

**Animal Protection Services of Saskatchewan**

# **Annual Report**

**April 1, 2019 to March 31, 2020**



**Animal Protection Services**

SASKATCHEWAN

# APSS Annual Report 2019-2020

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## President's Report

2019-2020 saw a significant increase in the number of cases our organization has had to respond to eclipsing all previous years. Our organization continues to function well, and has responded effectively in what was not a typical year. Thanks to the knowledge and efforts of our Executive Director Don Ferguson we are expanding our responsibilities and duties to the people of Saskatchewan. We continue to work toward Animal Protection Officers being Peace Officers. This year saw us work with the Ministry to develop a standardized training program for Animal Protection Officers and deliver the course to all our officers. 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. I am pleased to be continuing to work with and supporting this group of dedicated Board members and staff, in order to ensure APSS' ongoing maturation and success.

Sincerely,

Jim Sawatsky,  
President of the Board

## Staff & Office

Our staffing has increased over the past year. We welcomed a 6th fulltime Animal Protection Officer and plans to add a 7<sup>th</sup> fulltime Animal Protection Officer are in place. We opened a new office in Moose Jaw which is staffed by two Animal Protection Officers to better address response times throughout the province. Despite this increase in staffing it only allows for primarily reactive investigations and still little in the way of a proactive approach to Animal Protection Act enforcement.

## Case work

We opened a total of 731 new cases in 2019-2020. This was an increase of 34 cases over the previous year and the greatest number of files since Animal Protection Services' creation. It appears that the general public are more willing to call about what they perceive to be a welfare problem. Whether there are actually more animal welfare issues or whether Animal Protection Services is just being made aware of it more now will remain to be seen. This number is above the average of 608 for the previous 4 years (Table 1). Of those complaints, 408 of those involved dogs (48% of the total), with 138 (16%) horse complaints, 125 (15%) cattle complaints, 115 (13%) cat complaints, 16 (about 2%) sheep/goat complaints, 14 hog complaints, 9 fowl complaints, 4 camelid complaints, 19 (2%) "other" complaints, and 2 bison and 0 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
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

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2017-2018	47	72	57	65	70	48	62	54	36	69	62	51	693
2018-2019	49	45	77	64	66	42	64	56	55	76	53	50	697
4-year Avg	47	50	55	60	58	45	51	49	50	61	50	50	626
2019-2020	57	90	63	68	76	49	53	48	44	78	48	57	731

**Table 2** Number of complaints by species and month for 2019-2020. Note that the total number of cases is lower than the total per species – this is because many complaints involve more than one species.

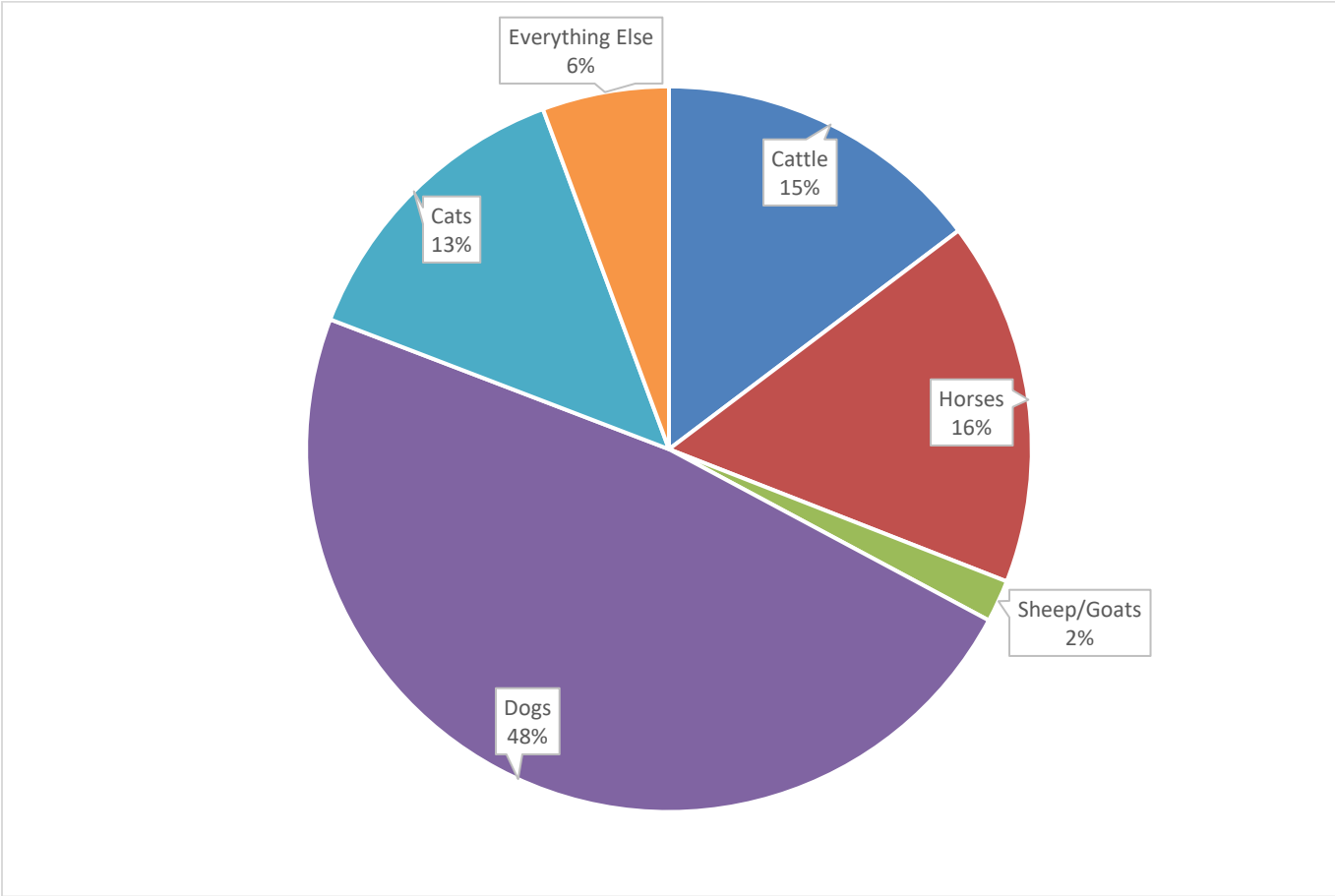
Table 2

	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	total
Cattle	15	25	9	4	9	3	6	8	13	13	8	12	125
Horses	13	18	7	15	13	5	10	11	3	17	10	16	138
Bison	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Sheep/Goats	3	3	4	0	2	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	16
Hogs	2	3	0	0	0	1	1	0	2	1	1	3	14
Cervids	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Camelids	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	4
Fowl	2	2	0	0	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	1	9
Dogs	29	40	39	40	53	37	31	26	27	38	26	22	408
Cats	8	15	10	13	10	5	8	7	5	13	6	15	115
Other	3	3	0	1	3	1	1	0	1	2	1	3	19
Total cases	57	90	63	68	76	49	53	48	44	78	48	57	731

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**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 Animal Protection Officer 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 to private property and into dwellings is limited. The percentage of founded and unfounded complaints varied considerably between species. (Table 3). Overall, our cases were 43% founded, 21% unfounded, and 34% inconclusive. The unfounded and inconclusive cases are time consuming for our Animal Protection Officers, 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 2019-2020

	Total	Founded		Unfounded		Inconclusive	
Cattle	125	66	53%	33	26%	26	21%
Horses	138	68	49%	41	30%	29	21%
Bison	2	0	0%	2	100%	0	0%
Sheep/Goats	16	8	50%	3	19%	2	13%
Hogs	14	11	79%	0	0%	3	21%
Cervids	0	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Camelids	4	1	25%	3	75%	0	0%
Fowl	9	7	78%	0	0%	2	22%
Dogs	408	193	47%	91	22%	124	30%
Cats	115	62	54%	18	16%	35	30%
Other	19	7	37%	7	37%	5	26%

Animal Protection Officers seized animals on 30 separate cases, this was less than the number of cases from the previous year of 43 (Table 4). In total, 268 animals were seized, comprised of 144 cats, 72 cattle, 47 dogs, 1 horse, 1 chicken, 1 rabbit, 1 snake, and 1 bearded dragon. Livestock seizures can be particularly demanding in terms of time, specialized equipment and people required to capture and transport the animals, and usually require significant amounts of pre-planning. A further 58 cats, 77 dogs, 17 chickens, 5 guinea pigs, 2 hermit crabs, and 1 chameleon were voluntarily surrendered. Animals were placed with SPCAs/Humane Societies, euthanized, sold at auction, with veterinarians and with private caretakers. We rely heavily on the services of SPCAs/Humane Societies around the Province, and there are usually limitations on the number and type of animals that the facilities can house. Arranging for caretaking of seized animals for the new 5 business day hold period continues to be a challenge.

Animal Protection Officers obtained Search Warrants 18 separate times in 2019-2020, five of these files required multiple warrants. We had charges laid in 18 cases compared with 13 cases last year. Founded files also resulted in 42 Corrective Action Orders being issued. These orders compel an owner to rectify conditions that are or may lead to an animal’s distress. In 66 cases formal written warnings were issued that should a similar incident occur in the future charges may be laid. Finally, the remaining 194 files were dealt with by way of education of the owner. In all cases the animal’s distress was relieved either by the owner or by the animals being seized and taken into protective custody by APSS.

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**Table 4** Listing of seized and surrendered animals in the 2019-2020 year (PDS indicates animal remains that were sent for testing)

File Number	Date	Warrant		Location	Delivered to	Number of animals	Type of animal
S013AP19-F	8-Apr-19	N	seized	Punnichy	PDS	3	cattle
S010AP19-F	16-Apr-19	Y	seized	Lanigan	SLS	34	cattle
	16-Apr-19	Y	seized	Lanigan	SLS	1	horse
	16-Apr-19	Y	seized	Lanigan	PDS	4	cattle
	16-Apr-19	Y	seized	Lanigan	PDS	1	dog
S022AP19-F	10-May-19	Y	seized	Cumberland House	PDS	2	cattle
S046AP19-F	11-Sep-19	Y	seized	Wakaw	Buena Vista	18	dog
S077MY19-F	05-Jun-19	Y	seized	Paynton	PDS	8	cattle
	10-Jul-19	Y	seized	Paynton	PDS	2	cattle
S094MY19-O	11-Jul-19	N	seized	Moose Jaw	vet	5	cat
	16-Jul-19	Y	seized	Moose Jaw	vet	10	cat
	16-Jul-19	Y	seized	Moose Jaw	vet	2	dog
	16-Jul-19	Y	seized	Moose Jaw	PDS	12	cat
	24-Oct-19	Y	seized	Moose Jaw	vet	2	cat
	24-Oct-19	Y	seized	Moose Jaw	forensics	22	cat
S107MY19-O	17-May-19	N	seized	Lloydminster	vet	1	cat
S108MY19-F	11-Jul-19	N	seized	North Battleford	vet	2	dog
S141MY19-F	30-May-19	N	seized	Avonlea	PDS	8	cattle
	31-May-19	Y	seized	Avonlea	Johnstone Auction Mart	9	cattle
S172JN19-O	18-Jun-19	Y	seized	Saskatoon	Saskatoon SPCA	1	dog
S222JL19-F	05-Jul-19	N	seized	Saskatoon	vet	1	cat
S238JL19-O	18-Sep-19	Y	seized	Davidson	vet	12	cat
	19-Sep-19	Y	seized	Davidson	vet	6	cat
	20-Sep-19	Y	seized	Davidson	vet	3	cat
S251JL19-O	24-Jul-19	N	seized	Yorkton	Yorkton SPCA	1	dog
S266JL19-O	25-Jul-19	N	seized	Saskatoon	caregiver	1	dog
S314AU19-O	13-Aug-19	N	seized	Moose Jaw	vet	1	dog
S315AU19-O	04-Sep-19	N	seized	Edenwold	vet	9	dog
S322AU19-O	16-Oct-19	Y	seized	Quill Lake	vet	18	cat
	16-Oct-19	Y	seized	Quill Lake	Buena Vista	5	dog
	16-Oct-19	Y	seized	Quill Lake	exotic dept UofS	1	rabbit
	16-Oct-19	Y	seized	Quill Lake	exotic dept UofS	1	snake
	16-Oct-19	Y	seized	Quill Lake	exotic dept UofS	1	bearded dragon
S387OC17-F	22-May-19	Y	seized	Nipawin	vet	7	cat

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	22-May-19	Y	seized	Nipawin	Buena Vista	41	cat
S420OC19-O	15-Oct-19	N	seized	Swift Current	vet	1	dog
S484NV19-F	07-Jan-20	N	seized	Strasbourg	PDS	1	chicken
S514DE19-F	13-Feb-20	y	seized	Love	PDS	2	cattle
S542DE19-O	23-Dec-19	N	seized	La Ronge	PDS	1	dog
S556JA20-F	03-Jan-20	N	seized	Yellow Quill FN	vet	1	dog
S561JA19-F	20-Jun-19	Y	seized	Hoosier	vet	1	dog
S578JA20-F	14-Jan-20	N	seized	Hodgeville	vet	1	dog
S605JA20-F	31-Jan-20	N	seized	Landing	vet	1	dog
S679MR20-O	03-Mar-20	n	seized	Asquith/saskatoon	PDS	1	cat
S703MR20-O	11-Mar-20	n	seized	Luseland	Buena Vista	1	cat
S707MR20-F	11-Mar-20	n	seized	Saskatoon	vet	1	cat
S720MR20-O	18-Mar-20	n	seized	Moose Jaw	Moose Jaw Humane Society	1	cat

File Number	Date	Warrant ?	Column1	Location	Delivered to	Number of animals	Type of animal
S046AP19-F	10-Jun-19	N	surrendered	Wakaw	Saskatoon SPCA	2	dog
	11-Sep-19	Y	surrendered	Wakaw	vet	1	cat
	11-Sep-19	Y	surrendered	Wakaw	Buena Vista	13	dog
S094MY19-O	16-Jul-19	Y	surrendered	Moose Jaw	vet	5	cat
				Buffalo			
S112MY19-O	05-Jul-19	N	surrendered	Narrows	vet	1	dog
S149JN19-O	18-Jun-19	N	surrendered	Loreburn	Buena Vista	16	dog
	18-Jun-19	N	surrendered	Loreburn	Buena Vista	1	cat
S235JL19-O	12-Sep-19	Y	surrendered	Swift Current	vet	4	cat
	12-Sep-19	Y	surrendered	Swift Current	vet	1	dog
S237AU18-O	02-May-19	Y	surrendered	Big River	Buena Vista	5	cat
	02-May-19	Y	surrendered	Big River	Lloydminster SPCA	10	cat
S238JL19-O	02-Oct-19	N	surrendered	Davidson	vet	1	cat
	03-Oct-19	N	surrendered	Davidson	vet	1	cat
	08-Oct-19	N	surrendered	Davidson	vet	4	cat
S264JL19-O	26-Jul-19	N	surrendered	Moose Jaw	vet	1	dog
S275JL19-O	21-Aug-19	N	surrendered	Ponteix	Swift Current SPCA	1	dog
S345AU19-F	12-Sep-19	N	surrendered	Loon Lake	Battlefords Humane Society	1	cat
S349AU19-O	24-Sep-19	N	surrendered	Rockglen	Moose Jaw Humane Society	2	dog
S425NV18-O	12-Apr-19	N	surrendered	Maymont	Battlefords Humane Society	1	dog
S442OC19-F	05-Nov-19	N	surrendered	Sturgis	Artistique Acres MJ	25	dog
S504NV19-O	29-Nov-19	N	surrendered	Hague	vet	1	cat
	06-Dec-19	N	surrendered	Hague	vet	1	cat
	12-Dec-19	N	surrendered	Hague	Saskatoon SPCA	3	cat



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	04-Feb-20	n	surrendered	Hague	Saskatoon SPCA	2	cat
	04-Feb-20	n	surrendered	Hague	Battlefords Humane Society	4	cat
S511DE19-O	18-Dec-19	N	surrendered	Osler	Saskatoon SPCA	1	dog
S515DE19-O	10-Mar-20	n	surrendered	Dalmeny	Battlefords Humane Society	5	dog
S545JA19-O	16-May-19	N	surrendered	Aylsham	Prince Albert SPCA	2	dog
S547DE19-F	28-Jan-20	N	surrendered	Standing Buffalo	vet	4	dog
	28-Jan-20	N	surrendered	Standing Buffalo	vet	3	cat
S563JA20-O	16-Jan-20	N	surrendered	Regina Beach Fort	vet	5	cat
S581JA20-O	14-Jan-20	N	surrendered	Qu'Appelle	vet	1	dog
S598JA20-F	21-Jan-20	N	surrendered	Delisle	vet	3	cat
S601JA20-O	17-Jan-20	N	surrendered	Swift Current	vet	4	guinea pig
	23-Jan-20	N	surrendered	Swift Current	vet	1	guinea pig
S647FE20-F	14-Feb-20	n	surrendered	White Bear	vet	1	dog
					Moose Jaw Humane Society		
S685MR20-O	04-Mar-20	n	surrendered	Kendal	Humane Society	2	cat
	04-Mar-20	n	surrendered	Kendal	caregiver	17	chicken
	04-Mar-20	n	surrendered	Kendal	vet	1	cat
	04-Mar-20	n	surrendered	Kendal	vet	2	hermit crab
	04-Mar-20	n	surrendered	Kendal	vet	1	chameleon
SR364SE19	12-Sep-19	N	surrendered	Moose Jaw	vet	1	cattle

There is difficulty managing the case load and paperwork within the bounds of a normal 40-hour work week for the Animal Protection Officers. Overtime is banked, and the Animal Protection Officers 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 take it during what is our busiest time.

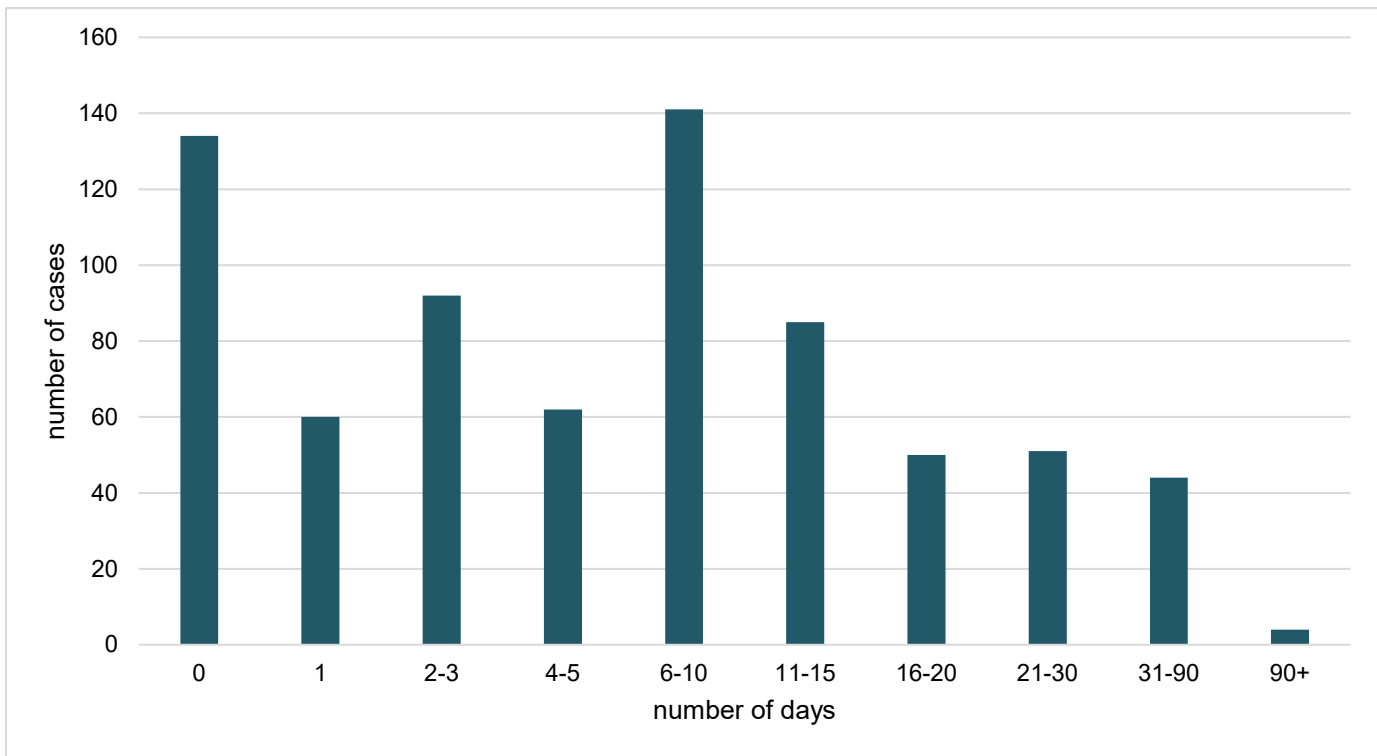
Public expectations regarding complaints continue to increase. Some complainants are dismayed to learn that there are only 6 Animal Protection Officers employed by Animal Protection Services to investigate for the entire province. They have a belief that the response to their complaint will be immediate and similar to a 911 emergency call.

We classify complaints as either Priority 1 or 2, depending on their apparent severity and the urgency of the required response. In 2019-2020, we classified 62 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 88% of the Priority 1 cases which is a slight increase compared to 86% 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 348 cases, or 52% of the time, an Animal Protection Officer attended in less than 5 days, however in 141 cases or about 21% of the time response took between 6 and 10 days, with a further 186 (27%) of cases taking between 11 and 30 days for a first response (Figure 2).

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78% of our complaints were actioned within the 14-calendar day response time. To address this, we have hired 2 additional Animal Protection Officers in 2020 -2021 to better meet the public’s expectations.



**Figure 2** Response times for cases opened between April 1, 2019 and March 31, 2020, showing number of days from the complaint until an APO attended

## Finances

The firm Baker Tilly has audited the 2019-2020 financials and found APSS is complying with standard accounting practices.

We were on budget in most expenditures, with the only significant areas of overspending being in APO materials and supplies. This increase was as a result of the additional staff members and being at the end of the life cycle for electronic equipment. The addition of another APO did reduce APO mileage and accommodation costs during the year. Animal shelter costs, like all of the seizure related expenses, are unpredictable and highly variable, and are therefore difficult to budget accurately. We have obtained permission to request vehicles for APOs from the Central Vehicle Agency. This will address APO safety and agency liability but will come at an increased cost. 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.

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## Executive Director Report

2019-2020 was a challenging and rewarding year for Animal Protection Services. In addition to supervising the day to day operations of the organization, I had the opportunity to facilitate the delivery of the first Animal Protection Officer Investigator Course in the province with the Ministry of Agriculture. A special thanks to Peace Officer Darrel Clark of the Calgary Humane Society who shared his knowledge and experience with all the candidates throughout the course. This comprehensive training program for Animal Protection Officers will lead to improved officer safety and consistent enforcement of the Animal Protection Act throughout the province. Along with the Animal Protection Officer Investigator Course, Animal Protection Officers completed additional animal welfare training involving equine and poultry put on by the Ministry of Agriculture. Officers also participated in the Animal Hoarding Workshop put on by the Saskatchewan SPCA. This training is essential in keeping officers current and knowledgeable in the latest animal welfare issues in the province.

2019-2020 was further spent educating other agencies and interested groups on the enforcement of the Animal Protection Act by Animal Protection Services of SK. I was able to provide presentations to the following groups:

- Weyburn Riding and Driving Club
- Western College of Veterinary Medicine 1<sup>st</sup> year students and interns
- Saskatchewan Veterinary Medical Association Licensing Seminar
- Ministry of Agriculture's Animal Welfare Stakeholder's Consultation Meeting
- Law Society of Saskatchewan
- Northern Animal Rescue and the La Ronge RCMP
- Saskatchewan Association of Veterinary Technologists
- Registered Veterinary Technology students at Saskatchewan Polytechnic
- Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association

I was able to work with other communities to train their Community Safety Officers to be able to enforce the Animal Protection Act. All together 10 Community Safety Officers from 8 different municipalities or rural municipalities now have the authority to enforce the Animal Protection Act within their communities.

We continue to move forward with planning and training for our Animal Protection Officers to become Peace Officers. This transition continues to improve the quality of enforcement of the Animal Protection Act throughout the province. The Animal Protection Act was implemented to enforce society's belief that all animals must receive adequate care and to protect animals. Animal Protection Officers continue on a daily basis to protect those that cannot protect themselves. I want to thank everyone involved in doing this work throughout the province for their professionalism and for the incredibly challenging work that they do.

Kind regards,

Don Ferguson CD, RVT  
Executive Director