

PET WELLNESS

MAY 2019

SASKATOON
STARPHOENIX

Confused about
your pet's diet?
Learn how nutrition
choices impact your
pet's health.

Page 12

PET LICENSING

LICENSING PROVIDES PEACE OF MIND!

If your pet ever escapes, a valid pet license provides identification, safe shelter and direct return home.

Purchase or renew your pet license online at saskatoon.ca/petlicensing or visit one of our pet license vendors.

VENDORS

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Critters
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Bay F - 411 Herold Court
3 - 406 Ludlow Street East
2-202 Primrose Avenue
112 - 110 Ruth Street East

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502 51st Street East

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Forest Grove Veterinary Clinic
#8 - 415 115th Street East

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Pet-I-Coat Junction & Barkery
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Saskatoon Animal Control Agency
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Saskatoon SPCA
5028 Clarence Avenue South

Stonebridge Veterinary Hospital
5 - 215 Stonebridge Boulevard

U of S Small Animal Hospital
52 Campus Drive

VCA Canada All West Animal Hospital
3120 Laurier Drive

VCA Canada Lakeview Animal Hospital
#2 - 1945 McKercher Drive

Wilson's Lifestyle Centre
303 Owen Manor

Woodridge Veterinary Clinic
411 - D Herold Court

PET LICENSING FEES

DOG

Spayed/Neutered	\$29
Not Spayed or Neutered	\$58
Juvenile (Under 1 Year)	\$29
Replacement Tag	\$10

CAT

Spayed/Neutered	\$18
Not Spayed or Neutered	\$36
Juvenile (Under 1 Year)	\$18
Replacement Tag	\$10



DOG DAY OF SUMMER

FREE END OF SEASON
LICENSED POOCH SWIM

AUGUST 28th

MAYFAIR POOL
1025 AVE F NORTH





PET WELLNESS

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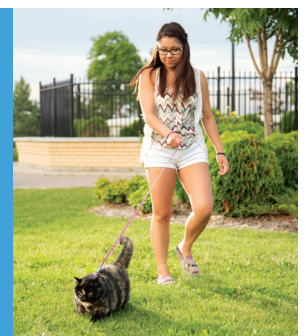
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PET LICENSING

Purchase or renew your annual pet license online.
Non licensed pets face fines starting at \$250.
saskatoon.ca/petlicensing



PET TEST: Are you a responsible pet owner?

BY JEANNIE ARMSTRONG

Are you a pet owner? Thinking about introducing a pet into your family? Take the following true-or-false quiz to see if you're ready to live up to the challenge of being a responsible pet owner.

True or False: You only need to license your cat or dog if it is allowed outdoors.

False: The City of Saskatoon requires that all cats and dogs over the age of four months be licensed, even if they are indoor-only animals. The license should be attached to the animal's collar or added to the pet's microchip information. If you don't license your pet, the base fine is \$250.

"To be a responsible pet owner, we encourage you to get a pet license, which also acts as a vital identification for your pet," says Brad Babyak, Recreation Services Manager/Open Space Programming and Development with the City of Saskatoon.

"If your licensed pet is found wandering, and it's wearing its identification, the pet can be returned home to you directly, instead of being taken to the pound. When you license your pet, you receive the 'Pet At-Large Perk.' It's a 'get out of jail free' provision that can be used once during the pet's lifetime. If your pet is running at large and it is caught by the Saskatoon Animal Control Agency, you can use your 'Pet At-Large Perk' to be reunited with your pet and not pay the fines."

True or False: Pet owners who have their dog or cat spayed or neutered get a significant discount when licensing their pet.

True: The City of Saskatoon annual license fee for a dog that has not been spayed or neutered is \$58. If your dog is spayed/neutered, the license is reduced to

\$29. A license for a spayed/neutered cat is \$18. The license for an unaltered cat is \$36.

True or False: It's better to have one litter before spaying a female cat or dog.

False: Spaying your pet before her first heat cycle actually helps protect her from numerous health problems, including uterine infections and breast cancer. Spaying/neutering your cat eliminates female heat cycles and reduces male spraying. Your cat is likely to be more sociable and affectionate. Neutering a male dog helps prevent testicular cancer and will also help curb aggressive behaviours.

True or False: An unspayed cat and her offspring can produce over 400,000 cats in their lifetime.

True: An unaltered female cat can produce three litters of four to six kittens per year. As each generation multiplies over the years, that could add up to more than 400,000 cats. Saskatoon's cat population is described by many as out of control; over 2,500 cats are brought in annually to the Saskatoon SPCA. "A responsible pet owner spays or neuters their pet, which helps control the population of unwanted pets," says Babyak.

True or False: If you can't afford to spay or neuter your pet, you can apply for a subsidy through the City of Saskatoon.

True: The City of Saskatoon's Subsidized Spay and Neuter Program (SSNP) provides low income pet owners with access to significantly discounted veterinary services. "In 2018, the City approved 199 SSNP applications," says Babyak. "The City continues to partner with the Academy of Veterinary Practitioners, the

Western College of Veterinary Medicine and select veterinary clinics in Saskatoon to make this program as accessible as possible to the people who need it."

True or False: My cat or dog only needs to go to the veterinarian when it's sick.

False: Responsible pet owners recognize the importance of having regular health check-ups and vaccinations for their animals. Annual examinations help pets live longer, happier lives. Vet-recommended vaccinations are the best and least expensive way to protect your pet from disease.

True or False: My dog loves to sleep all day. It doesn't really need to exercise.

False: According to Petmd.com, dogs should spend between 30 minutes to two hours on activity every day, depending on their age, breed and overall health. Visiting an off-leash dog park is an enjoyable way for a dog and its owner to get regular exercise and much needed socialization.

True or False: Saskatoon has the largest number of designated off-leash dog parks of any city in the province.

True: According to Babyak, Saskatoon is home to 10 active off-leash dog parks. "Our 11th dog park will be formalized later this year at Chief Whitecap Park. At 80 acres, it will be the largest dog park in Saskatoon." Featuring an all-natural prairie terrain and access to the river, Chief Whitecap Dog Park will offer a uniquely different outdoor experience to dog owners and their pets.

Babyak also notes: "The expansion of one of our most popular dog parks, the Avalon Dog Park, was completed in 2018. In 2019, we will be doing some upgrades



to the Hampton Village Dog Park.”

True or False: All dogs are free to play in the City of Saskatoon’s off-leash dog parks.

False: Only dogs with valid licenses from the City of Saskatoon are allowed to visit the off-leash dog parks. Owners must accompany their dogs in the dog park, observe them at all times and keep them under control. “Believe it or not, we’ve had people come to dog parks, drop off their dogs and leave – or sit in their car while the dog is in the park,” says Babyak. Both scenarios will earn the dog’s owner a dog at-large fine starting at \$100.

True or False: My dog is a free spirit and does what he wants. There’s no way to control him.

False: One of the most common reasons that dogs and cats are surrendered to shelters is because of behavioural problems. Obedience training is key to a happy pet and a happy owner. Later this year, the City of

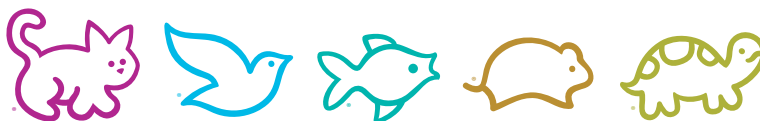


Responsible pet owners are encouraged to license their dogs and cats. The City of Saskatoon license serves as a vital identification for your pet. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

Saskatoon will be partnering with the Saskatoon SPCA to offer behavioural readiness sessions at its off-leash dog parks. “It was a request that we heard from pet owners. We’re going to develop these sessions and facilitate them in our dog parks. They will be information

sessions where people can come and talk to the experts and get more information about obedience training,” says Babyak.

To learn more about responsible pet ownership, go to saskatoon.ca/animalservices.



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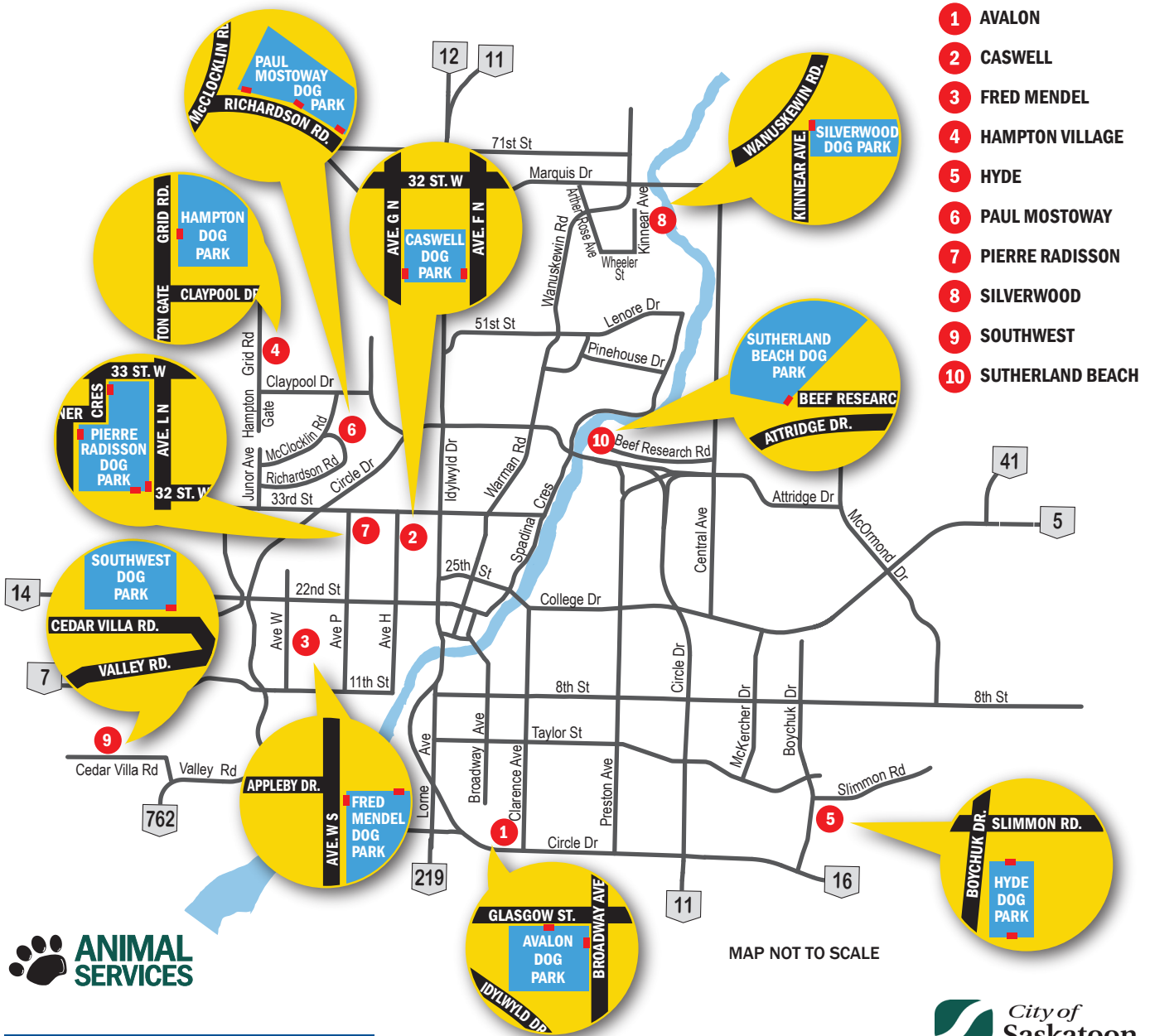
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DOG PARKS

All dogs must have a current pet license to access the dog parks.

For more information on Dog Park openings & closures, visit saskatoon.ca/dogparks.



MAP NOT TO SCALE



DOG PARK ETIQUETTE

- Your pet license is like an all-access pass to Saskatoon's Dog Parks. Only licensed dogs are invited to play!
- Be a good buddy and interact with your dog, keeping him or her within sight at all times. Off-leash doesn't mean unattended.
- Scoop your dog's poop. Bring a few extra baggies, just in case.
- Play nice! Your dog should know and obey basic commands of come, sit and stay before visiting a Dog Park.
- If you take a toy to the park, expect other dogs to play with it. Better yet, leave the toys at home.
- Is your dog hot to trot? The mere presence of a female dog in heat can cause a frenzy among potential four-legged Romeos. It's best to have your dog spayed or neutered before planning a Dog Park visit.
- If you have concerns about the behaviour of a dog or its owner while at the park, contact the Saskatoon Animal Control Agency at 306-385-PETS (7387).
- Have fun! When dogs and owners play by the rules, everyone has a good time!





An officer with the Saskatoon Animal Control Agency reunites this dog owner with her beloved pet. In 2018, the Saskatoon Animal Control Agency returned 319 licensed dogs and 97 licensed cats to their owners. PHOTO: JEFF LYONS

How does Saskatoon's Animal Control Bylaw benefit people and pets?

BY JEANNIE ARMSTRONG

Saskatoon enjoys a reputation as a pet-friendly city. To ensure the happiness and wellbeing of both people and pets, the City of Saskatoon has established a number of regulations under the Animal Control Bylaw.

The Saskatoon Animal Control Agency (SACA) is contracted by the City to enforce the Bylaw and provide animal control services. Pound services are provided by the Saskatoon SPCA. Revenues collected

through the issuing of dog and cat licenses by the City of Saskatoon support both services.

"We want to have animals and people live in harmony in our city. That's why we have these bylaw regulations in place," says Eva Alexandrovici, president of the Saskatoon Animal Control Agency.

"We don't just benefit pet owners; we also benefit non-pet owners because they have a place to call when they have a concern."

PET LICENSING

Dog and cat owners are required by the Animal Control Bylaw to obtain a license which provides identification for each pet over the age of four months and to prevent their pets from being at-large.

Dogs and cats that have gone astray, are lost or are allowed to roam the neighbourhood face numerous dangers. "Animals that are loose can be injured by vehicles or by other animals. Weather

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

PET LICENSING

What your license pays for:

- Bylaw enforcement
- Subsidized Spay and Neuter Program (SSNP)
- Dog park programming and development
- Pound services



is also a concern for us, both during the winter as well as on hot summer days. They can also be exposed to disease and parasites,” says Alexandrovici.

“We deal with a lot of at-large dogs and cats. Our main goal is to return the animal to the owner. We don’t want animals going to the pound. We want them to be reunited with their owners.

“When somebody calls here who has found a licensed animal, we often don’t even have to go out to pick up that animal. We can just get the tag number, pick up the phone, call the owner and tell them where the animal is. We can have as many as five phone numbers in our system for the owner. We don’t actually have to go out and pick up their dog and issue the fine. However, if we get numerous calls about the same dog, it then becomes a serious concern and we will send somebody out.”

In 2018, the Saskatoon Animal Control Agency returned 319 licensed dogs and 97 licensed cats to their owners. An additional 482 dogs and 1,228 cats without licenses were impounded at the Saskatoon SPCA.

A valid pet license from the City of Saskatoon is one of the most effective ways of safeguarding your cat or dog should it go missing. A major benefit of licensing your dog or cat is the “Pet-At-Large” perk, which acts like a one-time-only ‘get out of jail free’ card. Valid once during the lifetime of the

animal, this perk ensures that pet-at-large and pound fees will be waived. These fines can be as high as \$350 if your pet is at-large without a license. Also, if at the time of the fine, your pet is already licensed, this “Pet-At-Large” perk can be used annually to be applied towards your impound fee.

NOISY PETS

The Animal Control Bylaw also states: “No owner of a cat or dog shall permit the cat or dog to bark or howl so as to create a nuisance.”

Alexandrovici says that SACA receives many enquiries about nuisance barking violations and notes that recent changes have been made to the Bylaw.

In residential areas of the city, a dog that barks or howls for a period of 15 consecutive minutes or longer (or intermittently for an hour) between the hours of 11 p.m. and 6 a.m. on a weekday, and 11 p.m. and 8 a.m. on a Sunday or statutory holiday can result in a ticket being issued to the dog’s owner.

“If the dog is being a nuisance to one of the neighbours, then the neighbour has the right to file a complaint. There may be circumstances that make a barking dog less tolerable to certain people – shift workers who are trying to sleep or if there’s a new baby in the house,” says Alexandrovici.

“The way we deal with that is that we send out a questionnaire and a barking

log to the individual who is making the complaint. We want to find out what’s happening, when the dog is barking and why this individual is bothered by the barking.”

The recent revision to the Bylaw has simplified the questionnaire and made it easier for the complainant to fill out.

“The questionnaire helps us look at the whole picture and determine why the dog is barking. Perhaps the owners aren’t home and don’t even know that the dog is barking. We’ll provide the dog owner with educational material and try to help them resolve the problem,” says Alexandrovici.

One of the most effective ways to prevent noise complaints is to keep your dog indoors when you are not at home, she advises. “If you’re not home, and you’re leaving your dog outside, you don’t know what your dog is doing. Training is also important, starting from the puppy stage. It’s also important to ensure your dog has regular exercise and is socialized. Dogs are smart. They will try to keep themselves busy. If they have nothing else to do, and haven’t had the proper exercise, they’re going to go out and bark at everything they can find.”

OFF-LEASH AND ON-LEASH ACTIVITIES

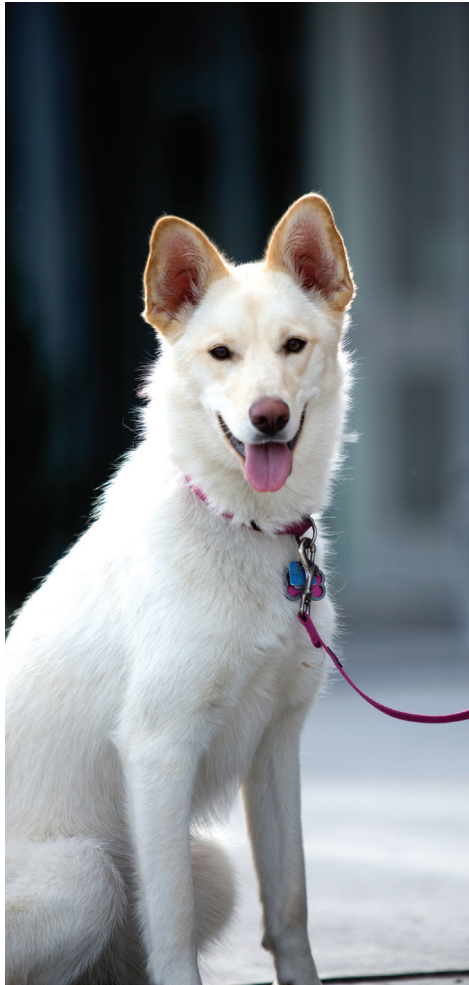
The only public areas of Saskatoon where the owner of a licensed dog is not required to have the dog on a leash is in one of the City of Saskatoon’s 10 off-leash dog parks.

People and dogs enjoy the freedom of exploring Saskatoon’s off-leash dog parks, but it’s important to remember that all dogs must remain on their leashes in the parking lot of the dog park. “The parking lots are not part of the off-leash dog parks. We like to see everybody leashing their dogs before taking them out of the car. Again, safety is the priority. In the parking lot, there are vehicles coming and going, and the dogs are usually very excited when they arrive. We don’t want dogs getting run over or attacking one another because they’re so excited,” says Alexandrovici.

“Walk your dog to the gate of the dog park on a leash and keep that leash with you while you’re inside the dog park. You are required to have a leash for each dog



A valid pet license from the City of Saskatoon is one of the most effective ways of safeguarding your cat or dog should it go missing. PHOTO: JEFF LYONS



you have with you, in case the dog needs to be restrained. We want to ensure everybody can enjoy using the dog park.”

Saskatoon is famous for its abundance of attractive green spaces. While it’s tempting to unclip your dog’s leash while strolling through your neighbourhood park, this is actually an infraction of the Animal Control Bylaw.

“We receive complaints regarding people taking their dogs into the parks and letting them run free. That is against the law and we do practise zero tolerance. If they get caught by an officer, they will receive a minimum \$100 fine,” says Alexandrovici.

“The reason, again, is safety. Everyone has the right to use the parks, but not everyone is comfortable around dogs. Other people may have allergic reactions to dogs. Young children could approach an unleashed dog and be bitten. We want to prevent such occurrences from happening.”

Other leash infractions that could mean expensive fines for dog owners include:

- Leaving your dog alone on a sidewalk, tied up, while you go into a store.
- Tying your dog to a chair or bench in a local park while watching a sporting activity. You must actually hold the dog’s leash in your hand to ensure it’s under control.
- Dogs, even on leashes, are prohibited in playground areas of local parks.

LITTER CLEANUP

The Animal Control Bylaw requires the pet owner to immediately clean up after their dogs and cats when they defecate.

“Two sections of the Bylaw deal with feces clean-up,” says Alexandrovici. “One is the accumulation of feces in the owner’s yard. Owners are not allowed to let feces accumulate as this could create a health hazard. When the snow melts in the spring, we get a ton of complaints about feces accumulation in back yards.

“The second section of the Bylaw deals with public areas. When you’re taking your dog for a walk and it defecates, it has to be picked up immediately. There is a \$100 minimum fine for each offense.”

CARING SERVICE PROVIDERS

Motivating the SACA team is their love of animals. “Each of us have animals; we all love pets. Our goal is to ensure a safe community and to promote responsible pet ownership,” says Alexandrovici.

She says the most rewarding aspect of working at SACA is the opportunity to reunite lost pets with their owners. “Returning the animals to their owners is very rewarding. People are just thankful to get their animals back and they’re grateful that their animal is safe.”

To learn more about the Saskatoon Animal Control Agency, call (306) 385-7387.

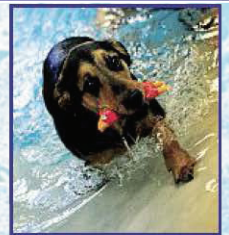
A major benefit of licensing your dog or cat is the “Pet-At-Large” perk, which acts like a one-time-only ‘get out of jail free’ card. Valid once during the lifetime of the animal, this perk ensures that pet-at-large and pound fees will be waived.

PHOTO: CITY OF SASKATOON

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Ask the SPCA: How can we find the right pet?

BY JENNIFER JACOBY-SMITH

The Saskatoon SPCA performs many vital services for the community. When you're looking to give a pet their forever home, there are many considerations. Here are some of the most frequently asked questions about the Saskatoon SPCA with answers by executive director Patricia Cameron and Heather Sutherland, volunteer and public relations coordinator.

1. Where do the animals at the SPCA come from?

Most are from the City of Saskatoon or outskirts, but we also get pets from around Saskatchewan brought in by caring people who found them running stray. Some pets are brought in by the Saskatoon Animal Control Agency. These pets were running at large in violation of City Bylaws. Others are owner-surrendered. This happens when a person cannot keep their pet due to an unexpected life change and chooses to do the responsible and caring thing by bringing the pet to our shelter for adoption.



Photo Courtesy of Insigtrix Research

Saskatoon SPCA Adoption Representative Julie shares a moment with Care Bear, who found safe shelter when he was picked up by Saskatoon Animal Control Agency on November 2, 2018 and found a happy home when he was adopted from the Saskatoon SPCA on November 24, 2018. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

Some animals are seized under the Animal Protection Act of Saskatchewan by our Animal Protection officers. Others are picked up by our emergency responders who attend to animal emergencies during the evenings.

2. How long are animals kept up for adoption?

Once a pet is up on the Saskatoon SPCA adoption

floor, there is no time limit. They stay with us until they find their loving, forever home. When pets are euthanized, it is for two possible reasons: serious illness that cannot be successfully treated or dangerous behaviour that renders the pet a threat to the community.

3. If you are a charity, why do you charge a

fee to adopt? Shouldn't it be free?

The Adoption fee partially offsets the high costs of our rescue and rehoming work. For example, every pet adopted has had medical care, is spayed or neutered, has been vaccinated, dewormed, socialized, behaviour assessed and may have had extensive surgeries or other treatments. Each cat or dog

SPAY AND NEUTER!
A female cat that has not been spayed can produce three litters per year with the average litter size ranging from four to six kittens.

1 yr



adoption includes a City of Saskatoon license, a microchip, four weeks of free pet insurance with PetPlan and a complimentary veterinary check with participating clinics in the city. The total value of our adoptions package of benefits ranges from \$550 to more than \$1,500 – depending on the variety of veterinary and grooming services the pet required.

By adopting, not only are you giving an animal in need a second chance at a new home, you are also helping countless others by offering your support.

4. How much is it to adopt a pet?

Adoption prices at the Saskatoon SPCA vary depending on the species, age and breed.

Cats: Adult, \$85;
Kitten, \$200; Rare Breed, \$225.
Dogs: Adult, \$295; Puppy, \$360;
Toy/rare breed adult, \$360;
Toy/rare breed puppy, \$380.

5. How can the SPCA help us choose the best pet for our family?

The adoption process at the Saskatoon SPCA requires a prospective new owner to fill out a questionnaire that assists our Adoption Counsellors in matching you with the best possible pet. The information you provide to us is vital in ensuring the animal you want to bring home will be a good companion for

you, and that they will thrive in their new home.

Sometimes matches seem great on paper, but aren't ideal in person. This is why we encourage everyone who is interested in adopting to spend time with your prospective new pet at the shelter so you can get to know one another (you can also bring your dog in to meet with our dogs available for adoption!).

Also, it's important not to get discouraged. Finding the right pet for you can sometimes take time. Most pets like cats and dogs have long life-spans (8-20+ years), so you want to ensure that the pet you choose fits your lifestyle. The goal is for both of you to have a life-long, happy companion!

6. How do you know if a pet fits your lifestyle?

Depending on whom you speak with, there may be different opinions on what type of pet is right for you. Realistically the right pet is one you are able to appropriately care for, bond and be happy with. There are some important questions you must ask yourself when considering a new pet:

- How much time can you dedicate to your new pet?
- Can you afford routine veterinary care, food, and toys?
- Can you provide adequate care (especially in more

exotics pets such as reptiles, amphibians, etc.)?

- Some breeds have very specific requirements; can you meet them?
- Consider the animal's temperament. Each breed of cat or dog is associated with different personality and temperament traits. Does their personality compliment your lifestyle?
- Do you have other pets at home? How will they acclimate to a new animal in the house?

When choosing a new companion, you want to ensure that you are capable of caring for their physical, behavioural, and medical needs. Ensuring your prospective pet is a good match is essential to a long, happy, loving home. Adopting a dog that likes to chase small animals while you have cats or bunnies at home likely isn't going to be a good fit for you or your pets at home. Animals are individuals with their own needs, personalities and quirks. A good match not only benefits you, but also the animal you brought into your home.

If you can meet the requirements an animal needs to thrive, chances are you will have a wonderful companion to spend your life with.

For more information visit saskatoonspca.com.

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Confused about your pet's diet?

Nutrition choices impact your pet's health

BY ELIZABETH IRELAND

You're not alone in the confusion surrounding the right diet for your cat or dog. Pet owners want to know that their companion animal has a healthy diet, but with so many pet food options out there, choices can be perplexing.

Dr. Tammy Owens is a Saskatoon-based veterinarian specializing in cat and dog nutrition. She is also an assistant professor at the Department of Small Animal Clinical Sciences at the Western College of Veterinary Medicine (WCVM). In addition to her vet training, Dr. Owens completed a residency in small animal clinical nutrition and earned her master's degree in nutritional biology at the University of California (UC) Davis.

"Your cat or dog should be fed a complete and balanced diet that provides all

essential nutrients in the correct amounts and proportions, and that's produced by a reputable company with feeding trials. Since pets don't have a varied diet like humans, what you feed them is going to have an impact," says Dr. Owens.

Traditional commercial pet diets consist of meat and grain-based kibble or canned food. Alternative pet diet trends include vegetarian, raw or grain-free and tend to mirror trends in human food nutrition.

Dr. Owens notes that cats are obligate carnivores and cannot thrive on a vegan or vegetarian diet. These types of diets should not be fed to cats at all. An obligate carnivore is a species that gets its energy and nutrition from a diet consisting mainly (or exclusively) of meat.

On the other hand, dogs have co-existed with humans for eons and have diverged

somewhat from the carnivorous diets of wolves. "Vegetarian or vegan diets have a higher risk of nutrient deficiencies or other issues, unless they have been carefully designed to account for all of a dog's needs. A dog can live on a lacto-ovo diet (including dairy and eggs) quite well, although it still must be appropriately balanced," explains Dr. Owens.

"Diets with no animal products are much more difficult. It can be done; however, it is much more difficult to meet all their nutritional needs this way. It requires attention to detail and the involvement of someone with sufficient canine nutrition knowledge (such as a veterinary nutritionist) to minimize problems. Overall, I'm leery of most available vegan dog foods and the resulting health and welfare of the animal."



Dr. Tammy Owens, assistant professor at the Department of Small Animal Clinical Sciences at the Western College of Veterinary Medicine, specializes in cat and dog nutrition. PHOTO: CHRISTINA WEESE



The World Small Animal Veterinary Association (WSAVA) is a global community of more than 200,000 veterinarians that works to advance the health and welfare of companion animals.

According to WSAVA, dogs can potentially get their required nutrients from a vegetarian diet, but the company producing the food needs to be carefully evaluated. Compared to a meat-based diet, vegetarian dog diets are more difficult to formulate and vegetarian-sourced nutrients are not as easily absorbed and metabolized by dogs.

“If this is a feeding strategy that is important to you, I recommend working with a veterinary nutritionist to get appropriate recommendations for your dog,” says Owens.

Another alternative diet that some pet owners consider is a raw diet. Dr. Owens is clear that there are a lot of risks associated with feeding raw animal products. These risks include environmental contamination and infection, both to the pet owner and those around them. Plus, feeding dogs raw bones can lead to broken teeth, gastrointestinal obstructions, perforations and high vet bills.

“Some pet owners perceive a raw food diet to be closer to the diet of a wolf or wild cat, although they typically still vary quite a bit from this ideal. Perceived benefits of raw diets include reports of



Dr. Owens advises feeding cats and dogs a complete and balanced diet that will provide the animal with all essential nutrients in the correct amounts and proportions. PHOTO: CHRISTINA WEESE

healthier looking coats, better digestibility and better dental health. However, most of these benefits are a result of these diets being high in protein and fat and not highly processed – not from the fact the food is raw. The same benefits can be gained from a similarly designed but more gently cooked diet,” says Owens.

“Raw pet diets are a public health and safety issue and there are other, safer ways to feed and accomplish the

same goals.”

The most controversial category of alternative pet food is grain-free. Dr. Owens emphasizes that there is sometimes a misperception that grain-free is low carbohydrate. “Grain-free pet food replaces traditional grains with pulses, beans and tubers. There is a risk any time ingredients are new to a species or a breed. It’s important to remember that traditional pet food has undergone decades of

feeding trials.”

In 2018, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) announced that it is investigating a link between commercial grain-free diets and a type of canine heart disease called canine dilated cardiomyopathy (DCM). The FDA reports an unusually high incidence of canine DCM in breeds not typically genetically disposed to the disease, including Retrievers, Miniature Schnauzers, several Whippets, Bulldogs, Shih Tzus, as well as mixed breeds. Early reports from the veterinary cardiology community indicate that grain-free pet foods were the primary source of nutrition for the dogs impacted by canine DCM.

Early signs of canine heart disease that all dog owners should watch for include weakness and fainting.

Finally, what does Dr. Owens feed her own cats? “I feed my cats kibble and canned food produced by companies with strong records of safety and quality control. Occasionally they get home-cooked foods and diets.”

With a knowledge of your pet’s individual health requirements, your veterinarian is the best person to consult about your pet’s diet.

Information and recipes for veterinarian-recommended home-cooked foods include wsava.org, balanceit.com and petdiets.com.

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How to keep your cat healthy and happy

BY JENNIFER JACOBY-SMITH

Even though most of our pet cats spend their time indoors, cats are wild creatures at heart. So how can you keep your kitty happy and healthy?

The first tip is to keep your cat indoors. Indoor cats are safer – protected from hazards such as weather, traffic, traumatic injury or even getting lost. As well, keeping your cat indoors will reduce the risks of infectious disease. Another consideration: research studies have shown that wild bird populations are decreasing in Canada – an impact that’s largely due to hunting cats.

Your wild little feline still has those hunter instincts and being inside all day can lead to boredom. Prolonged boredom can lead to some unpleasant and destructive behaviours, such as inappropriate urination or scratching. Bored cats can also be disinterested (even more than usual) and lethargic which can lead to obesity and other health issues.

There are lots of ways to make sure your cat is engaged and stimulated even within the confines of your home.

“They need places to hide, places to watch things, because they are a predator as well as a prey species,” notes Dr. Karen Sheehan, a wellness veterinarian at the Western College of Veterinary Medicine’s Veterinary Medical Centre (WCVM).

Sheehan suggests placing your furniture in such a way to provide your cat a viewing spot to watch what’s happening outdoors. Positioning a birdfeeder in front of a window where they can watch birds come and go, or planting flowers that attract hummingbirds and butterflies will give your cat hours of enjoyment.

A tall perch – such as a cat tree or cat post – will become a favourite spot for them to observe their kingdom.

Providing appropriate material for cats to scratch is also important, as it supports a natural instinct and keeps them from destroying valuable household items like couches or carpeting.

If boredom is a huge problem, the owner can consider adding a feline companion, but Sheehan cautions, “[Adding another cat] can also be a bigger problem if the introduction doesn’t go as well as you would like.”

Another way to combat boredom is to make them “hunt” for their food. There are food puzzles at the pet store that you can buy; you can also simply toss their food around a room. The kibble will find its way into nooks and crannies.

To start, you might need to let them see you “hide” the food, but over time, you could make it an elaborate treasure hunt.

“It’s just another way to engage, stimulate their brain and keep them busy,” says Sheehan.

She adds, another way to kick boredom is to use a harness to introduce your indoor cat to the great outdoors. “They’re exploring outside, but at the same time they’re going to be safe, because they’re always supervised.”

Cats should also be microchipped in case of escape.

“It’s the only permanent means of identification,” says Sheehan. “If they escape and go outside, at least there is a way you can be reunited with your pet.”

Purchasing a pet license from the City of Saskatoon is required for all cats over the age of four months. A pet license will ensure that your cat can be quickly identified and returned to you if they are found at large by Saskatoon Animal Control Agency. A spayed or neutered cat license costs \$18 per year. (Intact cats are \$36.)

Spaying or neutering is one of the best things you can do for your cat. For female cats, it reduces the risk of mammary (breast) cancer. For male cats, it reduces the smell of their urine and curbs the fighting instinct.

The Western College of Veterinary Medicine is a supporting partner of CatSnip, a volunteer-run, low-cost spay and neuter program for those who cannot otherwise afford the veterinary procedures



It’s important to keep your cat engaged and stimulated. Boredom and lethargy can lead to obesity and other health issues.

PHOTO: WCVM

for their pets. The goal is to reduce overpopulation of cats in the Saskatoon area.

The most vital part of cat ownership is spending time with them every day. Just as you walk your dog every day, it’s important to play with your cat. There are millions of cat toys available when you visit any pet store and even apps you can install on your mobile devices. Most will mimic the movement of bugs, rodents or birds. It may take some trial and error to find what entices your kitty to play.

“Naturally, cats are hunters, so in the wild they have short bursts of intense activity. The reality is they’re going to get bored if you’re trying to play with them for an extended period of time,” notes Sheehan.

Keeping your cat stimulated can keep them healthy and increase their quality of life. Anyone who is lucky enough to own a cat understands they are still wild at heart; but for all their wildness, cats can be the “purrfect” companion for many years.

Good dogs bite too: Prevention is the key to a safe community

BY ELIZABETH IRELAND

All dogs, and all dog breeds, are capable of biting humans. This year, the City of Saskatoon is continuing its “Good Dogs Bite Too” campaign to raise awareness of dog bite prevention in the Saskatoon area.

The campaign is supported by a community coalition that includes the Saskatoon SPCA, the City of Saskatoon Animal Services, the Animal Services Working Group, the Saskatoon Animal Control Agency and the Saskatchewan Health Authority (SHA).

Jasmine Hanson is the communications officer with the Saskatoon SPCA. Hanson breaks down what each community member needs to keep in mind in order to proactively prevent dog bites. Hanson herself grew up on a farm surrounded by her family’s companion cats and dogs.

WHAT DOG OWNERS CAN DO:

- Maintain control of your dog and always use a leash in public areas. Learn your dog’s comfort level around new people and other animals.
- Act as a barrier on a path or sidewalk by walking between your dog and other people.
- Supervise the interaction of your dog while he or she is around others, especially young children. Never make assumptions about how your dog will behave in a new situation.
- Make sure your dog is getting regular exercise, socializing with other dogs and being mentally stimulated.

“If you don’t think you can provide the dog with the right amount of exercise and stimulation, perhaps consider not owning a dog at this point in your

CONTINUED ON PAGE 22



Never approach an unfamiliar dog if the owner is not present. Always ask the owner’s permission to pet the dog and never, ever try to break up a dog fight.

PHOTO: CITY OF SASKATOON

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Jenga's ready for search and rescue missions

Jenga is a very hard worker, and like any dog, she works for play and praise. "You can always tell when she is excited to go to work," says Kate Dean. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

BY PAUL SINKEWICZ

Every minute is precious when the call comes in to Saskatoon Search and Rescue (SSAR).

Volunteer Kate Dean has stood at the edge of the bush and seen for herself just how big the world can be for searchers. There is a lot of ground to cover, and every nook and cranny must be investigated.

Those facing a crisis can be seniors suffering dementia, young children who have wandered, people with special needs or someone suffering a mental health crisis.

"And there are also the young, healthy, middle of the road age group that went on a weekend adventure and something went wrong, whether it's a slip, trip or fall," says Dean.

SSAR is a non-profit charity group, and is ready to dispatch volunteer searchers in any weather and on any terrain in the Saskatoon area. The group has searched the banks of the tree-lined South Saskatchewan River, and the seemingly endless fields dotted with stands of trees. It has searched in knee-deep snow, rain and broiling summer sun.

Those challenges are what inspired Dean

to begin training as a search and rescue dog handler, with her Golden Retriever Jenga. It has been a journey of more than two years, with monthly trips to Edmonton for training, but Dean believes it will all be worthwhile on the day Jenga can make a difference in somebody's life.

"Search and rescue allows you to help everybody," says Dean. "Because anybody can have someone in their life, whether it's a friend or family member, who may need search and rescue services at some point in their life."

Dean says she has had a lifelong interest in the outdoors, first aid and volunteerism, and is a veterinary technologist by trade, so working with a search dog just seemed like a real good fit.

The time commitment is substantial. She spends anywhere from five to 30 hours each week training with either Jenga or the local search and rescue team.

And when the pair travels to train with the Edmonton group, it's all at her own expense. The people she has met along the way all have something admirable in common, says Dean.

"I would say all of the people that I've met

are just really interested in giving back to the community, with no holds barred. They're all the giving type."

When Dean sees stories in the media about a missing person, her heart goes out to the relatives.

"It's amazing how many people go missing in this province and this country. And we help with that," Dean says. "I want closure in one form or another for the families that we work with. Sadly, it can't always be a happy ending, but just knowing that we've brought somebody's loved one home is a huge relief for that family."

Jenga hasn't been out on a search yet. They were dispatched, but as they pulled up the missing individual was located.

"She didn't get to show off her stuff, but that's okay. I will take somebody getting to return home over getting to work the dog, any day."

Jenga is a very hard worker, and like any dog, she works for play and praise, according to Dean.

"You can always tell when she is excited to go to work. She gets quite upset if I put on my SSAR backpack and don't take her. She is 100 per cent convinced that she needs to



Kate Dean, a volunteer with Saskatoon Search and Rescue, has been training for over two years with Jenga, her Golden Retriever, to take part in search and rescue missions. PHOTO: POSTMEDIA FILE PHOTO



search and rescue person – the boots on the ground. Because frankly, there are some conditions where it's not safe for the dogs to work, whether it's extreme heat or extreme cold. You also have to be willing to refrain from bringing your dog out if they are sick or have an injury."

Search and Rescue Saskatchewan Association of Volunteers is working on

developing standards for the province, and if people are interested in getting involved, the first step is just reaching out to their local search and rescue organization and they'll get you in contact with the right people.

"But truly the best place to start is to involve yourself as an individual and make sure search and rescue is for you before you put the time and energy in with the dog."

Dean already feels rewarded for all the time and effort she and Jenga have put in with their training.

"It's just knowing that we can be helpful for our team. I consider us another tool in the belt. It's one more thing that we can do to potentially bring somebody's missing person home. And, it is rewarding to work with a dog and see them progress and get very good at their trade."

come with me."

Dean says dogs suited to this role have a very specific set of aptitudes. They have to be really willing to work and they have to be really independent. They have to be very sociable and they have to be very athletic. "So, you're definitely looking at your puppy

and asking yourself if you can see your dog spending several hours pushing bush or running through shoulder-deep snow. They also have to deal with some serious temperature extremes.

"Before you even think about getting a dog, you definitely have to be willing to be the ground



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Happy dogs, happy owners.

Training makes the difference

BY RYAN HALL

Dogs have been called man's best friend. Their loyalty, energy and companionship can brighten any day and bring a smile to our faces. But like any relationship, building a bond with a canine companion takes work. For many people, this means enrolling in dog training classes as a way to ensure both dog and owner get the most out of their years together.

There are many benefits to obedience training for both dogs and their people. Perhaps the most important one is that training helps teach important life skills, including helping the dog understand expectations for behavior in the human world. This can help reduce anxiety while also allowing the dog to function as a full member of the family.

Training also benefits owners by teaching them how to properly communicate with their pet. Whether through body language, spoken words, or actions, training provides a way for owners and dogs to connect in a way they both understand.

Amber Matthews of the Saskatoon SPCA says there are other reasons to take an obedience class. "Training provides essential mental stimulation and emotional enrichment which can reduce stress and increase a dog's confidence and sociability." Dogs that have developed these traits are usually easy to spot, as they show a greater level of predictability in their behavior and tolerance, as well as being less anxious and excitable.

Taking courses also strengthens the bond between dogs and their owners. As a result, dogs become "more responsive to commands, even in distracting environments,"

says Matthews.

When it comes to selecting a course, there are a several different options to choose from. Curriculums can range from puppy socialization and basic manners, to more energetic experiences such as just-for-fun tricks and game classes. For those who enjoy higher stakes, competitive obedience and sporting courses are also available. Dog owners who need help with a specific behavioral problem can often find small, speciality groups that offer a more individualized experience.

While so many options might seem overwhelming, owners should remember they aren't alone. Most trainers will gladly offer advice and recommend activities that fit the owners' training goals.

Before deciding on a training program, it's important for dog owners to do their homework. To begin with, owners should look for an experienced instructor holding certificates from professional associations. Not all certifying bodies are alike, but high-quality ones have a minimum standard in both education and hands-on training hours, as well as requirements for continuing education.

Next, owners should ask what training method will be used. The leading research indicates that positive reinforcement (reward-based) training methods are the most humane and successful way to train a dog. This means using non-confrontational approaches that reward desirable behavior, which has an empowering effect and helps build a strong human-canine bond based on trust, cooperation

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Saskatoon SPCA employee Amber Matthews and her dog Marty complete some training exercises. Matthews says that obedience training provides a dog with essential mental stimulation and emotional enrichment, which helps to reduce stress and anxiety. PHOTO: JEFF LYONS

PLAY NICE!

Dog parks are a great place for socialization and exercise. Ensure you and your dog are ready for the off-leash experience. Your dog should know and obey basic commands of come, sit and stay before visiting a dog park. Consider taking obedience classes or hiring a qualified dog trainer.



Research rescue groups before you pick a pet

BY HILARY KLASSEN

If you're thinking of adopting a rescue animal, it's a good idea to 'paws' and do a little research first. It may spare you some challenges down the road. The risk of encountering rescues that fail to meet standards of care or that commit outright fraud is only increasing.

Barbara Cartwright, CEO of Humane Canada, the national federation of SPCAs and humane societies, says they've seen a proliferation of rescues across the country over the last 10 years. That proliferation includes a higher percentage of posers who deceive the public and play on people's good intentions for financial gain.

Cartwright says there is no governance for the term 'rescue' and there is a very broad spectrum of what the term rescue means. That means if somebody wants to be nefarious, they can. She has heard of puppy mills in the U.S. posing as rescues and of people who troll the internet for free animals, then create a sad story about them and sell them at premium prices.

It can be difficult for the public to sniff out reputable rescue organizations. "People may not realize that, technically, anyone can re-home companion

animals and call themselves a 'rescue,'" states the Saskatoon SPCA. A rescue can mean anything from a concerned citizen who starts at their kitchen table, to a foster-based rescue with local supporters to hold animals temporarily, all the way up to shelter-based rescues that function like an SPCA or animal shelter with bricks and mortar space.

Humane Canada is currently working to develop Canada-wide standards with humane societies and SPCAs. Organizations that operate to a high professional standard will be able to gain accreditation and display a recognizable logo that provides reassurance to the public. Once that's in place, Humane Canada is considering doing the same for rescue organizations.

Some exceptional rescue organizations are currently working in great collaboration with humane societies and SPCAs to meet those standards. Cartwright says top notch rescues should be able to demonstrate they are meeting the following standards:

1. Evidence of collaboration with others, such as animal welfare agencies and humane societies, including professional conduct on social networks.



Humane Canada is currently working to develop Canada-wide standards for animal rescue groups with humane societies and SPCAs. PHOTO: GETTY IMAGES

Call your local SPCA and humane society and ask them who they work with.

2. A relationship with a veterinarian where medical check-ups are a regular part of care. Complete veterinary medical records are readily available and provided willingly.

3. Excellent adoption procedures, including temperament testing on the animals. A successful matching program brings together an animal and an adopter that share the same lifestyle choices. Provision of medical records, demonstrably correct importation procedures (if applicable) and temperament matching are key components of adoption procedures.

4. Animal care is governed by kenneling and cattery standards as outlined by the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association. The kenneling standard applies to anyone keeping animals in their home, including pet boarding and pet daycare facilities.

5. The public can visit the rescue and inspect its cleanliness and the condition of the animals.

6. The rescue is governed by a board of directors.

7. Annual financial reports are published.

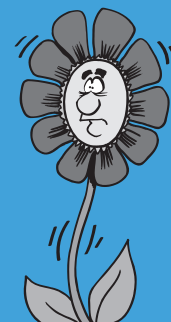
8. Operates within the law with no history of conviction under

CONTINUED ON PAGE 21



POOP IS NOT FERTILIZER!

Dog feces do not fertilize the ground and have negative effects on grass and plants. Be a good neighbour and clean up after your pet.



Immunization key to healthy pet population

Vaccinations, regular checkups keep pets healthy

BY PAUL SINKEWICZ

There is no need for pets to suffer in silence, but they do.

They suffer in silence when their human companions neglect to have them vaccinated and diseases like parvovirus and distemper roil their intestines and ravage their immune systems. They suffer in silence when cracked teeth and infected gums make eating an agony.

There is no need for pets to suffer in silence. But Dr. Brian Gibbs, medical director at VCA's Central Animal Hospital, sees it all the time.

As he approaches 50 years in veterinary medicine, Gibbs can confidently give advice to pet owners that will save them the heartache of losing a pet too early: see your veterinarian regularly for checkups and vaccinations.

"What can happen when animals are not vaccinated is that diseases like distemper, which should not be seen in suburban areas at all, make a resurgence," says Gibbs.

This happened in Chicago, where the city went to a three-year vaccination schedule for dogs. Compliance was uneven, so an outbreak occurred.

"That should not happen," says Gibbs.

Vaccinating dogs for distemper on an annual basis has been done for decades now. The vaccines were

developed in the 1950s and 1960s, and cases of distemper disappeared in most cities. But the mistaken idea that pets were being over-vaccinated caught hold in Chicago, resulting in the change in protocol and eventually in the new outbreak.

It's the same danger the human population faces with measles and whooping cough, says Gibbs.

"Animals that go unvaccinated, or don't get their boosters in a timely fashion, become susceptible to diseases and outbreaks can start to occur."

In Saskatoon, we've seen numerous cases of parvovirus, which has never gone away. It causes intestinal infection that leads to vomiting and diarrhea. The virus is shed

outside and can live in the ground for six months to a year, infecting other dogs.

Gibbs sees it most often in younger animals that often belong to younger pet owners who think they can't afford to vaccinate, or who choose to believe it won't happen to them. Wherever the human population experiences more poverty, a higher incidence of infected animals is found, he says.

"You could take your dog out for a walk, and if it's not protected by a vaccination, your dog could pick it up. Most dogs survive but need to be on intravenous fluids and medications to keep their hydration up. But some dogs die from it and can have acute deaths where within 24- or 48-hours of getting sick,

they die."

Cat distemper is almost the same disease as dog parvovirus, causing gastrointestinal infection and the related symptoms. It also causes suppression of the immune system as white blood cells are attacked.

One of the easiest ways to avoid crises with your pet's health is to schedule regular checkups. There are signs and symptoms of problems that even the most attentive pet companion will miss.

"One of the main things we find is dental disease that's missed, and dental pain," Gibbs says. "I estimate that within my career and including all the veterinarians that I have associated with over 49 years, that we have seen 50,000 to 60,000 dogs and cats that have had dental pain. We haven't had as many as even 10 people bring a pet in recognizing dental pain at home."

"The animals don't show it. And it's not because people are bad pet owners. The animals don't show it, but they have it. We are constantly seeing teeth that have root tip abscesses or broken roots under the gum that you can't see."

Other treatable maladies that vets can check for that the pet owner won't notice include heart disease, glaucoma, masses in the abdomen and arthritis.

"We know 90 per cent of cats get arthritis by 12 years of age, so at my clinic we put our older cats on non-steroidal anti-inflammatories for arthritic pain for (a test period of) five days a year. We don't bother looking for the arthritis, because we already know we are going to find it. The question is, whether it's



When a significant number of animals in a community are not vaccinated, diseases like distemper make a resurgence, says local veterinarian Dr. Brian Gibbs. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

really bothering the cat. So, if over those five days the owner notices things like the cat jumping up on a window sill, and they haven't done that for the past year, then they are probably having arthritic pain and they need to have the treatment for that."

The regular medication treatment is like Tylenol or aspirin for a human. It eases the pain and provides a better quality of life for the pet.

There are many health indicators that vets look for during an annual exam.

"We listen to the heart, we palpate the abdomen to see if there are any abnormalities in terms of discomfort or organ enlargement, we feel all the lymph nodes, we palpate and flex and extend all the joints to see if there is any evidence of arthritic changes, we look in the ears, we look in the eyes, examine quality of the hair and the skin for any evidence of skin problems and we give a thorough look in the mouth at the teeth and tonsils.

"And once an animal reaches a senior age, it's time for some regular bloodwork, that can reveal a view of the liver, kidneys, electrolytes and blood sugar. Those things help us have a better overall look at the health of the internal organs."

There is no need for pets to suffer in silence, but some will. Unless owners listen to the advice of caring veterinarians like Brian Gibbs.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 19

the Animal Protection Act of Saskatchewan.

Some of the consequences that can result from adopting an animal from a disreputable source are:

1. If no medical history was provided and the animal is actually sick, high veterinary bills may result. In addition, both the family and the animal experience pain and suffering. Most pet owners fall in love with their animals immediately. Sometimes the sick animal needs to be put down. Cartwright says many families are fully prepared to take on health risks with an animal, but they need full disclosure of those issues in advance, to make the decision whether to adopt or not.
2. If the animal is not temperament tested, you may be bringing an animal into your home that isn't prepared for that environment, or isn't able to have the relationship

you want. You may end up with a mismatch issue – an aggressive animal or an animal that bites.

3. If the animal is imported, depending on its point of origin, you may be putting other animals in Canada at risk of disease. The last few years have seen increased concerns raised by the veterinary community about new strains of canine influenza being brought into the country. The Ontario veterinary community is tracking 'brucella,' an infectious disease that can spread to humans and is associated with high intensive confinement spaces, or puppy mills.

Supporting disreputable rescues or puppy mills causes more suffering for animals. Before you fall in love with a rescue animal, do a little homework to help you make an informed decision. Humane Canada and SPCAs are there to help you recognize reputable rescue organizations. For more information, visit humanecanada.ca.



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life. The proper treatment and training, plus socializing and exercising your dog, are essential to prepare them for variables in the environment and situations they might encounter," says Hanson.

WHAT CHILDREN 12 AND UNDER CAN DO:

- Don't disturb a dog when he or she is sleeping or eating.
- Don't tease a dog because this can lead to frustration on the animal's part. Examples of teasing behaviours include pulling tails, ears and fur. Don't hug a dog or put your face close to dog's face.
- If a child is alone and an unattended dog approaches, teach the child to "be a tree." This means standing still, folding in your arms in and looking at the ground.
- If a dog happens to knock a child down, advise the child to stay laying down, cover their face with fists and "be a log."

WHAT EVERYBODY CAN DO:

- Never approach an unfamiliar dog if the owner is not present. Always ask the owner's permission to pet the dog and never, ever try to break up a dog fight.
- Never take food away from a dog or put your hand in the way of a dog's food. Hanson points out that this is especially important with rescue dogs and dogs who have faced starvation or malnutrition earlier in their lives.
- Recognize the warning signs of a dog that is about to bite. Most dogs react this way out of fear, so it is important to know when a dog looks fearful. Signs include a stiff body, wide eyes, lowered or pinned ears, a tucked tail and avoiding eye contact with humans.

"Working at the Saskatoon SPCA, we see everything and quickly recognize that all dog breeds and all dog sizes can bite humans. Biting behaviours emerge out of fear and often the human is not able to recognize that the dog is fearful," explains Hanson.

It's vital for people to report dog bites for both the safety and wellbeing of the person bitten, and the dog involved. Dogs that have potentially interacted with wildlife (in particular bats, foxes, raccoons and skunks) before biting a human are the biggest concern.

What should you do if you or your child is bitten by a dog? The first step is to get the dog owner's name, address and phone number. It is then important to call Animal Control at 306-385-7387 and Population and Public Health at 306-655-4612 to report the incident. If the bite has broken the skin, contact your doctor right away to discuss rabies, tetanus immunization or possible infection.

Find out more online at

www.saskatoon.ca/gooddogsbitetoo.

and understanding.

Finally, anyone interested in a class should look at its size and decide if that fits their dogs' personality and sociability. In most cases, larger classes mean less one-on-one instructor time, more distractions and a higher level of excitement. Dog owners need to decide what size of class will best help them achieve their training goals; talking directly to the trainer before enrolling is always a good idea.

No matter which class they sign up for, Matthews says there are some tricks to being a good student. "First off, if there is a human-only orientation night, owners should attend and take notes. Usually they'll get information on the course structure, equipment needs, expected dog behavior and training methods. It's also a great time to ask questions and get clarification." Beyond that, owners should practice good etiquette and always come prepared with all their gear readily accessible. During the class, be respectful of other people and their dogs, including giving them enough space.

Finally, what dogs and owners get out of a course will depend on the work they put in outside of the classroom. "A well-trained dog isn't created in the class alone," says Matthews. "It's important to be consistent so their learning transfers into everyday life."

Pet Loss Support

The death of a pet can be one of the most devastating experiences an individual or family has to face. If you are having difficulty coping with the loss of a beloved pet or are dealing with an end of life decision, you are invited to gather with other animal lovers, like yourself, in a safe, supportive and informal environment to share your experiences, feelings, stories and pictures.

The Pet Loss Support Group

meets the first & third Sunday of every month at 2pm at the Edwards Family Centre 333 4th Avenue North. (There's no cost to participate and no obligation to attend on a regular basis). For more information or to receive bereavement resource material, we invite you to call

Family Pet - 306-343-5322

EDWARDS
FAMILY CENTRE

Family Pet
CREMATION
SERVICES



Upcoming Pet Events



Pets in the Park

July 14, 2019 9:00 AM–4:00 PM

Kiwanis Memorial Park North

Fundraiser benefiting the SPCA, SCAT Street Cat Rescue and New Hope Dog Rescue.

petsinthepark.ca

Night to Howl

August 24, 2019

Saskatoon SPCA Fundraiser

Walk, bike or run with friends and family. Humans and canines welcome.

saskatoonspca.com



Dog Day of Summer

August 28, 2019

Mayfair Outdoor Pool

FREE end of season licensed pooch swim. Registration required

saskatoon.ca/dogdayofsummer

Scoop the Poop

Various dates throughout City of Saskatoon

Dog Parks. Help keep our dog parks beautiful.

saskatoon.ca/dogparks



Pet Expo

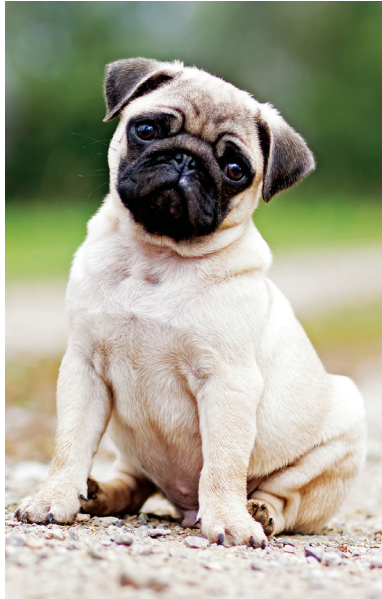
TBA - Fall 2019

Fun and educational event about pets.



WHO TO CALL

Directing public concerns about animal welfare.



DOGS, CATS AND OTHER PETS

Concern	Location	Contact
Roaming/at large or stray	City of Saskatoon	Saskatoon Animal Control Agency
Injured and at large	City of Saskatoon	Saskatoon Animal Control Agency
	Outside of Saskatoon	Bylaw Enforcement or Animal Control for town or municipality
Noise	City of Saskatoon	Saskatoon Animal Control Agency
Dangerous dog	City of Saskatoon	Saskatoon Animal Control Agency
Suspected animal cruelty or abuse	City of Saskatoon	Saskatoon SPCA
Dog bite	City of Saskatoon	Saskatoon Animal Control Agency & Population & Public Health



LIVESTOCK

Concern	Contact
Roaming/at large or stray	Rural municipality
Suspected animal cruelty or abuse	Animal Protection Services of Saskatchewan
Immediate threat to public safety	RCMP



WILDLIFE

Concern	Contact
Injured or abandoned	Wildlife Rehabilitation Society or Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment
Hunting or trapping violations	Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment
Suspected animal cruelty or abuse	Animal Protection Services of Saskatchewan

CONTACT INFORMATION

Animal Protection Services Saskatchewan: 306-382-0002
Population & Public Health: 306-655-4612
Saskatoon Animal Control Agency: 306-385-7387
Saskatoon SPCA: 306-374-7387

Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment:
1-800-667-7561 or 306-933-6240
Wildlife Rehabilitation Society of Saskatchewan: 306-242-7177