

Animal Protection Services of Saskatchewan

Annual Report

April 1, 2018 to March 31, 2019



Animal Protection Services

SASKATCHEWAN

APSS Annual Report 2018-2019

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President's Report

2018-2019 saw some significant changes to the organization with the departure of our Executive Director Kaley Pugh and we welcomed Don Ferguson as the new Executive Director. Also, this year a new Animal Protection Act came into force in September of 2018. With these changes also came a challenging year in terms of case load, our organization functioned well, and responded well in what was not a typical year. Our passionate and dedicated staff responded swiftly and professionally to these changes, quickly adapting to enforcing the new Act. We were involved in a marked increase in the number of seizures and providing care for the animals that were seized taxed our resources both operationally and financially. We are still a developing organization, and continue to look to the future and continue to grow and improve the enforcement service that we provide throughout the province. 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 has seen some changes over the past year. We welcomed a new Executive Director in July and our staffing is still 5 fulltime Animal Protection Officers and an Operations Assistant. We have been operating with 4 fulltime Animal Protection Officers since April 2019 and are in the process of hiring a 5th to fill the vacant position.

Case work

We opened a total of 697 new cases in 2018-2019. This was very similar to the number of cases in the past year, and is above the average of 608 for the previous 4 years (Table 1). Of those complaints, 387 of those involved dogs (48% of the total), with 151 (19%) horse complaints, 107 (13%) cattle complaints, 93 (12%) cat complaints, 13 (about 2%) sheep/goat complaints, 4 hog complaints, 12 (2%) fowl complaints, 5 camelid complaints, 16 (2%) "other" complaints, and 5 bison and 3 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

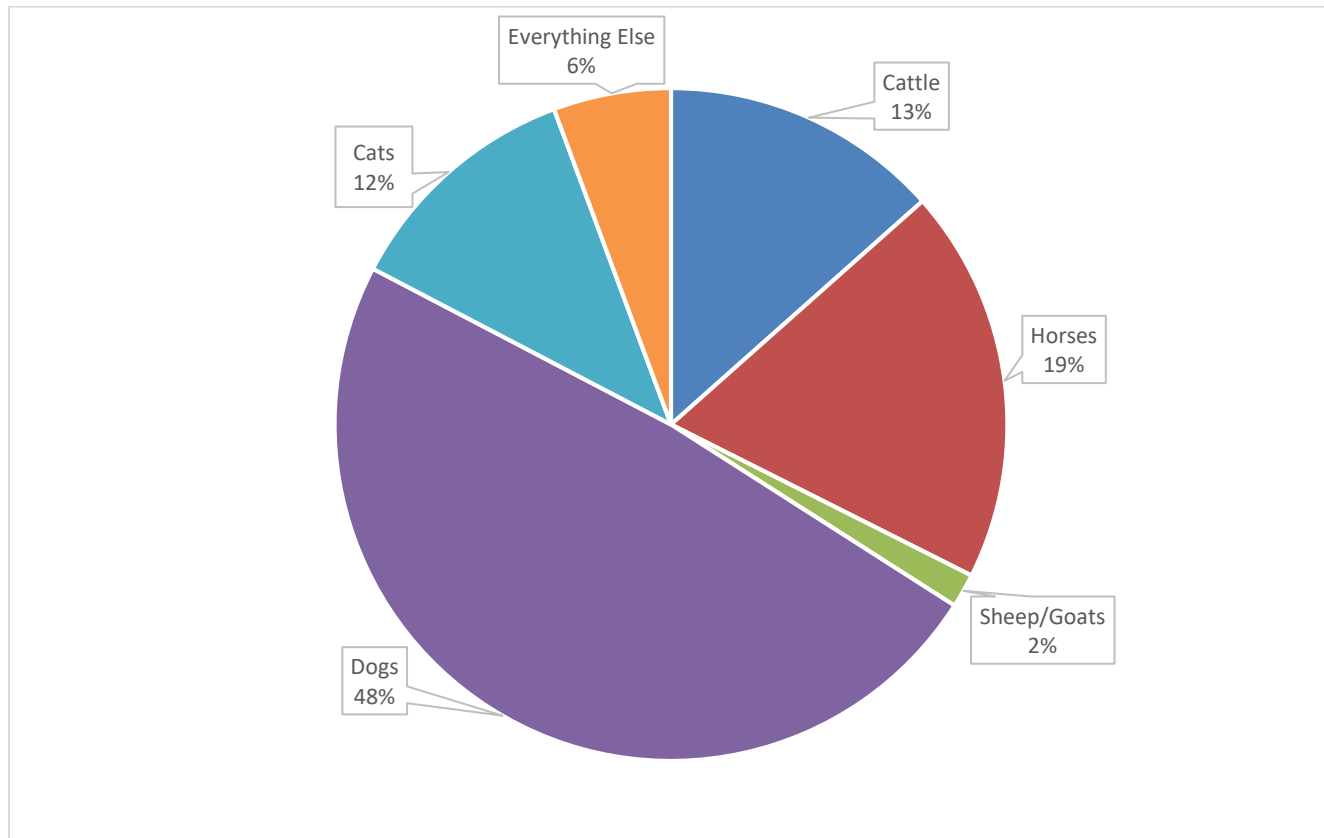
Total # Cases	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	total
2014-2015	53	71	53	59	61	50	58	67	46	41	37	27	623
2015-2016	43	44	44	50	55	46	40	40	51	51	38	42	544
2016-2017	48	39	43	61	42	44	37	47	59	47	45	58	570
2017-2018	47	72	57	65	70	48	62	54	36	69	62	51	693
4 year Avg	48	57	49	59	57	47	49	52	48	52	46	45	608
2018-2019	49	45	77	64	66	42	64	56	55	76	53	50	697

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Table 2 Number of complaints by species and month for 2018-2019. 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	7	9	4	9	14	7	10	5	4	13	14	11	107
Horses	14	11	18	12	9	7	19	8	13	16	11	13	151
Bison	0	0	1	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	5
Sheep/Goats	1	0	1	2	2	1	0	2	0	1	0	3	13
Hogs	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	4
Cervids	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	3
Camelids	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	5
Fowl	1	1	3	2	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	12
Dogs	23	26	48	37	36	24	26	38	35	44	29	21	387
Cats	7	4	12	10	11	7	12	7	6	7	4	6	93
Other	2	1	5	1	1	0	2	1	1	0	1	1	16
Total cases	49	45	77	64	66	42	64	56	55	76	53	50	697

Figure 1 Proportion of cases by species



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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 and into dwellings is limited. The percentage of founded and unfounded complaints varied considerably between species. (Table 3). Overall, our cases were 44% founded, 25% unfounded, and 32% 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 2018-2019

	Total	founded		unfounded		Inconclusive	
Cattle	107	58	54%	27	25%	22	21%
Horses	151	86	57%	35	23%	30	100%
Bison	5	3	60%	0	0%	2	40%
Sheep/Goats	13	8	62%	3	23%	2	15%
Hogs	4	2	50%	1	25%	1	25%
Cervids	3	0	0%	2	67%	1	33%
Camelids	5	2	40%	2	40%	1	20%
Fowl	12	6	50%	2	17%	4	33%
Dogs	387	156	40%	133	34%	98	25%
Cats	93	44	47%	23	25%	26	28%
Other	16	7	44%	3	19%	6	38%

Animal Protection Officers seized animals on 43 separate cases, this was more than double the number of cases from the previous year of 20 (Table 4). In total, 911 animals were seized, comprised of 467 cattle, 46 dogs, 37 horses, 31 sheep, 153 cats, 169 fowl. A further 116 cats and 30 dogs were voluntarily surrendered. Animals were placed with SPCAs/humane societies, euthanized, sold at auction, with veterinarians and with private caretakers.

APOs obtained Search Warrants 51 separate times in 2018-2019, on 35 different files, which is increase from the 38 warrants obtained in 2017-2018. We had charges laid in 9 cases (compared with 13 cases last year), and in 2 additional cases the Crown Prosecutors stayed the charges.

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Table 4 Listing of seized and surrendered animals in the 2018-2019 year (PDS indicates animal remains that were sent for testing)

File Number	Date	Warrant ?		location	delivered to	number of animals	type of animal
S006AP18-F	04-Apr-18	N	seized	Buchanan	PDS	3	sheep
S039AP18-O	25-Apr-18	N	seized	Tisdale	PDS	1	dog
S041AP18-F	23-May-18	Y	seized	Lonerock	Heartland Livestock	12	cattle
	23-May-18	Y	seized	Lonerock	caregiver	2	cattle
S069MY18-O	15-May-18	Y	seized	Welwyn	Yorkton SPCA	1	dog
S101JN18-F	06-Jun-18	N	seized	Strongfield	vet	1	dog
S122JN18-F	20-Jun-18	N	seized	Lucky Lake	PDS	3	dog
	21-Jun-18	N	seized	Lucky Lake	Swift Current SPCA	5	dog
S139JL16-F	26-Apr-18	Y	seized	Ituna	Heartland Livestock	1	horse
	12-Sep-18	Y	seized	Ituna	Heartland Livestock	4	horse
S156JN18-O	22-Jun-18	Y	seized	Leask	caregiver	2	dog
S186JL17-F	25-Apr-18	Y	seized	Saskatoon	PDS	1	dog
S213JL18-O	25-Jul-18	Y	seized	Marsden	Lloydminster SPCA	3	dog
S224JL18-O	02-Aug-18	N	seized	Coronach	vet	1	dog
S229JL17-F	07-Apr-18	Y	seized	Quill Lake	PDS	4	fowl
	16-Jul-18	Y	seized	Quill Lake	caregiver	31	sheep
	16-Jul-18	Y	seized	Quill Lake	caregiver	2	horse
	16-Jul-18	Y	seized	Quill Lake	caregiver	169	fowl
S240AU18-F	03-Aug-18	Y	seized	Dalmeny	Prince Albert SPCA	4	dog
	03-Aug-18	Y	seized	Dalmeny	Prince Albert SPCA	1	cat
S244AU18-O	03-Aug-18	N	seized	Beaver Creek	vet	1	dog
S266AU18-O	14-Aug-18	N	seized	Moose Jaw	vet	1	cat
S268AU18-O	17-Aug-18	Y	seized	Saskatoon	vet	14	cat
S270AU18-O	17-Aug-18	Y	seized	Dinsmore	vet	1	cat
	17-Aug-18	Y	seized	Dinsmore	vet	2	rat
	17-Aug-18	Y	seized	Dinsmore	vet	3	fish
S272AU18-O	14-Sep-18	Y	seized	Swift Current	vet	1	dog
S343SE18-F	29-Oct-18	Y	seized	Porcupine Plain	SLS	9	cattle
					Northern Livestock Sales		
S357OC18-F	05-Oct-18	N	seized	Shellbrook	Sales	3	horse
S363OC18-O	09-Jan-19	Y	seized	Elrose	Buena Vista	93	cat
	09-Jan-19	Y	seized	Elrose	vet	13	cat
	09-Jan-19	Y	seized	Elrose	vet	1	other
	09-Jan-19	Y	seized	Elrose	Buena Vista	2	dog
S391OC18-O	26-Oct-18	N	seized	Moose Jaw	Moose Jaw Humane Society	1	dog
S401OC18-O	29-Oct-18	N	seized	Davidson	vet	1	cat

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S417NV18-F	07-Nov-18	N	seized	Saskatoon	vet	1	rabbit
S430NV18-F	29-Nov-18	N	seized	Sylvania	PDS	1	dog
S451NV18-F	25-Nov-18	N	seized	Prince Albert	Northern Livestock Sales	6	horse
S460NV18-F	27-Nov-19	N	seized	Weekes	PDS	1	sheep
S462NV18-O	27-Nov-18	N	seized	Moose Jaw	vet	1	dog
S472DE18-O	05-Dec-18	N	seized	Maple Creek	Swift Current SPCA	3	dog
S480DE18-F	26-Mar-19	Y	seized	Little Red River	Prince Albert SPCA	1	dog
S497DE18-O	20-Dec-18	N	seized	Swift Current	vet	1	cat
S498DE18-F	20-Dec-18	Y	seized	Saskatoon	PDS	1	horse
S506DE18-O	21-Dec-18	N	seized	Moose Jaw	PDS	1	dog
	07-Jan-19	Y	seized	Moose Jaw	vet	3	cat
	07-Jan-19	Y	seized	Moose Jaw	vet	1	dog
	07-Jan-19	Y	seized	Moose Jaw	vet	1	other
S528JA18-F	07-May-18	Y	seized	Saskatoon	vet	4	horse
	07-May-18	Y	seized	Saskatoon	SLS	13	horse
S531JA19-F	08-Feb-19	Y	seized	Stoughton	PDS	2	cattle
	13-Feb-19	Y	seized	Stoughton	Heartland Livestock	107	cattle
	14-Feb-19	Y	seized	Stoughton	Heartland Livestock	206	cattle
S561JA19-F	05-Feb-19	Y	seized	Hoosier	vet	1	horse
	08-Mar-19	Y	seized	Hoosier	Heartland Livestock	3	horse
	08-Mar-19	Y	seized	Hoosier	vet	15	dog
S594JA19-F	28-Feb-19	Y	seized	Lampman	Heartland Livestock	131	cattle
S611FE19-O	12-Feb-19	N	seized	Wymark	vet	2	dog
S640FE19-O	26-Feb-19	N	seized	Assiniboia	vet	1	dog
S660MR19-F	12-Mar-19	N	seized	Osage	PDS	1	cattle
S663MR19-F	22-Mar-19	Y	seized	Meadow Lake	PDS	1	horse
S670MR19-O	14-Mar-19	Y	seized	Yorkton	caregiver	25	cat
S673MR19-F	12-Mar-19	N	seized	Neuhorst	PDS	3	goat
File Number	Date	Warrant ?	Column1	location	delivered to	number of animals	type of animal
S017AP18-F	19-Apr-18	N	surr.	Wishart	PDS	1	cattle
S159JN18-O	25-Jun-18	N	surr.	Hubbard	Yorkton SPCA	3	dog
S212JL18-O	20-Jul-18	N	surr.	Lanigan	vet	4	cat
	23-Jul-18	N	surr.	Lanigan	vet	1	cat
S225JL18-F	30-Nov-18	N	surr.	Prince Albert	Prince Albert SPCA	39	cat
S237AU18-O	26-Feb-19	N	surr.	Big River	vet	3	cat
S374OC18-O	17-Oct-18	Y	surr.	Esterhazy	Moose Jaw Humane Society	5	cat
S387OC17-F	05-Dec-18	N	surr.	Nipawin	Prince Albert SPCA	5	cat
	16-Jan-19	N	surr.	Nipawin	out of province	32	cat
S430NV18-F	10-Dec-18	N	surr.	Sylvania	Weyburn Humane Society	6	dog
	10-Dec-18	N	surr.	Sylvania	Saskatoon SPCA	1	dog

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	28-Jan-19	Y	surr.	Sylvania	Battlefords Humane Society	4	dog
S480DE18-F	08-Mar-19	N	surr.	Little Red River	Saskatoon SPCA	2	dog
	08-Mar-19	N	surr.	Little Red River	vet	1	dog
	26-Mar-19	Y	surr.	Little Red River	Saskatoon SPCA	4	cat
	26-Mar-19	Y	surr.	Little Red River	vet	9	cat
	26-Mar-19	Y	surr.	Little Red River	Prince Albert SPCA	1	dog
S493DE18-F	14-Dec-18	N	surr.	Grandmother's Bay	Northern Animal Rescue	1	dog
S545JA19-O	22-Feb-19	N	surr.	Nipawin	Prince Albert SPCA	1	dog
S557MR17-O	26-Jul-18	N	surr.	Swift Current	vet	10	cat
S563JA19-O	29-Jan-19	Y	surr.	Prince Albert	Saskatoon SPCA	2	dog
S588JA19-F	20-Feb-19	N	surr.	Spruce Home	Saskatoon SPCA	3	dog
	20-Feb-19	N	surr.	Spruce Home	Buena Vista	4	dog
S602FE19-F	21-Feb-19	N	surr.	Borden	vet	4	cat
S647FE19-O	22-Mar-19	N	surr.	Nipawin	vet	1	dog

There continues to be difficulty managing the case load and paperwork within the boundaries 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. We have transitioned our time period for accounting for vacation and time in lieu to be the time period from September to August rather than follow the fiscal year. This will allow for time in lieu and vacation time to be used at a traditionally slower call volume time rather than try and take it during what is our busiest time.

We classify complaints as either Priority 1 or 2, depending on their apparent severity and the urgency of the required response. In 2018-2019, we classed 121 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 86% of the Priority 1 cases which is a slight increase compared to 82% last year.

Our time to respond to new complaints has declined slightly over last year, and it remains slower than we would like. The target response time of 14 calendar days for priority 2 complaints is used; in 352 cases, or 50% of the time, an APO attended in less than 5 days, however in 148 cases or about 21% of the time response took between 6 and 10 days, with a further 148 (21%) of cases taking between 11 and 30 days for a first response (Figure 2). 82% of our complaints were actioned within the 14-calendar day response time.

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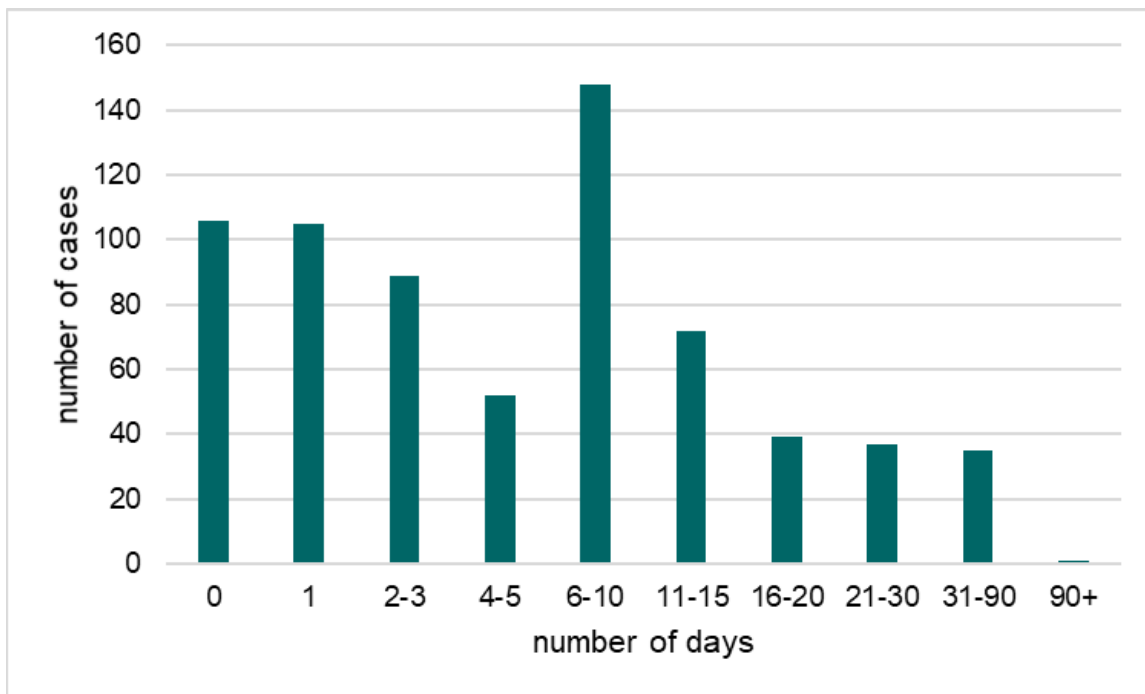


Figure 2 Response times for cases opened between April 1, 2018 and March 31, 2019, showing number of days from the complaint until an APO attended

Finances

The firm Baker Tilly will audit the 2018-2019 financials.

We finished the year without a financial surplus and were required to use our Agreement with the Ministry to maintain our contingency fund.

We were not on budget for many of the variable budget items this year. This may likely be as a result of the changes to the Act, the significant increase to the number of seizures that occurred, and the number of animals seized. One area where our costs exceeded our budget was in Legal Fees. We spent a total of \$55,979 in this category, which was \$45,979 over budget. Also, with these seizures came an increase in Animal Services expenses. We spent a total of \$152,023 in this category, which was \$90,407 over budget. It is suggested that future budgets be adjusted to reflect a higher anticipated cost for Animal Services. These expenses are related to seizures, potential seizures, and investigations, and are therefore extremely difficult to anticipate and predict accurately.

Executive Director Report

2018-2019 was an exciting new challenge for me. In addition to supervising the day to day operations of the organization, I had the opportunity to work with the Ministry to develop a more robust and comprehensive training program for Animal Protection Officers. I am hoping that this will lead to improved officer safety and consistent enforcement of the Animal Protection Act throughout the province.

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2018-2019 was further spent educating staff on the enforcement on the new Animal Protection Act.

We had three mass seizures in quick succession during the coldest and historically busiest times of the year. The effect of these cases had on the operations of APSS are still being felt at the time of this writing.

The challenges we have faced have unified and strengthened the team as we adjust to the new Animal Protection Act.

It has definitely been a tougher year than anticipated adapting to the changes for the organization. However, we persevered and embraced the change and the challenges brought on by it. I believe, because of this we became stronger and ready to meet whatever challenges 2019-2020 may bring.

Kind regards,

Don Ferguson CD, RVT
Executive Director APSS