

Animal Welfare in Focus

A publication of the Canadian Federation of Humane Societies

Fall / Winter 2010



Horse slaughter exposé highlights lax enforcement of livestock regulations

Lisez la version française de cet article sur la page 6.

By Shelagh MacDonald, Program Director

Twice in the past two years, video footage has been released of horrific treatment of horses at Canadian slaughter plants. It shows horses thrashing about and slipping in the “kill box”, being whipped and poked with electric prods, not being rendered unconscious on the first shot and even being suspended while still conscious.

Surely, one would assume, the slaughter facilities responsible have been fined, reprimanded or closed down because the government oversees these things and makes sure animals are slaughtered humanely. Unfortunately, none of that has occurred. Partly because the regulations are inadequate and don’t give government enough authority, and partly because government enforcement is extremely lax.

In meetings with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), which is responsible for enforcing transport and slaughter regulations, the CFHS was shocked to be told by the agency that it did not find any major deficiencies in the slaughter plants where the footage was taken. When we

asked specific questions about their level of oversight, we were told that CFIA inspectors are required to observe the killing process only once a day at each plant, which may process hundreds of animals every day. We are left wondering how this can be considered adequate oversight.

The question of whether Canada should even allow horses to be slaughtered is a whole other debate. But surely the government has a serious obligation to closely oversee and ensure that when animals are slaughtered they are killed quickly and humanely. The public expects nothing less. It appears, however, that this responsibility is not being taken seriously enough by the Canadian government.

Another area of serious welfare concern for livestock is transportation. Every year in Canada more than 650 million animals are transported from farms to slaughter plants and auction yards. Their gruelling journeys on overcrowded trucks with no heating, cooling, water or food can last for days. Statistics from

Continued on page 3



Photo credit: Christine Chéné

They Shoot Horses, Don't They?

By Steve Carroll, Chief Executive Officer

Until recently, the title above was likely a reference to the 1969 Sydney Pollack movie starring Jane Fonda, Susannah York and Bruce Dern. In 2010, these five words are just as likely to be uttered by people all over the world in describing Canada's role in perpetuating the slaughter of horses for meat.

Each year, more than 100,000 horses are slaughtered in Canada. Most, but not all, of the meat is exported to European and Asian countries, with France and Japan being the biggest buyers. The majority of horses slaughtered were not raised to become meat; most were riding horses, racing horses or working horses. Horses arrive at slaughter plants via “kill buyers” who acquire them at auctions, often from unsuspecting sellers.

The majority of slaughter horses are imported to Canada from the U.S. In that country, testimony about inhumane conditions and regulatory infractions led to the closing of the last horse slaughterhouses in July 2007. Following this, the export of slaughter horses to Canada and Mexico increased dramatically. Proportionally, a small percentage of horses to be slaughtered arrive from a Canadian



Photo: Pat Sample
Kevin gets some loving from his rider

farm or facility. So, Canada has become a slaughter destination for North American interests selling horse meat for consumption in Europe and Asia.

Why is it that the U.S. has enough sense and political will to put an end to such a barbaric practice but, once again, our federal government continues to fail animals and fail Canadians who care about animals? Why is there no horse slaughter ban in Canada? Why do Canadians continue to do the dirty work that even our neighbours see as reprehensible? Some experts say that ending horse slaughter in Canada will mean all of these

beautiful creatures destined for a meat counter somewhere will be slaughtered in Mexico where, by all measures, slaughter practices are even more inhumane. If the Americans do not export their horses for slaughter to Canada, they will send the horses to Mexico. While this may be true, this is still an American problem.

The Canadian government needs to institute a ban on the importation of slaughter horses from anywhere. For the four federally registered horse slaughter plants in Alberta and Quebec, if any slaughter is to continue, these facilities—designed to slaughter cattle,

Horse slaughter in Canada: the facts

- Approximately 100,000 horses a year are slaughtered for meat in Canada.
- The majority are imported from the U.S. (68% in 2008 and 56% in 2009), where no horse slaughter facility has operated since 2007.
- Most horse meat from Canadian facilities is exported to Europe and Asia. The top country of destination is France, which took 30 per cent of the meat exported in 2009. Fourteen per cent went to Japan.
- Canada has four slaughter plants that are federally registered to slaughter horses: two in Quebec and two in Alberta.
- Most horse slaughter facilities were originally designed for killing cattle, and are poorly adapted to the unique behavioural patterns of horses.
- Government inspectors are only required to watch one horse be killed each day among the hundreds that pass through at each slaughter plant.
- This summer, MP Alex Atamanenko (NDP) introduced in Parliament Bill C-544, which would prohibit the import and export of both horses for slaughter and horse meat for human consumption.

INSIDE

The adoption option: the only way to kill euthanasia	2
60 seconds with Dr. Temple Grandin	3
Facing the chill with Fido and Fluffy	4
Preventing and solving conflicts with urban wildlife	4
Good news for animals around the world	5
Book Reviews	5
Des révélations sur l'abattage des chevaux et l'application faible de la réglementation pour les animaux d'élevage	6
Quelques conseils pour les locataires avec des animaux	6
Provinces strengthen animal protection laws	7
Celebrating volunteers from coast to coast	7
Have you planned for the possibility that your pet might outlive you?	8
Choosing more humanely produced meat, milk and eggs	8

not horses—must be shut down until such time as they are upgraded and redesigned to provide for a humane death for horses. There is no rational, humane or compassionate reason to continue bringing horses into Canada for slaughter and meat export to international markets.

Please, contact your MP and find out where he or she stands on this issue. This is a no-brainer. Perhaps, then, it is an issue our government can handle.

The adoption option: the only way to kill euthanasia

A message from the CEO

Animal Welfare in Focus is going virtual!

In order to save paper and make efficient use of donors' dollars, we are transitioning *Animal Welfare in Focus* from a print publication to an electronic format, delivered straight to your inbox.

Please ensure you keep receiving this valuable source of information by sending a quick e-mail to awif@cfhs.ca that includes:

- Your email address
- Your full name and mailing address as they appear on the envelope of this newsletter

Small quantities of the newsletter may continue to be printed for readers who have limited internet access, but we encourage everyone else to help us save resources by sending an email to sign up for a virtual subscription today!



Like many aspects of the public interest sector, the animal interest sector in Canada reflects a broad range of philosophies and concerns. Canadians support a wide array of groups that identify their focus as animal welfare, animal rights, animal protection or animal interest, and each group appeals in its own way to certain segments of the public. Their values and goals can be different from, or similar to, those of the CFHS. But the one issue upon which we can likely all agree is the need to reduce and ultimately eliminate the euthanasia of healthy, adoptable animals.

There is no quick fix here. If we are committed to reducing euthanasia rates, an agreed upon long-term strategy with appropriate tactics is needed. High rates of euthanasia are signs of systemic and institutional failures. The killing of healthy, adoptable animals is preventable if we are willing to fix the root problems.

So where do we start? Communities continue to be flooded with an over-abundance of animals through the breeding and selling of pets by puppy mills, backyard breeders and pet stores. Unintentional breeding as a result of pet owners not spaying, neutering and/or controlling their animals further adds to the glut of cats and dogs.

The CFHS urges all animal lovers to please adopt your next pet from a reputable shelter, and tell anyone you know who's thinking of getting a pet to do likewise. If we truly want to stop the euthanasia of healthy, adoptable pets, then shelter adoption is the only option. Every animal adoption helps break the overpopulation cycle, saves a life and provides a forever home to a loving pet. Every purchase of an animal from a store, a puppy mill or a backyard breeder perpetuates

shelter overcrowding and needless euthanasia.

You can search for adoptable animals throughout Canada by going to www.cfhs.ca and clicking on "members". CFHS member shelters have healthy, temperament-tested animals of all descriptions.

Not looking for a pet yourself? Try urging pet stores in your community to stop selling animals, and instead use their cages to display pets available for adoption from local shelters or rescue groups.

You can also make a difference by supporting the CFHS' work to promote the adoption option far and wide. Through articles and ads placed in magazines and newspapers, radio announcements and public awareness campaigns, we remind Canadians that the best way to help animals in their communities is to adopt a pet from a shelter.

These efforts to promote adoption are working and are saving lives. Despite an ever-growing population of homeless pets, adoption rates in Canada have risen over the past two decades while euthanasia rates have fallen, particularly for dogs. But there is no end in sight to the crisis of animals in need of homes, especially cats. Your support is crucial to our continued work promoting the adoption option. Please join us in the battle against pet overpopulation and needless euthanasia by donating today.

Sincerely,

Steve Carroll

Forever Friends

Thank you to the following for leaving a bequest to the CFHS.

Katie Gillies
Erik Henry Sellars-St Claire
Oddbjorg S. Christiansen

In Memory of . . .

Harold JM Tatler



Jersey
Hugh
Zoe



Make a donation to the CFHS in memory of your loved one (person or pet) and their name will appear in our next edition of AWIF.

Thank you!

And you thought cats were just for women...

Shelter cats are especially in need of homes, so let's bust the myth that a cat isn't a manly pet! See if you can match each of these famous men to his prized pussy-cat:

The men

David Bowie
Calvin
Sir Winston Churchill
Billy Crystal
James Dean
Dilbert
Dr. Doolittle
Dr. Evil
Inspector Clouseau
Itchy
Jay Leno
Perry Mason
Steve Martin
Mayor Adam West

The meowers

Mittens
Cheeseler
Mr. Bigglesworth
The Pink Panther
Itty
Dr. Carlton B. Forbes
Clinker
Bootsie
Major Tom
Hobbes
Marcus
Jock
Catbert
Scratchy

Check the answers at: http://cfhs.ca/info/animal_welfare_in_focus

Are you a cool dude with a cat?

Show off your purr-ball at: <http://cuteboyswithcats.tumblr.com/>

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

The CFHS receives no government funding. To continue our efforts, we depend on the generous support of caring Canadians like you. You will receive a charitable tax receipt for your donation of \$10 or more.

Your support will help us develop educational programs, push for effective laws to protect animals, and continue our crucial work to support, unite and represent local humane societies and SPCAs. Learn more about where your money goes [here](#).

Select your donation option below:

Make a [one-time gift](#).

Join the [Supporting Animals Monthly Program](#) to make an automatic monthly donation of \$10, \$15 or whatever you can afford (minimum \$5).

Make a [gift in tribute](#), in honour or memory of a special someone in your life.



Continued from page 1

the CFIA show that between two and three million of these animals arrive at their destination dead, most of them chickens. Another eleven million animals are condemned from human consumption due to disease or injury, again most of them chickens.

The CFIA announced in 2006 that it was proposing to amend the transport regulations under the Health of Animals Act and invited input from stakeholders. The CFHS joined with its member societies the BC SPCA and the Ontario SPCA in submitting extensive, science-based comments on the changes we felt should be made. CFHS' recommendations include reducing transport times; expanding the definition of compromised animals; prohibiting abusive handling; addressing loading densities; requiring ventilation; and increased enforcement. Four years later, the CFIA has still not released its proposed amendments to the 30-year old transport regulations.

Meanwhile, the enforcement of the existing regulations has been incredibly lax. A report released earlier this year by the World Society for the Protection of Animals, of which the CFHS is a member, documents extremely high numbers of animals arriving dead, severely injured and crippled at slaughter plants over a three-month period in 2008. It found that animals are routinely transported in overcrowded conditions, and that charges or fines are rarely imposed. In fact, many shipments arriving with clear regulatory violations were marked in compliance by CFIA inspectors.

Concerns about the CFIA's lax enforcement led Members of Parliament Wayne Easter and Mark Holland to request in June that the Auditor General conduct a performance audit of the CFIA's enforcement of laws and regulations regarding the transport of farm animals. The CFHS called for such an audit two years ago but were ignored. We hope that, with mounting pressure from the public, this time an audit will be conducted.

Take action!

Please write to Canada's Auditor General to support the request from MPs Wayne Easter and Mark Holland for an audit of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency's enforcement of regulations meant to protect farm animal welfare during transportation. Ask that slaughter also be included in the review.

Send your letters to:

Ms. Sheila Fraser
Auditor General of Canada
240 Sparks Street
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0G6

Send a copy to your own Member of Parliament too.
You can find your MP at www.parl.gc.ca.



Photo: Pat Sample

60 seconds with ... Dr. Temple Grandin

CFHS Program Director Shelagh MacDonald recently asked a few short questions to Temple Grandin, a professor of animal science at Colorado State University and a world-renowned expert on slaughter and livestock handling. Here's what she said.

SM: In your efforts to improve slaughter plant design, where have you seen the most resistance to change — from industry leaders, plant managers, retail organizations? What groups are most receptive to change?

TG: I found that the people in the meat industry who are most receptive to change are technical people involved in quality assurance, supply chain management, or engineering. At the highest executive level, restaurants and retailers drive change.

SM: We were shocked to learn recently that government inspectors in Canadian slaughter plants are only required to observe one animal being stunned each day. If government is supposed to be monitoring slaughter plants, what percentage of stuns do you think inspectors should be required to watch in a day?

TG: To monitor humane slaughter, an inspector should watch at least 5% of the animals being stunned at different random times during the day.

SM: I've heard you say that abuse of animals in slaughter plants is a management issue and that it is all too common for plant managers to pull up their socks when people like you are watching, but then go back to their lax oversight when no one is watching. Do you think third party video monitoring is the best way to address this?

TG: I am a big proponent of third party video auditing over the internet.

In an interview with Melissa Fung of CBC News, talking about the undercover footage taken at two Canadian slaughter plants in February, Dr. Grandin stated:

"One of the things that video showed was that management was sloppy. I've been in that Bouvry plant three times and when I'm standing there it works just fine. What this means is when backs are turned people are not managing. Places that have a manager who cares have good handling. Places that have a manager that does not care often have bad handling. It doesn't matter what species you're handling. As far as I'm concerned, they need to put these plants on video auditing and have people who can look in at any time and score them."

Pets are guests too! Find your Purrfect Place to Paws

You now have more pet-friendly hotel choices than ever! Take advantage of the pet-friendly accommodation program called the Purrfect Place to Paws while on vacation and reap the benefits. Pets and their families will receive welcome packages and a contribution will be made to the CFHS for each night's accommodation.

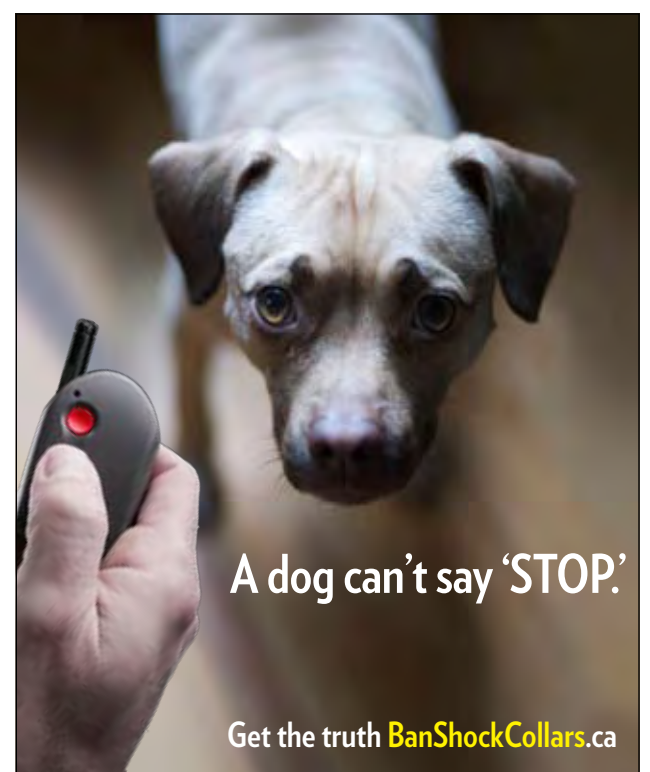
Find your pet-friendly hotel online at www.purrfectplacetopaws.com or call toll free at 1-877-672-7387 (PETS).

This program is made available through the collaboration of the CFHS and Pacrim Hospitality Inc.



VISIT
Petfinder.com
to view over **12,225** adoptable
pets across Canada and find
everything you need to help
your new pet adoption
last a lifetime at
Petfinder.com/furkeeps

FurKeeps
Get it right from the start.



A dog can't say 'STOP.'

Get the truth **BanShockCollars.ca**

Facing the chill with Fido and Fluffy

By Alyson Reid, Executive Assistant

Mention winter to most people and thoughts of gently falling snow and winter sports quickly give way to chill reminders of winter's other side: numb toes, frost-bitten cheeks and miserable, shivering cold. As a Canadian, you know to bundle up against the worst weather, but what about your pets? Deep cold and driving winds can affect your furry friends

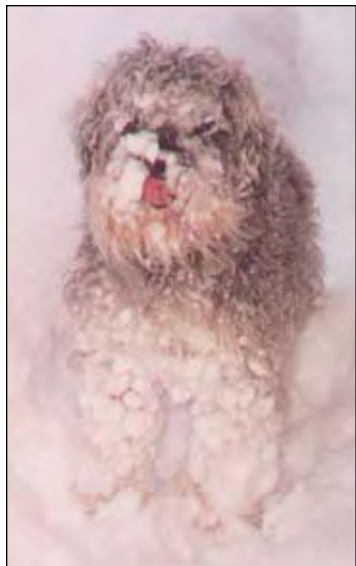


Photo: Pat Sample

as well. So here are some tips for keeping your pets happy and safe during the winter months.

In deciding how to best protect your pet from the weather, first look at the animal's needs. Do you have an older dog or cat? Does your pet have a chronic medical condition that will affect how he or she manages the cold? Does your dog regularly

live outdoors? Is your pet very young, a short-haired breed, or accustomed to joining you on your winter runs?

Use common sense when approaching your pet's winter activities. If the weather is especially cold or blustery, limit the amount of time your animal spends out of doors. Chances are, if you are feeling the cold on unprotected skin, your animal companion is uncomfortable too.

Young animals need extra protection from the elements; plan to exercise your puppy or kitten indoors. Adult dogs will also benefit from indoor entertainment on frigid days — try playing ball in a hallway or basement. Hide and seek is a great workout for Fido, and has the added bonus of strengthening his bond with you. Indoor cats enjoy sitting by a window and watching a bird feeder; consider putting a blanket or pillow on the windowsill if it gets cold. Indoor playtime with a flashlight or laser pointer (be careful not to shine it in the eyes) will give kitty plenty of aerobic fun.

Coats and booties for dogs are not just a statement in fashion excess; unless your dog is a hardy northern breed, a coat for outdoor wear will make your pet much happier on winter walks. Pet stores and suppliers carry a selection of gear in all price ranges. Booties can prevent painful ice crystals from building up between your dog's toes, especially for longer-haired breeds. They will also protect your dog from the chemicals and de-icers used on roads. These chemicals can irritate

dogs' paws and cause cracking of the skin, and can be toxic if ingested. If you forgo the booties, wipe your dog's paws immediately after each walk.

The shorter days of winter mean more hours of darkness, so think about a reflective collar or jacket for your pet's evening walks. Or carry a flashlight when taking your night-time stroll — your safety is important, too!

On the topic of outdoor dogs: dogs are a social animal, which means a dog left alone outside for much of its life will be suffering from more than just the cold. If you must leave your dog outside, make sure the dog house provides shelter from cold, moisture and drafts, and is positioned off the ground and out of the wind. The shelter should have enough room for your animal to stand up and turn around, but no more than that. Give plenty of insulating bedding such as deep straw or provide a heated floor mat. Beware of cotton towels or similar bedding that will draw away the animal's body heat, and provide plenty of fresh, unfrozen water and sufficient food for the dog's increased caloric needs. Your vet can give you excellent advice on caring for your outdoor dog.

With these tips and some basic preparation, you and your furry friends will be ready to enjoy the deep freeze!

Switch to animal-friendly propylene glycol antifreeze!

Preventing and solving conflicts with urban wildlife

By Jim Badow

150 years ago, much of the land around our cities was natural wildlife habitat. Today, roads, houses and shopping malls devour more of the countryside each year. Yet urban areas are teeming with wildlife that have adapted to the change. This has widened human-animal contacts, some of which invariably result in conflicts.

Dealing with human-wildlife conflicts can be difficult because these are often community issues. Some people feed or inadvertently shelter wildlife, which can create problems for other people, pets and wild animals. Wild animals that are fed often lose their fear of humans and may become aggressive when not fed as expected.

Preventing problems is generally simpler than solving them. The most common wildlife-related problems around homes can be prevented by taking a few simple steps, such as:

- Enjoy wild animals from a distance: never handle or feed them.
- Make garbage and composting inaccessible.
- Only put garbage out on the morning of collection day.
- Do not leave pet food out, and regularly remove spilled seeds from bird feeders. Keep dog and cat rabies vaccinations up to date.
- Regularly clean outdoor grills.
- Keep your home in good repair, cover dryer vents and secure chimneys with a chimney cap.

And what if you already have a problem, like a raccoon nesting in your attic? In the past, problem solving generally involved trapping and relocation. But relocation rarely resolves



Photo: Alyson Reid

conflict issues, and is not humane. Here's why:

- Relocated animals may transmit diseases to other wildlife or pets in the release area.
- Animals may be released in areas where populations are already at maximum levels, intensifying competition for food and denning sites.
- During certain times of the year the young may be left behind when they are unable to fend for themselves.
- Trapping and relocating animals late in the season prevents them from accessing shelter and food sources, and may result in starvation or death from exposure.
- Relocation transfers problems to someone else. In an unfamiliar territory, an animal



accustomed to living near people is likely to seek out human habitations and may cause a new conflict.

- Nature does not leave empty spaces. Soon another animal will move into the space of the removed animals, unless food sources are removed and access to potential shelter sources (chimneys, attics, etc.) is blocked.

A better solution is to remove the animal and then block access to the area so it cannot return. There are many books and online resources that can show you how to do this yourself. If you are thinking of hiring a wildlife removal company, consider the following tips:

- Since the wildlife removal industry in Canada is largely unregulated, make sure that the company has been in business for at least 5 years.
- Make sure it is in compliance with provincial wildlife legislation.
- Ask if they provide a full range of "animal proofing" and a minimum one-year guarantee against animal re-entry.
- Confirm that the company carries business liability insurance.
- Ask for referrals.

Recommended reading

Resolving Human-Wildlife Conflicts, by Michael R. Conover (2002)

Humane Eviction - www.urbanwildliferescue.org/humane/

People & Wildlife Conflict Resolution Manuals - www.peopleandwildlife.org.uk/crmanuals

Jim Badow is Executive Director of the Canadian Association for Humane Trapping. An earlier version of this article appeared in the Summer 2010 edition of Well Caught.

Good news for animals around the world

Massachusetts:
Ban on devocalizing dogs
In April, the state signed into law an act that prohibits the devocalization of dogs.

Paris:
New animal-free skin test approved by OECD
In July, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) approved a new testing guideline for skin irritation tests, which have traditionally been done using rabbits. The new test uses artificial human skin models. The OECD's guidelines set research standards for its 31 member nations.

EU:
Ban on sow stalls, battery cages on track for 2012
This spring, the European Commission confirmed it plans to enforce its ban on cramped sow stalls (for pigs) and battery cages (for hens) starting in 2012, despite pressure from industry to extend the phase-out period.

California:
No more eggs from caged hens
In July, California expanded its law that prohibits egg producers in the state from keeping hens in small, cramped cages. The rule has now been extended to all producers who wish to sell eggs in California.

Spain:
End to bull-fighting in Catalonia
In July, the Catalan parliament banned bull-fighting in Barcelona and the rest of this north-eastern region of Spain, starting in 2012.

Malaysia:
Nestlé leaves the forest for the orangutans
Nestlé agreed in May to stop sourcing palm oil from companies that raze Indonesian rainforests—home to the endangered orangutan—to plant palm tree farms. Instead, Nestlé will partner with The Forest Trust to source the oil from responsible, sustainable producers.

Book Reviews

By N. Glenn Perrett

Animals Make Us Human: Creating the Best Life for Animals

Temple Grandin & Catherine Johnson
Houghton Mifflin Harcourt
2009, 342 pages
ISBN: 9780151014897



This book provides insight into animal behaviour and how the lives of dogs, cats, horses, farm animals, wildlife and animals in zoos can be improved. Dr. Grandin, a Colorado State University professor of animal science, looks at how humans and nonhuman animals "have the same core emotion systems in the brain." She illustrates how, by taking into account the systems of *seeking*, *rage*, *fear* and *panic* along with those of *lust*, *care* and *play*, we can improve the welfare of animals in our care. As much as possible, we should avoid provoking rage, fear or panic in animals and instead stimulate their seeking and play emotion systems.

Writing about the controversy over "dangerous" dog breeds, Grandin opposes outlawing any particular breed of dog. "The chances of a completely normal, well-socialized dog that hasn't been traumatized as a puppy biting a person are tiny," she writes.

I was particularly interested in reading the chapter "Cats", which looks at feline emotions and behaviour, how a cat's social needs can be met and why clicker training works with cats.

Those with equine companions will also benefit from Grandin's experience. "It's very important for horse owners to understand the nature of the horse's FEAR system," she writes, "because many behavior problems in horses are caused by fear."

Those concerned with the welfare of animals used for food or who handle livestock should read this book. Grandin's observations are honest and refreshing. She describes how "Laying hens have the poorest welfare of all the farm animals." She would like to install webcams in slaughter plants so the public can see how the animals are handled.

Animals Make Us Human is an important book that can improve the lives of animals.

Beautiful Joe

Margaret Marshall Saunders
Puffin Canada,
2009, 253 pages
ISBN: 9780670064649
Recommended for ages 11+



Beautiful Joe is a wonderful novel by Margaret Marshall Saunders that was first published in 1894. This collector's edition was published in 2009.

Based on true events, it is a story of extreme cruelty and brutality along with kindness, compassion and loyalty. *Beautiful Joe* was a dog who was brutally treated by his "master" who cut off the dog's ears and tail. Fortunately, the mutilated animal was rescued by a kind family. While Saunders set the story in Maine, it actually occurred in Meaford, Ontario.

This classic book carries a vital message — a message that, unfortunately, is just as relevant today as it was more than a century ago.

Paw Prints in the Stars: A Farewell and Journal for a Beloved Pet

Warren Hanson
Tristan Publishing, Inc.
2008, 32 pages
ISBN: 9780931674891



Paw Prints in the Stars is a farewell book and journal written in the voice of an animal companion who has passed on. Comforting words and nice illustrations along with places to keep photographs or write memories makes this a good book for those, particularly children, who have lost a beloved animal companion. A ribbon bookmark that can hold collar tags is included.



Other recent books of note:

- ***Made for Each Other: The Human-animal Bond***
By Meg Daley Olmert (2009)
Explores the deep historical and biochemical roots of our connection with animals, and their connection with us.
- ***The Link Between Animal Abuse and Human Violence***
Edited by Andrew Linzey (2009)
Brings together international experts from seven countries to examine the relationships between animal abuse and child abuse, the emotional development of the child, family violence and serial murder.
- ***Eating Animals***
By Jonathan Safran Foer (2010)
Interweaving a variety of monologues and balancing humour and suspense with informed rationalism, *Eating Animals* is as much a novelistic account of an intellectual journey as it is a fresh and open look at the ethical debate around meat-eating.
- ***They Had Me at Meow: Tails of Love from the Homeless Cats of Buster Hollow***
By Rosie Sorenson (2009)
A collection of funny, poignant stories about Rosie's 15-year relationship with a colony of homeless cats. This book is about connectedness and love, and about finding meaning and friendship in unexpected places. Winner of the 2009 Muse Medallion Award from the International Cat Writer's Association.
- ***Animal Breeding, Welfare and Society***
by Jacky Turner (2010)
Discusses the methods, the motivations and the consequences of human intervention in animal breeding in terms of what we know about animal behaviour and well-being.

Des révélations sur l'abattage des chevaux et l'application faible de la réglementation pour les animaux d'élevage

Par Shelagh MacDonald, Directrice des programmes

À deux reprises lors des deux dernières années, des images vidéo révélant le traitement horrible des chevaux dans les usines d'abattage au Canada ont été publiées. On y voit des chevaux s'agiter violemment et glisser dans la petite salle où ils sont abattus. On les voit se faire fouetter et se faire donner des coups de bâton électrique, être encore conscients après le premier coup de feu et même suspendus, également en étant conscients.

Assurément, pourrait-on penser, les installations d'abattage responsables ont reçu des amendes, des réprimandes ou ont été fermées. Malheureusement, rien de ceci ne s'est produit. En partie, car la réglementation est inadéquate et ne donne pas au gouvernement assez d'autorité, et en partie, car l'application des lois par le gouvernement est extrêmement faible.

Lors de rencontres avec l'Agence canadienne d'inspection des aliments (ACIA), qui est responsable d'appliquer la réglementation sur le transport et l'abattage, la FSCAA a été stupéfiée d'apprendre par l'agence qu'elle n'avait trouvé aucune insuffisance majeure dans les abattoirs où les images vidéos ont été prises. Lorsque nous avons posé des questions au sujet de leur niveau de surveillance, on nous a dit que les inspecteurs de l'ACIA doivent observer le processus d'abattage seulement une fois par jour à chaque usine. Les usines peuvent traiter des centaines d'animaux chaque jour. Nous nous questionnons donc comment ceci peut être considéré comme étant une surveillance adéquate.

Se demander si le Canada devrait permettre l'abattage des chevaux est un tout autre débat. Le gouvernement a tout de même une obligation sérieuse à surveiller de près

et à s'assurer que lorsque les animaux sont abattus, ils sont tués rapidement et sans cruauté. Il semble cependant que cette responsabilité n'est pas prise au sérieux par le gouvernement canadien.

Un autre enjeu très inquiétant pour le bien-être des animaux d'élevage est le transport. Chaque année au Canada, plus de 650 millions d'animaux sont transportés des fermes à usines d'abattage et aux ventes aux enchères. Leurs périodes exténuantes dans des camions surchargés sans chauffage, eau ou nourriture peuvent durer des jours entiers. Des statistiques de l'ACIA montrent qu'entre deux et trois millions de ces animaux arrivent à destination morts. Un autre onze million d'animaux arrivent et sont considérés impropres à la consommation à cause de maladies ou blessures.

L'ACIA a annoncé en 2006 qu'elle proposait d'apporter des modifications à la réglementation sur le transport des animaux d'élevage. La FSCAA s'est jointe à ses sociétés membres BC SPCA et Ontario SPCA pour présenter des commentaires basés sur des données scientifiques sur les changements qui devraient être apportés. Nos recommandations consistaient à réduire les durées de transport, à élargir la définition des animaux fragilisés, à interdire la manipulation abusive, à changer les densités de chargement, à exiger la ventilation, et à augmenter l'application de la réglementation. Quatre ans plus tard, l'ACIA n'a toujours pas publié ses modifications proposées aux règlements.

Entre temps, l'application de la réglementation existante est incroyablement faible. Un rapport publié cette année par la WSPA documente le nombre très élevé d'animaux arrivant morts, grièvement

blessés et infirmes aux abattoirs. Il a été découvert que les animaux sont transportés de façon routinière dans des conditions de surpeuplement, et que des accusations ou sanctions sont rarement imposées. En fait, plusieurs envois arrivant avec des violations évidentes des règlements ont été marqués conformément aux exigences par les inspecteurs de l'ACIA.

Des inquiétudes au sujet de la faible application des règlements par l'ACIA ont poussé les députés Wayne Easter et Mark Holland à demander, au mois de juin, à la vérificatrice générale du Canada d'effectuer un examen évaluant l'application des règlements sur le transport des animaux d'élevage. LA FSCAA avait demandé une telle vérification il y a deux ans. Nous espérons que, avec la pression grandissante du public, cette fois la vérification sera effectuée.

Passez à l'action !

Écrivez à la vérificatrice générale pour appuyer la demande pour un examen de l'application des règlements sur le transport des animaux d'élevage par l'ACIA. Envoyez vos lettres à :

Mme. Sheila Fraser
Vérificatrice générale du Canada
240 Sparks Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0G6

Envoyez une copie à votre propre député également. Vous pouvez trouver votre député au www.parl.gc.ca.



Quelques conseils pour les locataires avec des animaux

Chaque été, des centaines de chiens et de chats sont apportés dans les refuges pour animaux ou abandonnés à l'extérieur parce que leurs gardiens 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 gardien responsable et un bon locataire. 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 recommandation 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 vos bonnes pratiques en tant que gardien 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 soit 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.

Cet article a été reproduit avec la permission de La Société protectrice des animaux de l'Estrie (www.spaestrie.qc.ca).

**Iams® Home
4 the Holidays®**
HELEN WOODWARD ANIMAL CENTER

**Shelter Pet
Adoption Drive**

October 1, 2010 - January 4, 2011

Follow the stories of pet adopters and find out how you can help at www.iamshome4theholidays.ca

Provinces strengthen animal protection laws

By Shelagh MacDonald, Program Director

With three provinces updating their animal protection legislation this year, laws to protect animals from cruelty continue to be strengthened in some provinces while the inadequate federal animal cruelty law falls further and further behind public expectations.

In April, New Brunswick introduced new regulations with stricter standards and licencing requirements for pet stores, animal shelters and breeding and boarding kennels. Owners of more than five adult dogs must meet the standards of care and could be subject to inspection by the SPCA. These changes make New Brunswick one of the few provinces with such a high degree of oversight over pet establishments. Revenue from the licencing will go to help the SPCA with animal protection.

This move follows improvements to the New Brunswick SPCA Act made in July 2009. The updated law increased penalties for animal cruelty from a maximum fine of \$570 to a minimum of \$500 and a maximum of \$100,250 (the highest fines in the country) and/or 18 months in jail, plus up to a lifetime prohibition on animal ownership. The New Brunswick SPCA hopes these tougher penalties will help them curb the growing problem of puppy mills and unscrupulous breeders.

Meanwhile, Newfoundland & Labrador is introducing changes to its law to include heavier penalties. Under its new animal protection act, maximum penalties will increase from \$500 to \$50,000 in fines, plus jail sentences of up to six months.

Finally, Manitoba introduced new regulations in September that expand licencing requirements for breeders, kennels and pet shops, double the maximum fines and sentences for offenders, and enhance the authority of animal protection officers to seize abused or abandoned animals.

The CFHS applauds the provincial governments that have updated their animal protection acts in recent years, making them much stronger than the federal law. One notable example is Ontario, which last year turned its Ontario SPCA Act into the best animal protection law in Canada. The new law includes standards of care for all animals and penalties of up to \$60,000 in fines, two-year jail terms and a potential lifetime

ban on owning animals. It gives the SPCA authority to inspect pet stores, boarding kennels, zoos and circuses, and requires veterinarians to report suspected abuse or neglect. Other provinces that have introduced this requirement are Manitoba, Alberta, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and P.E.I.

It is encouraging that provincial governments understand the need for strong legislation to address animal cruelty. Today's society abhors cruelty to animals and wants abusers to receive appropriate punishment.

But provincial acts cannot replace the federal Criminal Code. Not all provinces and territories have effective animal protection laws; in such cases all they have is the federal law, which allows many acts of cruelty to go unpunished. Furthermore, animal abusers convicted under provincial laws do not receive a criminal record, so they can easily move to another province and continue their abuses.

For more than ten years the CFHS has led the charge in pursuit of improvements to the federal animal cruelty law. It is unacceptable that the Criminal Code treats animals as mere property, provides no protection for stray or wild animals and makes the prosecution of animal neglect nearly impossible. Increased sentencing provisions were added to the law in 2008, but the inadequate offences originally enacted in 1892 still remain. Increased penalties are of little use if animal abusers can rarely be convicted.

The CFHS will continue to push for much-needed changes to the animal cruelty sections of the Criminal Code. To learn more and add your voice to the fight, please see www.stopanimalabuse.ca.



Check out our new campaign website, www.stopanimalabuse.ca, to:

- Send a message to the Justice Minister demanding changes to Canada's animal cruelty law
- Learn more about the problems with our current law and how it must be changed



Photo: Shelagh MacDonald
Jocelyne Lachance receives her Ontario Volunteer Service Award. Seen here with MPPs Jean-Marc Lalonde and Khalil Ramal.

Celebrating volunteers from coast to coast

Every year, the CFHS presents the National Volunteer Recognition Award to outstanding volunteers nominated by our member societies. This year, each nominee received a certificate and was entered into a draw to win one of four great prizes.

The 2009 award recipients are:

Animal Rescue League
Brian B., Theresa M., Christina P.

Animatch Inc.
Elaine M., Jennifer S.

Charlotte County SPCA
Gilda G.

Fredericton SPCA
Amanda K., Shelly S.

Guelph Humane Society
Robyn F., Janet G., Tammy O.

Hamilton/Burlington SPCA
Wendy B., Keith H., Tom T.

Humane Society Dawson
Cheyenne R., Elaine G.

Kitchener-Waterloo Humane Society
Donna B., Dianna F., Christine L.

Lakeland Humane Society
Vern J.

Meadow Lake & District Humane Society
Jillian D., Jeff M.

Medicine Hat SPCA
Barbara L.

New Brunswick SPCA
Vanessa P.

Newfoundland & Labrador SPCA, St. John's
Roger B.

Oromocto & Area SPCA
Tina A., Brianna B., Andy O.

Red Deer & District SPCA
Wendy C., Lynda F., Patti F.

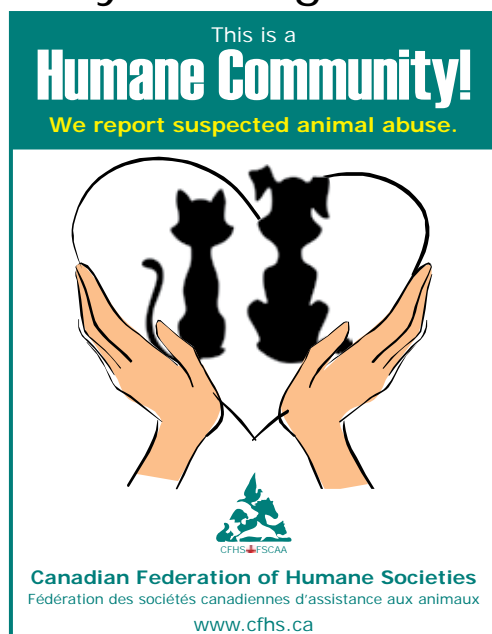
Regina Humane Society
Judy E., Jill L.

Saskatoon SPCA
Brenda R., Dan and Sadie S., Lorene T.

SPA de l'Estrie
Evelina S.

The CFHS would also like to congratulate our dedicated, long-time volunteer Jocelyne Lachance for the **Ontario Volunteer Service Award** she received for her work with the CFHS. For more than a decade, Jocelyne has helped keep our office running by answering the phone, processing mail and more.

Tell your neighbours!



The CFHS has produced this colourful, 8.5 x 11" poster that you can place in your window to signal that "This is a Humane Community! We report suspected animal abuse."

Place your order at:

http://cfhs.ca/store/humane_community_poster

Have you planned for the possibility that your pet might outlive you?

By Lori Waller, Communications Coordinator

Whatever your age, it is important to have plans in place to ensure your pet will be cared for in the event of your mental incapacity or death. Hundreds of thousands of pets end up at shelters in North America each year simply because they outlived their owners and no plans had been made for their continued care.

Here are a few steps you can take to make sure that your pet will be cared for:

Find a caregiver

Think carefully about who you would want to take care of your pet. Try to select short-term caregivers in case of an emergency as well as long-term guardians. Consider family members, friends and acquaintances such as other pet owners in your neighbourhood, your veterinarian, etc.



Talk to these potential caregivers and secure a commitment from at least one that he or she will take on the care of your pet if you die or fall ill. Check in every few years to ensure that they are still in a position to do so.

Make sure that your family members, the estate trustee named in your will, and anyone who has medical or financial power of attorney know your wishes for your pet and who you have selected as a caregiver.

If you cannot find an appropriate caregiver, check with your local humane society. It might have a program through which you can bequeath your pet to the society along with funding to cover its lifetime care.

Set aside some money, and put it in your will

The best way to make sure your wishes are fulfilled is by making formal arrangements that specifically cover the care of your pet — both who will care for your pet after you are gone, and how the pet's care will be paid for.

Work with an attorney to draw up a will or other document that identifies your chosen caregiver and provides the money necessary to care for your pet. Money designated for this care can be set aside in a special bank account, as part of a life insurance policy, etc. Talk with your financial planner and/or attorney to figure out which arrangement will work best for you.

More detail on planning for your pet in your estate can be found in the book *Fat Cats and Lucky Dogs: How to leave (some of) your estate to your pets*, by Canadian lawyer Barry Seltzer.

Get your pet's records in order

Keep your pet's medical records and instructions related to daily care together in one place where they can be easily found in case of your sudden death or illness. A useful form for this purpose that you can print and fill out is available at www.2ndchance4pets.org. Keep these documents updated and provide your chosen caregivers with copies.

Choosing more humanely produced meat, milk and eggs

By Lori Waller, Communications Coordinator

Increasingly, meat, egg and dairy consumers are challenging producers to guarantee they don't subject animals to cruel but standard industry practices like confinement in tiny cages, denial of access to exercise and painful procedures like tail docking and beak trimming.

In response, various labeling and certification programs have cropped up. **Labels** are phrases (e.g. free-range) that have an agreed upon definition, but there is no verification to ensure producers are in fact using the method implied. With **certification**, an outside certifier develops standards, farmers apply for certification, and each farm is inspected to confirm it measures up.

Here are the main labels and certification programs that relate to animal welfare in Canada:

Cage-free labels

- **Free-run (used for eggs):** Laying hens are kept in open barns, cage-free
- **Free-range:** Animals are kept in open barns, cage-free, with some access to the outdoors

These systems are a step up from common farm practices (especially in egg production: 98% of Canada's egg-laying hens spend their lives in cramped cages measuring about 18 by 20 feet for five birds). But this only addresses one aspect of animal welfare. Other problems like overcrowding or psychological deprivation may still occur.

BC SPCA Certified

This program was launched by the BC SPCA in 2002. Its standards are based on science and the principle of "five freedoms": freedom

from hunger and thirst; from distress; from discomfort; from pain, injury and disease; and freedom to express behaviours that promote well-being.

The standards are a marked improvement over typical industry practices. They prohibit extreme confinement cages or stalls. The minimum space requirements far exceed industry norms. Housing must allow for instinctive behaviours like nest-building and rooting. Tail docking of cows and forced molting of hens, two particularly stressful practices, are prohibited, and pain medication is required for dehorning and castration.

Nearly 1.8 million animals have been raised to these standards by over 20 producers in B.C., Alberta and Saskatchewan.

Certified Organic

In Canada, organic farmers are certified to meet the Canadian Organic Standards, which contain not only environmental but also animal welfare requirements. All of those listed above in the BC SPCA standards are included, with the exception that pain relief is not required for castration. Also, the organic standards require outdoor access for all species.

Over 2 million animals were raised to these standards in 2008.

Local Food Plus

This program, launched in 2006, certifies farmers based on six categories: sustainable production, labour practices, habitat preservation, animal welfare and energy use. Many of the animal care standards are similar to BC SPCA standards. They were "designed to position production practices between

the Codes of Practice and the Canadian Organic Standard." (The Codes of Practice are guidelines that set out minimum standards of care for farm animals.)

Local Food Plus farmers can be found across Canada.

U.S. standards



There are several "humane" labels used on U.S. products, which often appear on Canadian shelves. A comparison of these can be found at www.wspa-usa.org/pages/2482_humane_food_labels.cfm.

The bottom line

As a rule of thumb, if you buy foods that meet any of the above standards, the animals involved will have been treated better than the average farm animal. Although we don't all have access to SPCA-certified products, organic foods are available country-wide. They may take a bit of effort to find, but if you eat meat, dairy or eggs and you care about animals, it is worth it.

At the same time, these options should all be taken with a grain of salt: they signify a real improvement over mainstream animal agriculture, but they do not ensure an *ideal* life for farm animals. The animals still suffer during transport and slaughter. All of the standards listed here do permit beak-trimming of birds and the extermination of "useless" male chicks born in hatcheries that supply egg producers. Certifiers are constrained by the status quo; they cannot set their standards so high that no farmer could meet them and still sell their products at a competitive price. We still need to look critically at the livestock industry as a whole and its hyper-commodification of animals.



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

A newsletter of the
Canadian Federation of Humane Societies
Volume 23, Number 2, 2010

The Canadian Federation of Humane Societies (CFHS) is the only national voice of humane societies and SPCAs. We work collaboratively with our member societies and Canadians coast to coast to promote respect and humane treatment toward all animals.

La Fédération des sociétés canadiennes d'assistance aux animaux (FSCAA) est la seule voix nationale des sociétés d'assistance aux animaux et des SPCAs et SPAs. Nous travaillons en collaboration avec nos sociétés membres et les Canadiens et Canadiennes d'un océan à l'autre afin de promouvoir le respect et le traitement sans cruauté de tous les animaux.

102-30 Concourse Gate
Ottawa, Ontario K2E 7V7
Tel: 613-224-8072
Fax: 613-723-0252
Toll Free: 1-888-678-CFHS
awif@cfhs.ca
www.cfhs.ca
Charitable Reg. #
11883 0884 RR0001

President
Bob Osterhout

Chief Executive Officer
Steve Carroll

Editor
Lori Waller

Design and Layout
Pat Sample

Portions of this newsletter may be reproduced or quoted with appropriate credit.

Views expressed in *Animal Welfare in Focus* are not necessarily those of the Canadian Federation of Humane Societies.