

Animal Protection Services of Saskatchewan

Annual Report

April 1, 2016 to March 31, 2017



Animal Protection Services

SASKATCHEWAN

APSS Annual Report 2016-2017

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President's Report

Another “growing” year has passed for APSS. Gains have been made as we mature. The By-Laws have been revised and ready for Board discussion. Our goal of a 5 year agreement with Sask Ag is advancing. Staffing is always a concern as it seems there is always a “hole to fill” as far as filling all positions. The case load is variable due to people not understanding the needs and requirements of animals in their care.

We have a strong Board and a dedicated staff. We are fortunate to have as CEO, Kaley Pugh, who performs her duties responsibly and enthusiastically. We also have an excellent relationship with Sask Ag due to the efforts and interest of Dr. Betty Althouse. Our future negotiations with Sask Ag, will, in my opinion, lead us to a stronger position and possibly with more responsibility..

Sincerely,

Jim Sawatsky,
President of the Board

Staff & Office

We started and ended the 2016-2017 year with a full staff compliment, and with no changes since the previous year. The staff are Executive Director Kaley Pugh, Operations Assistant Laura Vany, and full time Animal Protection Officers Ashley Detillieux, Stacey Greke, Dennis Muirhead and Blair Waggoner.

Our offices continue to be located in the Norplex Business center, at 2366 Ave C North in Saskatoon. Kaley Pugh and Laura Vany share unit #215, while APOs Detillieux and Greke share #219A; storage for files, equipment, and office supplies are distributed between the two spaces. The area we are leasing meets our current needs, however it may limit any future expansion. APO Muirhead continues to work out of a home office, with time in Saskatoon for large printing jobs, while APO Waggoner is still located in a Ministry of Agriculture office in Yorkton.

Case work

We opened a total of 570 new cases in 2016-2017. This is 26 cases more than in 2015-2016, but is still below the average of 643 for the previous 4 years (Table 1). Of those complaints, 307 of those involved dogs (54% of the total), with 125 (22%) horse complaints, 108 (19%) cattle complaints, 69 (12%) cat complaints, 21 (about 4%) sheep/goat complaints, 14 (2.5%) fowl complaints, 19 (3%) “other” complaints, and the categories of camelids, hogs, and bison had a small number of complaints each (Table 2, Figure 1). There were no cervid complaints. This case distribution by species is fairly typical, however the number of fowl complaints, while still small, is double what it has been for the

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preceding years. The “other” category included a wide variety of species this year, such as rabbits, fox, lynx, coyote, skunk, hedgehogs, assorted parrots and other pet birds, and lizards.

Table 1 Number of cases per month for the last five years, including a four year average

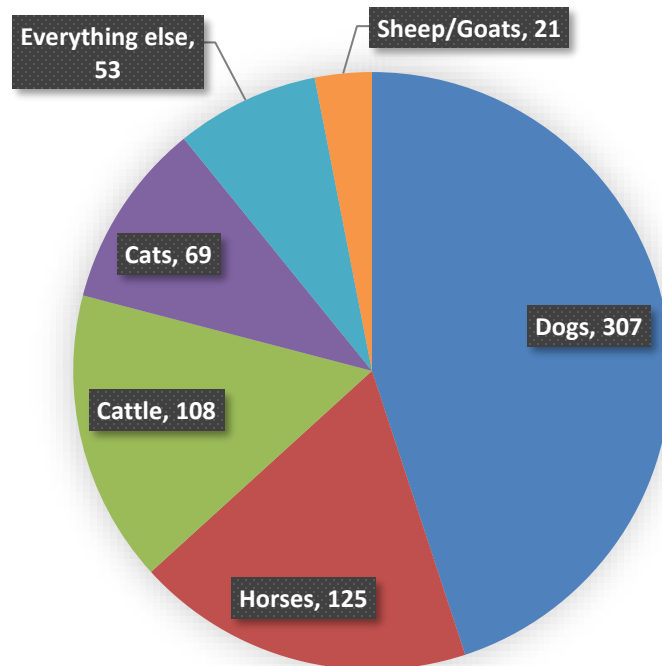
	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Total
2012-13	31	52	67	61	61	54	56	59	55	53	59	63	671
2013-14	80	59	58	67	58	50	46	61	67	77	58	54	735
2014-15	53	71	53	59	61	50	58	67	46	41	37	27	623
2015-16	43	44	44	50	55	46	40	40	51	51	38	42	544
Avg.	52	57	56	59	59	50	50	57	55	56	48	47	643
2016-17	48	39	43	61	42	44	37	47	59	47	45	58	570

Table 2 Number of complaints by species and month for 2016-2017. Note that the total number of cases is lower than the total per species – this is because many complaints involve more than one species.

	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Total
Cattle	10	5	7	10	9	8	5	12	16	12	7	7	108
Horses	13	4	9	10	11	5	8	8	14	10	15	18	125
Bison	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Sheep/Goats	1	2	3	2	1	1	2	2	1	2	0	4	21
Hogs	0	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	0	0	0	1	9
Cervids	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Camelids	0	0	1	0	0	2	1	1	1	1	1	0	8
Fowl	1	2	1	3	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	2	14
Dogs	20	27	25	37	27	23	23	25	25	22	25	28	307
Cats	5	3	3	7	6	7	5	6	6	7	3	11	69
Other	2	2	1	3	2	1	2	3	1	1	0	1	19
Total	52	46	52	74	58	51	48	59	64	56	51	72	683

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Figure 1 Proportion of cases by species



We classify our cases as either “Founded”, “Unfounded” or “Inconclusive”. Founded cases are those where some action or APO follow up is required. Unfounded cases are those where there is no concern for the well-being of the animals, and inconclusive cases are those where we are unable to assess the animals, usually because we cannot get access to them. In 2016-2017 horse cases were 47% founded, dogs complaints were 46% founded, cats complaints were 43% founded, and cattle complaints were 34% founded (Table 3). The unfounded and inconclusive cases are time consuming for our APOs, however they must initially be treated in the same manner as the founded cases until the nature of the complaint can be determined. The high number of unfounded complaints indicates that the public is very concerned with animal well being, and are willing to call in complaints when they suspect that there might be a problem.

Animal Protection Officers seized animals on 22 separate cases (Table 4). In total, 42 horses, 101 dogs, 31 cats, 60 chickens, and 2 birds, 1 calf, 6 goats, 1 lamb were seized this year. A further 8 cats and 34 dogs and 2 birds were voluntarily surrendered. Animals were placed with SPCAs/humane societies, euthanized, sold at auction, and placed veterinarians and with private caretakers.

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Table 3 Number and percentage of founded, unfounded and inconclusive cases by species for 2016-2017

	Total	Founded		Unfounded		Inconclusive	
Cattle	108	37	34%	28	26%	43	40%
Horses	125	59	47%	30	24%	36	29%
Bison	3	2	67%	0	0%	1	33%
Sheep/Goats	21	10	48%	6	29%	5	24%
Hogs	9	4	44%	4	44%	1	11%
Camelids	8	6	75%	1	13%	1	13%
Fowl	14	5	36%	3	21%	6	43%
Dogs	307	142	46%	79	26%	86	28%
Cats	69	30	43%	10	14%	29	42%
Other	19	9	47%	6	32%	4	21%

Two owners paid partial seizure expenses and had their dogs and horse return to them. One owner paid seizure expenses and had 2 dogs returned. the courts ordered restitution for seizure expenses be paid in one case.

As with previous years, the availability of shelter for seized companion animals continues to present a significant challenge to our operations. It is now not uncommon for our APOs to have to delay seizures, and/or travel significant distances, in order to find housing for animals in distress. For example, in our largest dog seizure of the year, the seizure itself was delayed by weeks, significant costs were incurred travelling to four separate shelters, and a large number of dogs were left on the property due to limitations in available housing. This is hard to justify when the animals are distressed, however it is a situation that is difficult to remedy when the Humane Societies are independent organizations. I believe that at some point we are going to have to set up an emergency shelter facility, and/or utilize facilities outside of Saskatchewan for a large companion animal seizure.

APOs obtained Search Warrants 47 separate times in 2016-2017, which is slightly higher than the 40 from 2015-2016. We had charges laid in 18 cases (compared with 10 cases last year), and submitted 5 further cases where the Crown Prosecutors decided not to proceed with charges.

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Table 4 Listing of seized and surrendered animals in the 2016-2017 year (PDS indicates animal remains that were sent for testing)

File Number	Date	Warrant?		Delivered To	#	Type
S386DE15-F	07-Apr-16	Y	Seized	Saskatoon SPCA	40	Dog
	07-Apr-16	Y	Seized	Regina Humane Society	10	Dog
	07-Apr-16	Y	Seized	Prince Albert SPCA	20	Dog
S004AP16-F	13-Apr-16	N	Seized	Weyburn Humane Society	2	Dog
S348NV15-F	28-Apr-16	Y	Seized	PDS	7	Horse
S348NV15-F	16-May-16	Y	Seized	Heartland Livestock	18	Horse
S037AP16-F	17-May-16	Y	Seized	Vet	5	Dog
S106JN16-F	15-Jun-16	Y	Seized	Saskatoon SPCA	1	Bird
S101JN16-F	28-Jun-16	Y	Seized	Vet	1	Horse
S143JL16-F	08-Jul-16	Y	Seized	Saskatoon SPCA	6	Dog
S149JL16-F	13-Jul-16	Y	Seized	Caregiver	1	Dog
	13-Jul-16	Y	Seized	Caregiver	60	Fowl
	13-Jul-16	Y	Seized	Caregiver	3	Cat
	13-Jul-16	Y	Seized	Caregiver	1	Cattle
S512MR16-F	18-Jul-16	Y	Seized	Vet	1	Sheep
S512MR16-F	20-Jul-16	Y	Seized	Johnstone Auction	19	Horse
	20-Jul-16	Y	Seized	PDS	2	Horse
S194AU16-F	04-Aug-16	N	Seized	Weyburn Humane Society	1	Dog
S216AU16-F	18-Aug-16	N	Seized	Saskatoon SPCA	3	Dog
S310OC15-F	13-Sep-16	Y	Seized	Saskatoon SPCA	1	Dog
S244SE16-O	14-Sep-16	Y	Seized	Prince Albert SPCA	13	Cat
	14-Sep-16	Y	Seized	Buena Vista	8	Cat
	14-Sep-16	Y	Seized	Saskatoon SPCA	1	Bird
S257SE16-O	15-Sep-16	N	Seized	Vet	2	Cat
S186JL16-F	22-Sep-16	Y	Seized	Vet	1	Dog
	22-Sep-16	Y	Seized	Vet	3	Cat
	22-Sep-16	Y	Seized	Caregiver	1	Horse
	22-Sep-16	Y	Seized	Caregiver	6	Goat
	22-Sep-16	Y	Seized	PDS	1	Dog
	22-Sep-16	Y	Seized	PDS	2	Reptile
S037AP16-F	07-Oct-16	Y	Seized	Weyburn Humane Society	1	Dog
S512MR16-F	30-Oct-16	N	Seized	Johnstone Auction	1	Horse
S084MY16-F	20-Dec-16	N	Seized	Prince Albert SPCA	5	Dog
	20-Dec-16	N	Seized	PDS	3	Dog

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File Number	Date	Warrant?		Delivered To	#	Type
S366DE16-O	09-Feb-17	Y	Seized	Vet	1	Dog
S272SE16-F	13-Feb-17	Y	Seized	Vet	1	Cat
	13-Feb-17	Y	Seized	PDS	2	Alpacas
	13-Feb-17	Y	Seized	PDS	1	Cat
S490FE17-F	16-Feb-17	Y	Seized	PDS	1	Cow
S502FE17-F	24-Feb-17	Y	Seized	Vet	1	Horse
	24-Feb-17	Y	Seized	SLS	1	Horse
	24-Feb-17	Y	Seized	Saskatoon SPCA	1	Dog
	24-Feb-17	Y	Seized	Saskatoon SPCA	1	Cat
S550MR17-F	23-Mar-17	N	Seized	PDS	1	Dog
S557MR17-O	28-Mar-17	Y	Seized	Swift Current SPCA	3	Dog
S012AP16-O	18-Apr-16	N	Surrendered	Prince Albert SPCA	2	Dog
S594FE15-O	20-May-16	N	Surrendered	Saskatoon SPCA	7	Cat
S205AU16-F	16-Aug-16	N	Surrendered	Vet	1	Cat
S241SE16-O	07-Sep-16	N	Surrendered	Saskatoon SPCA	1	Dog
S282OC16-F	06-Oct-16	N	Surrendered	Saskatoon SPCA	1	Dog
S268SE16-F	14-Oct-16	Y	Surrendered	Saskatoon SPCA	14	Dog
S387DE15-F	28-Oct-16	N	Surrendered	Saskatoon SPCA	1	Dog
S261SE16-O	07-Nov-16	N	Surrendered	Saskatoon SPCA	4	Dog
S268SE16-F	24-Nov-16	Y	Surrendered	Saskatoon SPCA	4	Dog
S436JA17-O	13-Jan-17	N	Surrendered	Prince Albert SPCA	1	Dog
S351NV16-O	16-Jan-17	N	Surrendered	Saskatoon SPCA	6	Dog
S178JL15-O	16-Mar-17	N	Surrendered	Saskatoon SPCA	2	Bird

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The APOs continue to struggle to respond to new complaints, follow up on ongoing files, prepare paperwork and court materials, and plan potential animal removals within the bounds of a normal 40 hour work week. Overtime continues to accrue, and then get used as work loads permit, but our staff often have significant amount of time off banked and find it difficult to balance taking that time off with managing their case loads. This indicates that we could use additional APOs in the field.

Our time to respond to new complaints has improved, but it remains slower than we would like. In 275 cases, or about 48% of the time, an APO attended in less than 5 days, however in a 128 cases or about 22% of the time response took between 11 and 30 days. In the last 7% of cases, or on 39 files, response took longer than 31 days (Figure 2).

We classify complaints as either Priority 1 or 2, depending on their apparent severity and the urgency of the required response. In 2016-2017, we classed 98 complaints as Priority 1, with a target response time of less than three business days; our APOs were able to respond within the targeted window in 84% of the Priority 1 cases which is an improvement over last year.

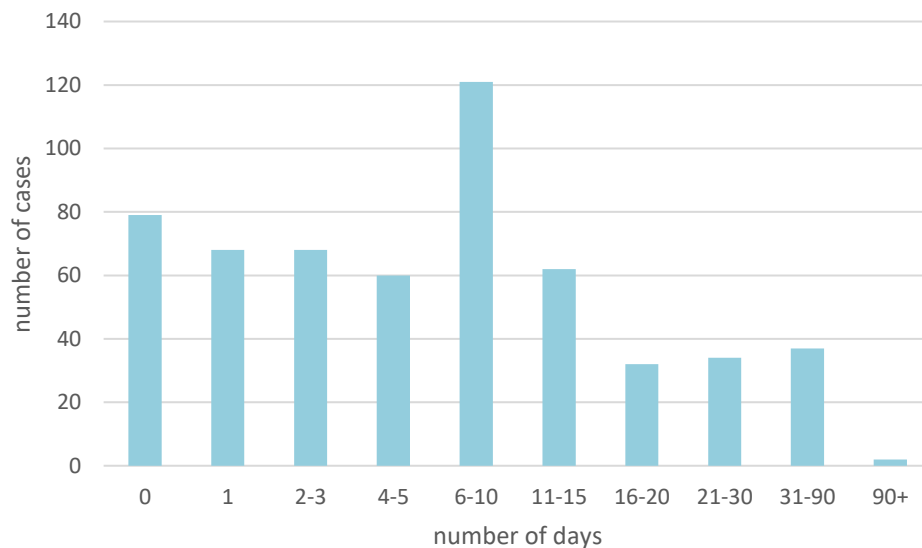


Figure 2 Response times for cases opened between April 1, 2016 and March 31, 2017, showing number of days from the complaint until an APO attended

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Finances

The 2016-2017 financials will once again be audited by the firm Collins Barrow.

At the end of 2016-2017 we transferred \$176,651 of unspent Government funds to the 2017-2018 fiscal year in a contingency fund, and also carried over \$14,919 of unspent funding designated to pay for Livestock Services of Saskatchewan Drive By services originally received in 2015-2016. We received some unexpected income from the Saskatchewan Veterinary Medical Association who paid a speaker's fee of \$2800 for Kaley Pugh's animal welfare presentations around the province.

We were under budget in most expenditures, with the only significant areas of overspending being in animal shelter and APO mileage. Animal shelter costs, like all of seizure related expenses, are unpredictable and highly variable, and are therefore difficult to budget accurately. We plan to examine whether APO mileage expenses could be reduced by encouraging the APOs to spend more overnight trips on the road, however this may not actually reduce overall costs as hotel and meal expenses would increase. While we attempt to estimate APO expenses as accurately as possible, this is another area that is highly variable depending on the case load and seriousness of incoming cases, therefore prediction and budgeting are difficult.

Executive Director's Report

2016-2017 was another busy but rewarding year for me, where I continued to work with an assortment of outside groups to make improvements to animal welfare.

This was the second and final year of my involvement with the NFACC Bison Code of Practice Development committee. The committee met several times throughout the year, culminating with a meeting in March to draft our final version of the Code. I'm very proud of this committee's work, and believe that we produced a valuable document that will help improve the lives of farmed bison across the country.

I continued to work with the Saskatchewan Veterinary Medical Association on their Animal Welfare Committee. In what I believe was a major advance, that committee officially stated their support of mandatory reporting of suspected animal cruelty by veterinarians as a change to the Animal Protection Act; this triggered the SVMA council to support this potential revision as well. We developed and delivered a whole day seminar specifically for veterinarians and their technicians that was delivered in five different locations around the province. I presented two of the four sessions each day; the first discussed the grim realities of the animal cruelty cases we see in Saskatchewan, and the second discussed the Animal Protection Act and the cruelty investigation process in detail. The other two presenters talked about various topics encouraging veterinarians to be involved in animal cruelty reporting. While this presentation series was challenging, I believe that the effort was worthwhile since the audiences were generally very engaged, asked great questions, and provided overwhelmingly positive feedback.

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After attending the International One Health conference in Winnipeg in September, an inter-agency “task force” was created with the goal of enabling assorted government departments to work together to find long term solutions to animal cruelty situations where mental health, addictions and child or elder welfare issues are also occurring. The other members of this team are Eric Wasson, veterinary social worker with WCVM, and Dr. LeeAnn Forsythe and Kathryn Tonita with the Ministry of Agriculture. Several meetings were held, and the team hopes to gather Assistant Deputy Ministers from the Departments of Social Services, Justice, Health and Agriculture early in the new fiscal year to help raise awareness of the overlapping issues, and hopefully to begin to work towards collaborative solutions.

After a meeting with the provinces’ four other Animal Protection agencies and the Ministry of Agriculture, I spent some time working with APOs from those agencies. I conducted a one-on-one session with the manager of the Prince Albert SPCA to discuss some of the finer points of conducting a cruelty investigation. I also conducted a whole day session on the details of the Animal Protection Act with APOs from the Saskatoon SPCA and Prince Albert SPCA. Regina Humane Society and I have shared our respective Operations manuals and investigative procedures, and plan to work towards a standardized APO training manual so that all of the people working as Animal Protection Officers in Saskatchewan have access to the same information and operate to the same standards.

It has been encouraging to see progress in our work, and I look forward to continuing with these important projects.