

Animal Welfare in Focus



A publication of the Canadian Federation of Humane Societies

Fall/Winter 2008

CFHS Tired of Government Inaction

by Shelagh MacDonald

In 2007, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada launched a consultation process to gather input regarding the Government of Canada's five-year policy framework called *Growing Forward*. This policy was established in order to determine where money will be spent. Following this announcement, the Canadian Federation of Humane Societies (CFHS) submitted extensive comments on how the government could make meaningful changes to farm animal welfare in Canada. The Federation provided examples of how other countries have established animal welfare advisory groups and make recommendations to their government on animal welfare issues. Yet, Canada continues to take a status quo approach. There is not a single mention of animal welfare in any of the documentation on *Growing Forward*.

This past summer, word leaked out that the government has cut back on the oversight of food safety inspections at slaughterhouses and wants to hand the task over to industry, thus allowing them to police themselves. If this is the government's approach to food safety, it's no wonder they are paying little attention to animal welfare.

In addition to food safety, the CFHS has also raised concerns about the enforcement of transport and slaughter regulations. government inspection figures show that, out of 160,000 truckloads, nearly 20,000 pigs and cattle are found dead or emaciated on arrival at slaughterplants. The figure for poultry is a staggering two million. Yet, just over 100 penalties were issued. In response to these staggering numbers, the CFHS wrote to the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) in July with some pointed questions about these figures, as well as questions regarding the horse slaughterplant in Saskatchewan that was the subject of a major CBC-TV report in June 2008.

The CFHS finds the Canadian government's apathy towards farm animal welfare unacceptable and it's time Canadians are aware. In an effort to inform the public, the CFHS issued a news release in September calling on the Auditor General to conduct an independent performance audit of the government's capacity to ensure the humane treatment of animals during transport and at slaughter, as well as the government's ability to oversee national animal welfare policies

and legislation. At the same time, the CFHS sent a lengthy letter to the Auditor General calling for a performance audit and detailing our specific concerns.

In order for government to take action, the change needs to come at the policy level in the department of Agriculture and Agri-Food. Animal welfare is a public good that must be taken seriously by the government. With a substantial increase in public awareness and concern about food safety and animal welfare, it is alarming that the government is proposing a framework for the next five years that does nothing to address farm animal welfare.

Meanwhile, the CFHS will continue to call on the government to make animal welfare a greater priority. It is shameful that Canada is lagging behind other developed countries like Australia, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and the European Union. We are counting on the support of caring Canadians like you to join us in this quest to improve animal welfare. 🐾

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It's About Canada, Eh!

by Steve Carroll

About 18 months ago, *Animal Welfare in Focus* included an article which identified various animal rights and animal welfare organizations operating across Canada, the kinds of work in which each was engaged, and a caution to our readers to ensure that, when asked to donate to these groups, Canadian Federation of Humane Societies (CFHS) donors understood where their money was going and for what purpose. On behalf of our members, we met with a number of these groups and discussed how we might all *play well together in the same sandbox*, respect each others' mandates and best serve – collectively and individually – the welfare of animals across our country. The disturbing news is that, to all appearances, little has changed in both the demeanour and practices of some of these organizations.

What's happening now? Again, we find the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) and its Canadian arm, Humane Society International (HSI) Canada engaged in large-scale fundraising tied to online petitions across Canada. But to what purpose and where is the money going? This is particularly troublesome given the efforts

and resources a number of organizations and individuals invested to support positive and progressive change in the national animal welfare sector and, in particular, to strengthen the financial stability of local SPCAs and humane societies.

Canadians need and deserve Canadian animal welfare organizations working on their behalf. Across Canada, Canadian animal welfare charities are working hard every day to improve the lives of animals. The financial support you provide - from donations to the CFHS to address national issues to the critically important dollars you entrust to your local community-based or provincial humane society or SPCA - must be put to work in Canada and the funds you provide must stay in Canada.

Here are a few simple but very important questions to ask when you are solicited for donations:

- Does the organization asking for your donation have a local facility that helps animals in need?
- If the organization self-identifies as national in scope, can it explain to you

exactly where your donation is used and what difference it makes?

- When you call the organization, can you speak with management and find out what kind of services the organization offers?

When you entrust the CFHS with your hard-earned dollars, you expect that your money will be used to address critical national issues in animal welfare in Canada: affordable spay/neuter programs, puppy mills and backyard breeders, standards of care in the livestock industry, laws to convict and punish animal abusers and public awareness of the intrinsic value of all animals. As a known and respected Canadian charity, the CFHS works diligently day after day with its member agencies, the government, the public and the media to ensure your voice on animal welfare is heard. Some other organizations operating nationally claim to do the same but apart from coat-tail riding and fundraising, we don't see much evidence that these groups are making a difference for animals or communities in Canada.

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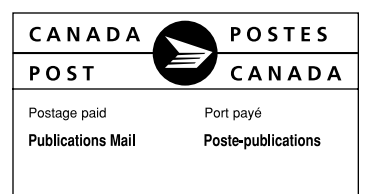
Yes! I'd like to support the Canadian Federation of Humane Societies.

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Volunteering at Local and National Levels Both Challenging and Rewarding

by Robin Jackson

I have had the extreme good fortune to be a volunteer board member over several years at the local and national level in the animal welfare sector. I served in various capacities on the Ottawa Humane Society board from 1998 to 2003 and on the Canadian Federation of Humane Societies board for five years. In both organizations my roles have culminated as President of the Board.

During my time at the Ottawa Humane Society (OHS), we grappled with specific issues such as, should the Society continue to run the animal control facility; what are our stances on euthanasia and spay/neuter; what should we do about the feral cat problem and what is our role with respect to wild animals. Though some local issues were complex, the scope of the work was focused and it was easier to accomplish certain goals thus deriving a more immediate sense of satisfaction.

At the national level, as a Canadian Federation of Humane Societies (CFHS)

Board member and now President, I have experienced a whole new set of challenges. The CFHS is an administrative office and relates to the public on a national level; it is a membership based organization that works with many communities and responds to a variety of animal welfare concerns brought forward by its member societies. Representing a national federation involves trying to encompass, understand and represent a variety of disparate needs and views of humane societies and SPCAs across the country.

It has been a challenge trying to figure out how best to use the resources of the Federation to advance the cause of animal welfare at the national level. The work to convince government that animal welfare issues such as the Criminal Code, animal transport, the condition and use of animals in medical research is a lengthy and often frustrating process. Canada is not as enlightened as other animal welfare focused countries such as England or Australia and

there is no government department in Canada mandated to specifically concern itself with the issues and problems related to animal welfare.

Notwithstanding the differences and challenges facing the two organizations, I can say that the initiatives in which I have been involved in have been driven by the same objectives and principles which both the OHS and CFHS espouse. These objectives are to educate the public, to bring about attitude shifts with respect to the humane treatment of all animals, improve conditions for animals and reduce the incidence of animal abuse, neglect, exploitation and homelessness. One of the most important motivators for the work accomplished by both these organizations, is the reason I have donated my time, it is their focus on fostering an understanding of the benefits that animals bring to the human experience. 🐾

Did You Know?

Animals don't have to see or hear each other to communicate. They also communicate with each other by giving off chemicals called pheromones.

Travelling with Your Pet Just Got Easier

For animal lovers who consider their pet as a member of the family and like to include them in their travels, finding hotel accommodations just got easier.



A recent partnership between Pacrim Hospitality Services Inc. (PHSI) and the Canadian Federation of Humane Societies (CFHS) is proof the travel and accommodation industry in Canada recognizes the growing trend of consumers wishing to travel with pets. "A family consists of more than just the traditional concept! A recent report indicates that 53 per cent of leisure travellers include a pet as part of their family,*" says Kris Crundwell, Vice President of Sales of Pacrim Hospitality Services Inc.

"We are excited to be able to open our doors to all our guests' family members,"

Pacrim Hospitality, a hotel management company, offers a growing portfolio of 59 hotels from coast-to-coast in Canada and two properties located in the US; many of which have expressed interest in the newly developed *Purrrfect Places to Paws* pet travel program. "I am truly excited to be working with the 'voice of animal welfare in Canada.' Being a pet owner, I can't imagine a better fit for our organization!" says Crundwell.

This program is designed to help promote safe and happy travels for all family members to enjoy. Guests with pets staying at participating Pacrim hotels will receive a pet welcome amenity along with pet friendly information. A portion of each pet friendly room rental will be donated towards CFHS' national programs.

The Canadian Federation of Humane Societies is happy to recognize Pacrim Hotels as their pet friendly hotel chain of choice and looks forward to the launch of the *Purrrfect Places*

to *Paws* pet travel program in December 2008.

The 2008 Pinnacle Award Winner for "Hotel Company of the Year"; Pacrim Hospitality Services Inc. (PHSI) is one of Canada's largest, privately owned hotel management companies. With more than a decade of hotel management experience, Pacrim Hospitality boasts a portfolio totaling more than 6,000 guestrooms and suites from coast-to-coast in Canada and the United States. Pacrim Hospitality is the preferred management company of Holloway Lodging REIT and is headquartered in Halifax, Nova Scotia. For more information and locations, please visit the Web site at www.pacrimhospitality.com.

*Source: PetsCanStay



Inquiring minds want to know...

The CFHS has prepared a few questions we would like to ask you as we search for convenient ways to stay connected! Please take a few moments to answer the following questions before submitting your donation. Please note these questions are optional.

Please use the checkboxes to select your answers.

1. Do you visit the CFHS website (www.cfhs.ca) on a regular basis? Yes No

If yes, how often? Daily Weekly Monthly

2. Have you ever made a donation via the Internet (to CFHS or any other organization)? Yes No

If yes, what did you like about it? Convenience Accuracy Other: _____

If no, what were your concerns? No Internet access Not secure enough Other: _____

3. Do you receive CFHS' Hum@ne News electronic bulletins? Yes No To subscribe (email): _____

Thank you for your time!

A prepaid addressed envelope is included in this edition of Animal Welfare in Focus for your convenience.

CFHS Helps Women with Pets Escaping Violence

by Candice Botha

Family violence involves the abuse of predominately women, children and animals. People who abuse animals are often responsible for family violence. Abusers exercise power and control through the physical, psychological and emotional torture of victims who abusers know to be defenseless. The same power and control-based abuse is found across the spectrum in instances of child, elder, spousal, animal, or sexual abuse. Canadian research indicates that roughly *one in four women experiencing domestic violence and who own pets significantly delay their escape to safety if it means leaving a pet behind*. If we do not address the connection between human and animal violence we will continue to allow pet ownership to act as a barrier for victims of violence. By helping women we are helping the children and pets of these women escape.

In May 2008, the Canadian Federation of Humane Societies (CFHS) obtained funding from the Human Resources and Social Development Canada (HRSDC) summer student program for a pilot project to address the problems faced by women with pets when trying to escape domestic violence in Ottawa. The CFHS' goal is to create a project that can be implemented in any community across Canada.

The Network for Women with Pets Escaping Violence has been established with the support of enthusiastic participants from the violence against women community and the animal care and control community in Ottawa. The Network's vision is to integrate knowledge about the human/animal violence link, to address societal problems of violence and pool available resources enabling the Network to take action against violence in our community.

In the creation of the Network the CFHS has done an environmental scan of similar programs and is addressing identified challenges in exciting and innovative ways.

Here are some highlights to date:

- Women's shelters and crisis lines have begun implementing questions and collecting statistics about the effect of pet ownership in violent situations and the prevalence of the problem in Ottawa.
 - A proposal to conduct research and provide recommendations that can be submitted directly to funders has been accepted by a group of Masters students in the department of Social Work at Carleton University.
 - Professional development sessions are being held with social workers to promote the use of animal cruelty as an indicator of family violence and to assess risk. In these sessions we are also promoting Safety Planning Kits for women with pets.
 - There are three workshops at the end of 2008 to promote the Ontario Veterinary Medical Association's SafePet program among veterinarians in Ottawa. The SafePet program is designed to temporarily provide safe haven for pets of women seeking refuge in women's shelters.
 - The CFHS is also trying to facilitate the participation of the City of Ottawa By-Law Services by using existing by-laws which have never been used in violence prevention and intervention. With this by-law in place, By-Law Services may be able to pick up an animal when a woman is fleeing a violent situation and deliver the animal to a safe haven.
- The community buy-in and support has been incredible and we hope the momentum will continue to grow. Thank you to the humane societies and staff that provide safe haven for pets in crisis situations, and to those who are working towards providing this service for abused women. Let's keep up the great work! 🐾

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Les bons maîtres font les bons locataires

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Chaque été, des centaines de chiens et chats sont apportés dans les refuges pour animaux ou abandonnés à l'extérieur parce que leurs maîtres déménagent et ne peuvent les amener avec eux dans leur nouvel appartement. Néanmoins, même s'il peut paraître difficile de trouver un logis où nos animaux de compagnie seront acceptés, il ne faut pas baisser les bras et plutôt être prêt à y consacrer le temps et les efforts requis. Les propriétaires d'habitations locatives ont souvent besoin d'être rassurés



sur le savoir-vivre de votre animal, particulièrement s'ils ont auparavant vécu de mauvaises expériences. Lors de la recherche d'un nouvel appartement, il n'en tient donc qu'à vous de démontrer que vous êtes un maître responsable et un bon locataire.

Comment ? Voici quelques conseils.

- Soulevez la question de votre animal avec le propriétaire en personne plutôt qu'au téléphone. Communiquer de vive voix les renseignements pertinents influence souvent de façon positive la perception de l'interlocuteur.
- Préparez un dossier informatif sur votre chien ou votre chat que vous pourrez remettre au propriétaire. Vous pouvez y inclure un résumé des caractéristiques de l'animal, des lettres de recommandations de vos anciens propriétaires et voisins, le certificat confirmant qu'il a suivi un cours d'obéissance, un carnet de santé du vétérinaire, la preuve de stérilisation, le certificat d'enregistrement de l'animal, etc.
- Offrez au propriétaire de l'immeuble de lui signer une entente de responsabilité si votre animal cause des dommages ainsi que de lui verser un acompte comme garantie.
- Invitez-le à faire la connaissance de votre animal.

- Faites valoir vos connaissances et bonnes pratiques en tant que maître responsable, par exemple, en mentionnant que vous gardez toujours votre animal sous contrôle, que vous ramassez ses excréments, que vous êtes soucieux que votre animal ne dérange pas le voisinage, etc.

Lorsque vous aurez trouvé un propriétaire convaincu qui acceptera que pitou et minou emménagent avec vous, assurez-vous que cette entente est clairement indiquée au bail. Par la suite, il vous restera à tenir parole et à vous conformer aux règlements qui régissent la garde des animaux dans votre municipalité. Vous prouverez ainsi votre bonne volonté et aurez encore plus de facilité à trouver un appartement, si vous devez encore déménager. En effet, il y a fort à parier que ce propriétaire consentira à son tour à vous remettre une lettre de recommandation lors de votre départ. 🐾

To read the English version of this article, visit: www.cfhs.ca/info/animal_welfare_in_focus

Communities Help Build Animal Shelters

By Cory Awde

Humane Societies and SPCAs across Canada often rely on limited staffing, generous volunteers and the support of members within the community to maintain the services of an animal shelter. The challenges of operating an animal care facility are infinite and they can prove to be even more difficult when the facility itself is in need of repair. Building a new facility or renovating an old building can seem like an overwhelming feat and in order to help alleviate some of the costs, many shelters launch a fundraising appeal for a construction project, otherwise known as a capital campaign. Across the country, Canadian Federation of Humane Societies (CFHS) members like the Oromocto and Area SPCA and the Red Deer and District SPCA have taken the leap and are on their



The 35 year old facility in desperate need of repair. Photo: Oromocto and Area SPCA

way to building their respective new shelters.

The Oromocto and Area SPCA, located in New Brunswick, is a 35 year old facility in

desperate need of repair. Staff members have been managing operations in this aging facility despite the limited space, exposed wiring and lack of room to quarantine new and sick dogs. Evidence of mold has also raised serious concerns for the health and well-being of staff, volunteers and animals. Though the initial capital campaign got off to a slow start, the Oromocto and Area SPCA continues to build a donor base despite a frequent turnover of local residents belonging to the armed forces. In April 2008, the Oromocto and Area SPCA held a groundbreaking ceremony which sparked interest within the community. Members of the community rose to the occasion and began supporting the campaign by making donations, offering discounted materials and even the local military offered free labour. Thanks to the community's generosity, the SPCA expects to meet their capital campaign goal of \$300,000 and is looking forward to officially opening their new facility in December 2008.

In western Canada, there is a similar active capital campaign to replace the 30 year old Red Deer and District SPCA facility. Staff have identified many inadequacies with the current building including the size of the building, insufficient drainage, lack of proper ventilation and unreliable heating and cooling - which has also raised health concerns for staff and animals. These conditions have also limited the number of animals the centre can accept. According to Heidi Arbeau-Wood, Development Officer for the Red Deer and District SPCA, the state of the current facility has left the building "beyond repair." The new 12,000 square foot facility will be four times the size of the existing facility

and will include a veterinary exam room, multi-purpose room for humane education and a surgical facility for spaying, neutering and other minor surgeries. "We want it to be a place where people want to be" says Arbeau-Wood, referring to the clean, inviting atmosphere the new facility will provide the public. In order to cover the cost of the new facility, the SPCA has engaged in an aggressive public awareness campaign, attended events and festivals around the region, and solicited donations and grants from government programs, foundations, corporations and individuals. As of October 2008, the *Building Pawsitive Futures* Campaign has raised over 75 per cent of the project goal, including a \$1.2 million dollar grant from the Alberta Government Major Community Facilities Program and support from their community. The official groundbreaking was in August 2008 and the new facility is expected to open in autumn of 2009.



Local military at work on the new Oromocto and Area SPCA Photo: Oromocto and Area SPCA

Success Stories From Communities Across Canada

Hay River, NT:

The Hay River SPCA recently had a challenging yet triumphant canine client named Hope arrive at the shelter. Suffering from large open sores as a result of a mite infestation, Hope received immediate care and recovered beautifully. However, only two days after returning home, Hope contracted another virus and returned for more treatment. This too was a success! Members of the community rallied around Hope during her surgeries and raised a total of \$3,500 for her care! The Hay River SPCA wishes to thank the Great Slave Animal Hospital for their assistance.

Medicine Hat, AB:

A five year old black and tan sheppard was dropped off at the Medicine Hat SPCA after having been found in a ditch. After x-rays determined that he had a broken tibia in his hind left leg, he received a large pin in his leg. Braveheart, as he was named for his courageous behaviour, is now expected to make a full recovery. He will soon be looking for his new adoptive family!

Cold Lake, AB:

The Lakeland Humane Society (LHS) is happy to announce that a new 1,700 square-foot modular building, donated by EnCana Oil and Gas, will be built adjacent to the animal care centre in early 2009. This versatile unit will be used as a temporary extension until LHS is able to build a new animal care centre. The LHS wishes to thank the Alberta Lottery Fund - Community Facility Enhancement Program, the City of Cold Lake and all members of the community for their support!

Ottawa, ON:

Over 1,500 pet lovers participated in the Ottawa Humane Society's 20th Annual IAMS Wiggle Waggle Walkathon raising more than \$148,000 for animals. That's \$19,000 more than last year!

Improving Shelter Adoption Matches

by Shelagh MacDonald

One of the Canadian Federation of Humane Societies' (CFHS) roles is to provide support to our member societies in helping animals in their communities. In 2007, the CFHS was able to help two of its member societies participate in training to implement the Meet Your Match™ Adoption Program in their shelters. The Meet Your Match™ program was developed by Dr. Emily Weiss PhD in the early 2000s and was subsequently acquired by the American SPCA. The two main components of the program are Canine-ality™ and Feline-ality™, which are aimed at increasing the likelihood of bonding between adopters and their newly-adopted dogs or cats.

The Meet Your Match™ Adoption Program is a research-based program that involves an assessment of the animal's personality and an assessment of potential adopters' lifestyle, expectations and experience. A colour-coding system is used to customize matches between adopters and dogs or cats. This program has proven to increase adoptions and reduce return rates.

With the financial support of Proctor and Gamble (P&G) Pet Care, the CFHS coordinated the participation of two staff members each from the Kitchener-Waterloo Humane Society in southern Ontario and the Prince Edward Island (PEI) Humane Society to attend a two-day Feline-ality™ training workshop in November 2007.

Since implementing the program in January 2008, the Kitchener-Waterloo Humane Society reports that August was their best month for cat adoptions in the last five years. In fact, Executive Director Ward McAllister notes that their cat adoption rate for the first

eight months of this year is up 69 per cent from the same period last year. McAllister found the program easy to implement and a friendly and inviting system for families interested in a new companion animal.

The PEI Humane Society has implemented the first component of the program, which involves the initial observation of cats that come into their shelter, but are challenged for space in their small shelter to conduct the one-on-one assessments needed to categorize the cats under the Feline-ality™ program. They hope to have this solved in the coming months.

This year, the CFHS - again with the support of P&G Pet Care - is helping four member societies participate in Meet Your Match™ training workshops. The Guelph Humane Society, the Fredericton SPCA, the Oromocto and Area SPCA and the Kitchener-Waterloo Humane Society are all sending staff to participate in training workshops this fall to implement the Canine-ality™ program. The Hamilton/Burlington SPCA and the Calgary Humane Society have already implemented Meet Your Match™ in their shelters and are raving about the results.

This program is just one example of how Canadian shelters are growing and what they're doing to meet the needs of their communities. Bringing an animal into your home is a life altering experience and programs like Meet Your Match™ help make the choice easier for both you and the animal. At most shelters, the cost of adoption includes vaccinations, microchip identification and all or most of the cost of spaying or neutering; this works out to the best deal you can get to bless your house with a new companion.



Youth Programs a Success at Hamilton/Burlington SPCA

by Cory Awde

New initiatives developed by the Hamilton/Burlington SPCA (HBSPCA) are giving children and teens the opportunity to get involved with animals, an opportunity usually only available to individuals 16 years of age or older. The Apprenticeship Training Program is a supervised program that welcomes youth between the ages of 13 and 15 to the shelter and teaches them how to work with and respect animals. Upon completion of the first training, the HBSPCA may choose one or more apprentices to participate in the next level of supervised training that includes larger responsibilities such as dog walking and other important tasks. "We have an outstanding group of young people that work extremely hard with all our animals throughout the year. Not only do these young people make a huge difference for our animals, but they take away valuable training, knowledge and a sense of compassion," says Vanessa terVeld, HBSPCA Humane Educator.

The HBSPCA's summer camps and birthday parties are also very popular with younger children and participation in these programs has been outstanding. Summer camps are held throughout the months of July and August and welcome children ages 6 to 11 into the shelter, where they are taught the importance of kindness and compassion for all animals. Each camper learns about the humane treatment of animals, proper pet

care, empathy, team work and responsibility through games, activities, crafts, trips, contests and special guests. "Children like to make a difference and our campers this year sure made a difference by raising \$2,000 to help our animals. They also brought in donations everyday such as newspaper, blankets, toys and food," said terVeld. Birthday parties are also a popular youth education activity. Birthday boys and girls ages 7 to 12 are encouraged to invite their friends to a party at the shelter in celebration of their special day. The HBSPCA provides the space, a host and supplies for crafts, the family is responsible for food. Summer camps and birthday celebrations have become tremendously popular with children and they have had a positive impact on the shelter's education initiative. Not only have these programs introduced children to animal welfare, they have influenced parents as well. The HBSPCA has seen an increase in adoptions as a result of their programs.

The success of these programs proves that youth can learn about animal welfare and contribute to the animal shelter in their community. Vanessa terVeld notes that "modeling responsibility, proper care and compassion towards our animals is the best way influence change. Our young people need to understand the issues in order to prevent them in the future."



HBSPCA apprentices
Photo: HBSPCA



High-Volume Spay/Neuter Clinic To Open Its Doors in Early 2009

by Christine Chéné

With special thanks to Shelagh Nerney, Spaycentral Toronto

The Canadian Federation of Humane Societies (CFHS) is proud to work with 39 animal welfare groups across Canada, each with dedicated individuals who work hard to ensure the best animal care in communities like yours. While most of our member organizations identify as shelters, a handful of our members work with animals on a different level. The focus of these organizations varies by type of animal or the

services provided. Among these specialized members is Spaycentral Toronto, a charity that has partnered with the Ontario



SPCA to open a sterilization clinic based in Newmarket, Ontario.

The clinic will service all municipalities in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) beginning in early 2009 and is based on a successful United States (U.S.) business model developed by the Humane Alliance of North Carolina. The objective of the clinic is to use high-volume spay/neutering to control pet overpopulation and to limit the number of animals entering shelters. "We have to give an affordable option" says Shelagh Nerney of Spaycentral Toronto, "a clinic like this will help alleviate the stress some owners feel when considering sterilization for their pets."

The clinic will cater to pet owners by operating on a schedule which will include weekend appointments. Spaycentral is also now fundraising to purchase a "Neuter Scooter" shuttle bus that will pick up pets from designated locations in the GTA, transport them to the clinic for surgery, and drop off the pets at the same location later the same day. The clinic will also spay/neuter animals from local animal shelters.

All sterilization surgeries will be performed by licensed veterinarians working in the clinic. In line with the proven U.S. model developed by the Humane Alliance, each full-time veterinarian will spay or neuter 25 animals per day, generating sufficient revenues to ensure the clinic is self-financing. Thirty-six Humane Alliance clinics in the U.S. operate successfully on this business model, with 35 more planned. The clinic in Newmarket will be the first clinic of this kind in Canada.

A substantial grant from PetSmart Charities and Spaycentral's strong partnership with the Ontario SPCA, helped Spaycentral raise the start-up costs for the clinic. Looking forward, Spaycentral expects many local shelters will benefit from this new and stable source of spay/neuter surgery and over time expects the number of unwanted pets and euthanasia levels to decline. The CFHS is privileged to have Spaycentral as a member and we look forward to working with the clinic as we strive to achieve a humane Canada together.

Visit Spaycentral Toronto online at: www.spaycentral.com

Success Stories From Communities Across Canada

Calgary, AB:

Found alone in an abandoned house, without food or water, a little dog named Mario was brought to the Calgary Humane Society. An identification tattoo lead staff to an address in Kelowna, British Columbia. Mario's family was surprised and happy to hear their dog had been found; Quincy (his original name) had been stolen from their home two years ago. It was a happy ending for all when the family arrived in Calgary to reunite with Quincy.

Prince Albert, SK:

The Prince Albert SPCA organized its first annual garage sale this past year. Members of the community were invited to donate items for sale and encouraged to purchase new treasures with all proceeds going to the SPCA. A total of \$11,280 was raised during this event! What a success!

Guelph, ON:

The Guelph Humane Society (GHS) recently handled an unusual animal re-homing case when a peacock unexpectedly arrived and stayed with a resident of a nearby township. The bird was surrendered to the GHS and successfully placed in a privately run peafowl. He is now enjoying the colourful company of others of his kind!

Fredericton, NB:

The New Brunswick SPCA (NB SPCA) launched its first pet food bank this year. In partnership with the Sussex Sharing Club, the NB SPCA wants to help pet parents in southern New Brunswick continue to care for their animals during economic difficulties. Officially opening its doors this fall, it is the first of its kind in the province and hopefully the beginning of a provincial network.

Charlottetown, PE:

As the only shelter for homeless animals on the Island, Prince Edward Island Humane Society faced an overcrowding crisis in June which resulted in an impromptu "Adopt-a-thon." This event was a huge success! A total of 75 homeless cats, dogs and pocket pets found new homes over the duration of the two-week event, exceeding the adoption goal by 50 per cent. Great work P.E.I.!

Five Ways You Can Help Animals

1. Be a responsible pet owner.
2. Learn all you can about animals.
3. Know that your choices affect animals.
4. Don't attend circuses that use animals.
5. Avoid stores that sell puppies or kittens.

...continued from page 1

It's About Canada, Eh!

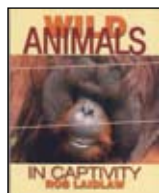
At the local level, this is extremely important. Most SPCAs and humane societies in Canada operate on a shoe-string and depend solely on donations and gifts provided by concerned and caring community members like you. It's what keeps the doors open, safeguards and protects animals and educates communities on animal welfare. When deep-pocket organizations 'from away' plunder donors and deplete the capacity of your local humane society or SPCA, it's not just the animals that suffer. The entire community including your neighborhood feels the impact of reduced or eliminated services. Humane societies and SPCAs across Canada need and depend on Canadians to invest in Canadian solutions and Canadian animal welfare issues. The only way to keep those dollars working in your community is to ensure that when you donate to a humane society or SPCA, it is your local agency - working hard to improve your community - that actually benefits from your generosity. And now, during this tough economic cycle, that support and the need to ensure your money works where you intended it to - in Canada - is more critical than ever.

In the very near future, it is likely we will see an even greater push by the HSUS/HSI Canada and other such groups to establish a foot-hold in Canada. Canadians are free to support whichever groups they deem most worthy. But, the next time you are solicited by one of these groups, follow the money. Transparency and accountability are key to earning your trust. The CFHS does not try to earn supporters and would-be donors by giving away fancy and expensive promotional items such as pens, t-shirts and other gift items. These all cost money - your money - which is best used to work on animal welfare both nationally through the CFHS and locally through your community-based SPCA or humane society.

When you do the research and ask the questions, you may be surprised how your donation is being spent. If you want your dollars to go to work in Canada at improving the welfare of animals in Canada, then stick with the CFHS and support your local humane society or SPCA. 🐾

Book Review

by Marlowe Filippov



Wild Animals in Captivity

by Rob Laidlaw
Markham, ON
Fitzhenry & Whiteside, 2008
48pp. \$19.95
ISBN 978-1-55455-025-8

Rob Laidlaw is a founder of Zoocheck Canada and long-time campaigner for the protection of wildlife. His newest book, *Wild Animals in Captivity*, proves to be an excellent resource for the next generation of animal welfare supporters. Unlike many books written for a tween or young teen audience, *Wild Animals* presents information in a factual and interesting way. Readers, both young and old, will appreciate a tone that educates without condescending.

Laidlaw writes in the introduction that his goal is that readers of *Wild Animals* will "start asking questions" the next time they visit a zoo. He accomplishes this goal by providing young readers with the facts necessary to make informed judgements as to the condition and care of the animals they see; among these are signs that animals are suffering and a list of ways animal welfare supporters of all ages can help change the poor conditions under which many animals must live when in captivity. His advice is practical and his examples frequently juxtapose negative conditions with positive ones, illustrating both what to look out for and what to aim toward. 🐾

L'Animal et le froid

Aidez votre animal à combattre l'hiver

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Tout comme nous, nos animaux de compagnie peuvent souffrir du froid. Malgré un épais pelage. Il importe donc de prendre diverses précautions afin de leur permettre de mieux résister aux rigueurs de la saison froide.

Dans un premier temps, il faut rappeler que l'âge de votre animal influencera sa capacité à lutter contre la froidure; les jeunes animaux et les plus vieux sont moins aptes, ainsi que ceux qui sont moins bien nourris, à résister aux assauts de l'hiver. De plus, les chiens qui sont attachés sont également plus sensibles aux risques d'engelures et d'hypothermie. Enfin, même si votre chien a de longs poils, il est important de le brosser régulièrement afin d'accroître les propriétés isolantes de son pelage.

Les chiens qui vivent à l'extérieur doivent pouvoir bénéficier d'un abri bien isolé du vent et du froid - c'est la loi. Celui-ci doit être régulièrement nettoyé, les matières fécales ramassées quotidiennement. Ils doivent aussi recevoir une nourriture sèche de bonne qualité et une eau toujours à l'état liquide. Il existe d'ailleurs des plats chauffants qui gardent l'eau à une température appropriée. Il faut surtout éviter que l'animal ne mange trop de neige. Toutefois, si la température s'abaisse considérablement, il serait préférable de faire entrer le chien à l'intérieur : dans la maison, au sous-sol ou, avec prudence, au garage.

N'oubliez pas dans ce dernier cas de vous assurer que l'animal n'a accès à aucune



solution antigel (contient de l'éthylène glycol dont le goût, légèrement sucré, est apprécié des chiens et des chats). L'intoxication par le monoxyde de carbone est aussi à craindre. Ainsi, prenez la peine de sortir votre animal lorsque vous démarrez votre véhicule.

Les chiens qui vivent habituellement à l'intérieur doivent être sortis durant de courtes périodes afin de faire leurs besoins. Évitez de faire de longues sorties à l'extérieur par temps froid. Autrement, procurez-lui de petites bottes qui sauront tenir ses pattes au chaud et le protégeront du calcium ou des substances abrasives étendues sur les trottoirs. Pour les chiens à poil court, il existe aussi de jolis petits manteaux qui le préserveront du froid. Portez également une attention particulière aux colliers en métal par temps froid. Celui-ci pourrait

causer des blessures à l'animal s'il devait se coller la langue dessus. Utilisez plutôt, en hiver, un collier de cuir ou de nylon.

Pour nos amis félins qui sont habitués à faire une promenade quotidienne, l'idéal est de les garder à l'intérieur lors des grands froids. Attendez que la température soit plus clémente avant de lui offrir de sortir de nouveau. De cette façon, si votre gentil minet étire son séjour à l'extérieur, il ne sera pas pris au dépourvu par un froid trop intense. 🐾

To read the English version of this article, visit: www.cfhs.ca/info/animal_welfare_in_focus

CKC's RDOG Initiative Enters Phase Two

A letter to the CFHS from Sonny Allinson, Manager Communications and Marketing Division, The Canadian Kennel Club.



RDOG DAY is a Canadian Kennel Club initiative and supported by this organization.

On behalf of the Canadian Kennel Club (CKC) Responsible Dog Ownership (RDOG) Committee, I want to thank the Canadian Federation of Humane Societies (CFHS) for its efforts, contributions and most of all support for the first CKC RDOG initiative - a stellar accomplishment by any standards! We collectively managed to bring national focus to this very important subject and to introduce a national Walk of Support.

From coast to coast we were there, on the streets and at our best. With approximately 20 local events hosted across the country, 30 cities made proclamations of Responsible Dog Ownership Week and RDOG DAY in their communities with the help from inaugural year supporters including the CFHS, Canada Post, Canadian Veterinary Medical Association, Canada Safety Council and Pet Industry Joint Advocacy Council Canada (PIJAC) among many others.

As part of the long term RDOG program building process, the CKC will be promoting various outreach activities on behalf of clubs and organizations from across the country in an effort to maintain the momentum and encourage responsible dog ownership beyond RDOG week. Together, through our collective efforts and personal commitments we can make a significant difference in communities from coast to coast.

The success of RDOG 2008 has created a solid platform from which we can grow, not only at the national level but at the grass roots of Canadian dog ownership as well.

Our ope is to expand on the success of RDOG initiative in 2009 and continue to share ideas with the rest of the country.

As founding participants and supporters of this national initiative we can all be proud of our success in promoting responsible dog ownership! 🐾

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What's Good For The Dog Is Good For The Degu!

Reconsidering the Compassionate Classroom



By Diane Haynes, BC SPCA

Sadie presses herself to the back of her kennel as the door swings open. A bell rings and twenty voices rise over it, all shouting as feet stamp and doors slam and the ground shakes beneath her. Hands reach in and fumble against her face, then grab her collar and clip on a leash. The child's scent is unfamiliar. "C'mon, Sadie." She hears her name. "It's my turn to take you home this weekend!" An unfamiliar voice. A rough tug on the leash through a crowd of legs. A strange car. Three nights in yet another home. Then back to the classroom, where it all begins again.

The scenario is fiction, but for many classroom animals—usually guinea pigs, degus or other small mammals—the circumstances are all too real. Inadequate housing; inappropriate food; inappropriate handling; weekend "sleepovers" and surrender to a shelter at the end of the year are not the exception but the norm. We wouldn't do it to a dog; we shouldn't do it to a degu. Some school districts have decided that pets in classrooms = bad, and have banned them. But there *is* another way to look at this equation.

We know that classroom animals can enhance curricula and strengthen student interaction. The potential rewards are enormous - caring for animals has been shown to improve self-esteem, alleviate anxiety and depression,

build social skills, promote empathy and strengthen communication skills. So when it works, what's the key? Before learning outcomes, before student success, the animal's well being must come *first*.

The teacher who is prepared to serve as an exemplary humane role model will consider the following:

- Adoption is for life, and *you* are the primary caregiver; your actions will be imitated
- Choosing the right animal for a classroom is paramount
- Start-up and veterinary costs can be high and must be planned for
- Allergies and disease transmission are real risks
- "Honeymoon Syndrome" must become an opportunity to teach long-term responsibility
- Weekends, holidays and sick days are your responsibility
- Fire, earthquake and lockdown drills must include the animal
- Pet loss grief—your students' as well as your own—may become an unexpected part of the learning process

Visit www.sPCA.bc.ca/Educators/clsrmanimals.asp to learn more about creating successful animal-related classroom

For educators who want to strengthen their students' interactions with animals and the natural world without adopting an animal into the classroom, here are some great alternatives:

- Bring your own animal in to visit on occasion
- Invite a community member to visit your classroom with their animal
- Ask your local wildlife shelter or SPCA to give a presentation
- Visit a local farm, specialized rescue organization or animal assisted therapy program
- Bring in a guest speaker
- Show a film, such as *March of the Penguins* or *Winged Migration*
- Use puppets to teach pet care

experiences. Animals instruct the heart as well as the mind, and the rewards far outweigh the risks—so long as you put the animal first.

Diane Haynes is a humane education supervisor with the BC SPCA, and the author of Jane Ray's Wildlife Rescue Series (novels) for teens. Visit www.wildliferescueseries.com for more information.



Photo: Rachel Chapin



CFHS Brings Conference Home

The Canadian Federation of Humane Societies (CFHS) is delighted to announce the 2009 National Animal Welfare Conference will be hosted in Ottawa, Ontario. "It's a thrill to bring this conference back to our Nation's Capital", says Steve Carroll, Chief Executive Officer of the CFHS. "It's been 4 years since the Conference was hosted in Ottawa, home of the CFHS."

This past year has been a challenging year for animal welfare in Canada, with many animal cruelty cases making headlines, updates to federal legislation and an overwhelming amount of animals surrendered to animal shelters. "It's important that we all work together to discuss how best to

approach and resolve these issues," says Carroll.

Animal welfare experts, animal shelter executives and animal care workers are all invited to the conference and to attend stimulating presentations. The CFHS will also be inviting member societies and industry leaders to participate in 2009.

Previous CFHS conferences have been hosted in member society cities such as Fredericton, Hamilton, Vancouver and Charlottetown.

Conference updates will be announced in future editions of *Animal Welfare in Focus* and at www.cfhs.ca.

What kind of identification does your pet have? A microchip? A tattoo? An ID tag?

None? Better get some right away!

If you lose your pet, check with your local animal shelter.

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Canadian Federation of Humane Societies
Fédération des sociétés canadiennes d'assistance aux animaux

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In Memory of . . .

China
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Molly
Nacho

Want your pet's name to appear here?

Make a donation to the CFHS in memory of your pet and their name will appear in our next edition of AWIF.

Thank you!

Surprise ! Je ne suis pas un jouet...

Cet article à été révisé et reproduit avec la permission de la SPA de l'Estrie.

Vous est-il déjà arrivé, un jour, dans un moment d'égarément, de songer à offrir un animal en cadeau-surprise ? Aussi sensibilisés que nous le sommes, il est possible que l'idée nous ait déjà effleuré l'esprit, comme plusieurs autres personnes d'ailleurs ! La tentation peut parfois être là, mais je vous implore d'y penser à deux fois !

Certaines années, les décorations de Noël ne sont pas sitôt rangées que les refuges accueillent un déluge d'animaux non désirés, qui ont malheureusement été offerts en cadeau. Trop souvent, les refuges entendent les mêmes commentaires se répéter : « Il brise tout »... « Je n'ai pas le temps de m'en occuper ! »... « Je ne voulais pas d'animal »...

Pour certains, les animaux semblent être des jouets à ranger dans le placard lorsqu'ils

commencent à les ennuyer. Les refuges ne cessent de le répéter : l'adoption d'un animal doit être une décision réfléchie, car c'est une responsabilité qui demande du temps, de l'argent et un engagement, et ce, pour la durée de la vie de l'animal. Vie qui peut se prolonger aisément jusqu'à 15 ans ! Mais lorsque l'on est prêt à assumer toutes ces responsabilités, l'adoption d'un animal qui a été abandonné est un acte magnifique.

Si pour plusieurs la période des fêtes est un temps idéal pour adopter un nouveau compagnon, il n'en est pas de même pour d'autres. Il y a beaucoup d'activités, de va-et-vient, de visiteurs, de stress et de confusion pour un animal qui tente de s'adapter à son nouvel environnement.

Au douzième coup de minuit, plutôt que de céder à la tentation d'offrir le « cadeau qui épatera la galerie », pourquoi ne pas offrir un chèque cadeau couvrant les frais d'adoption. Accompagné d'un animal en peluche et d'un livre sur les soins à donner aux animaux, il y aura de quoi faire bien des jaloux ! Ensuite, une fois le calme revenu, vous pourrez vous rendre au refuge de votre région avec l'heureux récipiendaire pour choisir l'animal qui lui conviendra le mieux. Lors de votre visite, les employés du refuge se feront un plaisir de le conseiller.

Joyeuses fêtes à tous et à toutes. 🐾

To read the English version of this article, visit: www.cfhs.ca/info/animal_welfare_in_focus

A Humane and Caring Community

by Steve Carroll

The work of the Canadian Federation of Humane Societies (CFHS) is not just about animals. It's about Canada, Canadians and the kind of country in which we want to live. It's about creating a country that encourages respect for all living things, setting the example for our children and future generations. Animal welfare is about social justice, caring, recognizing and embracing the intrinsic value of all animals. It's about taking ownership and responsibility for the welfare and well-being of all animals.

At the CFHS, we speak for those who cannot speak for themselves. We bring a national voice to critical issues impacting farm animals, companion animals, wild animals and animals in research. As a national

animal welfare organization, we share your concern when our federal politicians continue to refuse to take animal welfare seriously, whether it's Criminal Code amendments, animal transport regulations or humane slaughter issues. We share your outrage that case after case of extreme and vile animal cruelty are treated by the justice system as little more than minor property infractions.

Creating a humane Canada is not just about animals. It's as much about you, me, our families and friends and how – individually and collectively – we care for each other and the animals around us. If you hunt or fish, do so as humanely as possible, as most hunters and anglers do. If you farm, treat your animals – as the overwhelming majority

of farmers in Canada do – with great respect. If you own companion animals, recognize this is a lifelong commitment to your four-legged or furry friend. If you intend to acquire a dog or cat, puppy or kitten, always consider your local humane society or SPCA. There you will find beautiful animals that have either been surrendered or abandoned, ones which perhaps were never given the love, respect and care they deserve. Don't look to the classifieds. Don't go to puppy mills. And avoid pet stores. Purchasing animals from these sources only perpetuates irresponsible breeding. Adopt an animal and support your local humane society or SPCA instead. Don't support these commercial ventures. Save a life and, in doing so, you will contribute to building a humane and caring community. 🐾

Just in Case

Sometimes disasters happen such as forest fires, ice storms or tornadoes and homeowners have to leave their homes in a hurry. Be prepared. It is important that you, your family and your pet(s) are prepared to exit the premises immediately.

Pack a pail with supplies for your pet(s). You may have to leave them in a temporary shelter, so include a sheet of information too.

Your pet emergency kit should contain:

- Toys and treats
- Can opener
- Food and water
- Collar or harness and leash
- Recent photo with name and contact information on reverse
- Vet health records (including shots, diseases and injuries)
- Name and telephone of your vet
- An information sheet (with pet's name, basic commands, type of food, feeding routine and your personal information)

Make sure your pets always wear ID.



A newsletter of the Canadian Federation of Humane Societies
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As the national voice of humane societies and SPCAs, the Canadian Federation of Humane Societies supports its member animal welfare organizations across Canada in promoting respect and humane treatment toward all animals.

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