

Second Chance Animal Rescue Society Members' Newsletter—December 2011

Thank you for helping animals in need

magine for a moment what it is like to be an abandoned animal. There is loneliness, fear, hunger, and thirst. Danger is everywhere—you become sick with no one to help; you give birth to babies with no means to protect or feed them; you face a slow death—either from extreme temperatures, starvation, illness or injuries. You are a joyful spirit, but you never smile. You need someone to take care of you, but you are alone.

Now imagine for a moment that a loving hand is extended and soon you are warm, fed, and your fear and pain are gone. Imagine you are lucky enough to find someone who cares. Imagine looking into that person's eyes and feeling trust— feeling safe—maybe for the first time. You are finally home!

There are thousands of dogs and cats in Alberta that are suffering right at this moment. But hundreds are saved from that suffering every day because of animal rescue. Some people find the notion of animal suffering so troubling they can't even think about it, don't want to hear about it and can't imagine how anyone could choose to focus their time and energy on it. Their compassion—in the face of such an overwhelming situation—collapses. But thankfully there are people like you who know that ignoring their plight will not make the problem go away. It is only through recognizing and talking about animal suffering that we can create lasting change. And there are so many ways to help animals. Even the smallest of good deeds makes their world and ours a better place. Our goals, however daunting, are not insurmountable-not impossibleand we prove it every single day.

In the process of saving even one animal, there are probably a dozen human lives that are touched for the better along the way. Each animal's life is precious, and each rescue story makes us feel triumphant and fills our hearts with love. We are bonded to animals. They bring us joy. They make us feel special. Somehow they complete us, and we them.

2011 has been an amazing year for SCARS. From January 1 to early December, we rescued 804 animals (378 dogs, 298 puppies, 89 cats and 47 kittens), and we have rehomed 734 (361 dogs, 275 puppies, 77 cats and 21 kittens). We think that's amazing and we hope you agree!

In case there is still any doubt why SCARS is so important—meet Jazz. Her story is a typical one and

the reason we exist. A SCARS volunteer was supposed to wait for the morning to go to the pound to pick up Jazz and her siblings, but got a feeling she should go that night. Thankfully she didn't wait, her intuition was bang on. Jazz was lying in a kennel by



herself, starving and very sick. There was blood all over the floor, she was extremely weak and beginning to give up. The volunteer rushed Jazz to Athabasca Veterinary Services where they immediately put fluids into *(continued on page 2)*

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her and warmed her up. Her little body had been starting to shut down. Her ears and paws were going cold. She was just skin and bones. Canine Parvovirus was about to get the best of her, but Jazz was a survivor. The very next day, she was up and wagging her beautiful, black, 3-month-old collie tail. By the time she reached her new foster home, she was ready for action. She is a puppy that has moved on from the past and lives each moment with joy and love. Jazz fully recovered and has since been adopted. She is one of hundreds of success stories.

We are grateful to supporters like you who care about abandoned animals like Jazz. You have fostered, adopted, volunteered, donated, organized fundraisers, and shared their stories with your family and friends. It is the combination of many actions that adds up to saved lives. There are no small roles in animal rescue. It takes a community of caring people to save an animal. The northern pounds continue to be full and we will continue to work hard to find more foster homes and to raise the funds needed to accept



these animals into our care.

Did you know that SCARS has expanded its cat rescue operations? You can see some of our adoptable cats at the PetSmart



location at 13680-50 Street in Edmonton and on our website. SCARS recently rescued a mom and kittens from euthanasia (shown above). Initially thought to be healthy, the kittens suddenly took a turn for the worst. They had not been vaccinated and were carriers of panleukopenia (commonly known as feline distemper, the equivalent to Canine Parvovirus). The virus flared up in their tiny bodies and attacked their immune systems. One of the kittens could not be saved, but seven survived and will get the chance to live the carefree lives they deserve.

2012 SCARS Calendars & Other Merchandise

The 2012 SCARS Calendars are now available. These popular and conveniently sized calendars are great stocking stuffers and a fantastic way to support SCARS. Due to the generosity of our calendar sponsors, all proceeds from calendar sales go directly to support our rescue efforts! Calendars are only \$10 each. They can be purchased online or at supporting businesses—see our website for a list. Go to www.scarscare.org and select *How you can help* > *Store & Gift Shop* > *Other Merchandise*. You can also visit our website to purchase t-shirts, hoodies, ball caps, leashes, totes, lunch bags, Gifts from the Heart, and much more.







Second Chence Assent Rescue Society











Christmas Bazaar Fundraiser

CARS held a very successful Christmas Bazaar fundraiser on Saturday, November 19th at the Jasper Park Community League in Edmonton.

More than \$4,500 was raised despite the –20 C degree weather. Highlights included games, raffles, Santa photos (for both children and pets), Christmas Carollers and shopping.

This event featured the draw for our quad raffle. Congratulations to lucky winner, **Dan Schoettie**, of



Sherwood Park.

SCARS is very grateful to Napa Auto Parts Wabasca for donating this amazing prize.

Thank you to our shopping vendors including Pampered

Chef, Epicure, Silpada, Discovery Toys, Stampin' Up, Gold Canyon, Norwex, Jockey Person to Person, Arbonne, Uber Iron, Mick and Marla Collar Company, Purpose Sash Boutique, and Janellete Boucher (personalized dog portraits).

The event also featured adoptable animals, SCARS merchandise, fresh wreaths, homemade crafts and baking. There were even sleigh rides with hot cocoa sponsored by the Bone and Biscuit Co. Spruce Grove, Bank of Montreal Spruce Grove, Dolce Vita Homes and Reynolds, Mirth, Richards & Farmer LLP). We are grateful to the numerous individual and corporate sponsors of this event, and to the volunteers who worked tirelessly to organize it.













Look at us now

Buzz's amazing new life

It's been two years since I found my forever home, so I thought I'd better let you know how I'm doing. I just love my family! My people were first time dog owners, and pretty nervous about how they would do with a big lug like me in the house. But I'm so well behaved, quiet and lovable, they adjusted great! I have a furry little sister named Mitzi who is a cat, but a good egg—we get along well. My best dog friend is Maggie, another SCARS adoptee—we play lots at her house.

My favourite activities include lounging in my backyard, walking at the dog park, wading in the river on hot days, riding in my SUV bought special for me (cause I didn't fit very well in my mom's sports car), and visiting my great grandpa at the lodge (all the old guys love me there, and I get to sit on the bed).

I also enjoy trips to Jasper Park Lodge—they treat dogs great there, and there are LOTS of squirrels! My people throw a really fun party for me at the dog park every August to celebrate my adoption. All my dog friends and their people come. We walk, play, swim in the river, and have dog cake and ice cream—it's awe-some. My absolute favourite thing to do is cuddle every evening with my people.

My mom says I'm "so adorable she can't stand it." I'm not sure what this means but I think it's good. I'm sending you these photos—I'm smiling in all of them. I want to thank all the kind people at SCARS, especially Sylvia, for caring so much for me until I could find my permanent home. And to all the dogs still at SCARS—Don't give up! Your forever home is worth waiting for!!





Best wishes, Buzz

Don't give up on your dog—Foxy's story

I adopted my amazing dog Foxy last April. She is a total sweetheart and I love her to pieces. Foxy has come a long way since I first got her. I'm writing you because we went through a few tough times. There were days I have broke down and cried out of sadness and frustration. Some of my friends warned me that I would not be able to train Foxy. I did not listen. I was not prepared to give up on my dog.

Thank you for all your support. You have a wonderful volunteer trainer named Vicki Stafford (of Sammy's Pet Boarding) that coached me through it all. When I first got Foxy she had separation anxiety and would cry and howl when I left the house. After talking with Vicki I trained her out of it within three days. Foxy has always been well behaved but she is terrified of people and horrible on the leash. I have been working with her for a long time and with a lot of patience. Just in the last month I've



seen great improvement in my dog. She is starting to realize people aren't so scary. She's growling and barking less at people and starting to approach people in a friendly manner.

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She is very friendly just very shy. I now see Foxy being less and less shy every day. I took Foxy to see Vicki in Athabasca. Vicki is by far the best dog trainer I've ever talked to. I feel that once I apply the knowledge Vicki gave me combined with lots of training and patience that Foxy will overcome her final obstacles. I'm so grateful to have Foxy in my life. She's a wonderful well-behaved dog and it's rewarding to see her progress. I want to send the message to others to not give up. With time, love, training and patience, dogs will come around and it's worth every single minute. She is a huge success and has come so far. I'm so proud of her. Thank you SCARS for all your help and support. — Holly



Adorable and adoptable

To inquire about these adoptable dogs, visit www.scarscare.org. There are over 150 companion animals of all ages, types and sizes currently in our care. We are desperate for adoptions, and for more foster homes. If you have room in our home and in your heart for a new friend, contact SCARS.

Hi, I'm Delilah. I am so happy to be in a home where it's warm and I get fed on a regular basis. When I was



first picked up I was living outside eating garbage. I have since had a bath, and have been to the vet for a check up and first vaccinations. I am a female and about three months old, but it's hard to say what breed I am. All we know for sure it that I am sweet and adorable. I will likely be a medium to large

girl. I love everyone and everything. I am ready to find my forever home.

Hi, I'm Maggie. Are you looking for a friend with personality AND good looks? That's me. Let me tell you, foster home life is way better than pound life. I am

so happy. I have food and a warm bed and two foster brothers to play with. I am female, about 10 months old, and very sweet. I am very well behaved in the house and I appear to be



crate trained. I've already won the hearts of my foster parents and the next door neighbours too. I am just an awesome dog and I will be a great new addition to the family who decides to make me their furever dog. I get along super great with other dogs and I don't mind cats either. I will be medium to large size when I am all grown up. Talk to you later.

Heidi Ho Neighbour. I'm a very sweet medium sized girl (about 20 pounds) that just loves everything. There is nothing better in life than playing and that's what I love to do. I'm great with other dogs and very



affectionate with people. I'm good on a leash and crate trained. I must have been well looked after as the vet says I am a healthy girl. I'm about 1-2 years old and SCARS isn't sure what breed I am so they just call me "cute." I mean just look at my face! Doesn't that say it all? I would love to come home with you.

Hi, I'm Shapiro. My foster home thinks we should have a contest..."Guess what breed of dog Shapiro is?" I am unique looking and a bit of a mystery. The general

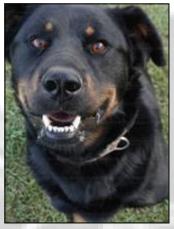


consensus is I am black lab crossed with maybe Dalmatian. Maybe you should come and meet me and you can figure out my heritage. I am a happy, friendly guy probably not quite a year old. I am a bigger than average weighing in at about 70 pounds right now. I get along well with other dogs and with people. Although I was a bit shy of men when I first arrived in my

foster home, I am happy to greet all newcomers now. My foster home doesn't trust me with the cats, as I look at them just a little too intensely. I am quite energetic, so will need an active home. I need to learn some obedience skills too. Until I came to SCARS, no one spent any quality time with me.

Hi, I'm Hogan. I waited for quite a while to finally get rescued out of the pound, but I'm safe now. SCARS is not really sure on my story but rumours have it I was

caught in a trap and lost my back foot. I have had my surgery and did have to have my one back leg amputated. I am a very nice guy and am just so happy not to be on a chain anymore. My foster mom says it's so nice to see me run as fast as I can around the field. She says you don't even notice the missing leg with the way I run. I am



crate and house trained. I'm fine with most dogs, not sure on cats yet. I do well on a leash, though I really like to stop and smell everything. I am a large, male Rottweiler cross with an awesome smile.

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SCARS participates at Hobbema clinic

S CARS would like to congratulate the Alberta Spay Neuter Task Force (ASNTF) for the successful completion of a spay and neuter clinic held October 28-30, 2011 at the Ermineskin High School at Hobbema. These safe and effective clinics are made possible through the volunteer efforts of veterinarians, animal health technologists, rescue groups, community members and other volunteers that ASNTF recruits.

These clinics, when repeated, will eventually bring out-of-control companion animal populations down to manageable levels. The Task Force works with First Nation communities like Hobbema to make them safer and healthier for people and companion animals. The number of strays in this community is staggering and this was a positive step in the right direction.

By the end of the event, 182 animals had been spayed or neutered, vaccinated, treated for parasites, and tattooed. In addition, 198 animals were surrendered. **SCARS was able to take 30 of the surrenders** and the rest were divided among other rescue groups. SCARS and other rescue groups coordinate with the Task Force to ensure that all the surrendered animals have a safe place to go. SCARS volunteers also helped with a clinic that was held at Wabasca last June.

Sam, shown right, is a 10-month old surrendered female that was emaciated and suffering from a form of mange called Demodex. Sweet little Sam is recovering nicely and will soon be available for adoption.



Sam

We also took in dogs like Zorro, Tahir, Gregory, MacGyver and Ember.

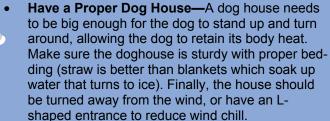
SCARS volunteers were honoured to volunteer during this event alongside other rescue groups and community volunteers.

Cold Weather Pet Care

The following is based on tips found on the Alberta SPCA's website (www.albertaspca.org).

when you take it outside for exercise or if you leave it outside for any period of time, please remember the following:

- **Provide extra food**—animals who spend time outdoors need extra energy to stay warm.
- **Provide liquid water**—ensure the water remains unfrozen by frequently replacing the water or using a heated bowl. Avoid metal bowls that tongues can stick and freeze to.



 Watch Closely When Your Pet is Outdoors— Pets that are not acclimatized to the cold weather may not be able to tolerate the frosty temperatures, even for short periods of time.

- Wash the Pads of Their Paws—Pets can pick up rock salt, ice and chemicals on their foot pads. After a walk, wipe your pet's paws with a washcloth.
- Trim Excess Hair on Their Paws—Trimming the excess hair between their toes will decrease the development of ice pellets.
- Be Aware of Garage Dangers—Properly store chemicals and ensure spills are cleaned up. Be especially careful with antifreeze. It attracts both dogs and cats but can be fatal in even small amounts.
- Practice Caution Before Starting Your Car— Cats and small wildlife in search of warmth may curl up inside a car engine. Before you turn your engine on, honk the horn or knock on the hood to scare them away.
- Is Your Pet Especially Susceptible?—Animals that are young, old and in poor health are particularly susceptible to the cold and shouldn't be exposed to winter weather for a long period of time.
- **Report Neglected Animals**—If you suspect an animal is being left outside for too long without proper protection from the elements, **report it.** In Edmonton, call the Edmonton Humane Society at 780-491-3502. In Calgary, call the Calgary Humane Society at 403-205-4455. Everywhere else in Alberta, call Alberta SPCA Animal Protection Services at 1-800-455-9003.





Rescue stories

Here are some examples of animals that were recently saved from tremendous suffering. We often wonder who could be so cruel, but we take comfort in knowing there are so many caring people, like you, and that is why SCARS is able to exist. Visit our website for updates on these and other animals.





Hello, I am Monti. In mid November, I was found in a snow bank and surrendered to SCARS. I was all by myself and freezing. I am about six weeks old and a Shepherd cross. I'm such a sweet typical puppy. So far I have been really good. I use my puppy pads and I'm

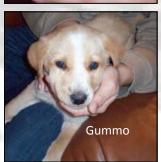
learning to keep up with the big dogs. I can't wait until I'm ready for my forever home.

Hello, I am Rogue. I was found scrounging for food at a dump near Lac La Biche with five little puppy buddies (Groucho, Zeppo, Chico, Harpo and Gummoo). Believe it or not, we were being fiercely protected by a mommy cat named Minnie who thought we were her babies. A kind volunteer scooped me up along with my five friends and the mommy kitty. Then I had a nice long but bouncy nap in a warm place. When I woke up I was given food and a bath, and the next day I visited this lady who poked me all over and put needles in me. Ouch! But now I know I will never have to fight for food again. And I am happy to know that when I nap I will awake in a warm, safe place. I am an absolutely gorgeous Husky/Shepherd cross, with the most startling blue eyes you have ever seen. I am around four two days after I was rescued. My foster parents caught it early, so I was only at the vet hospital for two days. I am now a very happy puppy. In late November, I was adopted. I hope my friends get adopted soon too. They look pretty sad in their pictures, but you will see their amazing transformation from sad to joy if you meet them.

Hi, I'm Minnie. I am the amazing cat that heroically protected five puppies. When we were rescued, I puffed up my little self and hissed, all five pounds of me, to protect my babies so that the two humans approaching us wouldn't hurt them. I recently had babies myself, but I don't know what happened to them so I used my maternal instincts to mother puppies instead. They tell me I'm rather special. I am a very loving and affectionate girl. As soon as I see you, I will purr and cuddle. I have already been adopted.









months old and weigh 35 pounds so I am going to be a large doggie when I grow up. I am a bit timid, and my foster parents think I was abused, but I am learning to trust and give affection. Unfortunately I tested positive for Canine Parvovirus just









Canines & Cocktails 2011

n October 14, 2011, SCARS held its Annual Canines & Cocktails dinner gala with live and silent auction. Over 500 SCARS' supporters got together at the Palace Banquet and Conference Facility in Edmonton to celebrate animal rescue and to raise funds to help support SCARS' operations for another year. Tickets sold out and we raised over \$50,000 in gross revenue. This event always has a fun theme. This year it was The Wizard of PAWZ. SCARS would like to extend a special thank you to Shane Jones and Kevin O'Connell of Global TV for hosting our event, and to Gary Hanna, of Gary Hanna Auctions Ltd., who volunteered his time to make our live auction successful and really fun. We also want to thank Ted Power for helping with the auction.

The evening also featured a wonderful video about animal rescue by Virginia Marando of Pet Rescue Magazine and a parade of SCARS adorable adoptables. Each adoptable dog was formally introduced before it walked about the room to greet guests and melt hearts! SCARS is very grateful to everyone who attended, supported or volunteered at this event. We can't wait to start planning for next year! We would like to sincerely thank all of our sponsors and the following table hosts:

- Alberta Safety Compliance Limited
- Apollo Machine
- Barkers Pet Motel & Grooming Ltd
- Bill & Cheryl Skorobohach
- Black Paws Pet Resort & Storage
- Brad Pattison Certified Trainer Educators
- Dr. Leo Elwell
- Feisty Fido (Amanda Lussier)
- Michelle & Wyan Doll-Shankaruk
- Mike & Laurel Cunnington
- Mobile Augers & Research
- New Paradigm Engineering Ltd.
- Sadie's K9 Stay & Play
- Priority Printing (co Host)
- Safety Chick Consulting
- Salisbury Landscaping & Greenhouse
- Sammy's Pet Boarding
- Sandra Schulz
- Tanis Lietbreich & Corey Johnson
- The Thomas Tender Hearts (Pamela Thomas,)
- The Walline Team (Sterling Real-estate) Auction





The Wizard of PAWZ













Shane Jones and Kevin O'Connell of Global TV





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What to expect when you bring a rescue home

By Vicki Stafford

ringing home a new, furry member of the family can be one of the most exciting things you do. On the other hand, it can also bring about certain challenges you may not have expected. You feel prepared now that you have made the decision to adopt, done a little research on breed traits, and have all the necessary supplies on hand to welcome your fuzzy friend. Only Fluffy hasn't exactly behaved like he did at the adoption event/foster home and is the total opposite of his profile write up. Rest assured this is perfectly normal behaviour!

Quite often at adoption events pets can become overwhelmed by the number of new people coming through, strange smells, or never having been introduced to such an environment. In some cases, the normally bouncy, crazy leg dog all of a sudden becomes quiet, passive and will bat those eyelashes at you like there is no tomorrow. It is their way of coping with the situation the best way they can. For most pets it can take a few days to a few months before they totally become comfortable in their surroundings and then they start to come out of their shell. Likewise, the ones that present themselves as the over the top go getters, usually settle well in a quieter setting when there is not so much activity around. Not all pets will behave unexpectedly, some start out well adjusted and go with the flow.

It is also possible to see a pet revert to almost puppyhood like behaviours. These can include, whining, house soiling, destruction, attention seeking behaviours, appearing needy, random or continuous barking, forgetting any sort of commands they know *(continued on next page)*

Volunteers Support SCARS at the Athabasca Moonlight Madness Christmas Parade—Nov. 25, 2011





and over excitement.

The best way to deal with this is to set your new pet up for success by establishing boundaries, house rules and incorporating a routine right from the start. Pets like predictability as it gives them a sense of comfort and can reduce anxiety. If your pet displays any of these behaviours be conscious of your actions and be sure that you are not rewarding the behaviour in any way. Should you reward an unwanted behaviour, it will continue and your pet will have a more difficult time adjusting. If you are not there to supervise, crating or confining your pet for the first few days until those rules are made known will also cut down on unwanted behaviours while your dog is trying to adjust.

Your new pet may not have much of an appetite when he first arrives at his fur-ever home. Sometimes the stress causes a temporary lack of desire for food. Usually within a day or two your pet will start eating. You can try adding a bit of water or canned food to his meal to coax him to eat. However, if your pet seems lethargic, is not drinking, and/or has diarrhoea, seek veterinarian advice immediately. The later situation is not likely, but it can happen.

If this is a second or third pet that you are bringing into the home, you must be prepared for what may come. It's always best to bring resident pets along with you when you are considering adoption. This way the pets get to meet on neutral territory and have a chance of gaining familiarity with the potential pet. Usually puppies just fit right in and establish themselves, but with adult dogs it can be much more difficult. When you do bring home your new pet, placing them in a crate is a good way to introduce him safely to the other resident pets. It's important not to change your resident pet's routine as that can cause added stress to the situation. Things should remain business as usual. Likewise it is advisable that you crate your new pet periodically to give your resident pets a little one-on-one time with you as well as a break from the newbie.

When bringing the second dog into the home, all play should be supervised until such time that status has been established and the dogs are comfortable with each other. Sometimes play styles can clash which may cause a bit of tension but it usually sorts itself out given time. Supervision should also be extended to playing with toys and around food and high value treats such as bones. Scuffles can occur and are usually a lot of noise, but can be scary for a pet owner if they have never experienced such an altercation.

Should you ever be concerned about your new pet's behaviour or how your resident pets are adjusting, it is always advisable to speak to a professional. They can give you tips on how to help your pets cope and put your mind at ease that everything you are experiencing is in most cases normal. You can access this service free through the SCARS website in the *Ask A Trainer* section.



Please note that the opinions of dog trainers who volunteer with SCARS do not necessarily reflect the opinions of SCARS as an organization. Vicki is one of several dog trainers actively involved in our rescue work; we are very grateful for their support.



Vicki Stafford is the owner/operator of Sammy's Pet Boarding in Athabasca, Alberta. She is also a long time volunteer, valued foster home and past board member of SCARS.

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We need your help

econd Chance Animal Rescue Society (SCARS) is a non-profit, registered charitable organization dedicated to reducing the number of homeless animals in Northern Alberta, Canada. To date, SCARS has rescued and rehomed over 3,500 animals.

Our mission is to promote the humane care and protection of all animals and to prevent cruelty and



suffering. We believe there is a suitable home for all homeless animals: young or old; large or small. We provide veterinary care and foster homes until

permanent homes are found. Our foster homes provide the animals with warm shelter, food, exercise and tender loving care—something that so many of these animals have never experienced. We also promote responsible pet ownership, the importance of spaying and neutering, and community awareness. We rely solely on money raised through memberships, donations, sponsorships and other fundraising efforts. Because we have no paid staff and use private homes for fostering, we can only take in as many animals as our resources will allow. Here are some of the ways you can help:

- Donate or sponsor—our medical expenses are enormous. Please consider donating to our rescue efforts. We issue tax receipts for all donations of \$20 or more.
- Foster an animal—we rely on our volunteer foster homes to provide temporary care until we can find suitable permanent homes. There is no cost to becoming a foster home. We will provide everything you need.



• Volunteer—we are always looking for volunteers to help with fundraising, adoption events, animal care and transportation, and our daily operations. As a volunteer, you will become an integral part of a team that saves animal's lives.

- **Buy an annual membership**—memberships cost just \$25 and include newsletters, a calendar and opportunities to volunteer.
- Adopt an animal—provide a needy animal with a loving, permanent home. To see pictures of adoptable animals, visit our website. Their stories

might make you cry, but they will also fill you with love and hope. There are so many people who care and the animals are so grateful.



• Please be a responsible pet owner—spay or

> neuter, microchip and vaccinate your pets! And remember, all pets need food, water, shelter, healthcare, exercise, love and attention.

 Buy our merchandise—please buy SCARS clothing, our calendar, or one of our "Gifts from the Heart" certificates. Visit our website for more information.

Please subscribe to our electronic newsletter at www.scarscare.org, watch us on Global TV Edmonton every Saturday morning at 9:50 a.m., and follow us on Facebook and Twitter (www.twitter.com/ scars_alberta). For more info or to provide feedback or suggestions for this newsletter, please contact:

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