

# Saskatchewan Animal Rescue

# **STANDARDS**



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## **The Saskatchewan Animal Rescue Standards**

*The Saskatchewan Animal Rescue Standards* is a practical reference for any rescue or shelter caring for homeless pets. The standards provide guidance on practices that are considered acceptable as well as those that are not.

The standards are based on the work of experts in the field of shelter management and shelter medicine. In developing the Standards, the Working Group consulted the *Guidelines for Standards of Care in Animal Shelters*, created by the Association of Shelter Veterinarians (ASV) Shelter Standards Task Force; the American SPCA's *Shelter Care Checklists: Putting ASV Guidelines into Action*; and the *Canadian Standards of Care in Animal Shelters: Supporting ASV Guidelines*, published by the Canadian Advisory Council on National Shelter Standards. These documents were invaluable in creating the *Saskatchewan Animal Rescue Standards*. Additional new content was developed by the Working Group to reflect the needs of today's rescues.

While the standards in *Saskatchewan Animal Rescue Standards* are generally applicable to all dog and cat rescue situations, there may be specific practices that are not relevant for all shelter facilities or home-based foster networks.

### ***The development of the standards is based on the belief that:***

- All animals have intrinsic value
- Animals must be relieved of distress (according to terms of *The Animal Protection Act*)
- Animal cruelty must be prevented

### ***Every rescued animal will receive adequate care according to the Five Freedoms.***

The Saskatchewan Animal Rescue Standards support the physical and mental well-being of animals as articulated in the "Five Freedoms." Developed in 1965, and widely recognised, the Five Freedoms describe society's expectations for the conditions animals should experience when under human care, namely:

- Freedom from hunger, malnutrition and thirst;
- Freedom from fear and distress;
- Freedom from heat stress or physical discomfort;
- Freedom from pain, injury, and disease; and
- Freedom to express normal patterns of behaviour.

Considerations for the well-being of animals have evolved over time. The World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) believes the health and welfare of animals extends beyond the absence of disease, distress, discomfort and pain, but must also consider their emotional and social well-being. The Saskatchewan Animal Rescue Standards help ensure "... the welfare of animals is respected, promoted, and advanced, in ways that complement the pursuit of animal health, human well-being, socio-economic development, and environmental sustainability."

**In appreciation ...**

We thank all the individuals and organizations who have been involved in the process of developing *The Saskatchewan Animal Rescue Standards*. Your hard work is very much appreciated.

***We extend our special thanks to the ASV and the ASPCA for permission to use and adapt their materials.***

## Chapter 1 Management and Recordkeeping

### Establishment of Policies and Procedures

- Your organization must demonstrate your current status as a registered not-for-profit.
- The organization must have a clearly defined mission with policies and procedures that reflect current information, adequate and ongoing caregiver training and supervision, and proper management of animal care.
- Policies must address resources and the legal/contractual obligations of the organization.
- Rescues must follow the applicable legal holding periods for stray animals as per municipal legislation.
- Protocols must be developed and written down in sufficient detail to achieve and maintain the standards set out by the *Saskatchewan Animal Rescue Standards* and updated as needed to ensure they reflect current industry norms and pertinent legislation.
- All caregivers must have access to protocols related to the tasks they will be performing.

### Management Plan

- Veterinarians must have supervision of medical and surgical care of animals.
- There must be a clearly defined structure that outlines accountability, responsibility, and authority for management within the organization and it must be communicated to all caregivers.
- Authority and responsibility must be given only to those who have the appropriate knowledge and training.
- A decision tree must be included as part of the organization's policies and procedures relating to resource allocation, population health, and individual animal welfare. (See appendix.)

### Training

- The skills, knowledge, and training to accomplish each task must be successfully documented and demonstrated before proficiency is assumed for all caregivers.

### Animal Identification and Recordkeeping

- Upon intake, a unique identifier (e.g., name and/or number) and record must be established for each animal.

**Resources**

“HSUS Guidelines for Animal Shelter Policies.” *Humane Society International Electronic Library*.  
[hsi.org/assets/pdfs/eng\\_hsus\\_shelter\\_policies.pdf](http://hsi.org/assets/pdfs/eng_hsus_shelter_policies.pdf).

“Best Management Practices for Animal Shelter and Rescue in the Province of Alberta.” *Alberta Animal Health Source*. Alberta Veterinary Medical Association.  
[albertaanimalhealthsource.ca/sites/default/files/uploads/shelterstandardsbooklet.pdf](http://albertaanimalhealthsource.ca/sites/default/files/uploads/shelterstandardsbooklet.pdf).

General information on Petpoint Data Management System. *Petpoint Data Management System*.  
[petpoint.com/](http://petpoint.com/)

General information on Shelter Buddy Animal Database System. *Shelter Buddy*. RSPCA, 2012.  
[shelterbuddy.com/](http://shelterbuddy.com/)

General information on iShelters. *iShelters*. [ishelters.com/software.php](http://ishelters.com/software.php)



## Chapter 2 Biosecurity

### General

- Organization must have minimum sanitation and disease prevention standards to eliminate transmission of disease to other animals within the facility or home; during transport or in the external community; and to caregivers and the public at large.
- A plan of health assessment and preventative medicine for the quarantine period must be developed under the supervision of a veterinarian.
- All animals must be categorized prior to intake as either high or low biosecurity risk. This estimates the likelihood of disease and parasitic infections that are both transmissible to other animals and/or humans. An appropriate biosecurity management procedure must be developed for each case.

Examples of risk:

#### HIGHER RISK

- Imported animals
- Stray animals coming in from northern and rural communities or urban areas with no history available
- Puppies or kittens from unknown sources, and health and vaccination status of the dam is unknown

#### LOWER RISK

- Owner surrender with a medical and vaccination history
- Animals incoming from other animal shelters or SPCAs
- Animals incoming from veterinary clinics

- All incoming animals regardless of risk must be isolated initially until a health check, vaccinations, and diagnostic testing (if needed) can be performed.
- Any animal showing clinical signs of disease (e.g., diarrhea, vomiting, lethargy, fever, etc.) must be given immediate veterinary care and have increased isolation and biosecurity.
- There must be a limited and designated number of trained caregivers dealing with clinically symptomatic animals.
- Proper personal protective equipment must be worn when in contact with the animal: gloves, booties, and lab coat/smock.
- Everyone must ensure hands are washed and sanitized before touching or contacting other animals.
- In all situations (including transport), when multiple animals are handled, the order of contact must be from healthiest to sickest.

## Quarantine

Quarantine is a period of isolation for newly arrived animals and potentially diseased animals for the purpose of detecting and eliminating disease and reducing transmission. The quarantine period allows for acclimatisation, close observation of animals, animal health checks, and preventative medicine programs.

- All caregivers working with quarantined animals should be trained and familiar with the organization's quarantine protocols.
- Where feasible, the quarantine area should be physically separate from high traffic areas or areas where other non-quarantined animals are kept to prevent direct or indirect contact (e.g., equipment, aerosol, or drainage) between quarantined and healthy animals.
- Equipment and tools used in quarantine areas should be dedicated for use only within this area and must be cleaned and disinfected on a regular basis and at the end of the quarantine period.
- Try to ensure that all clothing and footwear that has come into contact with the animal or was worn/used to clean the isolation area is placed in a separate garbage bag and properly cleaned and disinfected after use, minimizing the possibility of disease transmission to other animals and/or people.
- Facilities for hand sanitation using an appropriate antiseptic or a washing station are placed at the entry/exit and hands must be thoroughly cleaned upon entry/exit of the quarantine area.
- Waste products from the isolated animal including bedding, food, feces, urine, and water should be assessed for their biosecurity risk and managed and disposed of, using strict biosecurity practices during the quarantine period.

## Transportation

- All organizations must have a plan for biosecurity management during transport and transfer of animals.
- Transporters must employ the highest biosecurity work practices and personal hygiene.
  - All transport crates, equipment and, if necessary, vehicles used to transfer the animals must be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected before and after each use.
- Waste products including bedding, food, feces, urine, and used paper towels must be managed with strict biosecurity practices during transfer.

**If more than one animal is being transported within a vehicle the following guidelines MUST be followed to reduce the risk of disease or parasite transmission.**

- All transporters must understand and practice biosecurity protocols.

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- Transporters must be responsible for having dedicated footwear and clothing (e.g., lab coat or coveralls) and disposable gloves, hand sanitizer, and cleaning supplies (bleach solution or other disinfectant, paper towels, garbage bags, etc.) during the transport.
- Human-animal contact must be limited as humans are capable of transmitting infectious organisms from one individual to another (via skin, hair, and clothing) or movement of objects (e.g., leashes, bowls, bedding).
- All animals must be individually crated. The only time animals may be crated together is if they are identified litter mates and or dam and a litter.
  - Do not assume animals are littermates just because they are the same age.
- All equipment must be kept separate (e.g., leashes, bedding, crates, water bowls, etc.)
  - Do not take an animal out of one crate and move it to another.
- All small animals must be transported in solid plastic crates. Do not use open wire crates.
  - Where possible physical barriers between crates should be utilized (e.g., cardboard), ensuring ventilation of the crate is not compromised.
- If it is necessary to remove animals for cleaning or exercise, the risk for disease transmission must be weighed against the necessity for the animal to exercise and eliminate.
- If transporting animals with high risk of disease transmission, appropriate steps must be taken (e.g., washing hands, changing gloves and clothing between animals).

### **Resources**

“Guidelines for Standards of Care in Animal Shelters” The Association of Shelter Veterinarians 2010.  
<https://www.shelternvet.org/assets/docs/shelter-standards-oct2011-wforward.pdf>

“The importance of isolation: reflections on rabies and other infectious diseases.” The Humane Society of the United States <https://humanepro.org/magazine/articles/importance-isolation>

## Chapter 3 Facility Design and Environment

### General

- Rescue or home must provide an environment that is conducive to maintaining animal health.
- Facilities must be appropriate for the species, the number of animals receiving care and the expected length of stay.

### Primary Enclosure (this can be a home, a room in a home, etc.)

- Enclosure must be structurally sound and maintained in safe, working condition to properly confine animals, prevent injury, keep other animals out, and enable animals to remain dry and clean.
- Facilities should be safe and free from obvious hazards. There must be no sharp edges, gaps, or other defects in an enclosure that could cause an injury or trap a limb or other body part.
- There must be secure latches or other secure closing devices.
- Animals must be given the opportunity to eliminate outside their enclosure or they must be able to sit, sleep, and eat away from areas where they defecate and urinate.
- Sufficient space must be provided to allow each animal, regardless of species, to make normal postural adjustments (e.g., turn freely, easily stand, sit, and move head without touching top of the enclosure). Animals can lie in a comfortable position with limbs extended, move about, and assume a comfortable posture for feeding, drinking, urinating, and defecating.
- Food and water bowls or suitable alternative receptacles must be provided.
- Cats must have litter boxes large enough to comfortably accommodate their entire body.
- Cats must have places to hide.
- Outdoor spaces must be suitably enclosed, if animals are left outdoors unattended.
- All animal areas must have non-porous surfaces that can be easily disinfected and are durable enough to withstand repeated cleanings – especially important in areas where puppies, kittens, and animals that are infectious or newly admitted are housed. For a home-based system, sanitary conditions must be maintained, and any at risk animals should be kept only in areas that can be properly sanitized.

## UNACCEPTABLE

- Crates or cages stacked upon each other in a manner that increases animal stress and discomfort, compromises ventilation, or allows waste material to fall from the cage above into the cage below.
- Wire-mesh bottoms or slatted floors used for cats and dogs.
- Tethering used as a means of confinement.
- Cages or crates intended for short-term temporary confinement or travel used as primary enclosures.
- Animals kept outside in an unsecured environment.

## Surfaces and Drainage

- Adequate drainage must be provided.
- Drains located in common areas must be carefully cleaned and disinfected prior to allowing animals to access the area.
- For home-based systems, animals must not be kept in wet areas; outdoor areas must have appropriate drainage and dry areas, and indoor areas must be cleaned in a way that prevents animals from standing in water or contacting cleaning solutions.

## Heating, Ventilation and Air Quality

- Each animal must be monitored individually for comfort and to ensure he or she is maintaining proper body temperature.
- To ensure animal comfort and safety, necessary measures must be taken immediately when an animal appears to be too hot or too cold.
- Ventilation must be maintained to ensure clean air is provided in all areas of the rescue or home. Ammonia levels should be low, and must not exceed 25ppm in any area.
- All ventilation systems must be adequately maintained.
- Ventilation must be accomplished without compromising the maintenance of the animals' body temperatures.

## Sound Control

- Caregivers are instructed to avoid creating excessive noise during routine activities.
- If sound-absorbent materials are used, they must be durable enough to permit repeated cleaning.

**Resources**

Attard, Esther, et al. "Canadian Standards of Care in Animal Shelters: Supporting ASV Guidelines." *Canadian Veterinary Medical Association*. [canadianveterinarians.net/documents/canadian-standards-of-care-in-animal-shelters](http://canadianveterinarians.net/documents/canadian-standards-of-care-in-animal-shelters)

"Facility Design, Shelter Animal Housing and Shelter Population Management." *Shelter Medicine Program*. University of Wisconsin Madison, School of Veterinary Medicine. [uwsheltermedicine.com/library/resources/facility-design-shelter-animal-housing-and-shelter-population-management](http://uwsheltermedicine.com/library/resources/facility-design-shelter-animal-housing-and-shelter-population-management)

Volin, Abby. "Rescue Group Best Practices Guide." *Animal Sheltering*. Humane Society of the United States. [animalsheltering.org/sites/default/files/content/rescue-best-practice-guide.pdf](http://animalsheltering.org/sites/default/files/content/rescue-best-practice-guide.pdf)

## Chapter 4 Population Management

### Capacity for Care

- Facilities and foster homes of any organization has a maximum capacity for humane care based on its ability to meet the Five Freedoms.
- This capacity is influenced by:
  - The animals' physical and behavioural needs;
  - Physical space available;
  - Caregiver ability and time for husbandry and training;
  - The presence of other animals;
  - Adoption and transfer options;
  - Funding and other resources which may influence the care of the animal;
  - Foster coordination and other administrative resources.
- An organization's capacity may fluctuate depending on these factors.
  - At any given time, the organization MUST know its overall capacity and that of each of its foster homes and facilities.

### UNACCEPTABLE

- Exceeding the organization's capacity for humane care.
- Breeding of animals for the production of offspring.

### Protocols for Maintaining Adequate Capacity for Care

- Rescue must have policies and protocols to maintain adequate capacity for care and housing.
- Policies must provide a means of balancing admission with the outcomes available (e.g., adoption, transfer, release, returns to owner, euthanasia, or others).
- Inspection of all animals must be performed daily in order to routinely evaluate and monitor adequacy of capacity and to identify needs for housing, care, or service.
- Appropriate interventions must be made before animal numbers exceed the capacity for care and housing.

### Monitoring Statistical Data

- Statistics must include monthly intake (e.g., stray, owner-surrendered) and outcomes by type (e.g., adoption, euthanasia, returned to owner) for each species.

**Resources**

Newbury SP. Population Management for Shelter Animal Health & Welfare. Proceedings of the Western Veterinary Conference, 2009.

Newbury SP. Animal flow-through and capacity planning. Proceedings of the Western States Veterinary Conference, 2009a.

Newbury S. and Hurley K. Chapter 8: Population Management. In: Miller L., Zawistowski S. (eds). Shelter Medicine for Veterinarians and Staff. Second Edition, Ames, IA: Blackwell Publishing, 2013

UCDavis Koret Shelter Medicine Program. Calculating Shelter Capacity.

[www.sheltermedicine.com/library/resources/?r=calculating-shelter-capacity](http://www.sheltermedicine.com/library/resources/?r=calculating-shelter-capacity). 2015.



## Chapter 5 Sanitation

### Cleaning and Disinfection

- All caregivers must be trained and familiar with the organization's sanitation protocols.
- Sanitation protocols must be revised as needed during an outbreak in order to address specific pathogens.
- When developing sanitation protocols, considerations must include an assessment of the facility or home, animal population, training, equipment, and procedures.
- Protocols must be based on current knowledge and recommendations and include specific methods and agents for achieving the goal of both cleaning and disinfection.
- Time must be set aside to clean promptly and appropriately so animals spend the majority of their time in sanitary conditions.
- Detergents and degreasers must be used as needed to maintain clean surfaces free of visible dirt and debris.
- The disinfectants that are used must be effective under the conditions present in a given environment and with demonstrated activity against pathogens for which the animals are at risk.
- Sanitation protocols must include:
  - A) Removal of gross organic matter;
  - B) Pre-cleaning of surfaces with a detergent or degreaser;
  - C) Application of a disinfectant at the correct concentration and for sufficient time for rinsing and drying.
- When water or cleaning and disinfecting products are sprayed in or near primary enclosures, animals must be removed from the cage or kennel or separated from the area being cleaned.
- All clothing and bedding used must be laundered and thoroughly dried before reuse.
- Food and water bowls must be disinfected prior to use by a different animal or housing community.
- When dishes are sanitized by hand, they must be thoroughly washed and rinsed prior to disinfection.
- Litter pans and dishes must not be cleaned at the same time in the same sink.

## UNACCEPTABLE

- Kennels or cages sprayed down while animals are inside.

### Other Cleaning

- Outdoor areas must be kept clean (recognizing it is impossible to disinfect gravel, dirt, and grass).
- Feces must be removed from confined outdoor areas a minimum of once a day.

### Rodent/Pest Control

- Solutions to rodent and pest problems must be humane, safe (no poisons), and effective.

### Resources

“Sanitation in animal shelters” UC Davis Koret Shelter Medicine

<https://www.sheltermedicine.com/library/resources/?r=sanitation-in-animal-shelters>

“Disease Control — The Role of Sanitation Training Playbook” Best Friends Animal Society

<https://network.bestfriends.org/lifesaving-library/playbooks-manuals/operational-playbooks/disease-control-role-sanitation-training>

## Chapter 6 Medical Health and Physical Well-Being

### General

- Proper medical management and health care for rescue animals must be recognized as an absolute necessity and includes attention to the overall well-being of all animals.
- A rescue medical program must include veterinary supervision and the participation of trained caregivers to provide evaluation, preventive care and treatment.
- Appropriate medical treatment must be provided in a timely fashion.
- Ongoing training and education must be provided to those who carry out protocols.
- Individual animal welfare must be maintained within the balance of decisions and practices that support the overall population.

### Veterinary Relationship and Recordkeeping

- Medications and treatments must only be administered with the advice of a veterinarian or in accordance with written protocols provided by a veterinarian, and all drugs must be stored and dispensed in accordance with federal and provincial legislation.
- Documentation must be made of all medical care provided to each animal and must follow the animal at all steps between rescue and ownership.

### Considerations at Intake

- Each animal's individual health status must be evaluated and monitored, beginning at intake and regularly thereafter.
- A medical history, if available, must be obtained from the owner at the time of surrender.
- Any available information must be solicited when stray animals are impounded.
- Intake evaluations must be documented in the medical record.
- At intake, every attempt must be made to locate an animal's owner, including careful screening for identification and scanning multiple times for a microchip using a universal scanner.
- Beginning at intake, animals must be separated by species, age, and their physical and behavioural health status.
- Since young animals are more susceptible to disease, they must be provided with greater protection from possible exposure.
- Healthy animals must not be housed or handled with animals that have signs of illness.

## Vaccinations

- Vaccines are considered to be vital lifesaving tools and must be used as part of a preventive health care program.
- Vaccine strategies and protocols must be specifically tailored by a veterinarian for the rescue because of the higher likelihood of exposure to infectious disease, the likelihood that many animals entering the rescue are not immune, and the potentially life-threatening consequences of infection.
- Protocols for managing adverse reactions must be provided by a veterinarian and required treatments must be accessible.

## Emergency Medical Plan

- An emergency medical must be in place.
- The emergency medical plan ensures that animals can receive proper veterinary medical care and pain management promptly or be humanely euthanized by qualified personnel as permitted by law.

## Pain Management

- Pain must be recognized and treated immediately to alleviate suffering.
- It must be assumed that if a procedure is painful in human beings, then it is also painful in animals.
- Adequate pain relief must be ensured. When adequate pain relief can not be achieved, immediate transfer to a facility that can meet the animal's needs, or humane euthanasia, must be provided without further delay
- Animals must be reassessed periodically to provide ongoing pain relief as needed.

## UNACCEPTABLE

- Treatment for pain is not provided.
- Euthanasia is not provided if appropriate pain control cannot be provided in a timely manner

## Parasite Control

- Deworming strategies and protocols must be specifically tailored by a veterinarian for the rescue because of the higher likelihood that many animals entering the rescue are carrying parasites. All animals must be treated for parasites prior to leaving the rescue.
- Dogs entering the rescue from outside of Saskatchewan must have a heartworm test performed.
- Parasite treatment protocols should include external parasites.

## Monitoring and Daily Checks

- The health and well-being of every animal must be observed at least once every 24 hours.

- Any animal that is observed to be experiencing pain, suffering, distress, rapidly deteriorating health, life-threatening problems, or suspected zoonotic medical conditions must be assessed by a veterinarian and be managed appropriately in a timely manner.
- Animals must be provided with appropriate grooming and/or opportunities to exhibit species-specific behaviours necessary for them to maintain normal healthy skin and hair coat.

### **Nutrition**

- Fresh, clean water must be accessible to animals to meet their physiological needs, unless there is a medical reason for water and/or food to be withheld for a prescribed period of time.
- Food that is consistent with the nutritional needs and health status of the individual animal must be provided. It must be provided in a manner that is appropriate for the animals' life stage (i.e., at least once per day for adults, smaller frequent meals for young animals).
- Food must be fresh, palatable, free from contamination, and of sufficient nutritional value.
- Uneaten food must be discarded after 24 hours.
- Food that has been offered to an animal and remains uneaten must not be offered to another animal.
- Food intake must be monitored daily.
- Animals displaying inappetence, extreme weight loss or gain must be evaluated by a veterinarian and treated as necessary.
- Food and water must be provided in appropriate dishes that are safe, sufficient in number, and of adequate size.
- Animals that guard food must be housed or fed separately.
- If automatic devices or drinking bottles are used, they must be disinfected regularly, and must be checked frequently to ensure they are in working order.
- A schedule of regular sanitation must be followed for all food and water containers.
- Food preparation and storage areas must be easily sanitized and maintained in clean condition.

### **Population Well-Being**

- Trained caregivers must regularly monitor the status of individual animals and the population as a whole.
- Animal health plans must be reviewed regularly in conjunction with a veterinarian and plans revised if necessary in response to changes observed in animal health, illness, or deaths.

## Response to Disease and Illness

- Response to disease and illness must be considered an integral part of the rescue health program.
- When isolation is impossible or inadequate to control transmission of the particular pathogen, the rescue must weigh consequences of exposure of the general population against euthanasia.
- When a specific pathogen has not been identified, a risk assessment must be performed.
- Animals with a suspected infectious disease must be isolated until diagnosis or subsequent treatment determines them to be a low risk to the general population.
- During an outbreak, physical separation must be established between exposed, at-risk, and unexposed animals or groups of animals.
- Rescue must make sure that all federal, provincial, and local laws are followed concerning reportable diseases.
- Depopulation must be viewed as a last resort after all other options are fully examined, and includes considering disease transmission, morbidity, mortality, and public health.

## UNACCEPTABLE

- Animals with severe infectious disease allowed to remain in the general population.
- Animals not being treated for illnesses or injuries.

## Medical Treatment

- The legal status of an animal must never prevent treatment to relieve suffering (which may include euthanasia if suffering cannot be alleviated).
- Rescue must have specific protocols to provide immediate care when legal status is an issue.
- Medical decisions must balance both the best interest of the individual animal requiring treatment and the rescue population as a whole. Those providing treatment must have the necessary training, skills, and resources to ensure treatment is administered correctly, safely, and in a timely manner.

## Resources

“Guidelines for Standards of Care in Animal Shelters” The Association of Shelter Veterinarians 2010.  
<https://www.sheltervet.org/assets/docs/shelter-standards-oct2011-wforward.pdf>

Volin, Abby. “Rescue Group Best Practices Guide.” *Animal Sheltering*. Humane Society of the United States. [animalsheltering.org/sites/default/files/content/rescue-best-practice-guide.pdf](http://animalsheltering.org/sites/default/files/content/rescue-best-practice-guide.pdf)

## Chapter 7 Behavioural Health

### General

- Rescue must take into consideration the behavioural health and well-being of each animal.

### Considerations on Intake

- All incidents or reports of a history of aggressive behaviour along with the context in which they occurred must be recorded as a part of an animal's record.
- Care must be given to minimize stress during intake.

### Behaviour Evaluation

- Assessment of an animal's behaviour must begin at the time of intake.
- Caregivers must be trained to recognize body language and other behaviours that indicate animal stress, pain, and suffering.
- Animals must be monitored daily in order to detect trends or changes in well-being and respond to their behavioural needs.
- If animals are displaying signs of unrelieved stress, steps must be taken to reduce the animal's stress, and evaluate the rescue's stress reduction protocols. Consultation with a trained professional such as a trainer or veterinarian may be required.
- Long-term confinement must be avoided for feral animals and for those that remain markedly stressed/fearful and are not responding to treatment/ behavioural care.
- Caregivers performing behaviour evaluations must receive adequate training in performance, interpretation, and safety. A documented behaviour assessment must consider all of the information gathered about the animal, including history, behaviour during their stay, and evaluation.

### Post-Intake Care

- Short-term housing must meet the minimum behavioural needs of animals, providing separate areas for urination/defecation, feeding, and resting and sufficient space to stand and sit or lie at full body length.
- Animals must be provided regular social contact, mental stimulation, and physical activity.
- For animals that are housed short-term (e.g., transfer of ownership or housing) and with unknown health status, social interaction must be avoided for biosecurity reasons.

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- When animals must remain confined for health or behavioural reasons, positive social interaction should still be provided without removing the animal from the enclosure.
- A high priority must be placed on ensuring proper socialization of young animals, but it must be balanced with preventative medicine and biosecurity.
- Training methods must be based on positive reinforcement in accordance with current professional guidelines.
- Any animal that is observed to be experiencing mental suffering, distress, or behavioural deterioration must be assessed and appropriately treated immediately or euthanized.
- Practices (behaviour modification) must adhere to the well-described scientific principles of animal behaviour and learning, including positive reinforcement, operant conditioning, systematic desensitization, and counter-conditioning.
- Sufficient resources must be available to provide appropriate care if behavioural modification is attempted.
- Caregivers involved in behaviour modification techniques must understand that techniques are generally labour-intensive and time-consuming and that they must be applied consistently over a period of time in order to be successful.
- Prior to adoption, all animals should be well-adapted socially, not display aggression or maladaptive fear, and readily display personality traits suited to possible future environments.

### **UNACCEPTABLE**

- Animals kept in in a crate or small enclosure without appropriate elimination breaks, exercise, and daily enrichment, including social.
- The use of physical force as a punishment or in anger for behaviour modification.
- Animals kept in an unsecured outdoor environment.
- Failure to take action with an animal displaying serious behaviour issues.
- Adopting animals that pose a known danger to the public, have demonstrated overt aggression with the intention of inflicting damage or harm to another dog or person.

### **Resources**

“Position Statement on the Use of Dominance Theory in Behavioural Modification.” American Veterinary Society of Animal Behaviour. [https://avsab.ftlbcn.net/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Dominance\\_Position\\_Statement-download.pdf](https://avsab.ftlbcn.net/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Dominance_Position_Statement-download.pdf)



## Saskatchewan Animal Rescue Standards

“AVSAB position statement on puppy socialization.” American Veterinary Society of Animal Behavior.  
<https://avsab.ftlbcdn.net/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Puppy-Socialization-Position-Statement-FINAL.pdf>

“AVSAB punishment position statement.” – in the process of being updated. American Veterinary Society of Animal Behaviour. <https://avsab.org/resources/position-statements/>

“Feline behavior guidelines.” American Association of Feline Practitioners.  
<https://catvets.com/public/PDFs/PracticeGuidelines/FelineBehaviorGLS.pdf>

“Animal rescue standards of practice.” Animal Welfare Advisory Network of BC.  
[https://www.pawsforhope.org/uploads/pdf/AWANBC\\_Rescue\\_Standards.pdf](https://www.pawsforhope.org/uploads/pdf/AWANBC_Rescue_Standards.pdf)

“Special Adoptions.” Center for Shelter Dogs, Cummins School of Veterinary Medicine.  
<https://centerforshelterdogs.tufts.edu/dog-behavior/special-adoptions/>

## Chapter 8 Group Housing

### Facilities

- Species-appropriate enrichment must be provided.
- Sufficient resources (e.g., food, water, bedding, litter boxes, resting places, and toys) must be provided to prevent competition or resource guarding and ensure access by all animals.

### Selection

- Animals must not be housed in the same enclosure simply because they arrived on the same day or because individual kennel space is insufficient.
- Unrelated or unfamiliar animals must not be combined in groups or pairs until after a health and behaviour evaluation is performed.
- If group housing is utilized short-term for intact animals, they must be separated by sex.
- Animals that are not socialized to other animals, as well as those that actively bully other animals, must not be grouped with other animals.
- Animals that have engaged in fighting with one another must not be grouped together.
- Caution must be used when attempting to include any animal with a history of fighting in a group.
- When placing single orphaned animals with an alternate mother, with or without a litter, risks and benefits to health and behaviour for all animals must be weighed.
- Even for littermates, all requirements for group housing must be met.
- Options for individual housing must be available for animals when group housing is not appropriate.
- Single, enriched housing must be provided for animals that are fearful or aggressive toward other animals, are stressed by the presence of other animals, require individual monitoring, or are ill and require treatment that cannot be provided in group housing.

### UNACCEPTABLE

- Animals randomly housed in groups.
- Animals that fight grouped together.

**Resources**

ASV (Association of Shelter Veterinarians) Shelter Guidelines: Group Housing Association of Shelter Veterinarians. Presented by Brenda Griffin, DVM, MS, DACVIM.

[https://www.aspcapro.org/sites/default/files/asv\\_group\\_housing\\_slides.pdf](https://www.aspcapro.org/sites/default/files/asv_group_housing_slides.pdf)

University of Wisconsin-Madison Shelter Medicine Program: Facility Design, Shelter Animal Housing and Shelter Population Management.

<https://www.uwsheltermedicine.com/library/resources/facility-design-shelter-animal-housing-and-shelter-population-management>

UC Davis Koret Shelter Management Program: Resource Library: Facility Design and Animal Housing

<https://www.sheltermedicine.com/library/resources/?r=facility-design-and-animal-housing>

## Chapter 9 Animal Handling

### General

- Handling must be as humane as possible and appropriate for the individual animal and situation.
- Where possible, low-stress handling procedures should be used by trained personnel.

### Restraint

- Adequate training is key to limiting the use of unnecessary force during handling and must be provided to anyone who will be handling animals.

### UNACCEPTABLE

- Physical force used as a punishment or in anger.

### Equipment

- If catchpoles are used on dogs, they must only be used when more gentle alternatives are not appropriate, and must not be used to carry or lift the dog.

### UNACCEPTABLE

- The use of catchpoles for the restraint of cats (including carrying or lifting) is inhumane.

### Feral Cats

- When capturing or transporting feral cats, squeeze cages, feral cat boxes, or humane box traps with dividers must be used for the most humane restraint and for administering tranquilizing injections prior to handling.

### References

Yin, Sophia. *Low Stress Handling Restraint and Behaviour Modification of Dogs and Cats*.

Schultz, Jacque Lynn *Animal Handling Safety Tips* <https://www.petfinder.com/pro/for-shelters/animal-handling-safety-tips/>

## Chapter 10 Euthanasia

### General

- Each individual animal must be treated with respect.
- Any euthanasia method used must result in rapid loss of consciousness followed by cardiac and respiratory arrest and loss of brain function and should occur without pain with minimal distress, anxiety, or apprehension.
- Euthanasia method must be reliable, irreversible, and compatible with the species, age, and health status of the animal.
- The identity of each animal to be euthanized must be determined with certainty beforehand.
- When pharmaceutical methods are used, an assessment must be made of each animal's size, weight, and temperament so the appropriate drug dose, needle, syringe, and restraint method can be used.
- Safety of the personnel and the emotional impact of euthanasia must be considered. Whenever possible, euthanasia must be performed by a veterinarian.
- If euthanasia by firearms must be done, it must be done humanely, in accordance with the guidelines outlined by the CVMA in the "Guidelines for euthanasia of domestic animals by firearms."

### UNACCEPTABLE

- Agents and/or methods unacceptable to the AVMA Guidelines on Euthanasia.*

### Euthanasia Technique

- Chemical agents and/or methods (including physical) deemed acceptable by the AVMA Guidelines on Euthanasia must be used and are carried out by trained and competent personnel or a veterinarian.
- To avoid causing any undue stress and anxiety, the least amount of physical restraint necessary to perform the procedures safely must be used; consider sedation whenever possible.
- Death must be verified by multiple methods by trained caregivers before disposing of any animal's body; the body disposal must be done in a manner that adheres to biosafety protocols and prevents scavenging, especially when chemical agents are used.
- Because lack of a palpable pulse does not confirm that the heart has stopped, cardiac standstill must be confirmed with a stethoscope or visual verification, or a secondary method of euthanasia is used.

## UNACCEPTABLE

- Intra-cardiac injections unless it has been verified that the animal is unconscious, comatose, or anesthetized (i.e., lack of deep pain/toe withdrawal reflex). Agents that induce convulsions, paralysis, or respiratory arrest prior to loss of consciousness

## Environment and Equipment

- The environment must be quiet and away from the main pattern of foot traffic to minimize distractions and interruptions.
- Personnel, public, and nearby animal safety must be considered.
- Animals should not be permitted to observe or hear euthanasia of another animal, nor permitted to view the bodies of dead animals.

## Record-Keeping and Controlled Substances

- A record log must be kept documenting each animal's identification.
- Federal, provincial, and local regulations must be followed for securing controlled drugs and keeping drug records.

## Caregiver Training

- Proper and ongoing training must be provided to all caregivers participating in euthanasia.
- Euthanasia training in specific techniques must include the ability to access alternative injection sites, handle various species, assess behaviour and temperament for proper animal handling, and verify death by multiple methods.
- Physical methods of euthanasia (e.g., gunshot, captive bolt) must only be performed by highly skilled personnel.
- The euthanasia technician and the assisting caregivers must be proficient in animal handling and restraint.

## Disposal of Remains

- Local or provincial laws may determine requirements for acceptable disposition of the remains of deceased animals.
  - Talk with a veterinarian or local animal shelters to discuss options for cremation.
  - If laws permit, a deceased dog may be buried away from water sources, deep enough and with appropriate soil cover to minimize risk of remains being scavenged and the environment contaminated.
  - If animal remains cannot be properly disposed of immediately, an appropriate storage facility such as a secured freezer onsite can prevent carcass spoilage and scavenging.

## **Resources**

*A Code of Practice for Canadian Kennel Operations.*

<https://www.canadianveterinarians.net/documents/Code-of-Practice-for-Canadian-Kennel-Operations>

American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA). *AVMA Guidelines on Euthanasia*, 2020.  
avma.org/resources.pdf

Longair J. (Al) Guidelines for euthanasia of domestic animals by firearms. *Canadian Veterinary Journal* 1991;32:724-726. ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1481111/pdf/canvetj00073-0022.pdf

Fakkema D. *Euthanasia by Injection Training Guide*, Englewood, CO: American Humane Association, 2009.

Rhodes R. *Euthanasia Training Manual*. Washington, DC. Humane Society Press, 2002.

Smith-Blackmore M. Euthanasia. In Miller L., Zawistowski S (eds). *Shelter Medicine for Veterinarians and Staff*. Second edition, Ames, IA: Wiley-Blackwell, 2013.

## Chapter 11 Spaying and Neutering

### General

- All surgeries must be done by or under the direct supervision of a veterinarian.
- As part of a binding contract between the rescue group and adopter, rescue animals should not be bred.
- Consideration be given to individual animal health or circumstances when it comes to creating the need for an exception to the organization's spay/neuter policy.
- Policies for managing complications and emergencies that occur within 48 hours after surgery must be in place.
- Spaying pregnant animals should be left to the discretion of the organization's veterinarian.

### UNACCEPTABLE

- Rescue animals allowed to breed.

### Resources

Makolinski K. V. Chapter 37: Spay/Neuter Services for Shelter and Community Animals. In: Miller L, Zawistowski S. (eds). Shelter Medicine for Veterinarians and Staff. Second Edition, Ames, IA: Blackwell Publishing, 2013.

Appel L., Scarlett J. Chapter 40: Pediatric Neutering. In: Miller L, Zawistowski S. (eds). Shelter Medicine for Veterinarians and Staff. Second Edition, Ames, IA: Blackwell Publishing, 2013.

Oban P.N., Root Kustritz M.V., Johnston S.D. Early-age neutering of dogs and cats in the United States (a review). Journal of Reproduction and Fertility Supplement 57, 223-232. 2001.

Spain C.V., Scarlett J.M., Houpt K.A. Long-term risks and benefits of early-age gonadectomy in cats. JAVMA, Vol 224, No.3, February 1, 2004.

Spain C.V., Scarlett J.M., Houpt K.A. Long-term risks and benefits of early-age gonadectomy in dogs. JAVMA, Vol 224, No.3, February 1, 2004.



## Chapter 12 Animal Transport

### General

- Federal, provincial, and local regulations regarding animal transportation must be followed.
- Risks and benefits for all animals affected by the transport program must be carefully weighed.
- Biosecurity and emergency medical protocols must be followed.
- Long-distance and cross-border transport, or transport of a large number of animals, requires special planning, and particular attention must be paid to biosecurity and the well-being of the animals.

### Responsibilities of Participating Individuals and Organizations

- Contingency plans must be made prior to transport.
- A contact person must be identified at each transfer point.
- Animals destined for transport must be vaccinated prior to or upon intake at the organization of origin. If animals are transported from a remote location before official intake at an organization, they should be appropriately quarantined throughout and vaccinated as soon as possible. Vaccination requirements in Chapter 6 Medical Health and Physical Well-Being must be followed.
- In addition to any examinations required by provincial or federal regulations, all animals being transported must be examined within 24 hours of transport for any problems.
- Information on the health and behaviour of animals – as known at the source – must be accurately described and communicated to everyone involved.
- For animals originating in a rescue or shelter, clearly written health records that describe health status and identify animals (health certificate, vaccination certificate, and a copy of rescue record) must accompany each animal.
- During transport, animals must have adequate space, comfortable environmental conditions, and good air quality.
- Records must be kept for all stages of the transport process.
- Primary enclosures must be large enough for animals to stand and sit erect, to turn around normally while standing, and to lie in a normal position.
- Unfamiliar animals must not be transported together in the same primary enclosure.

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- If more than one animal is in the primary enclosure, there must be enough space for each occupant to lie down comfortably at the same time without needing to lie on top of one another.
- The enclosure must be sturdy and permit adequate ventilation.
- Flooring must prevent injury, discomfort, and leakage of fluids into other enclosures.
- Animals must be safely and securely confined within the enclosure.
- Doors on the primary enclosures used for transport (e.g. vehicle doors, U-Haul, back of truck) must be secured.
- Extra care must be provided when transporting young animals, including prevention of exposure to temperature extremes, maintenance of adequate hydration and nutrition, and protection from infectious disease exposure during the transport process.
- If animals are medicated, veterinary guidance must be provided for their care.
- Vehicles must adhere to all federal and local statutes.
- Each primary enclosure must be positioned in the animal cargo space in a manner that provides protection from the weather and extremes of temperature.
- Fresh air free of exhaust fumes must be ensured.
- Attention must be paid to the provision of shade, because even in comfortable temperatures, a vehicle parked in full sun can rapidly exceed safe temperature levels.
- The vehicle driver or animal attendant must have sufficient training in animal health, welfare, and safety issues to recognize and respond to animal needs during transport.
- All dogs and cats must be observed and allowed to rest at appropriate intervals.
- Food must be provided at least every 24 hours for adults and more frequently for animals under six months old.
- If water is not available at all times, it must be provided at observation stops.
- Animal enclosures must be cleaned and any litter replaced as often as necessary to prevent soiling of the animals from vomit, urine, or feces.
- If it is necessary to remove animals in order to clean, safeguards must be in place to ensure animal safety and prevent escape, and to ensure that biosecurity is maintained.
- Points of destination must have enough trained personnel ready to receive and evaluate animals upon arrival.
- The receiving facility must have adequate housing prepared for the arriving animals.

## UNACCEPTABLE

- Crates and cages stacked upon each other in a manner that increases animal stress and discomfort, compromises ventilation, allows waste material to fall from the cage above into the cage below, interferes with care and observation, or hinders emergency removal.
- The transport of unconfined or tethered animals in the back of an open pickup truck.

## Pregnant and neonatal animals

- Avoid transportation for late-stage pregnant animals.
- Late-stage pregnant animals should stay in province until they can be transported safely.
- Puppies under the age of 8 weeks must be transported with their mother.
- All animals should only be transported under the advice of a veterinarian.
- If animals are going across a border, they should be vaccinated at their place of origin.

## Resources

Transporting unfit/compromised animals:

<https://inspection.canada.ca/animal-health/humane-transport/health-of-animals-regulations-part-xii/eng/1582126008181/1582126616914#a7>

Contingency plan and template:

<https://inspection.canada.ca/animal-health/humane-transport/health-of-animals-regulations-part-xii/eng/1582126008181/1582126616914#a5>

<https://inspection.canada.ca/animal-health/humane-transport/health-of-animals-regulations-part-xii/eng/1582126008181/1582126616914#app2>

Responsible parties during transport:

<https://inspection.canada.ca/animal-health/humane-transport/livestock-transport-in-canada/eng/1363748532198/1363748620219#a1>

Checklist for animal transport:

<https://inspection.canada.ca/animal-health/humane-transport/livestock-transport-in-canada/eng/1363748532198/1363748620219#a9>

## Chapter 13 Public Health

### General

- Rescue must maintain compliance with applicable federal and provincial occupational and safety regulations regarding chemical, biological, and physical hazards in the workplace.
- Hearing protection must be provided for anyone working in loud environments.
- Personal protective equipment (PPE) such as gloves, smocks, goggles, masks, etc. must be provided by the rescue in order to protect personnel from exposure to chemical and biological agents.
- PPE must be available in sizes to accommodate all personnel, including those with special concerns such as latex allergies.
- Any staff (volunteer or unpaid) requires WHMIS (Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System) training if they will be in contact with biological or chemical hazards (e.g., fecal matter, disinfecting products).

### Zoonoses

- Enclosures of animals with suspected zoonotic disease must be clearly marked to indicate the condition and any necessary precautions.

### Animal-Related Injuries

- Personnel must be able to identify potential rabies exposures and understand the regulations that apply to reporting and managing bites to humans and animals. ADDED RABIES INFO IN RESOURCES
- To identify possible rabies exposures, everyone presenting an animal must be asked if the animal has bitten anyone within the last 10 days or had any contact with wildlife.
- Clear policies must be developed and enforced regarding the management of animals with behavioural concerns.
- The cages of animals known to be aggressive or potentially dangerous must be clearly marked to advise caution.
- Alternate housing must be provided after 10 days for any animal housed in an enclosure that would require that dogs be removed by use of a control pole or cats be removed using nets or tongs for daily cleaning or care.
- A thorough investigation of individual circumstances must be undertaken before consideration is given to re-homing an animal with a history of biting or threatening behaviour.

## UNACCEPTABLE

- Animals housed beyond the legally required hold time in an enclosure that requires dogs to be removed by use of a control pole or cats to be removed using nets or tongs for daily cleaning or care.

### **Resources**

Attard, Esther, et al. "Canadian Standards of Care in Animal Shelters: Supporting ASV Guidelines." *Canadian Veterinary Medical Association*. [canadianveterinarians.net/documents/canadian-standards-of-care-in-animal-shelters](http://canadianveterinarians.net/documents/canadian-standards-of-care-in-animal-shelters)

"Best Management Practices for Animal Shelter and Rescue in the Province of Alberta." *Alberta Animal Health Source*. Alberta Veterinary Medical Association. [albertaanimalhealthsource.ca/sites/default/files/uploads/shelterstandardsbooklet.pdf](http://albertaanimalhealthsource.ca/sites/default/files/uploads/shelterstandardsbooklet.pdf)

Government of Saskatchewan. Rabies. <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/residents/health/diseases-and-conditions/rabies>.

## Chapter 14 Adoptions

### Adoption Events

- Follow procedures outlined in Chapter 2, Biosecurity.
- Procedures must be in place regarding when an animal may attend an adoption event; i.e., the potential risk of the location must be considered relevant to the health and immunity of the dog.
- Animals must be properly housed and restrained to ensure the safety of the public and the animals.
- Animals must have age-appropriate vaccination to provide sufficient immunity against disease before being taken to a public event. (Refer also to Chapter 6, Vaccinations.)

### Screening Process

- Rescue groups must have a screening process in place to determine suitability of potential adopters for a particular animal.
- Ideally, all household members, including resident animals (depending on species) should meet the animal to ensure a suitable match.
- Other animals in the home must be up to date on vaccinations and must be altered, unless adopter can provide medical evidence as to why the present animals are not vaccinated or altered. If another animal of the same species is not altered, then only animals of the same sex should be considered for adoption.
- The organization must disclose to the prospective adopter all known behaviour or medical concerns. Every effort should be made to match animals with medical or behavioural issues with the adopter's capacity for care (i.e., knowledge, experience, resources, etc.).
- Applicant should own their own home or provide permission from their landlord to have animals living on the property.
- Reference checks and/or veterinarian references should be completed on potential adopters.

### Adoption Contract

- An adoption contract must outline responsibilities and expectations and rights for both the adopter and the organization including medical records (vaccination, parasite control, certificate of spaying), standard of care expected, and return policy. The contract must be reviewed and signed by a representative of the rescue organization and the adoptee, prior to transfer of the animal.
- The adoptee must follow the bylaws of their area.

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- If the animal is too young to be altered (spayed or neutered) at time of adoption, alteration in a timely fashion must be included as a requirement of the contract.
- Future financial commitment must be reviewed.
- An adoption fee must be charged, unless previously sponsored.
- The rescue of origin should have first right of refusal if the adopter can no longer care for the adopted animal.
- All medical information on the animal should be transferred to the new owner.

### Post-Adoption

- Rescues must have a follow-up process in place to ensure alterations occur for animals adopted out prior to alteration.
- Rescues should be prepared to accept the return or arrange placement of animals from adopters who are no longer able or willing to care for the animal.

### UNACCEPTABLE

- Rescues that permit the adoption and removal of animals directly from the adoption event without completion of the adoption screening process.
- Displaying unhealthy or overly stressed animals at adoptions events including dam and offspring.
- Organization knowingly placing an animal in a home that is unsuitable for the animal's medical or behavioural needs.

### Resources

"Animal rescue standards of practice." Animal Welfare Advisory Network of BC.  
[https://www.pawsforhope.org/uploads/pdf/AWANBC\\_Rescue\\_Standards.pdf](https://www.pawsforhope.org/uploads/pdf/AWANBC_Rescue_Standards.pdf)

## **Appendix A: The Occupational Health and Safety (Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System) Regulations**

### **Worker education and training**

5(1) An employer shall ensure that a worker who works with a hazardous product or may be exposed to a hazardous product in the course of his or her work activities is informed about:

- (a) all hazard information received by the employer from a supplier concerning that hazardous product; and
- (b) any further hazard information that the employer is, or ought reasonably to be, aware of concerning the use, storage, handling and disposal of that hazardous product.

(2) If a hazardous product is produced in a place of employment, an employer shall ensure that a worker who works with a hazardous product or may be exposed to a hazardous product in the course of his or her work activities is informed about all hazard information that the employer is, or ought reasonably to be, aware of concerning the use, storage, handling and disposal of that hazardous product.

(3) An employer shall ensure that a worker who works with a hazardous product or may be exposed to a hazardous product in the course of his or her work activities is educated and trained respecting:

- (a) the content that is required to appear on a supplier label and workplace label for the hazardous product and the purpose and significance of the information contained on those labels;
- (b) the content that is required to appear on a safety data sheet for a hazardous product and the purpose and significance of the information contained on the safety data sheet;
- (c) all necessary procedures for the safe use, storage, handling and disposal of the hazardous product;
- (d) all necessary procedures to be followed if fugitive emissions are present where workers may be exposed to those fugitive emissions; and
- (e) all necessary procedures to be followed in case of an emergency involving a hazardous product.

(4) An employer shall ensure that the education and training required by subsection (3) is developed and implemented:

- (a) for that employer's place of employment; and
- (b) in consultation with the occupational health committee, if there is an occupational health committee.

(5) An employer shall ensure that:

- (a) the education and training required by subsection (3) results in a worker being able to apply the information as needed to protect the health and safety of that worker or any other worker;
- (b) the necessary procedures mentioned in clauses (3)(c) to (e) are implemented; and
- (c) the knowledge of the workers is periodically evaluated using written tests, practical demonstrations or other suitable means.



(6) An employer shall review at least annually, or more frequently if required by a change in work conditions or available hazard information, the education and training programs provided to workers on the safe use, storage, handling and disposal of hazardous products, in consultation with:

- (a) the occupational health committee;
- (b) the occupational health and safety representative; or
- (c) if there is no occupational health committee or occupational health and safety representative, a worker representative.

17 June 2016 cS-15.1 Reg 6 s5.

## Appendix B: Animal Rescue Standards Definitions

**Animal:** Any animal other than a human being

**Abandoned animal:**

- Is apparently ownerless and not running at large;
- Is found on rented premises after the expiration or termination of the tenancy agreement;
- Is found on premises after the owner has sold or vacated the premises;
- Or by agreement between the animal's owner and another person, has been left in the care of the other person and has not been retrieved from the other person more than 4 days after the agreed-on retrieval time.

(Taken from *The Animal Protection Act, 2018*: <https://pubsaskdev.blob.core.windows.net/pubask-prod/108937/A21-2.pdf>)

**Animal welfare:**

- Means the physical and mental state of an animal in relation to the conditions in which it lives and dies.
- An animal experiences good welfare if the animal is healthy, comfortable, well nourished, safe, is not suffering from unpleasant states such a pain, fear and distress, and is able to express behaviours that are important for its physical and mental state.
- Good animal welfare requires disease prevention and appropriate veterinary care, shelter, management and nutrition, a stimulating and safe environment, humane handling and humane slaughter or killing. While animal welfare refers to the state of the animal, the treatment that an animal receives is covered by other terms such as animal care, animal husbandry, and humane treatment.

(Taken from Chapter 7.1 Introduction to the Recommendations for Animal Welfare, Terrestrial Animal Health Code: [https://www.oie.int/index.php?id=169&L=0&htmfile=chapitre\\_aw\\_introduction.htm](https://www.oie.int/index.php?id=169&L=0&htmfile=chapitre_aw_introduction.htm))

**At-risk animals:** Animals which are at higher risk for contracting disease, such as unvaccinated or immunocompromised animals.

**Bite wound:** A wound or puncture leading to a break in integrity of the skin resultant to the biting by an animal.

**Canine core vaccines:**

- Canine Adenovirus (CAV)
- Canine Distemper Virus (CDV)
- Canine Parvovirus (CPV-2)
- Rabies Vaccine (RV)

**Caregiver:** An individual who agrees to care for an animal, including employees and volunteers.

**Capacity for Care (C4C):** Management model that helps shelters better meet the needs of the animals in their facility. It creates the conditions necessary to provide shelter animals with the Five Freedoms, thereby improving the welfare of the individual animals.

Taken from Humane Canada: [https://www.humanecanada.ca/capacity\\_for\\_care](https://www.humanecanada.ca/capacity_for_care))

Formulae for calculation: <https://www.aspcapro.org/resource/4-guidelines-calculate-your-capacity-care-https://www.sheltermedicine.com/library/resources/?r=overview-of-capacity-for-care-c4c>

**Dangerous animal:** A dangerous animal is one that:

- Without provocation and in a vicious manner, approached a person or domestic animal in an apparent attitude or attack;
- Is known to attack without provocation;
- Has bitten or attacked a person or domestic animal without provocation; and
- Is owned primarily for the purpose of fighting or is trained for fighting.

(Taken from Animal Control: <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/municipal-administration/tools-guides-and-resources/animal-control#dangerous-animals>)

**Enrichment:** A process for improving the environment and behavioural care of animals within the context of their behavioural needs.

(Modified from *A Code of Practice for Canadian Kennel Operations*:

<https://www.canadianveterinarians.net/documents/Code-of-Practice-for-Canadian-Kennel-Operations>)

**Feline Core Vaccines:**

- Feline Calicivirus (FCV)
- Feline Herpesvirus (FVR)
- Feline Panleukopenia (FPV)
- Rabies Virus (RV)

**Kitten:** A cat under the age of 8 months

**Legally required hold time:** The time period required by law to hold an animal that is seized, abandoned, stray, etc. This time period will depend upon the applicable legislation, such as *The Animal*

*Protection Act, The Stray Animals Act*, or local bylaws. The legislation that applies depends upon why the animal is being held and the location of the animal within the province.

**Legal status of an animal:** Refers to who has authority to make decisions about the care of an animal.

**Notifiable disease:** Federally notifiable diseases are exotic to Canada and typically have no control or eradication program. Only laboratories are required to contact the CFIA regarding the suspicion or diagnosis of one of these diseases.

- Federally notifiable diseases are designated by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency and are located here: <https://www.inspection.gc.ca/animals/terrestrial-animals/diseases/immediately-notifiable/eng/1305670991321/1305671848331>
- Provincially notifiable diseases are those that require monitoring for trade purposes, or to help the industry detect or understand their presence. Anyone who knows or ought to know that a notifiable disease is present in an animal must report it within 24 hours to the office of the Chief Veterinary Officer.
- Provincially notifiable diseases are designated by each province. Saskatchewan's notifiable diseases can be found here: <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/business/agriculture-natural-resources-and-industry/agribusiness-farmers-and-ranchers/livestock/animal-health-and-welfare/notifiable-disease-list>

**Policies:** Guiding principles of the organization designed to reach certain objectives.

**Population:** Refers to the entire group of animals housed by an organization or person.

**Pregnancy:** The physiological condition of the female from the moment of fertilization until the birth of the fetus.

**Procedures:** Step-by-step instructions that describe how a policy will be put into action.

**Protocols:** Defines a set of operational procedures to ensure there is a well-defined method of performing a specific task or range of tasks. Protocols set a precedence or standard for how tasks should be completed.

(Policies/protocols/procedures definitions modified from [https://www.proceduresonline.com/LimitedCMS\\_centrally\\_managed\\_content/swcpp/shared\\_files/difference\\_between\\_pol\\_strat\\_proc\\_prot.pdf](https://www.proceduresonline.com/LimitedCMS_centrally_managed_content/swcpp/shared_files/difference_between_pol_strat_proc_prot.pdf))

**Puppy:** A dog less than 12 months of age

**Rabies:** Rabies is a zoonotic, viral disease spread to people and animals through exposure to saliva, bites or scratches. Once clinical symptoms appear, rabies is virtually 100% fatal.

**Rabies Quarantine:** This is the period of isolation and monitoring for signs of rabies post exposure to the Rabies virus. The period can range from 0 days in pets up-to-date on vaccines, to 3 months in pets with vaccination history, and up to a maximum of 6 months in unvaccinated animals. Contact your local veterinarian for post-exposure rabies vaccination protocols.

When there is a break in skin integrity by a non-bite (scratch) wound caused by a dog or cat, it was advised by Public Health to have the pet under a 10-day observation period – the response was it has to be dealt on a case by case basis, based on animal assessment and recommended to follow public health advice. Also being an occupational hazard, people handling animals are recommended to get their rabies vaccines.

In a second instance public health advised; if bitten by a vaccinated animal, it is required for the pet to be under a 10-day observation period – even though this might be stringent, since decisions are made on a case-by-case basis, it was recommended to follow public health advice.

The ministry's website does classify scratch wounds under category 2 and 3 routes of exposure <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/business/agriculture-natural-resources-and-industry/agribusiness-farmers-and-ranchers/livestock/animal-health-and-welfare/rabies>

**Reportable disease:** Federally reportable diseases are usually of significant importance to human or animal health or to the Canadian economy. Animal owners, veterinarians and laboratories are required to immediately report the presence of an animal that is contaminated or suspected of being contaminated with one of these diseases to a CFIA district veterinarian.

- Federally reportable diseases are designated by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency and are listed here: <https://www.inspection.gc.ca/animals/terrestrial-animals/diseases/reportable/eng/1303768471142/1303768544412>
- Provincially reportable diseases are those that require actions to be taken for prevention, control or eradication of the disease. Anyone who knows or ought to know that a notifiable disease is present in an animal must report it within 24 hours to the office of the Chief Veterinary Officer.
- Provincially reportable diseases are designated by each province. Saskatchewan's reportable diseases can be found here: <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/business/agriculture-natural-resources-and-industry/agribusiness-farmers-and-ranchers/livestock/animal-health-and-welfare/notifiable-disease-list>

**Veterinarian:** A registered member of the Saskatchewan Veterinary Medical Association who is in good standing and who is licensed to practice veterinary medicine in Saskatchewan.

(Taken from *The Animal Protection Act, 2018*: <https://pubsaskdev.blob.core.windows.net/pubsask-prod/108937/A21-2.pdf>)

**Whelping:** The process of a dog giving birth to puppies or a cat giving birth to kittens.

**Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System (WHMIS):** Detailed plan for the safe use of hazardous materials at work.

(Taken from WorkSafe Saskatchewan: <http://www.worksafesask.ca/prevention/whmis/>)

**Zoonotic disease:** Disease caused by infections that spread between animals and people.

(Taken from <https://www.cdc.gov/onehealth/basics/zoonotic-diseases.html>)