

The Who's Who of Animal Services in Saskatchewan

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The world of animal-related services is best characterized as a team of experts. When it comes to animal rescue, animal control, and animal protection, *each agency in Saskatchewan serves a very particular and important role – but the difference between these agencies can be confusing for someone who doesn't work with them on a regular basis.* In an effort to clarify who we all are and what we all do, this entry will discuss the variety of these organizations and their differences!



Animal Control

The enforcement of animal control legislation is up to each individual municipality. Here in Saskatoon, Saskatoon Animal Control Agency (SACA) is [contracted by the city](#) to manage “animal-related nuisances” and enforce the [Animal Control Bylaw, 1999](#). Areas of SACA’s concern include:

- ✓ Barking and defecation complaints
- ✓ Enforcing off-leash dog park rules
- ✓ Animals running at large (stray, off their owner’s property)
- ✓ Aggressive domestic animals (such as dog bites)

When SACA picks up an animal, they first attempt to locate an owner by scanning for a microchip and checking for identification tags. If an owner cannot be located, the animal is brought to the Lost & Found at the Saskatoon SPCA, which we provide as a service to the city under contract.

So, while we do house lost pets, we are not the agency that initially picks them up.

Animal Rescue

There are many wonderful organizations in the province that provide shelter for the lost, stray, and abandoned pets of Saskatchewan. One thing people may not realise is that, technically, *anyone can rehome companion animals and call themselves a "rescue"*. For this reason, we at the Saskatoon SPCA choose to partner with other *registered charities and certified non-profits*. Our allies in Saskatoon include [SCAT Street Cat Rescue](#) and [New Hope Dog Rescue](#), whom we also collaborate with to organize Saskatoon's annual [Pets in the Park](#) charity event.

While we at the Saskatoon SPCA specialize in assisting companion animals (pets), there are other agencies that advocate for *wild* animals. If someone comes to us with concerns regarding injured or orphaned wildlife rather than a domestic animal, we usually recommend contacting the experts at the [Wildlife Rehabilitation Society of Saskatchewan](#) (WRSOS) through their Wildlife Hotline.

Animal Protection

Whereas animal rescue organizations work to rehome homeless animals, some organizations also work to investigate and charge individuals in violation of the [Animal Protection Act, 1999](#) (APA) and seize animals that are found to be in distress (victims of cruelty, abuse, neglect, hoarding, etc).

There are multiple organizations in Saskatchewan that have Animal Protection Officers (APOs) who enforce the Act, but some are limited by their jurisdiction to do so. The following locations have APOs enforcing the APA within their respective communities:

- ❖ [Saskatoon SPCA](#) (us!) – In addition to providing adoption, Lost & Found, foster care, volunteer, and humane education programs, the Saskatoon SPCA is also responsible for enforcing the APA with regards to companion animals (pets) in the City of Saskatoon.
- ❖ [Prince Albert SPCA](#)
- ❖ [Regina Humane Society](#)
- ❖ [Moose Jaw Humane Society](#)
- ❖ [Animal Protection Services of Saskatchewan](#) (APSS) – enforce the APA with regards to pets and livestock in rural areas of the province and cities that do not have their own APOs.

Animal Welfare

Further to the efforts of organizations that house animals or enforce animal protection legislation, another notable organization in Saskatchewan works to promote the humane treatment of animals through other methods. The [Saskatchewan SPCA](#) primarily focuses on education and lobbying.

The Saskatchewan SPCA employed APOs for the province until 2014, at which time they were moved to operate under APSS. As their office is also located in Saskatoon, many donors and journalists often confuse us at the Saskatoon SPCA with the Saskatchewan SPCA. *While the Saskatchewan SPCA serves a valuable role in proactive measures concerning animal welfare, they do not house animals in a physical shelter, nor do they conduct animal cruelty investigations.*

If you ever find yourself unsure of who to contact, try using this handy flow chart!

"I've found an animal! What do I do?"



Whether you're a pet owner, animal lover, or even just have neighbours with four-legged family members, animal services hold an important role in our community. With your help, this team of organizations can make Saskatchewan a better place for the animals in our communities!

