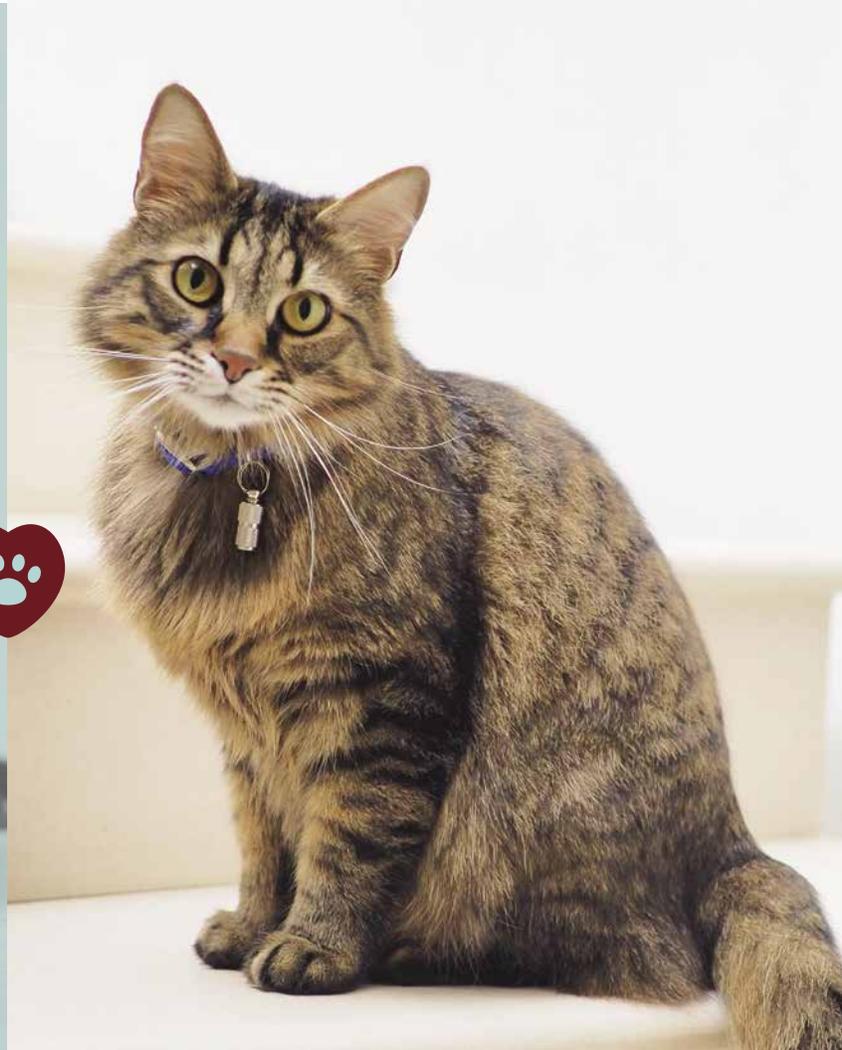




Annual Report

We CARE for Animals

SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION
OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS



2020

www.medhatspca.ca

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About Us

Vision

The Medicine Hat Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) is guided by a humane ethic to build a community that universally values animals, understands their needs and takes action to meet them.

Our Values

- **Integrity:** exemplifying honesty, trust and transparency
- **Respect:** interacting with empathy, compassion and dignity
- **Professionalism:** demonstrating ethics, fairness, responsibility and accountability
- **Sustainability:** organizational alignment, fiscal responsibility, careful stewardship
- **Education:** advocacy for responsible pet ownership, humane treatment and overpopulation

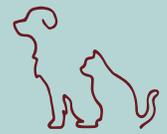
Mission

Our mission is to provide protective care for sick, injured and unwanted animals. Through our community programs, we strive to promote humane attitudes and responsible companion animal ownership. We strive to create a world in which all animals, in particular those animals whose lives we can influence, enjoy, as a minimum, five essential freedoms.

5 Essential Freedoms

- Freedom from hunger & thirst
- Freedom from pain, injury & disease
- Freedom from distress
- Freedom from discomfort
- Freedom to express behaviours that promote well-being





COVID-19 & the Medicine Hat SPCA

COVID-19 has affected our lives in many, unimaginable ways including how we work, shop, travel, educate and socialize. Some of the adaptations the pandemic has necessitated at the Medicine Hat SPCA includes processes involving animal intakes, adoptions and fostering.

Gratefully, technology has allowed us to continue our many programs while ensuring a safe environment for all the animals, staff, and public. Our ability to be flexible and responsive has meant continued service delivery and successful shelter operations.

One unanticipated benefit of using an appointment system for our adoption process is an overall decrease in the “stress” levels of the animals in our care. This can mean fewer health issues including upper respiratory infection, injury and disease transfer.

Anyone interested in adopting animals is asked to view our new website at www.medhatspca.ca or any of our social media platforms (Facebook, Twitter & Instagram) to view photos and brief descriptions of the animals currently available. Potential adopters will receive an adoption questionnaire via email. Alternatively, the questionnaire can be picked up from the shelter.

Upon receiving an adoption application, shelter staff will review it and an appointment time will be set up for a visit with the animal(s) of interest.

Staff are available to assist potential adopters in finding an animal that fits with their home and family.

We look forward to welcoming back our current volunteers as well as welcoming new ones as soon as the Alberta Health Services protocols allow.

“Animals are sentient, intelligent, perceptive, funny and entertaining. We owe them a duty of care as we do to children.”

Michael Morpurgo



Words from the Board of Directors



2020 was the beginning of the fifth decade that the SPCA has been providing animal care services in Medicine Hat and surrounding areas.

In January, the board members attended a retreat to review organizational structure and leadership, as well as to complete a staffing operations and board function analysis.

Our Registered Veterinarian Technician (RVT) joined us in early January and immediately started implementing standards and guidelines to improve documentation, animal records, job standards for staff and staff training.

And in March, one word – pandemic!

The COVID-19 pandemic has presented many unknowns in regards to animal care, staffing, budgeting and business in general.

At the shelter, throughout the year, the team complied with the ever-changing guidelines issued by Alberta Health Services in regards to the pandemic. These included:

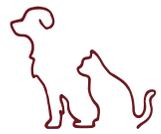
- Social distancing, mask-wearing and sanitizing
- Reduced hours and in person access
- Staffing shifts were re-organized into teams, working alternate shifts / weeks to minimize cross-contamination between staff and between staff and animals
- Staff layoffs were avoided although hours of work were reduced
- The shelter applied for and received financial assistance through the federal government's Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy program

For the Board of Directors, our way of doing business also changed to accommodate health guidelines:

- Board meetings were held bi-monthly and conducted on the virtual platform ZOOM
- The 2019 Annual General Meeting (AGM) scheduled for March 25, 2020 was postponed indefinitely and eventually held December 17, 2020 via ZOOM

2020 HIGHLIGHTS:

- Recruitment efforts to hire a Shelter Director were successful; in April, Tom Carney joined the SPCA team
- A financial strategy to address the expectations of major reductions in fundraising and donations was adopted and integrated into the annual budget
- The contract with the City of Medicine Hat for funding of the low-cost Spay Neuter Assistance Program (SNAP) was renewed until 2022



- The 2020 financial audit and risk assessment were completed. The audit was posted to the Medicine Hat SPCA website
- The Medicine Hat SPCA applied for and received the Canada Emergency Benefit Account (CEBA) loan of \$40,000 (\$30,000 to be repaid by 2022)
- Our newly-designed website and social media platforms were introduced in August
- Traditional fundraising events were curtailed; however, several monthly bingos and a food drive coordinated with another humane society did go ahead. A casino was scheduled for August 8-9, 2020 but was deferred indefinitely by AGLC due to the pandemic
- A 2-year contract for veterinary services was negotiated and signed with Crossroads Animal Hospital

2020 presented unusual and unexpected challenges; however, the team at the Medicine Hat SPCA remained responsive and flexible in maintaining animal health services to our communities. Board members stepped up when called upon and continued to adapt to the ever-changing reality of COVID-19.

We are so very grateful to all our supporters - our donors, animal foster families, management and staff, and the general public for all that they do to help us provide humane shelter services to animals in need!

We appreciate you all!

Board of Directors

Anna Marie Clark, President
Kimberley MacKinnon, Vice President
Richard Shear, Director
Sharon Weiss, Director
Ryan Kessell, Director
Jacqui Pederson, Director



Messages From

Shelter Director

There are many new faces at the Medicine Hat SPCA, and I am excited to be part of that group. Since joining this team in April, the passion, commitment, and dedication of the Board of Directors, staff, volunteers, and the community we serve is reflected in the work that happens at the shelter every day. The depth of the devotion to the wellbeing of the animals in our care is highly commendable; for that, I would like to extend my thanks to all.

2020 was a difficult year for Albertans as the COVID-19 pandemic impacted every aspect of daily life. This created many new challenges for our shelter. We have worked diligently to develop new protocols and procedures to allow us to continue to serve our community in a safe manner.

Despite the downturn in the economy, we continued to put animals first, helping those that needed us most. This has only been possible due to the phenomenal support that we continue to receive from our community. Although face to face fundraising was placed on hold, we continued to receive donations, sponsorships, gifts in kind, and third-party fundraising efforts which make our organization sustainable. We are eternally grateful for this support.

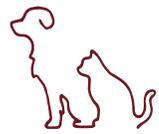
Due to the pandemic, our adoption process evolved into scheduled appointments and viewings, but our community support continued. We saw a decrease in our dog adoptions, due to a decrease in relinquished animals brought into our care. Kitten season continued to be incredibly busy and our cat adoptions remained high throughout the year. Small animals such as birds, rabbits, guinea pigs, and hamsters also found forever homes through our shelter. Thank you to our many foster families; we are incredibly grateful for the love and care you have provided our animals.

We continue to operate in a facility that is aging, however we have made many upgrades. To increase animal wellness and decrease stress, a cat track was added, and our outer dog run was replaced. Building maintenance improvements included our laundry room counter and sink as well as upgrading outdoor lighting.

Although the pandemic impacts and restrictions remain unpredictable as we enter 2021, the Medicine Hat SPCA continues to remain as committed as ever to finding forever homes for all our animals. Thank you for your continued support, allowing us to make it happen.

Tom Carney

Shelter Director, Medicine Hat SPCA



Animal Health Lead



2020 was a year of great challenge and uncertainty brought on by COVID-19. Being new to the organization, my focus was to work with the team to decrease:

- 1 Overall illness
- 2 Veterinary costs
- 3 Animal length of stay

While at the same time:

- advancing enrichment and
- addressing individual animal needs.

The installation of a cat exercise track and jungle gym on the walls of our adoption rooms have enriched our cats' lives by allowing them to jump, climb, and play in a way not previously achieved in the shelter setting.

Adoptions and surrenders remained ongoing throughout the year while the shelter was closed to general public to comply with Alberta Health Services protocols. This gave shelter management and staff the opportunity to focus on developing protocols and programs to optimize service to the animals in our care as well as the community and surrounding areas.

An example of one of the programs created is the FeLV/FIV program. Feline Leukemia Virus and Feline Immunodeficiency Virus are transmissible viruses spread amongst cats worldwide. The spread of these viruses can be minimized through education, testing, and vaccinations. The animals in our care are now protected through vaccination against FeLV, and we routinely test cats that are of higher risk. Our first FIV positive participant named Todo is currently available for adoption!

The Animal Shelter Behavioral Guideline and Assessment Plan was developed to properly assess, rehabilitate, and rehome animals (more specifically dogs) in an appropriate manner. Partnerships with local veterinary clinics, pet stores, and rescue organizations flourished throughout 2020 and enabled smooth transitions and overall growth.

To continue to support the community, we need your help. There are many opportunities to volunteer; help with daily tasks, organize fundraising events, foster, donate, adopt, or take part in our Spay Neuter Assistance Program (SNAP).

I look forward to 2021 and I will hopefully see all your smiling faces very soon.

Kaylee Getz

Animal Health Lead, Medicine Hat SPCA

Financials

The 2020 financial audit and risk assessment were completed.
The 2020 financial statements were posted to the SPCA website.

2020 Summary – Income and Expenses

| YEAR | INCOME FUNDRAISING | INCOME DONATIONS | OTHER INCOME | INCOME TOTAL | EXPENSES VET | EXPENSES SALARIES | EXPENSES OTHER | EXPENSE TOTAL |
|------|--------------------|------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-------------------|----------------|---------------|
| 2020 | 21,932.05 | 362,496.85 | 222,152.82 | 606,581.72 | 48,616.10 | 202,942.20 | 227,035.26 | 478,593.56 |
| 2019 | 95,035.69 | 133,944.03 | 331,741.37 | 560,721.09 | 78,032.96 | 361,891.41 | 240,074.85 | 679,999.22 |

P.A.D. | Monthly Donations

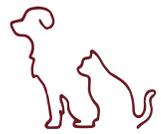
The SPCA values our donors; it is only through their continued generosity we are able to continue to do what we do; care for animals. We strive to find ways to make it easy for members of our communities to donate and it is in that spirit, we created our P.A.D. program. P.A.D. or pre-authorized deposit enables those who wish to provide regular financial support to the SPCA shelter to do so through a one-time set up of a predetermined amount.

Monthly donations help the Medicine Hat SPCA with operational expenses by providing a reliable, anticipated income stream. Donation amounts are automatically charged to donor bank accounts each month until cancelled. Donation receipts are issued for all preauthorized donations.

More details on the P.A.D. program including how to enroll can be found on our website www.medhatspca.ca. Hover the mouse over SUPPORT, click on Donations, P.A.D. The Medicine Hat SPCA is a registered, non-profit organization. Our Charitable Donor Number is: 898298252 RR0001.

E-Transfers

In keeping up with the times, the SPCA can receive donations through the secure convenient Interac e-transfer process. The email address to send an e-transfer to is treasurer@medhatspca.ca and as per our policy, a charitable receipt will be issued for donations of \$10 or more.



Activities and Fundraising



While adhering throughout the year to the COVID-19 guidelines from Alberta Health Services and with a little creativity and ingenuity, we were able to participate in various activities – both for fundraising and for community involvement.

- Kennel sponsorships remain an important part of our community financial support.
- Several bingos were held in the early part of 2020. A casino was scheduled for August but was postponed indefinitely
- In October, we initiated a Gift Card program as an ongoing fundraiser. Gift cards of varying denominations and for various restaurants and stores in Medicine Hat, were made available for purchase. The purchaser receives full value for the gift card and the SPCA receives a portion of card sales
- We did manage to hold one “Steak Night” at Ralph’s Texas Bar and Steak House
- A Pet Food Drive was held in conjunction with Persian Dreams & Canine Themes
- PetSmart supported us during their October “Thanks for Giving” campaign and one day was dedicated to the SPCA
- House of Cars again supported us with their “Pick a Payment, Pick a Pet” promotion in August
- Other activities:
 - Our usual SPCA animal calendars were available on request
 - We sold cupcakes in February, with the support of Dee’s Bakery
 - We held an outdoor bottle drive and thanked donors with a bar-b-q
 - In November-December, we had our annual Purdy’s Chocolates sale
 - Customized animal-themed Christmas ornaments were available for sale



2020 Thank You 

Corporate Sponsors

- 1790001 Alberta Ltd.
- Alberta Inc 1339513
- All Seasons Self Storage
- Benevity
- BK Repair
- Blue World Treasures
- Boston Pizza Foundation
- Canines Unleashed
- Cardinal Energy Ltd
- Chamber of Commerce
- CIBC Wood Gundy
- Coco Mutt Hut
- Community Foundation of South Eastern Alberta
- Corporate Express
- Creekside Cabinets Inc
- CUPE Local #46
- Cypress Rod & Custom Car Club
- Della's K9 Connection
- Design Flooring
- Devon Felesky
- Dr. Roy Wilson Learning Center
- Elhart's Electric
- Enbridge
- Farmland Supply Center
- Georgina Sawyer Memorial Foundation
- Goodyear Canada Inc. - Charity Trust Committee
- Hat News & Tobacco
- Icy Mountain Water Co
- Irvine 4H Beef Club
- Kales Farms (1993) Ltd
- Leave it to Lucy Deliveries Ltd
- Loblaws Inc.
- London Drugs
- Manulife Financial
- Mars Pet Care
- Medicine Hat Duplicate Bridge Club
- Medicine Hat House of Cars
- Medicine Hat Real Estate Board Co-op
- Medicine Hat Scottish Country Dancers
- Minuteman Press
- Murray Chevrolet Cadillac
- Muttley Crew
- Nutters Bulk & Natural Foods (Med Hat) Ltd
- Ohm Yoga Buss
- Paypal Giving Fund
- Pet Valu
- Petland
- PetSmart
- Postcard Portables
- Preceptor Chi, Beta Sigma Phi
- Rite-Way Fencing Inc
- Road Dog Services
- Roadrunner Deliveries
- Stanley Consultants
- Sun Valley Honda
- The Canadian Society for Housing Trusts
- Todd Valkenburg Professional Corporation
- True North K9 Compound
- United Way South Eastern Alberta
- Webster Niblock School

Gifts In Memory

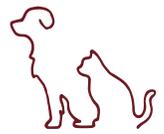
PEOPLE

- Albrecht, Shirley
- Aldred, Josephine
- Allibena, Kelly
- Arthur, Joan
- Bertrand, John
- Beuchesne, Terri
- Bice, Milton
- Canning, Glen
- Carefoot, Roger
- Carnelli, Cindy
- Carter, Heather
- Carter, Sean
- Castets-Carlson, Valerie
- Cockerill, Keith
- Coleman, Ronald
- Cowan, Beryl
- Davis, Doris
- Desjarlais, Juanita
- Elderkin, Nellie
- Evenzki, Kenneth
- Feeney, Tom
- Ferguson, Garth
- Findlay, Eva
- Fournier, Henry
- Harbor, Joyce
- Hellowell, Darin
- Hoefman, Jochem
- Insko, Elaine
- Jaeger, Wade
- Janssen, Dale
- Koch, Maisy
- Koehle, Linda
- Kosik, John
- Lefever, Rory
- McLachlan, Penny
- McVeigh, Rena
- Middleton, Jim
- Moen, Carol
- Moore-Schick, Moka
- O'Neil, Shirlene
- Paulson, Gordon
- Quast-Oliphant, Colton
- Roloff, Emil
- Ross, Eva
- Schauth, Karla
- Schneider, Heide Rose
- Skiba, Muriel
- Thompson, Mary Jean
- Vorreiter, Kim

PETS

- Annie
- Bo
- Boomer
- Buddy
- Gizmo
- Jessicat
- Kirby
- Nipper
- Sage
- Scruffy
- S J
- Tucker
- Windchill

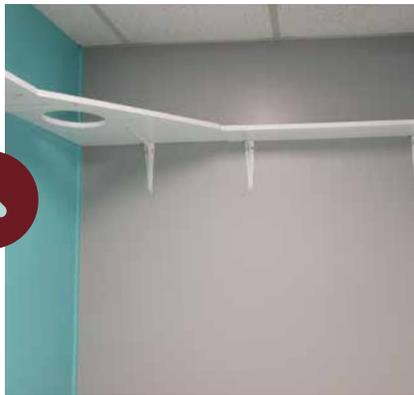
The SPCA would like to acknowledge and thank our personal 2020 donors. To protect the personal information & privacy of these donors, we elected not to print the names however, we are very grateful for their support.



Building Maintenance

Cat Track

Shelter Staff



Facility Sign

Postcard Portables Medicine Hat



Light Upgrades

Elhart's Electric



Laundry Cabinets

Creekside Cabinets Inc

Kennel Upgrades

Rite-Way Fencing Inc



2020 

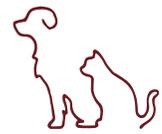
Animal Statistics

Animal statistics were posted to the SPCA website.

| CATS BROUGHT IN | 343 |
|------------------------|------------|
| Transfer | 1 |
| Return | 15 |
| Public | 7 |
| Born In Shelter | 5 |
| Courtesy Hold | 6 |
| Owner Relinquished | 309 |
| Cats Adopted | 287 |
| Cats Euthanized | 15 |
| Cats Died | 1 |
| Returned To Owner | 2 |
| Courtesy Hold Return | 5 |
| Sent To Rescue | 26 |
| LC Spay | 81 |
| LC Neuter | 69 |
| SPCA Spay | 122 |
| SPCA Neuter | 99 |

| DOGS BROUGHT IN | 59 |
|------------------------|-----------|
| Transfer | 0 |
| Return | 15 |
| Public | 1 |
| Born In Shelter | 0 |
| Courtesy Hold | 3 |
| Owner Relinquished | 53 |
| Dogs Adopted | 49 |
| Dogs Euthanized | 6 |
| Dogs Died | 0 |
| Returned To Owner | 4 |
| Courtesy Hold Return | 3 |
| Sent To Rescue | 1 |
| LC Spay | 24 |
| LC Neuter | 34 |
| SPCA Spay | 15 |
| SPCA Neuter | 4 |

| OTHERS BROUGHT IN | 30 |
|--------------------------|-----------|
| Transfer | 0 |
| Return | 0 |
| Public | 1 |
| Courtesy Hold | 0 |
| Born In Shelter | 5 |
| Owner Relinquished | 24 |
| Others Adopted | 20 |
| Others Euthanized | 1 |
| Others Died | 7 |
| Returned To Owner | 0 |
| Courtesy Hold Return | 0 |
| Sent To Rescue | 0 |



Community Support

Memorable Moments

Cole and Owen bought and donated food with their allowance and birthday money



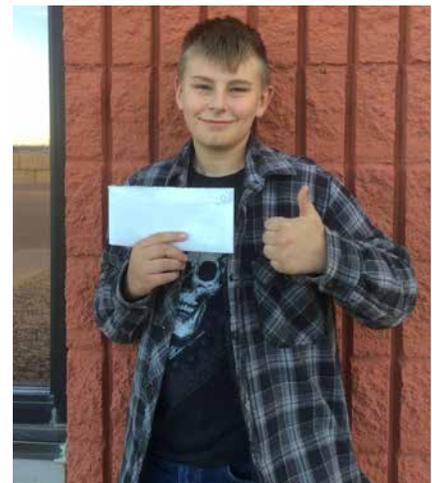
Jerry our furry friend bought and donated food as well as his \$100 birthday money



Taeya and Addy donated their birthday money



Addison raised \$175 at her birthday party and donated it



Dylan organized a bottle drive and raised \$465

Peyton bought and donated food with her allowance and birthday money



Adoption Spotlight: Leona

We adopted Leona in August 2020 and she has been a great addition to our family. She is high energy-just like our kids and very soft, gentle and loving. She has become good friends with our 2 dogs Barlow & Skye. We couldn't have asked for a better cat!

We had been tossing around the idea of getting a cat for a few months before we adopted Leona. Our oldest Emma had wanted a cat for quite some time as the kids have always been brought up around them. We decided to get a cat/kitten and we wanted the adoption to be a surprise.

We decided to look at the SPCA as we have had great success before with them when we adopted our dog Skye back in 2012. The kids always love looking at the cats/kittens that the SPCA have for adoption at PetSmart. One day, when we were picking up dog food, they wanted to not just look at the kittens but to pet them as well. Out of all the kittens we visited with, Leona was the one that approached Emma, Emerson & Eleia; she rubbed against their legs and also mine. There was an instant connection and we knew right away that she was the one for our family. The kids were able to pick her up; she wasn't hesitant and snuggled and started to purr right away.

Upon leaving the store, the kids went for a sleepover at their grandparents' house. I messaged the SPCA to see if we could get Leona as a surprise for when they came home. The SPCA responded that they could arrange what we needed. The next day the SPCA made it all happen and we were able to adopt Leona and have her home ready for the kids when they returned.

When the kids came home they heard Leona meowing from the laundry room and went to see what the sound was. They saw Leona; Emma started crying asking if Leona was here to stay in our house and we said YES!

It was the best surprise we could have ever asked for! The team at the SPCA made it all happen. We are so thankful for the SPCA, their dedication to what they all do and for going the extra mile to make the best surprises happen.

~Dayna



Photo: Emerson, Emma, Eleia, Leona the cat



Think Carefully, Choose Wisely, Love Deeply

The Medicine Hat SPCA extends its heartfelt gratitude to the Cypress View Veterinary Clinic and all area veterinary services for their continued service to the animals in the care of the SPCA.



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