal rescues

In Canada, there is no special licencing or training required in order to establish an animal rescue group. Recognizing the need to safeguard the health and welfare of homeless animals, the SaskSPCA established a Working Group to explore the feasibility of creating a voluntary certification program suitable for all types of animal rescues.

The Working Group members felt that this type of program would be very useful but also agreed the cost to establish and operate it would be prohibitive.

The focus of the Working Group is now on efforts to strengthen *The Animal Protection Regulations* (2018) by adding standards for animal rescues. At present, the Regulations reference catteries, kennels, and sled dogs, but there is nothing specific for pet rescues.

The Working Group has drafted Saskatchewan Animal Rescue Standards, a clear and comprehensive resource for new and established animal rescues. These standards, which are based on the work of the Association of Shelter Veterinarians and the ASPCA, provide guidance on population management, medical health, recordkeeping, and other areas important to the operation of pet rescues.

The Working Group continues to meet with the Ministry of Agriculture on this initiative.

A new educational website is also in development. The Pet Rescue Toolkit offers information and advice for both animal rescue groups and new pet owners. The Toolkit is scheduled to launch in 2021.

10,000 copies of the Getting Out Guide have been distributed to front-line service agencies across the province.



SPECIAL THANKS

The Regina Police Service K-9 Unit raised over \$2,050 for the Stryker K-9 Care Fund through the sale of these adorable stuffies.



Our two cash lotteries raise much-needed funds to support the operation of the SaskSPCA. Congratulations to all the winners and our sincere thanks to the people of Saskatchewan for their continued support.

Thank you to our dedicated volunteers:

- Jenny Marriott
- Murray Clarke
- Mary Uzelman
- Don and Vivian Fraser
- Joye Hammons

Our thanks to Western Financial Group for their generous contribution of \$1,700.



Photo courtesy of Valley Ford Hague

A big THANK YOU to Valley Ford Hague. They purchased 25 SaskSPCA speciality licence plates for distribution to their customers.



The Buy Bissell, Save Pets promotion at London Drugs in Saskatoon and Regina raised \$980 this year.

We are deeply grateful for the continued support of Erical Cleaning Service.



Leaving a legacy

A bequest is one way you can promote animal welfare and support the work of the SaskSPCA.

Bequests are gifts that are made as part of a will or trust. Anyone can make a bequest. Talk with your lawyer or financial advisor to determine how you can make a lasting contribution to a cause close to your heart.

The Saskatchewan SPCA is a registered Canadian charity: 119140440 RR0001

We extend our heartfelt thanks to the following donors and their families:

- **Estate of Barb Coderre, Wynyard**
- **Estate of Eldon Duncan Campbell, Preeceville**
- **Estate of Daisy Meyers, Eatonia**

Canadian registered charities can issue official donation receipts for gifts they receive from individuals and corporations. The public portion of our annual information return is available on the Canada Revenue Agency website by searching the List of Charities.

WHAT'S AHEAD IN 2021-22

- Expand the SaskSPCA pet food bank to include additional Saskatchewan communities.
- Work with PATHS and STOPS to Violence to assist domestic violence shelters to access the funding and infrastructure they need to become pet-friendly.
- Continue collaborative efforts to strengthen *The Animal Protection Act* through the addition of standards for pet rescues.
- Launch the new Pet Rescue Toolkit, containing information for pet rescues and for new pet owners.
- Complete work on our corporate rebranding, including the launch of an updated website and expanded social media channels.