

Second Chance!

animal rescue society



Second Chance Animal Rescue Society Members' Newsletter—Winter 2013-2014

Helping People and Pets in Rural Communities

Most people know that SCARS helps strays and saves pets from death row at rural pounds. But SCARS also visits rural communities where we accept owner surrenders, offer pet wellness support and provide spay-neuter-return for owned pets.

Our goal is to help families provide adequate care for their pets and reduce the pet overpopulation within communities. We do things like provide pet food, vaccinations, deworming, dog houses and straw, and pet care advice. On February 16, 2014, SCARS volunteers Terra MacLean and Sylvia Christiansen visited a community where we are working with the owner of a property who is trying to help a dozen stray dogs. To help animals, you usually need to build relationships with people. We appreciate the kindness of this man who feeds all the dogs in his yard even though most of them are not his own. Many of these dogs are fearful of human touch but at least they are not starving. We will continue to visit until all the dogs are helped with either spay-neuter-return or brought into care for rehoming.

This is the location where we found a young Rotti cross called Les. Les had been hit by a car and his leg badly broken. The injury looked and smelled like it happened a few days earlier and a bad infection had already set in. He will likely need his little leg amputated. Such a sad start to his short life. Along with Les we found Myo,

who was mom to three very tiny pups. She had given birth under a steel shelter with very little protection from the elements. We believe the pups were born on Valentine's day.

There were two males and a female. Mom and pups are now safe and warm in a foster home.

Catching strays often requires patience and skill, but there is also an element of daring and/or risk. To retrieve this family, Terra had to crawl under the shelter and place a leash on the anxious and protective mother dog. This dog likely had never experienced human touch much less the feel of a leash. This little mother was actually very good about the process. Despite her fear, she chose to trust. Terra managed to take the three pups while Sylvia kept mom as calm as possible using the leash.



(Continued on page 2)



In this issue

Dog house building program	2
Skippy and Nova's rescue story	3
Dog behaviour workshops / Ads & sponsorships	4
Adoptable, manageable or sanctuary	5
Look at us now / Tails on the Trails 2014	6
Adorable and Adoptable	7
Canines & Cocktails 2013-Night at the oSCARS	8
Sochi & Oscar / Dog handling workshops	10
February is spay/neuter month	11
What We Do and How to Help	12

Helping People and Pets (continued)

(continued from page 1)

This photo of Sylvia (right) shows the process of starting to slowly pull the mother dog out so she could join her puppies in the safety of our dog crate.

SCARS would appreciate donations in support of our ongoing rescue, spay-neuter-return, and community outreach to Alberta's rural communities. We believe we are making a positive impact both in reducing animal suffering and enhancing human health and safety. We cannot do what we do without the help of our wonderful supporters. Thank you.



Cupid



Prende



Eros

Dog House Building Program

SCARS volunteers Alyson Prince and her fiancé Kyle, with help from some of their friends took on a project to build dog houses for SCARS.

We think they did a fantastic job. Alyson is pictured right with a few of her finished products which she kindly delivered to our intake facility near Athabasca.



Ghost and Spirit

On February 4, Sylvia Christiansen & Julie and Ron Bayliss delivered some of the dog houses to grateful residents of Calling Lake. While they were there, they also brought Ghost and Spirit into care.



Julie & Ron



Alyson



Skippy and Nova's Rescue Story

Skippy is a two-year-old Australian cattle dog mix and Nova is a three-year-old, female Shepherd mix. They both love people and are looking forward to putting their dark days behind them. So far their lives have been spent outdoors on a chain having litter after litter of puppies. But in true dog nature, they forgot their past the minute they were given their freedom.

Nova loves to run and play, and bounce around and investigate everything. She has tons of fun now that she isn't dragging around 12 extra pounds of chain.

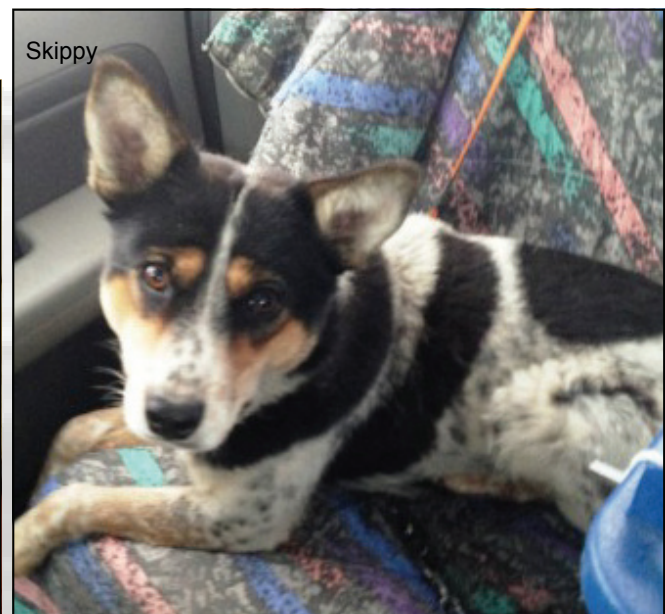
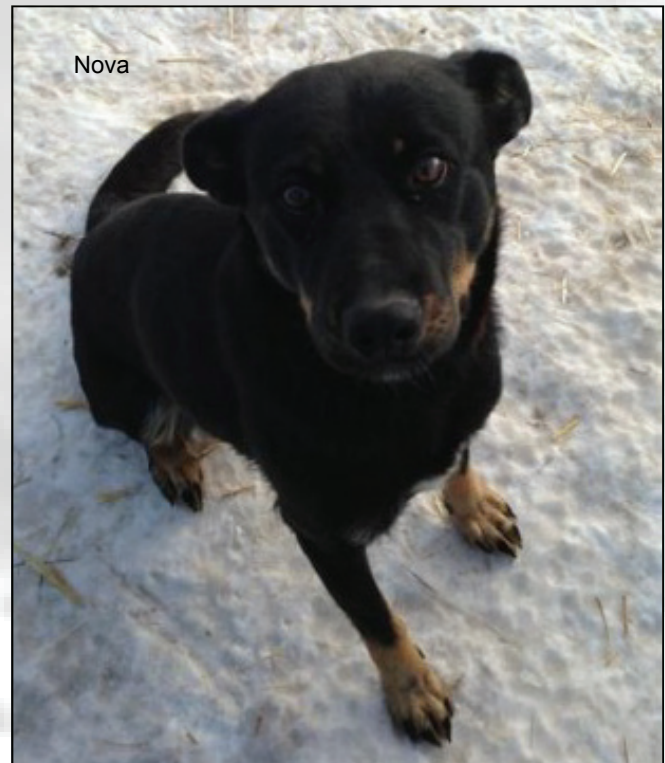
Skippy had an old injury (a broken leg) that healed poorly due to lack of vet care. And she has chain marks in her neck that are now healing. She lived on a chain for her entire life. It was six feet long and padlocked to her neck. Her owner lost the key a long time ago. When she was brought into SCARS care, we had to use bolt cutters to remove the chain and padlock. Although she hadn't been off the chain in over a year and this was the first time leaving her yard, she trusted the SCARS folks even when they brought out tools. It felt so good to be free from dragging that weight.

Skippy is 30 lbs and her chain weighed 12 lbs—almost half her body weight. To look at her, you would notice she is built a bit oddly. She developed big shoulders from carrying the chain and since her leg didn't heal properly, her muscles didn't develop properly in her hind end and hips. But the way she looks at it is, "who cares" I'm free now; I get to run and play and wrestle with dogs. Thank you SCARS! Nova was on her chain even longer than Skippy.

SCARS networks in communities, often going door-to-door, to offer help with pets and to share information on responsible pet ownership. By talking to people, we can often convince them to either improve conditions or surrender unwanted pets. Where we cannot help and an animal is in distress, we can involve organi-



zations like the Alberta SPCA. They have the authority to enforce the *Animal Protection Act* in Alberta. Often times, people in communities are the ones who approach SCARS for help. There are good people everywhere and we are grateful for that. Sadly, inhumane dog chaining is a problem that exists in many communities—rural and urban.



Dog Behaviour Workshops

SCARS is very grateful to Adam Kidd, Certified Master Trainer, with 780 Kennels for his ongoing support. Most recently, he gave a two-part educational session to our foster home volunteers. He provided tips and resources on everything from basic obedience to reading dog body language and safely introducing dogs. We collaborate with experts so our volunteers can provide rescued dogs with the experiences they need to transition into valued family pets. For more info about Adam, visit www.780kennels.com



Advertising and Sponsorship Opportunities

We recently launched "www.scarscare.ca." Our new website includes some exciting advertising opportunities for individuals and businesses in support of our rescue operations.

Sponsor a sanctuary animal – Sanctuary animals are rescues with special needs that are likely to stay with SCARS permanently. Some have medical conditions, like Maliha shown below, and others have very

strong personalities that are not readily conducive to adoption. SCARS is dedicated to giving these animals a life and home. In exchange for your support, your name or company logo appears on the animal's page.

Advertise on the pages of our adoptable animals – Our animal pages are visited roughly 30,000 times each month. Logos appear randomly (from the pool of advertisers) each time an animal page is clicked. For more information and pricing, visit www.scarscare.ca



Hi, I'm Ranger. Will you be my sponsor?



Sponsor a SCARS sanctuary animal or buy an ad on our adoptable animals page. Contact scars@scarscare.ca or visit our website for details!

Adoptable, Manageable or Sanctuary

By Terra MacLean

Manageable Animals

SCARS, like many rescues, recognizes that there are many types of dog personalities. It seems like such an obvious statement but it can be a very daunting task to find homes that appreciate all those personality traits. Thankfully, the majority of the dogs that come into our care are highly adoptable. These are the happy-go-lucky pooches that get along well with everything. Ultimately not all dogs see it the same way. They may have developed certain habits related to their previous environment or handling, their breed traits, or perhaps they—to put it plain and simple—have what we jokingly call “crotchety personalities.” No matter how they got the habit, sometimes their habits keep them from being “highly adoptable.” These dogs need to be “managed.” The habit could be as simple as the dog doesn’t introduce itself well to other dogs or as complex as fear of people. These are still great dogs that will thrive in the right environment. That is why SCARS adopted its Manageable Dog Program. The program is designed to create the right environment for the adopter and the dog. It includes hands on training and a consistent routine to follow so it’s easier for the dog to adapt to its new home and new person or family. A manageable dog is one who can be integrated into a home or family but it needs SPECIFIC supports in order to successfully transition from rehabilitation to adoption. We can’t all be perfect and eager to please all of the time and not every mutt has an award winning disposition, but every mutt has love and devotion to give. Some pets may be a little more work but they make up for it in other ways. The personal rewards of taking a journey of healing with one of these dogs are described by many as priceless.

Sanctuary Animals

SCARS is blessed with the job of taking in homeless animals and helping them find their forever homes. We have the pleasure of working with some dogs and cats who’s survival stories forever stain our hearts. These furry lost souls struggle to make their way in our human world and have suffered, often times, severe abuse and neglect. Sadly, trauma can sometimes makes these pets impossible to adopt for safety reasons (example, Ninja) or for health reasons (example, Maliha). They have come to rescue and have learned to thrive in their foster home, but another move would be an unrecoverable setback. These are the poor souls that belong to our sanctuary program. They remain in our care—some old and set in their ways like Miss Kitty, some young but will only



Above: Terra MacLean, SCARS Operations Manager, and Adam Kidd of 780 Kennels appeared on Global TV Edmonton News on Jan. 25/14 to talk about the SCARS manageable dog’s program. **Below:** Sanctuary dog, Ninja, is still looking for a sponsor.

trust one person like Goose. These dogs and cats don’t deserve to be turned away or put to death for choices they couldn’t control. They show love, they play and enjoy life but only in an environment that can fulfill their needs. Their fragile personalities cannot fulfill the physical bonding requirements that a typical family pet relishes providing to its family.



Sometimes bonding comes from sharing space and not from providing cuddles. Having been a sanctuary foster home for many years now, it still amazes me how I can see changes in a dog or cat years after I have started fostering it. They make it very clear they don’t need me. They do not correlate the fact that I provide them with food and love with anything. They look at it more so as they **let** me bring them food and **tolerate** my love. It’s these souls that I most admire when they give me that bow of the head or that moment when they come and sit beside me on their own. I know it sounds silly. Most dogs love unconditionally. They look to their person with love and hope of affection. Many sanctuary dogs look to me with an “oh frigg, she is going to touch me again with that filthy human appendage.” But there are days—few and far between—that while I am busy carrying on about my business (that happens to be looking after them) something magical happens. They will give me a subtle reminder that they accept me. And on really special days, in their own strange ways, they express that they love me. Those are the best days because I am reminded that I’m the lucky one, not them. Please consider sponsoring a sanctuary pet. For info, visit www.scarscare.ca/long-term-animals.

Look At Us Now

The SCARS website has a section called "Look At Me Now" which features happy ending stories. These stories are provided by the families who adopt from SCARS. Here are two examples.

Opie—In June 2013 we adopted a tiny orange kitten named Commander from you guys! We have changed his name to Opie. He is doing fantastic! He can be quite the little scamp sometimes but he always loves his cuddle time. We love him to pieces. He and his sister, Lylam, are best friends and are hardly ever seen apart.
-- Karen and Gage



Chica—I'm sorry it has taken me so long to drop you a line, but it seems like just yesterday that my Mom and Dad brought me home to my "forever home." I have been so busy going on horseback rides with Chewy (my fellow dog friend), going out to the farm and just hanging out with Mom, Dad, Chewy, my two horses and believe it or not, my three cats! I am so happy here especially when it is time for my daily belly rubs. I get lots of hugs and kisses and go for great adventures in the surrounding fields. Thank you SCARS for keeping me safe and sound until my forever family found me!



Tails on the Trails Pawsathon—June 7, 2014

Mark your calendar for our 10th anniversary Tails on the Trails Pawsathon that will take place on June 7, 2014 at Lion's Park in St. Albert.

This is an important fundraiser for SCARS and it attracts hundreds of participants. Bring your dog, bring your friends—everyone is welcome to this family friendly event that takes place rain or shine.

Collect pledges for our dog walk and you could win prizes. You can also show your support by donating online to the SCARS rescue pack. Come out and enjoy vendor displays, pet demonstrations and our adoption event. There will also be kids activities, music,



food and much more.

This event is also a chance for our volunteers to reconnect with the loving families that have adopted from SCARS. For them, there is no greater joy than seeing how much happiness our rescued animals have brought into people's lives.

Visit our website for details and to download a pledge form.



Adorable and Adoptable

Here are a few examples of adoptable pets. To see more, visit www.scarscare.ca. There are approximately 175 companion animals of all ages, types and sizes currently in our care. We are always looking for people who would like to adopt. The fee is only \$300 for dogs and \$150 for cats and it includes spay or neuter, first vaccinations and a microchip.



Zyler is shy, but calm male husky mix who lost an eye to quills



Rowan is a male, 8-yr-old collie cross with a sweet disposition



Zane is a sweet natured male husky/collie 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 and cats waiting to be rescued. Our goal is to make the fostering experience as enjoyable as possible for you and your family.

Right now we especially need foster homes for cats and kittens. There are two types of cat foster homes:

- Temporary foster care where cats and kittens are kept in your home for about two weeks. During that time, they receive the veterinary care they need prior to being moved into our partner pet stores where they are often adopted out.
- Longer term foster care for cats that don't do well in the stores or have special medical needs.

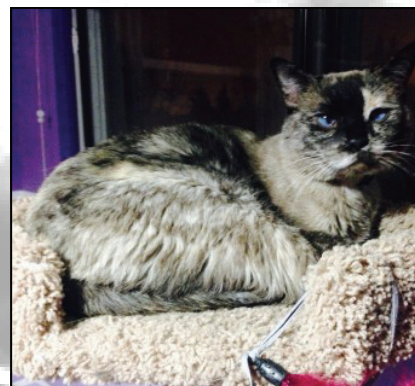
Please email to fosterprogram@scarscare.ca if you would like more information. Thank you!



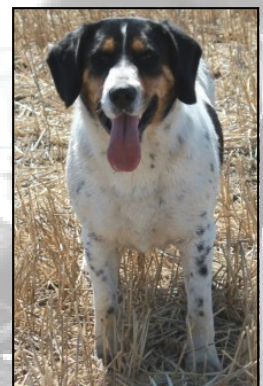
Jimmy is a young male mixed breed cat



Gwynn is a young, 75lb female mixed breed



Libby is a 5-yr-old, female snowshoe Siamese cross cat



Buster is a male hound mix

Canine & Cocktails 2013

We held our 2013 Canines & Cocktails event on November 1, 2013 and we raised close to \$80,000. This year's theme was **Night at the oSCARS**. Our events are always glamorous for our guests, but this year some of our adoptable animal's got in on the action. Our dog parade, which is a regular part of this event, featured a red carpet walk that concluded with oSCARS awards. Another highlight of our evening was a short video about the work of SCARS. Created by Virginia Marando, it always brings tears and smiles to our guests. We hold this event to celebrate our successes and, most importantly, to raise the funds we need to move us another step closer to an Alberta where all dogs and cats have safe, loving homes.

Thank you to all our volunteers who make this event possible and to everyone who donated items for our auction. Your support and generosity is amazing. Every year some of our adoptable dogs attend the event. This year, they walked into the ballroom room as movie music played in the background. They made their way to the stage where each one was given a special oSCARS award. Thank you to Julie Bayliss for writing the humorous script and

to Rob Christie for announcing the awards. Here is an example:

Our Stunt Dog of the Year award goes to Carson. Special effects and CGI are quickly taking the place of the stunt people and stutdogs in Hollywood. Fewer and

fewer movies are calling for these adrenalin junkies who perform actual stunts and risk their lives every day. Thankfully, the Academy is still recognizing these brave individuals. The Oscar for Stunt Dog of the Year goes to Carson! A young guy with a promising career in the movie industry, he's already made his mark with death defying performances in several blockbuster pictures. You can catch him in action playing Indiana Jones' sidekick in Raiders of the Dog Park. Being chosen to work with Robert Deniro in Raging Bull-mastiff was a dream come true for Carson. This personable young daredevil is a favourite with the ladies and... HE'S STILL SINGLE!! Perhaps he'll find his soul mate here tonight. Thank you Carson.



Thank You to our Sponsors

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

STAR sponsors:

- Adam Kidd – 780 Kennels - Wine
- Heather Ross – Safety Chick Consulting – Wine
- Paula Bissell & Shawn Molloy – Wine
- Troy Trudgeon, A Buyer's Choice Home Inspections – Table Centres & Decorations
- Napa Auto Parts Wabasca – Photo Booth
- Instabox – Rentals and Theme Supplies

Table Hosts

- 780 Kennels – Adam Kidd
- Athabasca Community Chapel
- Blackpaws Pet Resort – Susanne Drachmann
- Champion Pet Foods
- Laurel & Mike Cunningham
- Edmonton Veterinarian's Emergency Clinic
- Dr. Leo Elwell "In Memory of Alice Rapp, Wallace, Howie and Sam"



- Instabox
- Tanis Liebreich and Corey Johnson
- Mobile Augers & Research Ltd.
- Molloy Welding & Construction Ltd. Wabasca
- New Paradigm Engineering Ltd.
- Priority Printing Ltd.
- Shades of Grey Tattoos, Toys, Comics Gallery
- Cheryl & Bill Skorobohach
- Target Vegetation Control Ltd.
- Terry Pysyk Trucking Ltd.
- The Thomas Tenderhearts
- TRAC Engine Services Ltd. (Linda Glombick)
- Wizard's Comics & Collectibles



★ Canines & Cocktails 2013 ★

In addition to thanking our star sponsors and table hosts, listed below, we also want to thank

- Emcee Rob Christie from “Rob & Audie in the Morning” at 96.3 Capital-FM;
- Auctioneers Gary Hanna & Ted Power
- Rob Gray for playing classical guitar throughout the evening, and

- Kamar and Ziad, along with their sons and staff, owners of The Palace Conference and Banquet Facility.



Sochi and Oscar's Rescue Story

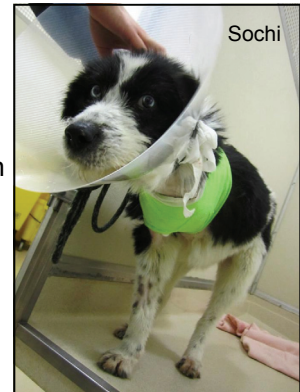
During January 2014, Canine Action Project (Saskatchewan) got a call from a concerned area resident about an injured dog spotted at a rural dump. They rushed out to the location and called SCARS to see if we would accept the injured dog into our care. When they found it, they noticed a second dog that also desperately needed help. The two dogs, now called Sochi and Oscar, were transported to SCARS to receive the veterinary care they needed and deserved.

CAP focuses on spay-neuter-return clinics and education programs, and partners with charities like SCARS that have the resources to provide emergency vet care, rehabilitation and rehoming. We often accept animals from CAP and we are pleased to do so.

Sochi, a young border collie cross, had a serious injury—her front leg had been severed. The bone was exposed and severe infection had set in. She was emaciated as well; basically skin and bone. But this sweet dog had a wonderful attitude and the desire to live. We are grateful to the Westlock Veterinary Centre for staying open after working hours to take on her care. Her story attracted the attention of the public and Global TV Edmonton who did a news story about her. As soon as she was strong enough, Sochi underwent a difficult but much needed surgery to remove dead tissue. Her recovery has been slow and, at one point, we thought we would lose her. But her will proved even stronger than we had imagined. Following a second surgery, she slowly began to improve. As of February 20, she is still liv-

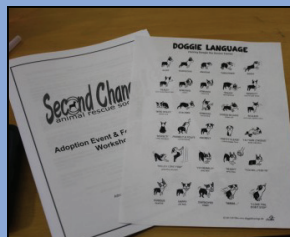
ing at the clinic, but we anticipate she will be released sometime soon to the waiting arms of the family that is planning to adopt her. She will begin her new life as soon as the vet clinic believes she is in the clear from all remaining infection.

Oscar is a male mixed breed with a loving personality. His physical condition was not as difficult to treat but it was just as desperate. Without rescue, he would have died from exposure and starvation. Like Sochi he was emaciated, but he also suffered from Demodectic mange which had caused the loss of much of his hair. Demodex is caused by a type of mite that is often present on the skin of healthy dogs. If an animal's immune system is weak, these mites may proliferate at an uncontrolled rate causing mange. When this happens in the winter, the dog has very little chance to survive to see spring. Oscar's condition is being treated with proper nutrition and medication. He will recover fully and is already looking for his forever home. It's only because of our supporters that we can alleviate the suffering of dogs like these and give them a second chance.



Adoption Event & Dog Handling Workshops

SCARS provides a workshop to new volunteers who are interested in fostering or handling adoptable dogs at our events. Alecia Muirhead leads these events on behalf of SCARS. She is a SCARS volunteer and a CPDT (certified professional dog trainer). Alecia works at Sadie's K9 Stay & Play. Sadie's has been providing SCARS with support for many years now. They host monthly adoption events and they provide their doggie daycare space for these workshops as well. These workshops are designed to inform and train our volunteers on our policies and procedures related to adoption events. Volunteers learn about key roles and responsibilities and they get hands on learning about dog handling. We want the public to have positive experiences at our events and we want our volunteers to feel confident not only handling our adoptable animals but also representing SCARS.



February is spay/neuter month: Do your part

By Nomi Berger

The problem of pet overpopulation is a global one and requires a solution on a global scale. But like every journey that begins with a single step, this particular journey must begin with every pet owner. Those who do their part and act responsibly by spaying and neutering their cherished family pets.

Spaying (removing the ovaries and uterus of a female dog) and neutering (removing the testicles of a male dog) are simple procedures, rarely requiring so much as an overnight stay in a veterinary clinic. Because half of all litters are unplanned, and because puppies can conceive puppies of their own, spaying and neutering them before the age of 6 months can help break this cycle.

According to SPAY USA, an unspayed female dog, her unneutered mate and their offspring (if none are spayed or neutered) result in the births of a staggering 12,288 puppies in just 5 years.

In 2012 alone, more than 53,000 dogs were taken in and cared for by Canadian shelters (these numbers are based on a small response to a nationwide survey). And, according to the Canadian Federation of Humane Societies, only seven per cent of dogs (both strays and owner surrenders) entering shelters that same year were spayed or neutered.

The inevitable outcome? Tens of thousands of dogs being euthanized through no fault of their own. Why? Because they are the tragic, but avoidable, result of overbreeding and overpopulation. Why? Because there are too few shelters to house them and too few homes to either foster or adopt them. Why? Because there are still too many dog owners unwilling to spay and neuter their pets.

The positive effects of spay/neuter far outweigh the negatives. Females spayed before their first heat are 16 times less likely to develop mammary cancer than those left intact. Early spaying is also their best protection against conditions like pyometritis, a potentially fatal bacterial infection of the uterus, as well as ovarian and uterine cancers. Early neutering of males protects them against testicular cancer and helps curb aggression, along with many other undesirable behaviours. According to the American Veterinary Medical Association Task Force on Canine Aggression and Human-Canine Interactions, 70 to 76 per cent of reported dog bite incidents are caused by intact males.

For years, reputable rescue groups have been spay-

Please don't litter...



Spay and neuter your critter!

ing and neutering the animals in their care before even putting them up for adoption. More recently, in an effort to address at least part of this ongoing problem, various organizations — large and small, urban and rural, public and private — have been springing up across the country. From the SPCA to local humane societies, spay/neuter clinics are opening and operating. Mobile spay/neuter clinics are reaching out to those unable to reach them. Many rescue groups now offer their own Spay Neuter Incentive Programs (SNIP), which provide assistance to low income households.

One of the most recent and noteworthy initiatives has been The Alberta Spay Neuter Task Force (ASNTF). A registered charity, they work with First Nation communities to assist them in improving the health and well-being of their dogs and cats, and in reducing the human health issues that result from pet overpopulation. The clinics are funded in whole or in part by the First Nation community itself, while the ASNTF receives funding from corporate and private donations, grants and rescue groups. The statistics for 2013 are impressive: 1,766 animals spayed or neutered, and 802 animals rehomed through their rescue group partners.

Imagine if there were more such task forces. More SNIP programs. More regional, local and mobile spay/neuter clinics. Imagine entire communities across the country, where every pet owner took personal responsibility for spaying and neutering their pets. Imagine what we, as part of the global community, could accomplish then.

This article was posted with permission from Nomi Berger. Nomi is the bestselling author of seven novels and one work of non-fiction. She lives in Toronto, Ontario with her adopted morkie, Shadow. Nomi now devotes all of her time volunteering her writing skills to animal rescue organizations both in Canada and the USA.

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, 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.ca.

Share the message—ask your family and friends to spay/neuter, microchip and vaccinate their pets. And remind them that all pets need food, water, shelter, healthcare, exercise, love and attention.

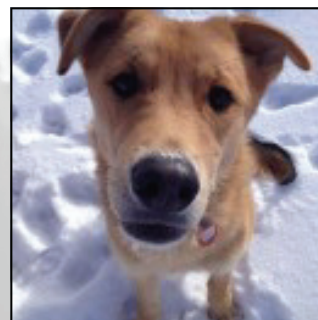
Buy our merchandise—purchase SCARS calendars, clothing, totes, leashes, lunch bags, or one of our “Gifts from the Heart” certificates. Visit our website for more information.

Please watch us on Global TV Edmonton every Saturday morning at 9:50 a.m., subscribe to our e-Newsletter at www.scarscare.ca, and follow us on Facebook and Twitter.

We welcome feedback or suggestions for this newsletter, please contact:

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scars@scarscare.ca



Thanks for helping pups like Kazz

Please support

Please support our participating vet clinics. Look for them on our website under Animals / Adoption Information / 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. They provide SCARS with generous and ongoing donations of quality pet foods.

