



Second Chance!

animal rescue society

Second Chance Animal Rescue Society Members' Newsletter—June 2012

Georgia and the Evolution of Rescue

My name is Georgia and they say I am a heroine. For me it was literally a life or death situation, but the reason I was rescued is what truly sets my story apart. Although my situation was not unusual, I am not just another rescue. You see, I became a SCARS dog—along with my seven one-week-old puppies (Chapman, Sebastian, Kimi, Nico, Button, Schumaker and Senna)—during a very special event. We were rescued at the Alberta Spay Neuter Task Force April 2012 spay and neuter clinic at Hobbema. This clinic represents a new approach to animal welfare, a collaborative solution-based approach. One that, once more widely adopted, will lead to a better life for all of us dogs and cats, and for the people we live among.

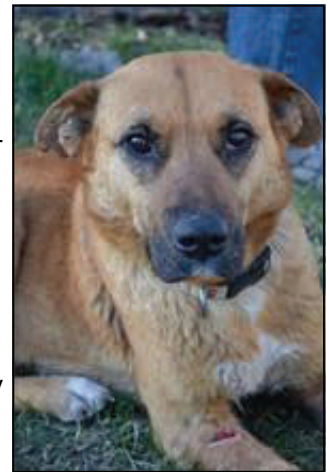
First, a bit about me

My story begins with a very kind SCARS volunteer driving out to the Hobbema clinic to give my pups and I a ride to our new foster home. I had some very bad wounds on my legs and was also suffering from mastitis which made it painful to nurse my pups. So instead of a trip to foster home, she rushed me to the Guardian Veterinary Centre in Edmonton. I needed emergency care and I could no longer feed my babies. My puppies were weak but they were able to go to a loving foster home where they had to be bottle fed every few hours. We were very lucky that SCARS took us, likely none of us would have survived a day or two more. SCARS doesn't usually get to know much about a dog prior to its rescue, but the local residents were able to share my story with the round-up crew who found us. My sad story has a happy ending thanks to them.

Now comes the "life or death" part of my story

Like a lot of rural strays, I took up residence in someone's yard. Being companion animals, we dogs seek out the company of people in the hope they will help us. This yard, however, was frequented by a pack of large, hungry, unneutered male dogs — dogs that are also strays and were also struggling to survive. When my birthing time was near, I managed to find a shel-

tered place to have my pups. I didn't realize, however, that the doghouse where I whelped would now become my prison. The hungry pack staked out my shabby home, waiting for a weak moment, waiting for me to drop my vigilant watch over my babies. These particular dogs were known to have killed other dogs in the past, and they were patiently waiting for their chance to attack my puppies. My front legs and face were lacerated, bitten to the bone and infected, giving testament to my fierce devotion to my family. I fought and I suffered for at least a week, protecting my babies, slowly giving them all of my body's resources. I was slowly losing strength in the hopes that some of my pups would survive. I had no food or water except for snow or puddles that may have been right outside the doghouse. I couldn't forage for food. I couldn't look for water. If I had left for any reason, the watching pack would have soon devoured my pups. In



Georgia

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my weakened state, I likely would have fallen prey to the other dogs as well. Luckily, it was the ASNTF Hobbema Spay Neuter Clinic weekend. Despite an unexpected snowfall which made the event more challenging, my saviours were on their way. My pups and I were lovingly transported to the high school gym where the event was taking place. They made me comfortable until I could be transferred into foster care. The male dogs that attacked me needed help as much as I did. As many as possible of these large, unneutered males were rounded up as well. Often the volunteers would use humane traps to catch these frightened dogs that had never before experienced human kindness. During the weekend, 195 dogs and cats were spayed or neutered, vaccinated, tattooed, and treated for parasites, and 144 were transferred to rescue groups. SCARS took 28.

The start of real change

These clinics take place at the invitation of First Nation communities and are privately funded through

several sources including the community. They are completely volunteer-operated and volunteers include those with no previous experience right up to those with specialized skills including veterinarians and AHTs. The volunteers work really hard and many form lasting friendships. This was the second event at Hobbema and the ASNTF will return to this community again in late July 2012. Their goal is to achieve what is known as the 70% solution. For more about how these clinics work, see below.

SCARS believes all dogs deserve a second chance. Even the larger male dogs—once neutered and given proper care and training—can become incredibly loving, loyal pets. Before any dog can be adopted, SCARS assesses it and gives it the time and care it needs to rehabilitate. For dogs like me who are sweet and gentle, it takes very little time and for others it can take a lot. SCARS will do whatever it takes to help us dogs.

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Buddy says,
 “responsible pet
 owners spay and
 neuter.”



Wabasca Spay and Neuter Clinics

SCARS is thrilled that the Alberta Spay Neuter Task Force is holding another high volume dog spay and neuter clinic in Wabasca from June 22 to 24, and another clinic is planned for late September. The clinics are sponsored by the Bigstone Cree First Nation and the M.D. of Opportunity, and strongly supported by SCARS volunteers. The first of these clinics was held at Wabasca during late October 2011. By the end of that 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 volunteers will be on hand to ensure the upcoming events are successful. **Lots of volunteers are needed, if you would like to help, please contact taskforce@telus.net.** Here is an explanation of how the clinics work from www.abtaskforce.org:

The important guidelines for a spay/neuter program are:

- Provide access to affordable surgeries to a population that would not otherwise afford to sterilize their pet
- Target one area that has pet overpopulation problems to provide sterilizations
- Sterilize at least 70% of the selected population within one breeding cycle to stabilize that population
- Sterilize the same population further to achieve a decline in that population while starting to sterilize at least 70% of the next targeted area to stabilize that population

How It Works: In the 1200s Leonardo Fibonacci created a formula (70%) that is still used by many scientists, including the World Health Organization and the Centers for Disease Control. It states that 70% of a population must be vaccinated in order to prevent an epidemic of a contagious disease. In a pet overpopulation article, Dr. Marvin Mackie proposes that “pet sterilization is ‘vaccinating’ against the disease of overpopulation.” With the remaining 30% of the population, births occur at a rate only great enough to replace normal attrition. Pet overpopulation grows exponentially in relation to the unsterilized population (1 male and female cat and their offspring can produce 420,000 cats in 7 years; 1 male and 1 female dog and offspring can produce 67,000 dogs in 6 years). To reach the 70% solution, the ASNTF holds grass roots, large volume, high quality spay/neuter events in First Nation communities. We provide licensed veterinarians and Animal Health Technicians and the surgery equipment to do so. The events, in themselves, are educational because they include the community members and are held in a gymnasium or any other facility the community can provide.

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This is not just about dogs and cats

Animal rescue is not just about helping dogs and cats. It is about responsible pet care education and making communities healthier and safer (especially for children). You might be wondering why these problems are allowed to start in the first place. Why didn't local people do something? The answer is that these problems are more complex than they appear. Imagine for a moment what it might be like to live in a community where there are many free roaming dogs that are not spayed or neutered. Imagine that they show up regularly on your doorstep. Would you have the time and money to care for them all or for any of them? Imagine that vet services either aren't available or you don't have the resources to drive to them or to pay for them. Imagine that the pet population is large and that many people feel powerless to do anything about it. Imagine that many people are very fearful of these animals. Imagine that other residents love and understand animals and try to help them, but they simply don't have the resources they need to create lasting change — so the cycle perpetuates. Dogs have puppies, most of them die, but enough of them live just long enough to have more puppies, and so on. The people in these communities do not like the situation or want it to continue. The community has simply become overwhelmed. Now imagine being a child growing up in that community. Imagine witnessing animal suffering as a normal part of your life. I don't want you to imagine a child being injured. Like SCARS, I bet you would like to help.

Imagine, finally, that a solution to this problem has been found. Change is beginning to happen in Alberta thanks to the Alberta Spay Neuter Task Force in partnership with the Alberta Veterinary Medical Association, and animal rescue organizations (such as SCARS), along with SPCAs and shelters. With your help, we dogs and cats won't have to suffer anymore. I like the sounds of that. It's not just a dream. We can actually make it happen. They say that Albertans have a pioneering spirit. I bet, together, you can accomplish anything!

There are thousands of animals like me out there RIGHT NOW struggling to survive in rural and urban communities across Alberta. There are abandoned animals in towns and cities too, not just in First Nation communities. Animal welfare organizations like SCARS want to put an end to animal suffering, but we need your help. You can make a difference by speaking up for these innocent animals. Please support animal rescue by volunteering, donating and adopting from rescue groups.

A happy ending to our story

My happy ending and that of my pups will be when SCARS finds us our forever homes. But imagine an Alberta 20 years from now where all communities value animals and they are never treated as disposable. That is a happy ending that is possible and worth pursuing! I think if you treat us animals with kindness, you will be kinder to each other too. Besides, if we dogs and cats are healthy and happy, then we can do our job which is to take care of you. That is what we were meant to do. I am Georgia. Thank you for reading my story and for giving me my second chance.



Julie Bayliss, Deb Kardash and Sylvia Christiansen at the Hobbema clinic on April 15, 2012

Look At Us Now



Hello Sylvia and fellow SCARS volunteers, I just wanted to send a quick note about how

Buka (formerly Floyd) is getting along. He's been with me since I adopted him back in August 2011.

He's doing great!!! He's such a playful puppy (although going on two years old this summer). Sometimes he doesn't know his own strength when playing with other

dogs (he gained eight pounds within the first three weeks in my care, topping out at around 85 pounds right now), but he sure does enjoy four-legged company. He's living with my cat Molsen and sometimes can give him a run for his money but I often find them within feet of each other at calmer times of the day.

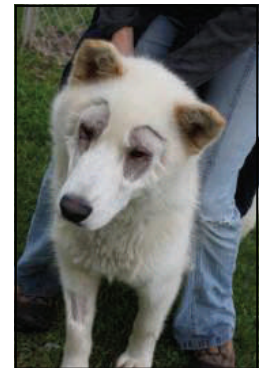
Buka accompanies me on my many snowboarding trips to Jasper and he just loves the outdoors – snow

seems to be his drug of choice!! He really enjoys swimming and loves beach days!! He loves playing fetch and is too smart for his own good. Teaching him to drop/give the ball and waiting till it's tossed before pouncing on it was actually a lot easier to teach him than I had anticipated.

He's a fantastic companion and I couldn't be happier with him. I thank you all for the tremendous hard work you put in to bring furry friend into families! Thanks again and cheers to all that you folks do for the animals! Pictures attached and please share my story with the rest of the world.

— Alana Jeffrey

Buka came to SCARS from the Wabasca pound in July 2011. He had severely infected eyes that required surgery. Thankfully, he recovered quickly and was adopted to a wonderful home. We are grateful to people like Alana for saving a life by choosing to support animal rescue!



As far as we can figure, Kobe's mom was Ember, who was surrendered at a northern Alberta pound with her puppies. We adopted **Kobe** in January 2012, and she now lives with us and our three other dogs on our acreage.

She is a healthy, happy, German Shepherd attitude filled dog. She has learned how to play a fast paced game of fetch, and very

much enjoys regular quad rides and long walks through the bush. She is quickly learning how to use her nose and a little bit of patience to track down a hidden tennis ball.

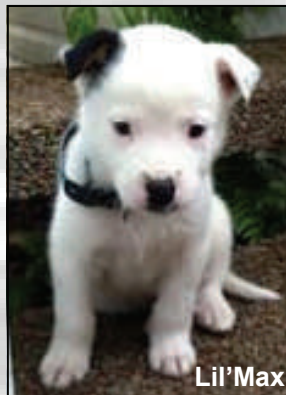
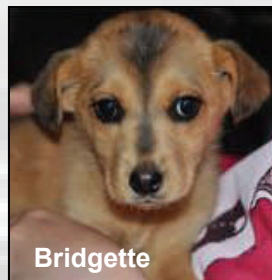
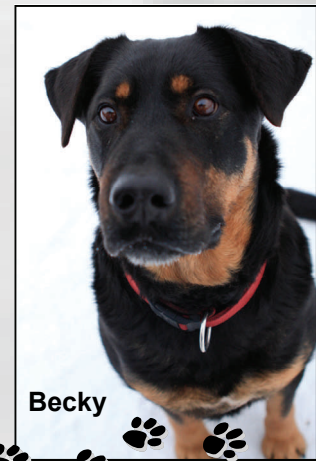
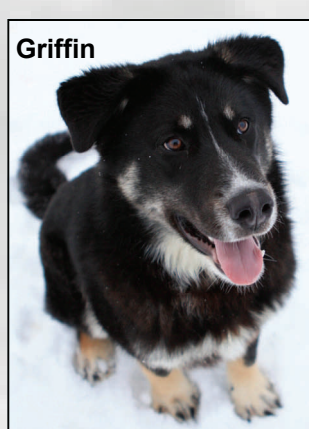
She is just an amazing dog, and fits into our family great. We can't wait for summer to take her swimming at the lake and camping trips all over the country. Thanks for everything you do to help these animals find loving, caring homes.

— Matt, Kelsey and Kobe



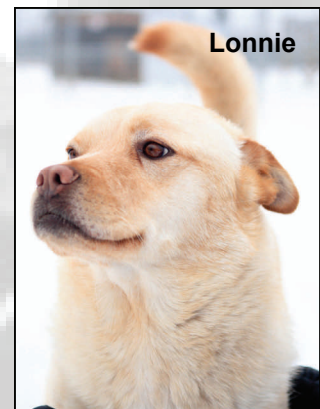
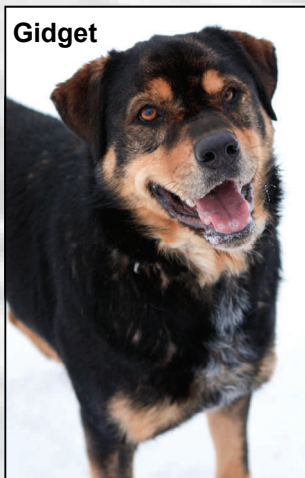
Adorable and Adoptable

Here are a few examples of adoptable pets. To see more, visit 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.



SCARS Needs Foster Homes!

Please consider fostering for SCARS. As a foster home, you 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.



Dogs and Cars—A Deadly Combination

SCARS wants all pets to be safe this summer. Most pet owners know about the dangers of leaving a pet unattended in a vehicle, but many still do not. Even when the weather feels moderate, it can turn deadly in a short time inside a vehicle. Here are some hot weather pet care tips from the Alberta SPCA. For more information, visit www.albertaspc.org:

On a hot day, the inside of a car can reach 51°C in as little as 10 minutes. In this time a dog can suffer irreparable cerebral damage or possibly death. Opening the windows, parking in the shade or providing water does not help alleviate the extreme temperatures that your dog will experience if left in your car. These measures are not enough to prevent heat exhaustion and eventually heat stroke in dogs after a very short period of time.

What are the symptoms of heat stroke? Possible symptoms of heat stroke include heavy panting, glazed eyes, dizziness, rapid pulse, excessive thirst, salivation, lack of appetite, weakness, muscle tremors, a deep red

or purple tongue, and vomiting.

What can you do if your dog exhibits symptoms of heat stroke? If your dog becomes overheated move him to the shade and apply cool (not cold) water all over his body to reduce body temperature. Apply ice packs or cold towels to his head, neck and chest. Ensure he drinks small amounts of cool water or licks ice cubes. Take your dog to a veterinary clinic right away.

What can you do if you see a distressed dog in a car? If the car is located in a mall parking lot contact mall security and they can page the owner of the vehicle. If the car is not in a parking lot your best bet is to contact the local RCMP or local SPCA or humane society so that they can promptly respond to the situation.

What else can you do? Spread the word! Sometimes people don't realize that something as seemingly harmless as leaving their pet in their car for "a few minutes" in the summer can be so dangerous. You could help to save the lives of many animals!

Napa Auto Parts Wabasca Fundraiser

On May 26, NAPA Auto Parts Wabasca hosted a huge BLOW OUT garage sale in support of SCARS. The event included a 50-50 raffle, BBQ, bottle drive and a bake sale. An amazing \$6,400 was raised. SCARS is very grateful to the extremely generous support of the Molloy family. We are especially grateful to Paula Bissell and Shawn Molloy who own and operate this community-minded business. In addition, Molloy's Welding and Construction owned by Shawn's parents, Pat and Susan Molloy, presented SCARS with a used Ford Excursion that will be used to transport rescued animals. To help the truck get ready for the long miles ahead, SL Ford donated detailing, First Windshield and Glass donated a new windshield, and Kal Tire donated a tire balance. SCARS is very grateful for the support of this community.



Above: cake by Christina Bissell; Centre: Shawn & Paula's daughter, Georgia Molloy; Top right: Mike Duplessis presents the truck to Sylvia. Bottom right: the amazing Napa Auto Parts team.

Rescue Stories

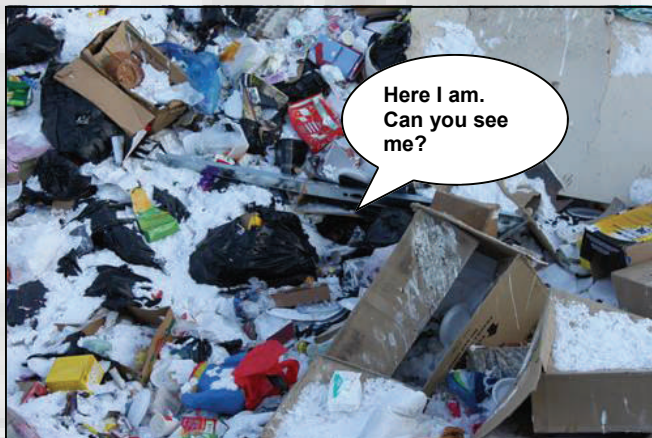
As of early June, SCARS had over 200 companion animals in its care and we have taken in 301 animals and found homes for 314. Here are some examples of animals that were recently saved from tremendous suffering. We often wonder who could be so cruel, but we take comfort in knowing there are so many caring people, like you, and that is why SCARS is able to exist. Visit www.scarscare.org for updates on these and other animals.



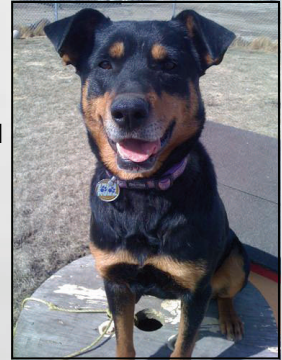
My name is Coral. I'm a very nice Rottweiler cross female that is about five years old. Although it's really hard to see, that is me peeking out in the very centre of the picture shown below. That is where I was living with my puppies. The workers at the dump needed to fill in the garbage pit, and lucky for me they called SCARS before they started up

the bulldozer. I'm a smart girl who knew how to hide my puppies so we were lucky that somebody noticed us before it was too late. I hid my puppies under an old chair but the garbage kept piling up so I was having a hard time getting in and out.

Thankfully two nice ladies starting digging through the garbage and moving it until, finally, they were able to move a mattress that was on top of the old chair that was on top of me! Phew! That was not even the really fun part. Then they had to crawl in to find my puppies which I had tucked away nicely. Finally all 10 of my babies were pulled out. I was so grateful to the SCARS volunteers who took me and my babies to a warm and safe place. Since my rescue in January, all of my pups have found their forever homes. Now it's my turn!



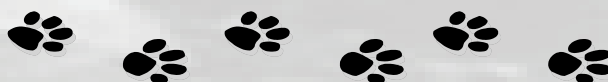
I am going to make some lucky family very happy. Apparently this will be my new purpose in life and I can't wait to start my new job. I'm so glad that I am no longer scared, alone and living in basic survival mode. I hope you can tell from my bright, new smile that I am more than ready to become someone's best friend!



Bazinga is my name, but you call me Bazz. My story is both inspiring and disturbing, a combination of despair and great hopefulness. I was found on Friday the 13th. I'm told that date, to some, can be a bad omen, but for me it was the beginning of my great new life. Several months ago I was wandering in my community and, for reasons I don't understand, someone shot me. My right hind leg was broken and the femur bone was left protruding from my body. I went without medical care and my leg, now useless, started to heal with the bones still exposed. Unknown to me, SCARS volunteers came to my community for a spay and neuter clinic with the Alberta Spay Neuter Task Force in mid April. That, my good friends, is when my luck began to change.



My leg had to be amputated but I'm doing great and having only three legs won't impact my quality of life. I am recovering nicely and recently found my forever home. They are going to train me to become a therapy dog. From now on, life is going to be good! Thanks SCARS!



Pawsitively Precious Art & Collectibles Auction

SCARS, the Pet Therapy Society of Northern Alberta and Little Cats Lost (Trap-Neuter-Return) Society presented the Pawsitively Precious Art & Collectible Auction on April 27 at The Palace Banquet & Conference Centre in Edmonton.

Over 250 supporters enjoyed a lovely evening of delicious food, good company and a silent auction of amazing art items with 100% of the proceeds being shared between the three not-for-profit organizations. There was original and new artwork as well as a variety of art and sports collectibles.

Thank you to Rob Gray of Jasper, Alberta for volunteering to play classical guitar during the evening. He added a wonderful mood with his renditions of the Beatles and old Jazz from WWII.

Thank you to the talented students of Laurel Cunningham's Grade 2 class at St. Francis of Assisi School for creating some very special art that was used as the centre pieces on the Gala tables (see example below). A special thank you to BlackPaws Pet Resort for the pet toys provided to guests, The Walline Team for providing goodie bags, and the Pal-

ace staff/family for a wonderful evening. We are also very grateful to the businesses and individuals who supported this event by hosting a table. They are:

- Activate Exercise Therapy
- Alberta Safety Compliance Limited
- Boo's Boutique
- Citadel Care Centre
- Hearthstone Property Management
- Instabox
- Karen Bentley
- Marsha Johnston
- Mobile Augers & Research (2 tables)
- NAPA Auto Parts Wabasca
- New Paradigm Engineering Ltd.
- Pet Rescue Magazine
- Plaizier's Auto Service
- PreFurred Pet Care
- Priority Printing Ltd.
- Ron Dickson & Associates
- Shawn Molloy & Paula Bissell
- The Thomas Tender Hearts (2 tables)
- The Walline Team
- Three Little Cats Found
- Wood & Energy Store



Scenes from the Pawsitively Precious Art & Collectibles Auction on April 27, 2012

Student Fundraisers for Animal Rescue



Above: Brad Kaminsky presents a cheque to SCARS;
Below: Brad talks about SCARS to over 200 student leaders



M.E. Lazerte Penny Drive for SCARS

SCARS was thrilled to accept a donation of \$4,000.50 from the students and staff of M.E. Lazerte High School in Edmonton. For the past three years, they have organized an annual penny drive for SCARS. Students donate their own money and they collect donations from parents and the business community. It goes to show that pennies can really add up and the efforts of individuals, like these caring students, can and do make a huge difference in our community. Brad Kaminsky, a teacher at M.E. Lazerte, presented SCARS' volunteers Troy and Lori Trudgeon and SCARS' dog Gabby with a cheque on June 2 as part of the Alberta Student Leadership Conference 2012. It was an amazing opportunity for SCARS to thank the students and talk about animal rescue with the future leaders of Alberta. We are inspired by the enthusiasm and compassion of these students.

Amiskwaciy Academy donates 12 dog houses to SCARS

On April 25, SCARS received a very special donation of 12 dog houses. The Amiskwaciy Academy wood-working class, with help from their socially-conscious teacher, built the dog houses so they could help animals that would otherwise go without shelter. We are touched by their generosity and very grateful for their support.

St. Basil's School Fundraiser for SCARS

The grade 7A students at St. Basil's Catholic school honoured SCARS by choosing us as the organization they sponsored for their Social Justice project. SCARS volunteers, Rhonda McDougall and Mike Cunnington accompanied by SCARS' dog Eliza, visited the group of polite, attentive students on March 14 to talk about animal rescue. The students collected donations for SCARS using money jars and they held a bake sale.



Dog Collars 101

By Vicki Stafford

Dog collars come in a variety of styles but not all collars are healthy or safe for all dogs. Choosing the right collar for your dog comes down to a little research about collars based on your dog's behaviour, breed, lifestyle and age. Collars can either be a lifesaver or can cause severe damage or even death if not used or applied properly. There are pros and cons for every type as no matter what type of collar you use, any piece of equipment that is used improperly can cause mental and physical damage. Various studies have been conducted about the damage that can be done just by pulling on a collar. Even though you can take the utmost safety and caution with any of these tools, accidents can and do happen. Here is some information about the different types of collars out there.

Flat Buckle or Rolled Collars — This is the most common and popular type of collar. They come in many attractive colours and prints that allow you to deck your dog out in style. This collar type allows you to easily apply identification tags and leash up quickly for that walk your dog so loves to go on. They are also quick and easy to put on or take off. The down side to this style of collar is that dogs in play can become entangled, panic and twist, which could result in choking the other dog. Although some people forgo any collar at all and use it only during a walk, it is preferable that your dog wear some clear means of identification.



Head Halters or Halties — This particular collar is more like a horse halter, only for your dog! Your dog needs to be desensitized to it and you shouldn't just put it on your dog and expect him to be happy about it — so training does take a little longer. Some trainers say that this shouldn't be used as an option and the dog should be taught properly how to walk on a leash from the beginning. True. But I'm one of those that tread in the grey and say "use it as a tool and temporary means or as you see fit." Seniors or people with physical disabilities may find using a head halter easier if they don't have the ability to use and apply a regular collar effectively. This is a good alternative for dogs that are reactive in certain situations as the handler can easily redirect the dog's head and remove them from the situation with little effort. Because where the head goes, the body will follow.

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Visit the SCARS Online Store

Help SCARS by purchasing our merchandise. There are many items to choose from including t-shirts, hoodies, ball caps, leashes, totes, lunch bags, Gift from the Heart and much more! Go to www.scarscare.org and select *How you can help > Store & Gift Shop*.



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Martingale or Non-slip Collars — Martingale collars look like a flat buckle collar but have a small chain or extra webbing at the top of them. When fitted properly, a dog is unable to pull back and slip out of his collar. You attach the leash to the loop in the chain but it does not tighten up like a choke chain, it only goes so far. In “Modern Training” this is the preferred collar to use while training your pet especially if the dog is young and has not learned to walk on a leash. This prevents a dog from pulling back as they like to do when first learning what the leash and collar is all about.

The Harness — The harness is like a collar but it goes around the chest and back area. It is an alternative to around the neck collars and is highly recommended for small breeds and dogs with flat faces. There are several different types of harness on the market. If you talk to sled dog mushers, they will tell you that the harnesses where the leash attaches to a loop on the back are the best because they allow the best pulling ability. That’s great if you want to teach your dog to pull! However, several experts in the dog training field will tell you a harness with a front clip on it is much better as when the dog starts to move too far ahead of you it automatically redirects the dog back to your side. Careful consideration should be given to how the harness is fitted to ensure that it does not hinder the dog’s natural gate or mobility.

Choke Chains — Due to the changing face of training that is moving towards positive methods, choke chains are slowly becoming a thing of the past. Although still widely used today, it requires a great deal of skill in order for this collar to be effective for training. Choke chains should not be used on certain breeds, especially ones with the flat faces, bulging eyes, or small necks. These types of collars require a strong correction at first to stop the dog doing what you don’t want him to do. Later on in training, less or lighter corrections are needed. If you choose to use a choke chain, it is advisable to consult with someone who is knowledgeable about the use of choke chains and the correct length you need to apply the correction. Most people do not put the choke chain on properly to begin with. It needs to form a “P” with the lower part of the “P” being on the same side as the handler.

Pinch Collars — Pinch collars are another traditionally used piece of equipment that is similar to the choke chain but doesn’t require as much strength to induce a correction. These types of collars can also be referred to as Prong Collars as they have metal spikes that stick out from the chain itself. It is sometimes thought of as safer than a choke chain because the owner tends to just let the dog pull which causes

discomfort and the dog corrects itself to relieve the pain. This type of collar (as well as choke chains) is not good to use if, for example, you have a dog that is leash reactive, fear aggressive or dog-to-dog aggressive. The pain that is caused from the correction could create an association with the other dog (or other trigger) thus creating more fear and anxiety behaviours.

E-Collars or Electric Collars — This highly controversial piece of equipment often causes quite the buzz on training boards and amongst trainers themselves. Some say it’s an end to a means and some say it’s just downright mean. It’s known through scientific studies that shock collars can actually increase anxiety and create more behaviour problems than you started with. If the handler’s timing is off and they set the collar off at the wrong time, the dog may have been standing there minding his own business and get zapped just for doing what he normally does. This can cause increased anxiety in the dog as he never knows when it is going to go off and he is just waiting for it to happen. Or the case of dog-to-dog, people-to-dog, or fear aggression, all known as triggers, the dog learns to associate the trigger with the shock of the collar which only makes matters worse. However, some people report that they see significant improvement with dogs that have the boundary type collars on and say the dog never leaves the yard... that is until the owner forgets to check the batteries and Fido goes on a walk about. I have personally seen more unfavourable results from these types of collars than I have seen good.

And that’s it, your crash course on canine collars. As owners, we all have responsibilities when it comes to our pets and choosing the right collar is one of them. We have to keep in mind that no one collar is right for every situation and that they should be regarded as tools or equipment. Bottom line, consider what you need the collar to do, enlist the help of someone who is knowledgeable about the equipment, and make sure it’s the right fit for you... I mean your dog!



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.

What We Do and How to Help

Second 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, rehabilitate and 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:



Join us at Tails on the Trails—our annual pledged dog walk is on July 7 at Lion’s Park in St. Albert. For more info, visit www.scarscare.org

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.

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 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, and follow us on Facebook and Twitter. We welcome feedback or suggestions for this newsletter, please contact:

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