



SASK
SPCA



ANNUAL REPORT

2021-2022



**SASK
SPCA**

BOARD & STAFF

2021-2022 SaskSPCA Board of Directors

- Calvin Nickel, Saskatoon, President
- Jack MacKay, Yorkton, Treasurer
- Marianne Possberg, Regina, Secretary
- Dr. Sandra Neumann, Saskatoon, Past President
- Members at Large:
 - Chris Brueckner, Saskatoon
 - McKenzie Parks, Saskatoon
 - Les Trayhorne, Elrose

Our Staff

- Frances Wach, Executive Director
- Crystal Stubbs, Administrative Assistant
- Josh Hourie, Community Relations Coordinator
- Sandra Anderson, Program Director
- Laura Zmud, BSW, RSW, Family Ties Coordinator
- Joan Wolf, Capital Campaign Manager
- Twyla Polson, Administrative Support
- Jenny Marriott, Researcher (volunteer)
- Summer Student (2021): Ashleigh Arcand

CONTACT US

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SaskSPCA: The voice for animals

Established in 1928, the Saskatchewan SPCA (SaskSPCA) is a registered Canadian charity located in Saskatoon, SK.

At the SaskSPCA, we are driven by our passion and love for animals. We are dedicated to the collaborative effort to make change and be the voice for animals. At the core of everything we do is the promotion of a healthy and lasting human-animal connection. With every action we take and conversation we have, we are working to enhance the wellbeing of animals.

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.



A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

It has truly been a busy and productive year for us.

The Saskatchewan SPCA was established by an act of the Legislature in 1928. In the early years of our operation, we functioned as an “umbrella organization,” helping to support the establishment of new SPCAs and Humane Societies throughout the province. Until 2015, we were responsible for enforcement of animal cruelty legislation. Today we continue to deliver humane education and advocate for the improved treatment of animals.

While our roles have changed and evolved over time, our commitment to animal welfare has remained strong. We are now preparing to take on a completely new role – providing direct animal care. The SaskSPCA is building a new provincial animal caretaking centre to provide short-term compassionate care for companion animals.

The **SaskSPCA Emergency Animal Care Centre (EACC)** will support and strengthen the provincial animal welfare sector. This will be a welcoming place for pets when their owners are temporarily unable to care for them due to a crisis such as family violence, an emergency evacuation, or a prolonged hospitalization. Owners will be comforted

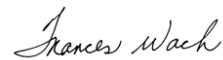
to know that their pets will be well cared for and that they will be reunited once the situation has been resolved.

The Centre will offer much-needed support for animal enforcement agencies in Saskatchewan. At present, Animal Protection Officers (APOs) struggle to find suitable places to take seized or surrendered animals. The Centre helps ensure there is a safe place for these animals when the need arises.

We look forward to providing updates on the progress of this exciting project.

In closing, I want to offer my sincere thanks to our board of directors, staff, and volunteers for their dedication, enthusiasm, and continued hard work. Together we are making a real and lasting difference in the welfare of animals and their people.

Thank you.



Frances Wach, Executive Director



HIGHLIGHTS OF 2021-2022



Developing plans for a provincial animal caretaking centre

Planning has begun for the construction of an innovative new provincial animal caretaking centre that will provide short-term compassionate care for animals.

The SaskSPCA Emergency Animal Care Centre will be a unique and much needed resource, offering a safe landing space in times of crisis. Unlike a traditional animal shelter or adoption facility, our services will focus on three main areas:

- **Animal safekeeping:** Assisting pet owners experiencing a crisis in which they are temporarily unable to care for their animals and unable to locate suitable animal care. This might include families escaping a violent home, individuals experiencing homelessness, or a pet owner facing a lengthy hospitalization.
- **Animal protection:** Providing care for companion animals that have been seized by or surrendered to animal protection agencies.
- **Emergency (overflow):** Providing temporary care for pets that have been evacuated due to a disaster situation, such as flooding or wildfire.

Scheduled to open in 2023, the Centre will be owned and operated by the SaskSPCA.



Expanding our support for people and pets

Thanks to a generous grant from PetSmart Charities of Canada, we have been able to expand our efforts to keep people and their pets together in times of crisis.

The grant has enabled us to create a new full-time staffing position, with responsibility for new and existing programs that assist vulnerable pet owners and their pets. The Family Ties Coordinator oversees operation of our provincial pet food bank, provides education on animal safekeeping and the Link, and serves on the planning committee for the SaskSPCA Emergency Animal Care Centre.

Earlier this year, the Coordinator worked with the Provincial Association of Transition Houses of Saskatchewan to launch the new Saskatchewan Co-sheltering Network. The network meets six times a year to provide education and support for domestic violence shelters and transition houses interested in offering on-site pet care.

Our sincere thanks to PetSmart Charities of Canada for their support.





Sharing educational webinars

The COVID-19 pandemic made it impossible to host our traditional in-person Animal Welfare Conference in 2021. Instead, we went virtual, hosting educational webinars focusing on topical issues in animal welfare. Topics included the Link between violence to humans and animals, emergency planning for livestock producers, and pet friendly sheltering.

These webinars gave us the opportunity to reach audiences across the province and internationally. Recordings of these webinars are available via the SaskSPCA YouTube channel.

Our sincere thanks to the speakers who shared their expertise with us during the past year:

Violence Link Webinar Series:

- Don Ferguson, Animal Protection Services of Saskatchewan
- Jo-Anne Dusel, Provincial Association of Transition Houses and Services of Saskatchewan (PATHS)
- Holly Schick, Saskatchewan Seniors Mechanism
- Romona Koop & Jenessa Baier, Ministry of Social Services

Working to End Violence:


- Crystal Giesbrecht, PATHS

Animals & Emergencies:

- Trent Catley, Ministry of Agriculture
- Allison Danyluk Ross, Canadian Food Inspection Agency

Safe Places for People and their Pets

- Allie Phillips, Founder, Sheltering Animals and Families Together
- Crystal Giesbrecht, PATHS
- Laura Zmud, SaskSPCA



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



Helping domestic violence shelters to become pet friendly

The SaskSPCA continues to work with partners in the human services sector to address the impact of violence on both people and their animals.

The SaskSPCA, PATHS, and STOPS to Violence collaborated on a feasibility study examining pet-friendly domestic violence sheltering in Saskatchewan.

With funding provided by Community Initiatives Fund, we produced the 2021 Pet Friendly Shelter Viability Report. The detailed document offers a useful “road map” for domestic violence shelters and second stage housing providers to follow when developing their own on-site pet care programs.

The Community Initiatives Fund contributes to the quality of life of Saskatchewan's residents by providing grants for programs supporting healthy growth and development of children and youth, individual and community wellbeing, and nonprofit and community leadership.



Community
Initiatives Fund



Creating resources for animal rescues

Voluntary standards for animal rescue organizations operating in Saskatchewan have been drafted by a Working Group established by the SaskSPCA. The standards were developed with input from pet rescues, SPCAs/Humane Societies, veterinarians, and vet technologists.

In January, these standards were submitted to the Ministry of Agriculture for consideration. We have requested that the *Saskatchewan Animal Rescue Standards* be referenced in *The Animal Protection Regulations*.

We thank members of the Working Group for their time and expertise in the development of these standards as well as all those who have provided feedback.

The *Saskatchewan Animal Rescue Standards* are available at petrescuetoolkit.ca. The Pet Rescue Toolkit provides free educational resources for both pet rescues and pet owners.



The new standards are based on the work of experts in the field of shelter medicine, including the Association of Shelter Veterinarians and the ASPCA



PET RESCUE TOOLKIT



Helping police dogs enjoy a health, happy retirement

Since the late 1800s, dogs have been playing an important role in the field of law enforcement. From general police dogs, to specialized detector dogs, our four-legged friends are invaluable additions to the force.

Handlers (the human officers who work with the dogs) volunteer to become part of a dog team. Once the two begin working together, their bond becomes inseparable as they work exclusively with one another and live together while off-duty.

Once the police dog retires from active duty, the handler often chooses to adopt the dog. The owner then becomes responsible for all costs associated with the dog.

The SaskSPCA Stryker K-9 Care Fund assists owners with the cost of routine and emergency veterinary care for retired law enforcement dogs. The program is open to dogs that served with the RCMP, a municipal police force, or Canada Border Services Agency.

Annual grants of \$1,500 per dog are available. In our 2021-22 fiscal year, the SaskSPCA was pleased to provide \$13,200 to the 12 dogs enrolled in the Stryker program, including PSD Nixon.



REGINA POLICE SERVICE

Thank you for your service, Nixon! He served with the Regina Police Service from 2012 to 2021. Nixon passed away in 2021 with his handler by his side. Our condolences to Nixon's family, friends, and community.



Assisting owners with the cost of pet food

During the height of the pandemic in 2020, we established the SaskSPCA Pet Food Bank as a temporary measure to assist owners struggling with the cost of pet food. As time went on, it became clear there was a need for ongoing assistance. The SaskSPCA Pet Food Bank became a permanent program in January 2022.

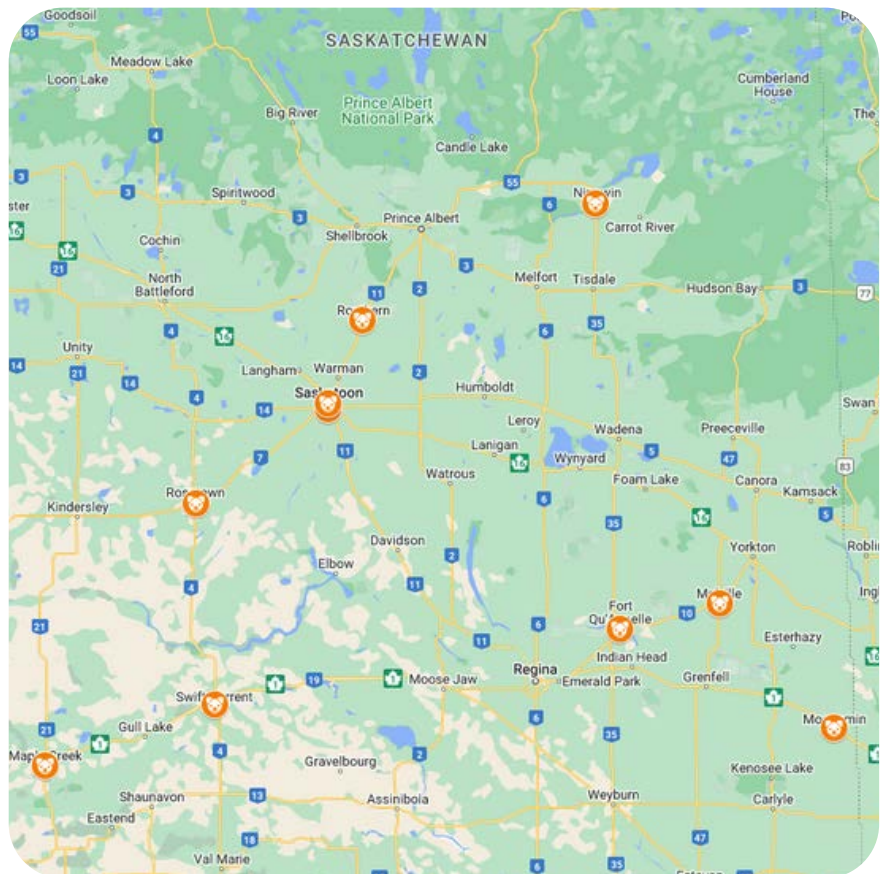
We work in partnership with existing human food banks and community services across the province. In this way we eliminated the need to create a whole new infrastructure for distributing the pet food. Our pet food bank partners are in Fort Qu'Appelle, Maple Creek, Melville, Moosomin, Nipawin, Rosetown, Rosthern, Saskatoon, and Swift Current.

We have distributed more than 31,000 pounds of pet food since the Pet Food Bank was established.

In 2021, we began exploring new partnerships to expand the program into northern Saskatchewan. Following a community survey and discussions with the Île-à-la-Crosse Friendship Centre, we launched a pilot project to provide pet food to this northern village. In 2022, we delivered more than 2,000 pounds of pet food to Île-à-la-Crosse.

Proceeds from the sale of SaskSPCA licence plates are used to help support the Pet Food Bank.

SaskSPCA Pet Food Bank Locations:



LEAVE 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.

SPECIAL THANKS

- We are deeply grateful for the support we have received in the past year from:
 - Horizon Pet Nutrition
 - Nordic Industries
- Our special thanks to Erical Cleaning Service for their continued generosity and assistance.
- Thank you to the people of Saskatchewan for their continued support of our Spring and Christmas Cash Lotteries. Funds raised from these lotteries support the operation of the SaskSPCA and make it possible for us to continue our work to improve the welfare of animals and their people.

Thank you to our volunteers:

- Jenny Marriott
- Murray Clarke
- Don and Vivian Fraser
- ProBono Students Jen Dann and Tyler Schaufele

In support of the Stryker K-9 Care Fund

The SaskSPCA Stryker K-9 Care Fund honours the service provided by dogs in law enforcement, as well as the special bond between the dogs and their handlers.

We are grateful for the donation we received this year from the Prince Albert Police Service Canine Section. Their 2022 calendar features the hard-working (and very photogenic) dogs from their section. Proceeds from the sale of these calendars were donated equally to the Stryker Fund and KidSport Prince Albert.

K-9 handlers from across the prairies designed a special new challenge coin. These coins are used in law enforcement to trade amongst members and to reward colleagues who do outstanding work in support of detector dogs. These challenge coins were sold to officers across the prairie region, with \$5 from every coin being donated to the SaskSPCA Stryker K-9 Care Fund and The Ned's Wish Foundation.

