



# Second Chance!

animal rescue society

Second Chance Animal Rescue Society Members' Newsletter—December 2012

## Melting Apathy into Compassion and Action

The 2012 Canines & Cocktails dinner gala with live and silent auction was held on Nov. 2 at the Palace Banquet and Conference Facility in Edmonton. The final numbers are not in yet, but we believe we raised close to \$80,000. This year's theme was SCAR Wars!

The event was hosted in part by Paula Bissell and Shawn Molloy of Wabasca. During the event, Paula and Shawn presented SCARS with a cheque for \$20,000. Here are Paula's touching and inspirational speaking notes from the evening:

"It is an honour to be asked to speak tonight, but I first would like to extend my gratitude to the other SCARS volunteers, the drivers, foster homes, coordinators, board members, rescue crews, screeners, donors, vet staff and supporters. Thank you! Please give them all a hand. I am happy to be a part of this big wonderful group. We are all here for the same sort of reason; it makes us feel good to help those who cannot help themselves and ours is no different. We are from Wabasca roughly 400 km north of the City of Edmonton. It is not without its social problems, least of which to some is the care taking of their animals. This has a formula: Limited Resources + Inability = Apathy. It is painful to care when one cannot do anything to resolve the situation. The problem in my community always bothered me, but what could I do?

Then one day seven years ago I found SCARS. They were close to home. They were rescuers. They were resources! So my motto changed to WHAT CAN I DO? I started with fundraising and posting adoptable dogs on our company's buy and sell. Then I started transferring dogs after I went to "check on" Ingrid and Greta at the pound and couldn't leave these puppies with severe demodex despite my husband's gagging sounds for the next 180 km due to the smell of their infected skin. I put an air freshener on his lap and opened the window—suck it up Shawn.

I worked with local governments to help our animal situation in our communities. I'm obnoxious so they'll

do anything to shut me up. Soon I was on rescue missions with Sylvia to the dumps, and as we walked into the dump all I could think about was the newspaper headline "two women found mauled by bears at the dump—sticks ineffective."

This soon became routine as Sylvia knew I couldn't "check on the pound dogs" without taking some home or arranging for transfer. It was then our municipality's policy to shoot any unclaimed dog after three days. I didn't want to see the faces of the dogs on death row. So what can I do? That is how Shawn unconsciously became a foster dad, and it is how my in-laws ended up with five puppies over the Christmas holidays, then summer holidays. It is also how the managers of our municipality had puppies from the pound brought to meetings with me. There is a different way, there is a resource and you have the abilities.

*(continued on page 2)*



### In this issue

Canines and Cocktails	2
Look At Us Now / Racing Family	4
Adorable and Adoptable	5
Ask the Emergency Veterinarian	6
Cenovus Energy Contest	6
Rescue Stories (Jack and Sting)	7
Tails on the Trails 2012 Pawsathon	8
Donation Thank Yous / SCARS Store	10
Dog Swim Fundraiser at Grosvenor Pool	11
What We Do and How to Help	12

(continued from page 1)

Today the local government works with SCARS and a firearm is no longer a part of the job description of animal control. It is less often that we have to transfer parvo dogs to the nearest quarantine vet office 180 km away. SCARS has taken away the inability and resource part of the problem. Apathy melts into compassion and action. So to express our compassion and action to this beautiful network which has helped our community greatly, we present this cheque."

SCARS is truly grateful to this year's gala table hosts, including:

- Activate Exercise Therapy
- Alberta Safety Compliance Limited
- Apollo Machine & Apollo-Clad
- Blackpaws Pet Resort
- Campbell Dental Centre
- Cheryl & Bill Skorobohach
- Dr. Leo Elwell & Elaine Rapp
- Edmonton Holistic Veterinarian Clinic

- Instabox
- Marsha Johnston
- Mike & Laurel Cunnington
- Mobile Augers & Research
- New Paradigm Engineering
- Omnicon Consultants Inc.
- Ray & Judy Williams
- Ron Dickson & Associates
- Sadie's K9 Stay & Play
- Safety Chick Consulting
- Shades of Grey Tattoo Inc.
- T. Pysyk Trucking Ltd
- Tanis & Cory Liebreich
- The Thomas Tender Hearts – Pam & Cam Thomas
- Trac Engine Service Ltd.
- The Walline Team – Sterling Real Estate

We also want to thank:

- Emcee Rob Christie from "Rob & Audie in the Morning" at 96.3 Capital-FM

## Scenes from Canines & Cocktails 2012



Paula Bisell with storm trooper friend



Julie Bayliss and Mooch



Katrina Jackson and Billy Martin



Jamie, Sylvia, Shawn and Paula



Katrina and Liesje Sarnecki



Terra MacLean and Big Jimmy

## More Canines & Cocktails 2012

- Auctioneers Gary Hanna & Ted Power
- Drew & Greg Mace of Instabox (for the truck loan)
- The 501st Legion STAR WARS Characters
- Rob Gray (Classical Guitar)

And of course, thank you to all our volunteers and everyone who donated items for our auction. Check out all the pictures on our website and Facebook sites.



Jan and Terry Pysyk



Sylvia Christiansen and Paula Bissell



Lara Onyskiw, Chris Sanderson, Colleen Good and Robert Stumbar



Neva Waselenchuk and Terra MacLean

## Look At Us Now—Eliza's Story



The SCARS website has a section called "Look At Us Now" which features happy ending stories about adopted animals. The following is one of those stories.

In the spring of 2009, SCARS President, Sylvia Christiansen, was contacted by a woman living in a northern community who wanted to surrender six puppies that were living under her garden shed. We accompanied Sylvia and were told that there was a seventh puppy... but it had been given to the neighbour. The pups weren't yet weaned so their very young mom was running back and forth between both properties to feed her babies! It took two hours but we finally coaxed the pups out from under the shed. The owner then told us, "You might as well take the mother, too!" Sadly, we failed to convince the neighbour to return the seventh puppy to its mom and littermates. The small family spent the first night of their "new life" with us before going to their foster home the next day. We bathed this young mom whose sides were caked with cow and horse manure. The antithesis of My Fair Lady's heroine, Eliza Doolittle, this little lady enjoyed the bath and then returned

to snuggle with her litter. Time passed. The pups were adopted when they were weaned and we adopted their mom and named her "Eliza." She'd captured our hearts when we first met her and saw her dedication to all seven of her pups. Despite that stressful situation, she was friendly and accepting of attention. Eliza appears to be a Border Collie mix. We believe that she suffered from neglect—but, thankfully, her spirit wasn't destroyed. With loving care she has truly blossomed and is now a bundle of personality plus! Her easygoing, friendly demeanour inspires people to approach her so she's an ideal pup to represent SCARS when we are invited to visit schools and other venues. Curious and intelligent, Eliza loves to explore when we're at the off leash park. She has a happy, bouncy disposition and enjoys making new friends—four-legged and two-legged. Without a doubt Eliza is a special part of our family! — SCARS volunteers, Laurel and Mike Cunnington



## Racing Family Supports SCARS

Brant family racing is a nostalgia alcohol funny car team that was only a dream in 2009. Car owner's Edna and David Brant with son Jordan (then only 13 years old) decided to pursue a dream of David's and, with no prior experience, jumped in with both feet and the search was on to find a car that would suit their needs. After a long search and many disappointments they had a chassis built from long time NHRA racer and fellow Canadian Larry Dobbs. The car was built with many of Larry's used parts as the family had a budget that needed to be followed as they had no sponsors. In 2010 the car was ready but the build was delayed. The new race car owners never got a chance to take it fully down the track so they brought the car home to Fort McMurray. The family, including Jordan, totally stripped the entire car and went through it with a fine tooth comb. Dave said without Jordan's help none of this would have been easy! The Brant's were fortunate that a few old friends decided to help them out and become crew members. After the long 2010 winter came the summer of 2011 and the Brant's haven't looked back! They have had outstanding showings in every event they go to. When asked about some of

the stickers on the car, both Edna and Dave are quick to credit all of the hard work of their crew and if it wasn't for the fans and sponsors

then they wouldn't be able to race. We asked Dave about the SCARS decal on the car. He pointed to the decal below it which reads BlackPaws and said "It's people like Susanne and Stu [who volunteer for SCARS] that are heroes as well as everyone else that is associated with SCARS. The family is a huge lover of dogs, and all animals, and appreciates immensely what SCARS is doing. Their second dream is to one day live on an acreage and be able to foster some dogs and help in that sort of way. But for now the SCARS decal will always have a place on their race car.

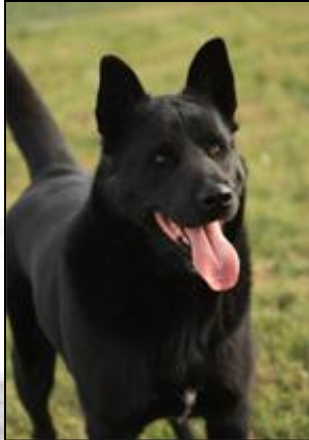


## Adorable and Adoptable

**H**ere are a few examples of adoptable pets. To see more, visit [www.scarscare.org](http://www.scarscare.org). There are approximately 200 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.



Justice is a 4-year-old female terrier cross



Big Jimmy is a 5-year-old male lab cross



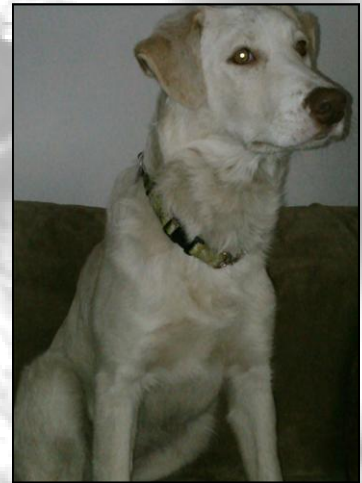
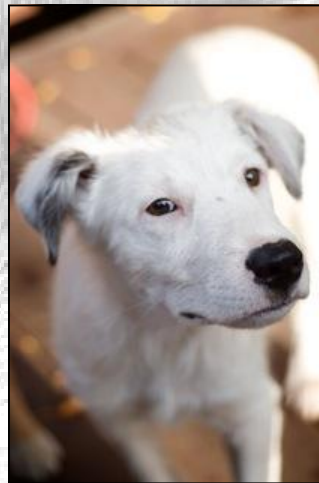
Bronson is a 1-yr-old male boxer lab mix



Springer is a 7-month-old female greyhound/husky/shep mix

### **SCARS Needs Foster Homes!**

Please consider fostering for SCARS. As a foster home, you will provide temporary care for an animal until we can find it a suitable permanent home. Becoming a foster home is easy and there is absolutely no cost or long-term obligation. Foster homes are vital to our success. Simply put, they save lives. Sadly, every day in Alberta there are hundreds of dogs waiting to be rescued. Our goal is to make the fostering experience as enjoyable as possible for you and your family.



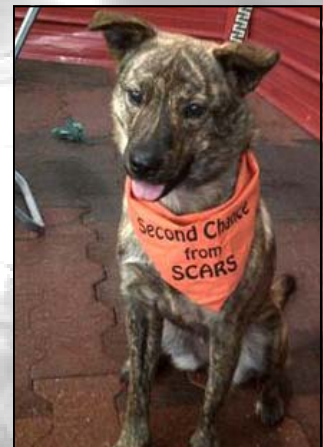
Poe (male) & Gwynn (female) are 7-month-old mixed breed pups from the same litter



Taffy is a 3-year-old female collie cross



Zaz is a 6-month-old female



Hazel is a 6-month-old female mixed breed

## Ask the Emergency Veterinarian

### How Do I Keep My Pet Safe in Winter?

It's very important as the temperatures dip, that all pet owners take some basic precautions for keeping their four-legged friends safe. SCARS asked Edmonton Veterinary Emergency Clinic's Dr. Chris Sauvé to provide some helpful winter weather advice to pet-owners.

1. **What are some important tips to care for my pet in winter weather?** The winter season presents many unique challenges to pets and their owners. Some of the obvious challenges are navigating the subzero temperatures and snow. Ensure that your pets have appropriate shelter and adequate water available. A heated water source is ideal for outdoor animals.
2. **What about Christmas?** With the winter months comes the holiday season. You should always avoid the temptation to feed "people food" to your pets. Also, take some time to research which indoor house plants are toxic. The big two at Christmas are poinsettias and lilies. Many of these seasonal plants are toxic, so just avoid these hazards by using artificial substitutes. Finally, be careful when filling your car coolant. Ingestion of anti-freeze from spilled or leaking coolant is an extremely serious issue for pets and requires immediate emergency attention.
3. **What should I do if my pet eats something toxic?** If your animal is symptomatic—or is demonstrating signs of toxicity—such as vomiting, diarrhea, no appetite, behavior change, go to your emergency veterinarian as soon as possible. If you are not sure about whether something is toxic, call the Animal Poison Control Center (1-888-426-4435) for information and a recommendation on what to do.

4. **If I find an injured animal, what should I do?** If you find an injured animal, your best option is to call your local veterinarian for recommendations before acting. Certain areas of Alberta have organizations and trained personnel that help pick up these animals. Injured animals in the Edmonton-area can be brought to Edmonton Veterinarian's Emergency Clinic for care, if the City of Edmonton's Animal Control Centre is closed. EVEC is the only animal clinic in Edmonton that accepts stray animals after-hours for transfer to Animal Control.
5. **How do I know if my pet is experiencing a health emergency?** When do I know it's serious? This is a difficult question to answer because sometimes the signs are less obvious. The first rule is that if your pet is displaying trauma-symptoms, bleeding, difficulty breathing, seizures, toxin ingestion, vomiting and diarrhea, then immediate treatment is required. Do not wait until morning, EVEC is open 24/7 for emergency cases. There are less apparent signs that often cause pet owners to worry. Signs like lethargy, low appetite or the classic "ain't doing right" behavior changes. My recommendation is that you seek veterinary attention the moment you recognize a problem. Many serious health issues initiate as mild, non-specific signs but they can escalate very quickly. Addressing a problem early can be crucial to your pet's health and sometimes their life!

Have a safe, fun holiday season!

Dr. Christopher Sauvé DVM  
Edmonton Veterinarians' Emergency Clinic  
*EVEC is open 24/7, 365 days of the year for pet emergencies. EVEC is located at 11104-102 Ave and can be reached at 780-433-9505, or visit their website at [www.edmontonvetemergency.ca](http://www.edmontonvetemergency.ca).*

## \$5,000 Prize from Cenovus Energy Inc.

Thanks to the writing talents of a dedicated supporter, SCARS has become a lucky winner in the Cenovus Great Communities Contest. In the spirit of corporate social responsibility, Cenovus is giving back to charities in the communities where it operates. Paula Bissell's winning entry which describes Wabasca as being a community "...packed full of personality and people who think outside the box," SCARS was able to qualify for a \$5,000 prize. Paula and Dobie are shown right accepting the cheque from Gary Tebb, Superintendent of the Cenovus Pelican Lake facility. Check out this contest on the Cenovus website: [www.cenovus.com/responsibility/cenovus-great-communities-contest/winning-entries.html](http://www.cenovus.com/responsibility/cenovus-great-communities-contest/winning-entries.html)



## Rescue Stories

During the first 11 months of 2012, SCARS has rescued 675 companion animals and found homes for 690. 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 [www.scarscare.org](http://www.scarscare.org) for updates on these and other animals.

### Jack's Story

**M**y name is Jack and my story is a very sad one. In early August 2012, I was surrendered to the Edmonton Veterinary Emergency Vet Clinic after I was attacked by a pack of dogs near a northern town. My owners had a female dog in heat and I tried so hard to protect her from the packs of unaltered male dogs but I just couldn't do it and I was beaten up very badly. After all, I am nine years old and just not as strong as I used to be. The vet quickly discovered that my gaping, open wounds were crawling with maggots and it took them an hour and a half to get them all out. My wounds were so large that they could not be closed right away so I had to wait to have surgery. My head wounds were very messy and one of my ears had been bitten right through. Ouch!



After all my wounds were mended, I went to my SCARS foster home to recover and experience a whole lot of tender loving care. My foster mom anxiously awaited my arrival because she was so excited to show me what a loving home is all about. Once I got to my foster home, I was pretty unsure about a lot of things, but one thing I knew right way was that I love people and I love to be rubbed and scratched. I get along with other dogs and I don't even mind cats! I hope I find my forever home soon. My foster mom says I deserve nothing but the best.



### Sting's Story

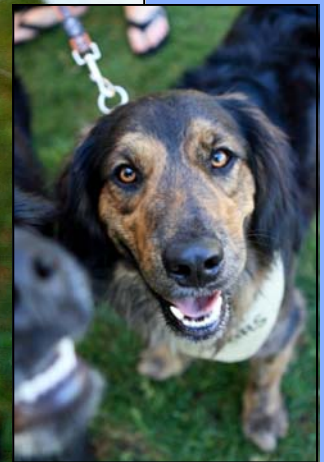
My name is Sting and in November 2012 I was badly hurt. Someone called the Alberta Spay Neuter Task Force about me and they called SCARS. The connection to the ASNTF is that I had been neutered during the spay neuter clinic that was held at Wabasca during September 2012. My story is that I was hit by a car and, at first, no one helped me. Finally, a kind person in the community recognized me and made a phone call that saved my life. When SCARS found me, I couldn't move and it was obvious that I had been there for days in the freezing cold. SCARS rushed me to the Westlock Veterinary Centre where it was discovered I had a badly fractured femur in my rear leg that was going to require plating. My other rear leg was dislocated as well. Many thanks to Dr. Trevor Jackson for the marathon four-hour surgery to pin and plate my femur back together. It was a difficult surgery on a bad break. I am a very gentle and loveable little dog and SCARS is so happy that someone took the time to make that call.

## Tails on the Trails Pawsathon 2012

**T**hank you to all dedicated SCARS' volunteers, supporters and sponsors who made our 8th Annual Tails on the Trails Pawsathon a tremendous success. This year's event was held on July 7th at Lion's Park in St. Albert and raised close to \$20,000. Tails on the Trails is an annual event open to anyone who wants to show their support for animal rescue by collecting pledges and then participating in our dog walk. This event includes a full day of family activities to support and celebrate animal rescue. It is also a chance for our volunteers to reconnect with the loving families that have adopted from SCARS. For our volunteers, there is no greater joy than seeing how much happiness our rescued animals have brought into people's lives. Here are some of the event highlights.

Congratulations to Darrell Tomusiak for collecting over \$1,250 in pledges and winning the grand prize—an iPad Wi-Fi 3G 16GB Black. Second prize of a Blue iPod Nano with blue wrist watchband went to a charming nine-year-old girl named Cassidy Purshega who managed to collect over \$1,000 in just four days. Both prizes were generously donated by Instabox. All pledge participants received a free gift bag and those who raised \$100 or more received a Tails on the

Tails T-shirt or SCARS market bag, and those who raised \$500 or more got a Tails on the Trails hoodie. After a pleasant 45-minute stroll along the scenic Sturgeon River Valley, participants browsed through SCARS merchandise, bid on silent auction items, checked out adoptable animals, watched the Bark'n Mad fly ball demonstrations, visited with vendors, enjoyed the Northern Lights Concession stand (who donated .50 of every transaction to SCARS) and they enjoyed the beer garden which featured Alley Kat beer. We would not have survived the heat if not for the ice donated by Columbia Ice. Kids enjoyed games & prizes with their pets and had a great time in the bounce house generously donated by Primaris Management Inc.—St Albert Centre. We are thrilled that nine adoptable SCARS dogs found their forever home as a result of this event: Caeli,





Apricot/Meecha, Sweet Marie, Malibu, Navy, Periwinkle, Powder, Sky and Peanut. The walk was supported again this year by the SCARS rescue pack—some previously rescued dogs who came together to show their support for SCARS. Together, they raised \$290 through online donations.

This year, we again featured free live music. Spotlight Studios provided the sound equipment and their students volunteered their time to sing. We are so grateful to these individuals for lending their time and talent in support of animals in need. Their enthusiasm made the day even more fun and festive. We are also very grateful to the vendors and demonstrators who showcased their products and talent. Thank you to:

- Edmonton Veterinarian's Emergency Clinic (Dr. Brent Jackson and Wilma Jackson were on site in case Pet First Aid was needed)
- Animal Cancer Therapy Subsidization Society
- Dreamcatcher Nature-Assisted Therapy Association
- Paradise Pet Centre, St. Albert
- Sadie's K9 Stay and Play
- St. Albert Centre Shopping Mall
- The Pet Therapy Society
- Scentsy (by Jackie Rose)
- Purple Sash Boutique
- DogFIT
- Fido Boom
- Boo's Boutique
- Avon (by Sara)
- Bark'N Mad Flyball Team

A special thank you goes out to the St. Albert Fire Department for filling the wading pools for the dogs. Thank you to Enterprise Car Rental for building a Corporate Volunteer Team to help out with this event. We truly needed their support and we are very grateful for their help. And, of course, the event could not happen without the tireless organizers and the volunteers who assisted with silent auction, bake sale, jumpy house, greeters, registration, set up and tear down, beer gardens, and face painting, games, adoptions, and so forth. The bake sale team alone raised over \$1,000. As well, we sincerely thank all of our generous sponsors. Official sponsors and supporters:

- Barking Beer Gardens: Alley Kat Brewing Company & Apollo Machine and Welding Ltd. and Columbia Ice.
- Pawsathon Prizes: Instabox Alberta Inc.
- Playful Puppy Kids Zone: Primaris Management Inc.—St Albert Centre

And thank you to Global TV Edmonton, the St. Albert Gazette and Lite 95.7—Edmonton's Lite Favourites for their support. We hope to see everyone again next year!



# Donation Thank You

## Sharing the Bliss

Thank you to Melissa and Jeff who requested donations to help animals as part of the wedding celebration. They collected over \$2,000 for SCARS and we are truly grateful. We wish this kind and generous couple the very best for a long and happy future together.



## Training Pad Futures

When sharing the news about a recent donation, SCARS donation coordinator Julie Bayliss joked, "When the newspapers



all go online, I'll become a millionaire selling training pads to ALL the people with puppies!" A load of puppy pee pads was recently donated to SCARS by Eden Textiles. There are about 16,000. Wow! Thank you Eden Textiles! The value of these pads is approximately \$10,800. We are truly grateful for the generosity of local companies like Eden Textiles.

## Marketplace Animal Hospital

On August 26, Dr. Kumar and his staff at Marketplace Animal Hospital hosted their second annual open house with SCARS once again being the recipient of the funds generated at the event. On behalf of SCARS, Mike Cunnington accepted the \$500 cheque from Dr. Kumar. This generous gift represents the proceeds from raffle ticket sales and general donations given by people who dropped by and wanted to support SCARS.



## SCARS Store

**T**he 2013 SCARS Calendars are now available! These popular and conveniently sized calendars are great gifts and a fantastic way to support the rescues at SCARS. Due to the generosity of our calendar sponsors, all proceeds from calendar sales go directly to support our rescue efforts! Calendars are \$10 each. They can be purchased online or at select locations. See our website for more details. There are many other items to purchase such as t-shirts, hoodies, ball caps, leashes, totes, lunch bags, Gift from the Heart and much more! Go to [www.scarscare.org](http://www.scarscare.org) and select *How you can*



## Dog Swim Fundraiser at Grosvenor Pool

The dog swim fundraiser on September 3, 2012 at Grosvenor Pool in St. Albert was a huge success. The event raised \$1,912 for SCARS and there were enough donations to fill the car trunks of two SCARS volunteers with a couple of donated dog crates to spare!

The event was covered by four news crews and two local newspapers. There were approximately 250 dogs and even more people. It was like a mini dog park!! SCARS is truly grateful to the staff of the Grosvenor pool. There is talk of making this an annual event. If you think that's a great idea, please let the good folks at Grosvenor pool know.

We hope to see you there next year!



## What We Do and How to Help

**S**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. Since 2002, SCARS has rescued, rehabilitated and rehomed thousands of companion 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, grants, 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 ways you can help:

**Donate or sponsor**—our veterinary 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 need 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 animals' lives.

**Adopt an animal**—provide a needy animal with a loving, permanent home. To see pictures of adoptable animals, visit [www.scarscare.org](http://www.scarscare.org).

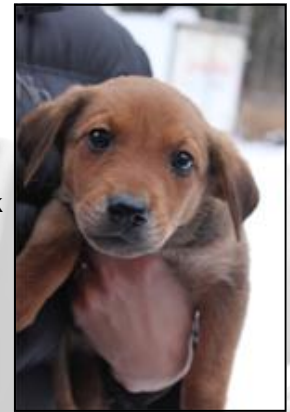
**Please be a responsible pet owner**—spay or neuter, microchip and vaccinate your pets! And remember, all pets need food, water, shelter, healthcare, exercise, love and attention.

**Buy our merchandise**—purchase SCARS calendars, clothing, totes, leashes, lunch bags, or one of our “Gifts from the Heart” certificates. Visit our website for more information.

Please watch us on Global TV Edmonton every Saturday morning at 9:50 a.m., subscribe to our e-Newsletter at [www.scarscare.org](http://www.scarscare.org), and follow us on Facebook and Twitter. We welcome feedback or suggestions for this newsletter, please contact:

**Second Chance Animal Rescue Society**  
**Box 3045**  
**Athabasca, AB T9S 2B9**

[www.scarscare.org](http://www.scarscare.org)  
 780.466.SCAR (7227)  
[scars@scarscare.org](mailto:scars@scarscare.org)



Datona says,  
 “Thanks for helping us dogs!”

## Please support

Please support our participating vet clinics. Look for them on our website under adoptions/participating vets. SCARS is very grateful for EVEC's support with emergency care and Guardian's support with specialty surgeries. For pet emergencies in the Edmonton area, trust:



11104 - 102 Avenue, Edmonton | 780.433.9505



5620 - 99th Street, Edmonton | 780.436.5880



Please support Champion Petfoods for their generous and ongoing donations of quality pet foods

