

Second Chance!

animal rescue society

Second Chance Animal Rescue Society Members' Newsletter—Spring 2015



Helping Animals Left Behind

When a wildfire near North Wabasca Lake prompted a local state of emergency and evacuation of residents, SCARS volunteers coordinated with the MD of Opportunity to provide supportive care to animals that could not be evacuated with their owners.

On the evening of Sunday, May 24, we were notified of the wildfire situation and quickly developed a plan to help. On Tuesday, May 26, SCARS volunteers were allowed access to the community. Local volunteers cared for pets in the hamlet of Wabasca while SCARS volunteers focused on the surrounding areas. We visited acreage homes in the area providing food and water to pets. We also distributed pet supplies to those in need at the Calling Lake Evacuation Centre.

The evacuation order was lifted the evening of May 26 for most areas with no homes or lives lost. SCARS continued to provide support for the pets of those unable to immediately return. We also provided pet food to the Wabasca food bank. Our goal was to make sure no pet went unfed due to the stress and chaos of the evacuation. We continue to encourage anyone who lives in the area to reach out to us if they need help with pets.

There are many people and organizations to thank. We cannot provide this type of service without our donors. Because of your ongoing support we were able to act quickly. Thank you as well to those who donated water buckets—they were essential. And thank you to NAPA AutoParts Wabasca for being a base of operations and providing fuel for our vehicles.

We are fortunate to be able to maintain an inventory of donated pet food for distribution in communities and



use by our foster homes.

To meet the needs of evacuees at Calling Lake and pets who remained in the Wabasca area, we used most of the supplies at our storage location along with a donation from the Pet Food Bank of Parkland County.

With our supplies almost depleted, we urgently needed to restock. We put out a plea for help and immediately received generous donations from

Champion Petfoods, Berkeley's Place and Supporters of Alberta Animal Rescues (SOAAR). If you value the work SCARS does, please support local businesses like Champion and Napa AutoParts, and charities like Berkeley's and SOAAR to help build an even stronger rescue community.

We were also grateful for the support we received from the Edmonton Humane Society. We contacted them on the morning of May 25 and they were on standby to help as needed. They are prepared to respond to local emergencies and happy to partner with animal rescue groups like SCARS. The involvement of EHS would have been crucial had the wildfire situation worsened. Our visit to the community ran more smoothly because of their advice and support.



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SCARS Helps Communities

When communities perceive dog overpopulation as a public health or safety risk, collecting and shooting dogs can become the short-term solution. This is tragic not only for dogs, but also for people.

When one of our volunteers heard that a community was planning a cull, SCARS reached out to offer a more humane option. The community was happy to accept the help and SCARS brought 15 dogs into care on April 15.

Some of the dogs required urgent medical assistance. Four young pups went directly to veterinary care where they were treated for symptoms of canine parvovirus. Eleven dogs were transported to foster homes where a few began to show symptoms of canine distemper. Three tested positive for distemper.

Canine parvovirus and distemper are serious illnesses easily transferable to other unvaccinated dogs. There is no specific treatment and therapy is largely supportive. So far all of the dogs are



recovering and their personalities are beginning to shine in the care of loving SCARS foster homes. Because this community had so many sick dogs, we are hoping to begin a longer-term assistance plan including a pet vaccination program. These dogs will remain with SCARS as long as recommended by the veterinarians assisting with their wellness.

Improving the wellness of pets like Tango, Citago and Fargo (shown left to right below) is why we started our dog shelter building and spay-neuter return programs. We want to help communities develop long-term solutions.

Caelin Porter Memorial Fundraiser

The Paradise Pet Centre fundraiser in memory of Caelin Porter raised an incredible \$18,032.95 for SCARS.

In late December 2014, a few weeks shy of his 19th birthday, Caelin Porter killed himself. Caelin worked at Paradise Pet Centre and his employer decided to honour him by creating awareness about mental illness and raising funds for animals in need, a cause dear to Caelin's heart. Their goal was to encourage people to speak up about mental illness so we can help prevent future tragedies.

We were very saddened to hear of the loss of Caelin Porter and we extend our deepest condolences to his family and friends, and those who worked with him at Paradise Pets. We are also very grateful for this amazing donation.

Did you know that more people die by suicide each year in Alberta than die in motor vehicle collisions? For more info, visit <https://myhealth.alberta.ca/alberta/Pages/the-language-of-suicide.aspx>



Rescue Stories



I'm warning you right now my story is hard to hear and my pictures are even harder to look at, but this is my reality and what the volunteers at SCARS face in the work they do. During May 2015, the community of Wabasca was evacuated when wild-fires threatened the town-

site and surrounding area. Many of the community dogs did not get evacuated and had to fend for themselves. I was one of those dogs.

My name is Reese and I am a large male husky that is at least six years old. While the fires burned, those of us left behind searched for food, shelter and safety from the flames. I must have crossed paths with some younger, stronger dogs and they attacked.

It could have been motivated by fear or maybe the stress of the situation, but I was badly mauled. One leg was broken and the muscle ripped away, leaving the bone exposed. All of my legs were covered in puncture wounds, my ear is ripped, my head had deep gashes, and my skin was badly damaged. I was emaciated, blind in one eye, and my wounds were swollen and severely infected.

I don't think I did anything to deserve this and no one would have blamed me if I had behaved aggressively to my rescuers out of pain and fear, but that is not my nature. I was deeply grateful to be helped and I have shown nothing but patience and tolerance as they have tried to help me. SCARS was notified of my condition and they sent a volunteer to find me.

The volunteer drove me to the Westlock Veterinary Centre for immediate treatment. I won't lie to you. I looked awful and smelled worse than awful, but they welcomed me with open hearts and compassion. Special thanks to Andrea and Dasha, I know you devoted the better part of your afternoon to my care. I am grateful for your gentleness as you took on the challenge of cleaning my wounds. I was given pain killers and received an abundance of tasty food to help me regain my strength.



Within a few days I was feeling much, much better. My SCARS friend can't get over how tough and resilient I am. Now that my wounds are being treated (hydro therapy is really helping) and the antibiotics are fighting the infection, I am regaining my strength.



Advertising and Sponsorship Opportunities

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!

Rescue Stories



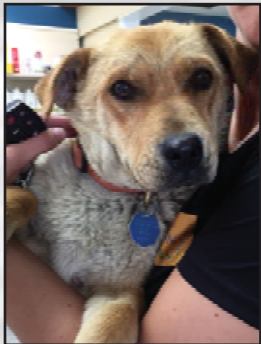
Charlotte

My name is Charlotte. I was born during March. I was very fortunate to be rescued, as I wouldn't have lived much longer. In early May when I came to SCARS, I was only 8-9 weeks old and one sad looking puppy. My spirit and little body were in rough shape. I was taken to the vet and diagnosed with Sarcoptic Mange, which is why I hardly had any fur. There was also a concern that, as I had been used as a "chew toy" by one of the larger dogs, one of my legs may be broken.

The vet took X-rays and it turned out there were no breaks. My little front legs would buckle when I tried to walk due to "severe" malnourishment. My little tummy was quite swollen for the same reason. The vet said once I started receiving decent nutrition and started to develop some muscle, my legs would be just fine. So I went to a SCARS foster home where I got the loving care I needed—lots of high quality food, extra vitamins, fresh water and rest.

And, boy, how I "loved" being in my foster home! I loved my foster mom, my toys and the dogs there were so kind to me. The little dog there played with me all the time. At first, playing was hard. I would try to run, but my legs would give out. I just wanted to play like a regular puppy! But time passed, my body quickly healed and the sparkle returned to my eyes. No one has ever cared about me before, but what's not to like? The best news of all is I regained my health and was adopted on June 20.

Max



Hi, I'm Max. I'm here today to tell you my story because of SCARS and Canine Action Project (CAP).

I was being chased by bigger dogs in a rural community when I ran into traffic and got hit. Thankfully, someone saw what happened and they called CAP, the local spay-neuter-return organization, who in turn called SCARS.

A kind volunteer brought me to Edmonton where the amazing team at Guardian Veterinary Centre fixed my fractured pelvis. I'm on the smaller side (less than 30 pounds) and likely a corgi cross. I'm probably 1-2 years old. Everyone says I'm a happy and affectionate little guy.

SCARS has taken in several injured dogs like me recently and they could really use your help. Their funds are running low. Donating to SCARS saves the lives of dogs like me.

Visit <https://youtu.be/01kE8fWQ78k> to see a short video of me taken the day after my surgery, June 8, 2015.



Look At Me 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. Stories can be emailed to scars@scarscare.ca Here are two examples:

Olive Hi SCARS. It's Olive checking in again. Sorry I missed Tails on the Trails on June 13, but I was competing at my second AAC AB/NWT Regional Championships.

My mom and I have been working really hard on our teamwork this past year and she was so happy when I became the regional agility champion in the 22-inch specials division. I qualified to go to nationals so that will be an adventure. Also, just three weeks before the competition, I earned my AAC Lifetime Achievement Award.

I don't much care about these ribbons but they make my mom pretty happy. I just love running through the tunnels and getting treats after. Wish me luck at nationals.

— Olive



David Hi SCARS! David came into our family in September of last year and has quickly become the household love bug. David loves his fur brother and sister, his giant cat tree, his boxes, his mice... David pretty much loves everything and he will make sure to tell you with his loud purr-meows!

He also loves being bounced lightly like a baby in my arms (how cute is that). When David isn't napping in the sun or on my homework, he is running around with his kitty brother who happens to be the same age (how lucky)! When I have my head stuck in my homework, David is sure to let me know when it is break time so we can throw around and play fetch with his dad's socks (shhh don't tell)!

I just wanted to thank SCARS for saving David's life and giving us the opportunity to find each other. I could not imagine my life without him now, and I wanted the SCARS family to know just how loved he is! — Hayley & Jeff



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. The adoption fee is only \$300 for dogs and \$150 for cats and it includes health check, spay or neuter, first vaccinations and a microchip.



Queenie is a 2-yr-old female collie mix



Carob is a 2-years plus female mixed breed



Yoda is a 2-yr-old male mixed breed



Duelly is 8-mo-old male Bernese mountain dog mix



king is 2-year-old male mixed breed



Stewart is a 1-yr-old male mixed breed



Cosmo is 1-yr-old male mixed breed



Queen-Bee is a 1-yr-old female mixed breed



Wilson is a male mixed breed kitten



Roxie is a female mixed breed kitten

A photograph of three puppies sitting on grass. One is white, one is tan, and one is black. A mouse cursor is pointing at the top left corner of the image.

Foster for SCARS
Because everybody needs a place that's warm and safe.

Tails on the Trails Paws-a-thon 2015

Thank you to all dedicated volunteers, supporters and sponsors who contributed to our 11th Annual Tails on the Trails Paws-a-thon on June 13, 2015 at Lion's Park in St. Albert. We are pleased to have raised approximately \$30,000 this year. It was a very cold and wet day but many walkers still hit the trails to support SCARS. We think there are likely a few pledge donations that, because of the inclement weather, will come to us by mail in the days to come.

The SCARS rescue pack led the walk again this year. They are previously rescued dogs who came together to show their support for SCARS. Together, they raised \$1,850 through online donations. The weather definitely put a damper on activities and caused the event to end a bit early, but we still enjoyed the day.

Congratulations to our prize winners:

- **1st prize** — Melissa Kemp collected \$1,465 and won a \$1,000 shopping spree gift card

- **2nd prize** — Liza Russell collected \$1,350 and won a \$500 gift card
- **3rd prize** — Bruce Peachy collect \$1,010 and won a \$250 gift card

Top team pledgers—Knights Who Say Ni and Furget About it

Thank you to our event sponsors, including:

Gold: Instabox | Fastsigns | Paradise Pet Centre | Ice Cream Depot

Silver: Famoso Pizzeria (West Edmonton Mall) | Troy Trudgeon – A Buyer's Choice Home Inspections

Bronze: TNT Event Planning | New Paradigm Engineering | Moosehead Lager | Entrec

Thank you to Instabox for donating the gift card prizes and to Famoso Pizzeria (WEM) for donating team prizes. Everyone who raised \$500 or more received a Tails on the Trails hoodie, those who raised \$100 or more received a



SCARS Rescue Pack

Tails on the Trails T-shirt or SCARS market bag. Congratulations to Dale Stewart, the lucky winner of our \$395 prize in the 50/50 draw with ticket #254665.

Participants browsed our bake sale, silent auction and SCARS merchandise. They also checked out kids face painting, our phoDOgraphy booth, and the SCARS adoption event and info booth. There were also pet games and demonstrations, vendors, and our BBQ and beer garden.

Thank you to Barkin' Mad Dog Sports for the fly-ball and freestyle disc demonstrations. We also want to thank our vendors:

- The Art of Janelle Boucher
- Paws For Synerchi (proactive animal wellness and support)
- Vintage Magpie
- Cheryl Smith – Tupperware – Independent Star Director
- Sadie's Pet Stop
- Shannon Boyd, Independent Epicure Consultant
- Paradise Pet Centre
- Orangetheory Fitness

A special thank you goes out to St John's Ambulance for being onsite to keep us safe and to the St. Albert Fire Department for filling the wading pools for the dogs.

Last, but certainly not least, thank you to Sara Klapstein (our MC), Emily Weisbrot (for event photos), our music DJ (David McBean), our event planning committee and all the volunteers who helped during the event.



Protect Your pet: Provide Proper Dental Care

By Nomi Berger

Did you know that 80% of dogs and cats over the age of 4 have some form of dental disease?

As with people, the main culprit is a build-up of plaque, which eventually hardens into tartar, leading to gingivitis (inflammation of the gums) and periodontal disease.

The result? A bacterial invasion of the gums and tissues supporting the teeth, damaging them and ultimately causing tooth loss. This bacteria can also invade the bloodstream, potentially damaging the lungs, heart, kidneys and liver.

Did you know that, as responsible pet parents, you can lower your pets' risks by following a program of conscientious oral care. Before you start, have the vet examine your pet's mouth for signs of hardened plaque and/or dental disease. If your pet suffers from either condition, once the dental disease is treated and/or the plaque professionally removed, your home care program can begin.

Ideally, you should begin caring for your pet's teeth while he's still a puppy or kitten. Brushing your pet's teeth is the most effective way to control plaque by breaking it up before it hardens into tartar. Choose only those toothbrushes, tooth pastes and oral gels designed especially for dogs and cats. For the more difficult pet, there are "rubber finger brushes." If your pet refuses to accept any of these "tools," use your own finger. It's the act of brushing or rubbing which provides the most benefit.

Brush your pet's teeth at the same time every day. Begin slowly, praising him often, stopping if he becomes agitated, then beginning again. Increase the amount of brushing time slowly, day by day.

If your pet absolutely refuses to have his teeth cleaned, add specially formulated antiseptic oral rins-

es (although they're more effective when combined with cleaning) to his water. They tend to work better for dogs than cats, as many cats don't like their taste.

Dogs and cats love to chew, and this has the added benefit of helping to keep their teeth clean. There are dozens of specifically formulated oral care products for both dogs and cats, including dental chews, chew toys and treats.

There are also special dental diets which have been shown to reduce plaque and/or tartar build up in both dogs and cats. They work by physically cleaning the teeth more efficiently than regular food (their kibble is less likely to crumble upon chewing) or by the addition of chemicals to prevent the hardening of plaque into tartar. Because most cats prefer wet to dry food, there are specially formulated diets for those who won't eat kibble.

Weekly inspections of your pet's entire mouth can also help avoid both dental disease and costly and invasive medical procedures in the future. Ensure that your vet includes a thorough examination of your pet's mouth, gums and teeth in each annual check up. (yes, even cats should have annual check ups).

Be alert to such problems as bad breath, drooling, red or puffy, bleeding gums, yellow tartar crusted along the gum line, discoloured, broken or missing teeth, bumps in the mouth, and changes in chewing or eating habits. If you've been neglecting your pet's dental health up to now, it's never too late to start.

This article was posted with permission by 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.

Pet Poisoning Prevention and Help

Suspected pet poisoning is an URGENT health concern. During April 2015, we were very sad to hear from a SCARS adopter who had recently lost their beloved pet to antifreeze poisoning. She thought a small lick of antifreeze wouldn't be deadly for her large breed dog. Within 24 hours, she had lost her best friend of five years. Even a trace amount of this deadly toxin can cause kidney failure to both cats and dogs within days. She asked us to share her story as a warning to others. With immediate veterinary care, her dog could have been saved. If you suspect your pet has been poisoned, please contact a veterinarian as soon as possible. Here are some resources to help:

- Alberta Veterinary Medical Association—member directory (<https://www.abvma.ca/directory/> for example, type the word "emergency" to bring up list of emergency clinics in Alberta)
- Pet Poison Helpline—www.petpoisonhelpline.com/pet-owners/emergency. If you can't reach a local vet clinic, another option is to get advice from this 24/7 Animal Poison Control Centre 1-855-764-7661 (\$49 per incident fee applies). Note: SCARS is not associated with this service, but it's an option to consider.
- Learn about the dangers—www.petpoisonhelpline.com/poisons | Ten most common pet toxins 2014 - <http://alturl.com/gamc4> | <http://www.aspc.org/blog/warning-deadly-dangers-antifreeze>



Walls for Winter and SNR Programs

We were pleased to use our Walls for Winter dog shelter construction program to assist the Alberta Spay Neuter Task Force during their June 5-7, 2015 pet wellness clinic at Saddle Lake Cree Nation. In addition to donating the shelters, SCARS volunteers participated in a variety of roles and we took several of the surrendered pets into our care. The weekend concluded with 300 animals spayed/neutered, vaccinated, dewormed and tattooed.

We are grateful to everyone who assisted with putting the shelters together when we arrived at Saddle Lake. In all, we distributed 30 shelters. Some we delivered to homes and some were picked up by residents visiting the clinic. Before the end of the weekend, all of our dog houses belonged to four-legged friends who will value them very much when the cold returns next winter. It's never too soon to plan for a warm place to sleep!

Walls for Winter is a program where SCARS provides insulated dog houses and straw to families in rural communities that otherwise would not be able to provide warm shelter for their pets. As part of this program, we also provide spay-neuter-return of pets. To make this program successful, we need builders, supplies and drivers:

Shelter Builders

As of January 2015, we are partnering the Alberta Job Corp for this project. They were looking for a new project for their program and our project fits their needs. We provide the supplies and they provide the talent to build the finished product. They are hoping to build 5-10 high-quality dog houses each week.

We have a wonderful design for these shelters. They are fully insulated and provide wind break. Best of all, all the pieces are detachable which makes them convenient to store and transport. We screw the pieces together when we arrive at our destination.

How to help:

- We accept donations of insulated dog houses.

Supplies

To keep this project going, we need supply donations. Our wish list includes:

- 1/2 inch and 1/4 inch plywood
- 1/2 inch treated plywood
- 2x4 studs
- 2x4 pressure treated studs
- insulation (or companies willing to do spray foam insulation)
- 1 1/4" screws
- 1 1/4" staples for a pneumatic stapler (similar to a brad nailer – it uses compressed air)
- hinges/hasps
- "Liquid Rubber" paint



How to help:

- Donations of gift cards to stores that sell the supplies we need
- Become a corporate sponsor

Shelter Delivery and SNR Drivers

We need volunteers to help us deliver the shelters. We also need drivers to assist with our spay-neuter-return (SNR) program. This is a commitment of six plus hours and we especially need people who are available during working hours Monday to Friday.

SNR is where we drive owned pets to one of our veterinary partners to be spayed or neutered. The pets spend one or more days recovering at the clinic and then we return them to their homes. Our goal is to prevent unwanted litters and enhance the well-being of owned pets. Because we help reduce the overall population of unwanted pets, we also enhance the safety and wellness of people in the community.

How to help:

- Become a SCARS volunteer

You can see Terra MacLean talk about the program during our March 7 appearance on Global TV Edmonton morning news. <http://alturl.com/nxfi7>

Thank you to all of our supporters for helping us make this program successful. For more information, contact us at 780-466-SCAR(7227) or scars@scarscare.ca.

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 provide veterinary care and foster homes until permanent homes are found. Our foster homes provide 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. Here are some ways you can help:

Donate or sponsor—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—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. And adopt with piece of mind because we accept returns. Once a SCARS pet, always a SCARS pet. To see pictures of adoptable animals, visit www.scarscare.ca.

Buy merchandise—purchase SCARS 2015 calendars, clothing, totes, leashes, lunch bags, or one of our “Gifts from the Heart” certificates. Visit our website for more information.



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.

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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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.



At Champion Petfoods, our mission is clear and strong: We make Biologically Appropriate Dog and Cat foods from Fresh Regional ingredients in our own local kitchens. With shared passion to support those cats and dogs who need us most, we thank SCARS for their work in communities, and we are pleased for the opportunity to support them with ongoing ACANA and ORIJEN food donations.

