

Animal Protection Services of Saskatchewan

Annual Report

April 1, 2017 to March 31, 2018



Animal Protection Services

SASKATCHEWAN

APSS Annual Report 2017-2018

Table of contents

President’s Report..... 3

Staff & Office..... 3

Case work..... 3

Finances 10

ED Activities 10

List of tables

Table 1 Number of cases per month for the last five years, including a four-year average 3

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..... 5

Table 3 Number and percentage of founded, unfounded and inconclusive cases by species for 2017-2018..... 6

Table 4 Listing of seized and surrendered animals in the 2016-2017 year (PDS indicates animal remains that were sent for testing)..... 7

List of figures

Figure 1 Proportion of cases by species..... 5

Figure 2 Response times for cases opened between April 1, 2017 and March 31, 2018, showing number of days from the complaint until an APO attended 9

APSS Annual Report 2017-2018

President's Report

Despite 2017-2018 being a challenging year in terms of case load, our organization functioned well, and it was an otherwise typical year. We are still a relatively young organization, and therefore must continue to look to the future and continue to grow and improve. We've consulted on changes to the Animal Protection Act, have made our need for stable, longer term funding known, and have considered the needs for animal handling and housing resources. I believe that this organization is strong, and that it will continue to provide a valuable service to the province of Saskatchewan in the years to come.

Sincerely,

Jim Sawatsky,
President of the Board

Staff & Office

Our staffing was similar to last year, with very little change. The permanent 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. Ashley Detillieux took a maternity leave in October, and we were able to hire Nicole Carrier as her replacement for a one-year term position. Nicole had been employed as an APO for the SSPCA, and therefore required little training.

There have been no changes to our offices; we continue to be located in the Norplex Business center, at 2366 Ave C North in Saskatoon. Kaley Pugh and Laura Vany continue to share unit #215, while APOs Detillieux/Carrier and Greke share #219A; storage for files, equipment, and office supplies are distributed between the two spaces. 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 693 new cases in 2017-2018. This was a large 123 case increase over 2016-2017, and is slightly above the average of 618 for the previous 4 years (Table 1). Of those complaints, 387 of those involved dogs (56% of the total), with 158 (23%) horse complaints, 102 (15%) cattle complaints, 82 (12%) cat complaints, 27 (about 4%) sheep/goat complaints, 13 (2%) hog complaints, 12 (2%) fowl complaints, 11 (2%) camelid complaints, 18 (3%) "other" complaints, and 2 bison and 1 cervid complaint. (Table 2, Figure 1). This case distribution by species follows the expected pattern.

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

Total # Cases	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	total
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
2016-17	48	39	43	61	42	44	37	47	59	47	45	58	570

APSS Annual Report 2017-2018

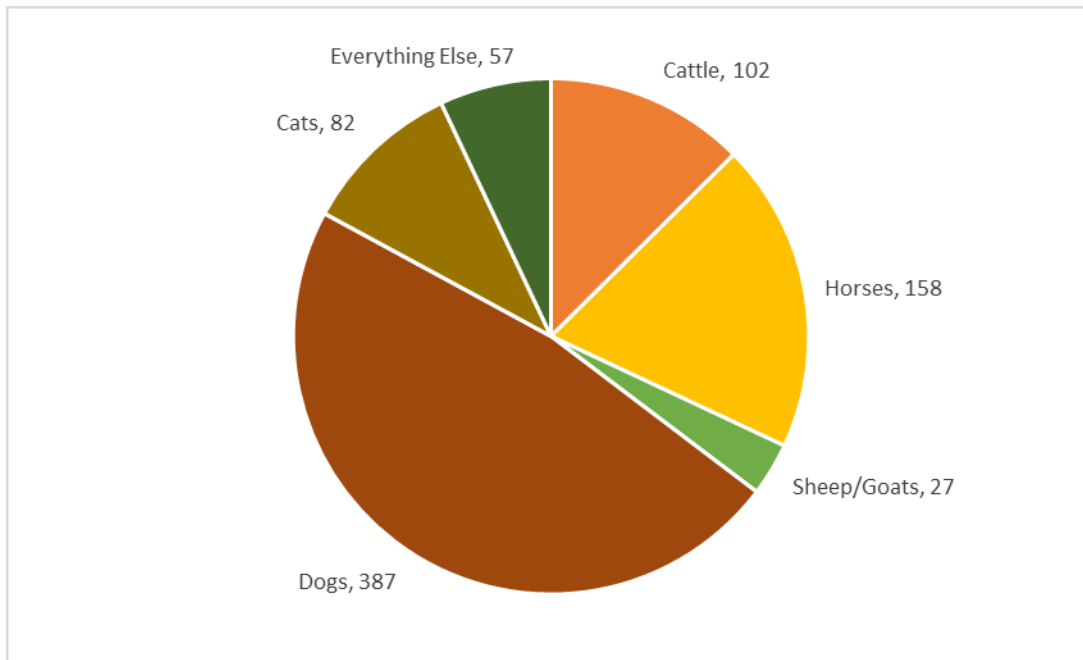
4 yr Avg	56	53	50	59	54	48	45	54	56	54	45	45	618
2017-18	47	72	57	65	70	48	62	54	36	69	62	51	693

APSS Annual Report 2017-2018

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	4	11	5	12	11	9	12	11	3	12	8	4	102
Horses	13	16	7	13	13	7	19	17	6	12	18	17	158
Bison	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Sheep/Goats	1	2	4	5	1	0	1	7	1	4	0	1	27
Hogs	2	1	0	2	0	1	0	3	0	2	1	1	13
Cervids	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Camelids	2	1	0	1	0	2	0	1	2	1	1	0	11
Fowl	1	2	0	0	3	1	2	1	0	1	0	1	12
Dogs	27	42	39	39	35	31	31	22	25	39	31	26	387
Cats	4	10	7	7	9	3	10	9	4	8	7	4	82
Other	1	1	1	1	4	0	3	2	3	0	2	0	18
Total cases	47	72	57	65	70	48	62	54	36	69	62	51	693

Figure 1 Proportion of cases by species



APSS Annual Report 2017-2018

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, generally because our access on private property an into dwellings is limited. The percentage of founded and unfounded complaints varied considerably between species, from 100% founded for cervids (1 founded complaint), to only 28% founded for “other” complaints. (Table 3). Overall, our cases were 42% founded, 25% unfounded, and 33% inconclusive. 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.

Table 3 Number and percentage of founded, unfounded and inconclusive cases by species for 2017-2018

	Total	Founded		Unfounded		Inconclusive	
Cattle	102	46	45%	24	24%	32	31%
Horses	158	71	45%	36	23%	51	32%
Bison	2	1	50%	1	50%	0	0%
Sheep/Goats	27	19	70%	6	22%	2	7%
Hogs	13	10	77%	1	8%	2	15%
Cervids	1	1	100%	0	0%	0	0%
Camelids	11	6	55%	0	0%	5	45%
Fowl	12	3	25%	2	17%	7	58%
Dogs	387	154	40%	105	27%	128	33%
Cats	82	28	34%	22	27%	32	39%
Other	18	5	28%	3	17%	10	56%

Animal Protection Officers seized animals on 20 separate cases, and on 5 cases there was seizure of animals on two separate dates (Table 4). In total, 169 animals were seized, comprised of 64 cattle, 35 dogs, 25 pigs, 23 sheep, 13 cats, 4 chickens, 3 goats, 1 llama and 1 rabbit. A further 35 cats and 33 dogs and 4 chickens were voluntarily surrendered. Three files had animals seized and a voluntary surrendered. Animals were placed with SPCAs/humane societies, euthanized, sold at auction, and placed veterinarians and with private caretakers.

APOs obtained Search Warrants 38 separate times in 2017-2018, on 37 different files, which is lower than the 47 warrants obtained in 2016-2017. We had charges laid in 13 cases (compared with 18 cases last year), and submitted 3 further cases where the Crown Prosecutors decided not to proceed with charges.

APSS Annual Report 2017-2018

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

File	Date	Warrant?		Location	Delivered To	#	Type
S011AP17-F	10-Apr-17	Y	Seized	Maple Creek	Vet	2	Dog
S065MY17-F	4-May-17	N	Seized	Moose Jaw	PDS	1	Horse
S121JN17-F	5-Jun-17	Y	Seized	Heward	PDS	1	Cattle
S135JN17-F	28-Feb-18	Y	Seized	Saskatoon	Caregiver	7	Cat
S135JN17-F	28-Feb-18	Y	Seized	Saskatoon	Vet	2	Cat
S135JN17-F	28-Feb-18	Y	Seized	Saskatoon	PDS	1	Cat
S173JN17-F	5-Jul-17	Y	Seized	Moose Jaw	Heartland Livestock	21	Sheep
S173JN17-F	5-Jul-17	Y	Seized	Moose Jaw	Vet	1	Dog
S186JL17-F	6-Nov-17	Y	Seized	Saskatoon	PDS	1	Horse
S186JL17-F	10-Nov-17	Y	Seized	Saskatoon	U of S Vet College	3	Goat
S198AU15-F	19-May-17	Y	Seized	Rama	PDS	1	Pig
S198AU15-F	13-Jul-17	Y	Seized	Rama	Heartland Livestock	3	Cattle
S198AU15-F	13-Jul-17	Y	Seized	Rama	Heartland Livestock	1	Llama
S198AU15-F	13-Jul-17	Y	Seized	Rama	Caregiver	24	Pig
S268SE16-F	29-Jun-17	Y	Seized	Stenen	Saskatoon SPCA	12	Dog
S268SE16-F	29-Jun-17	Y	Seized	Stenen	PDS	7	Dog
S272SE16-F	12-Jun-17	Y	Seized	Clavet	Vet	1	Cat
S326NV16-F	3-May-17	Y	Seized	Porcupine Plain	PDS	1	Cattle
S326NV16-F	23-Nov-17	Y	Seized	Porcupine Plain	Northern Livestock Sales	10	Cattle
S341SE17-F	18-Jan-18	Y	Seized	Guernsey	PDS	1	Dog
S364OC17-F	19-Jan-18	Y	Seized	Carnduff	PDS	6	Horse
S364OC17-F	30-Jan-18	Y	Seized	Carnduff	Auction	24	Cattle
S367OC17-O	15-Nov-17	Y	Seized	Whitewood	Yorkton SPCA	1	Dog
S412OC17-F	22-Nov-17	Y	Seized	Griffin	Caregiver	27	Cattle
S469NV17-F	28-Nov-17	N	Seized	Standing Buffalo FN	PDS	2	Dog
S519JA18-F	25-Jan-18	Y	Seized	Beatty	Caregiver	19	Dog
S519JA18-F	25-Jan-18	Y	Seized	Beatty	Caregiver	2	Sheep
S519JA18-F	25-Jan-18	Y	Seized	Beatty	Caregiver	4	Chicken
S526JA18-F	5-Jan-18	Y	Seized	Lumsden	Vet	1	Cat
S557MR17-O	29-Aug-17	Y	Seized	Swift Current	Vet	1	Cat
S584FE18-O	2-Feb-18	N	Seized	Leader	Vet	1	Pig
S584FE18-O	14-Feb-18	Y	Seized	Guernsey	PDS	2	Chicken
S670MR18-O	23-Mar-18	Y	Seized	Wakaw	Saskatoon SPCA	1	Cat
S670MR18-O	23-Mar-18	Y	Seized	Wakaw	Saskatoon SPCA	1	Rabbit
S013AP17-O	12-Apr-17	N	Surr.	Assiniboia	Weyburn Humane Society	1	Dog
S557MR17-O	2-Jun-17	Y	Surr.	Swift Current	Vet	7	Cat

APSS Annual Report 2017-2018

S272SE16-F	12-Jun-17	Y	Surr.	Clavet	PDS	1	Chicken
S176JN17-F	12-Jul-17	N	Surr.	Sakimay FN	Yorkton SPCA	1	Dog
S466JA17-O	14-Jul-17	N	Surr.	St. Brieux	Saskatoon SPCA	2	Dog
S115MY17-O	18-Jul-17	N	Surr.	Whitewood	Yorkton SPCA	1	Dog
S214JL17-F	21-Jul-17	N	Surr.	Yellow Quill FN	Vet	1	Dog
S204JL17-F	16-Aug-17	Y	Surr.	Pilger	Humboldt SPCA	1	Dog
	16-Aug-17	Y	Surr.	Pilger	Buena Vista	2	Dog
S298AU17-O	25-Aug-17	N	Surr.	Richmound	Vet	5	Cat
S357SE17-F	3-Oct-17	N	Surr.	Witchekan FN	Vet	1	Dog
S358SE17-F	3-Oct-17	N	Surr.	Witchekan FN	Vet	1	Dog
S430NV17-F	15-Dec-17	N	Surr.	Tisdale	Saskatoon SPCA	12	Dog
S524JA18-F	4-Jan-18	N	Surr.	Yellow Quill FN	Humboldt SPCA	1	Dog
	4-Jan-18	N	Surr.	Yellow Quill FN	Saskatoon SPCA	1	Dog
	18-Jan-18	Y	Surr.	Guernsey	Saskatoon SPCA	5	Dog
S576JA18-O	31-Jan-18	N	Surr.	Swift Current	Vet	1	Dog
S341SE17-F	14-Feb-18	Y	Surr.	Guernsey	PDS	2	Dog
	14-Feb-18	Y	Surr.	Guernsey	Vet	18	Cat
	14-Feb-18	Y	Surr.	Guernsey	Moose Jaw Humane Society	2	Dog
	14-Feb-18	Y	Surr.	Guernsey	Caregiver	4	Chicken
S617FE18-O	20-Mar-18	N	Surr.	Maple Creek	Vet	5	Cat

APSS Annual Report 2017-2018

There continues to be difficulty managing the case load and paperwork within the bounds of a normal 40-hour work week for the APOs. Overtime is banked, and the APOs take time off in lieu as they can, however our staff often have significant amount of time off accrued. At the end of the year, two APOs were paid out their banked overtime, as the liability was becoming significant and it was simply not possible for them to take off the amount of time they had banked.

Our time to respond to new complaints is very slightly improved over last year, but it remains slower than we would like. In 360 cases, or 52% of the time, an APO attended in less than 5 days, however in 140 cases or about 20% of the time response took between 6 and 10 days, with a further 137 (20%) of cases taking between 11 and 30 days for a first response. In the last 6% of cases, or on 44 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 2017-2018, we classed 101 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 82% of the Priority 1, cases which is a slight decrease compared to 84% last year.

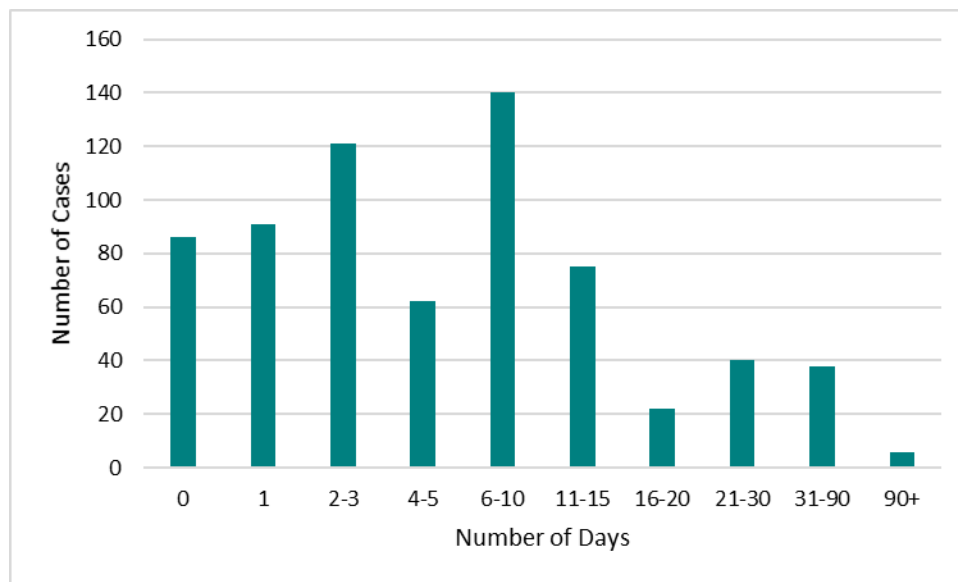


Figure 2 Response times for cases opened between April 1, 2017 and March 31, 2018, showing number of days from the complaint until an APO attended

APSS Annual Report 2017-2018

Finances

The firm Collins Barrow will audit the 2017-2018 financials.

We finished the year with a financial surplus of \$187,854, and will be able to transfer unspent Government funds to the contingency fund. We will also carry over \$14,919 in unspent funds that had been allocated in 2015-2016 for Livestock Services of Saskatchewan Drive By services.

We were generally on budget for most items this year. One area where our costs exceeded our budget was in Animal Service Expenses, specifically in the Hired Help, PDS (necropsies for deceased animals), and Veterinary categories. We spent a total of \$69,245 in this category, which was \$9,545 over budget. Interestingly, we were \$5,931 under budget on Animal Sheltering costs. I suggest that future budgets be adjusted to reflect a higher anticipated cost for Animal Services. These expenses are related to seizures, potential seizures and investigations where charges are likely, and are therefore extremely difficult to anticipate and predict accurately.

ED Activities

2017-2018 was another interesting and productive year for me. In addition to supervising the day to day operations of the organization, I had the opportunity to participate on a several committees, and gave a number of presentations to various groups.

I was asked to be the animal welfare representative on the Turkey Farmer's of Canada committee that revised their on farm flock care programs so that they comply with the Codes of Practice. This was done in accordance with the National Farm Animal Care Council's Animal Care Assessment Model framework. I believe I made useful contributions to the process, and that the end result is a practical on farm program that will help ensure that turkey farmers are producing birds in a way that meets the standards in the Code.

I continued to work with the Saskatchewan Veterinary Medical Association on their Animal Welfare Committee. I did a series of presentations for veterinarians in the province, discussing the changes to the Animal Protection Act, with particular emphasis on the new requirement for veterinarians to report suspected animal cruelty to an animal protection agency. I believe that these presentations helped veterinarians develop a greater understanding of the Animal Protection Act, and increased their comfort with the reporting piece.

I gave an assortment of other presentations throughout the year, including two sessions at the SSPCA Link conference, a Discover Ag presentation about the updates to the APA that was available to all of the Ministry of Agriculture's staff, and introductory presentations for veterinary students, veterinary technician students, and social work students.

I also continued to work on the Interagency Human and Animal Welfare team, and the SSPCA's rescue certification program. I believe that participation on these committees, and the presentations to various students, are an important part of APSS' work that will hopefully make real improvements to animal welfare in this province.