



Second Chance!

animal rescue society

Second Chance Animal Rescue Society Members' Newsletter—Fall 2017

Helping Communities with SNR and W4W

In early November, we got a bit more than we bargained for while returning eight spayed and neutered pets to a community that benefits from our Spay-Neuter-Return program. During one of the stops, we were invited to visit a home that wanted to surrender some kittens. One request quickly led to another. By the time our volunteers headed home, they had collected three litters of puppies plus 10 unwanted kittens and cats. Fortunately, we were also able to bring the moms of those litters along for the ride so they could be spayed at our partner vet clinic. While at the community, we also delivered insulated pet shelters (our Walls 4 Winter program) to residents whose pets had been altered.

A few road trips had a huge impact. These visits to the community resulted in 36 lives forever changed. When it comes to the reproductive power of unfixed dogs and cats, the math is frightening. No one wants to see starving, freezing, sick and injured animals in their community. Preventing more unwanted litters is a win for the community and for SCARS.

Spay or neuter is the best resource we have in the battle against pet overpopulation. Please support SCARS and please spay and neuter your own pets. It doesn't matter where you live, every unwanted litter adds to Alberta's pet overpopulation problem exponentially. This problem is staggering and it is everyone's responsibility.



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Stray Cats Need Our Help



They're under the house, in your outbuildings, hiding in the bushes – stray and abandoned cats and kittens – starving and afraid.

Even though the weather isn't of great concern for pets who live indoors, the outdoor animals are having a rough time. During December, we have rescued two of the thinnest young cats we've ever seen. It's a sad reality that rescues and humane societies are at capacity for cats this year.

If you can provide warm shelter and food and water for strays around your home, you would be doing them a huge service. It buys them time until rescues can intake more.



Mouse Busters

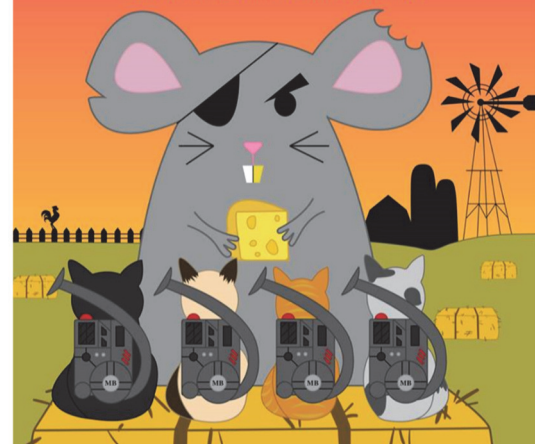
URGENT placement needed for some MOUSE-BUSTERS.

Seeking Immediate Employment. Proficient mouse population control skills.


Willing to work as part of a team and require minimal supervision.

Looking for remuneration in form of room and board, temporary placement in an enclosed building (like a barn or shop) and then branching out to a larger area of operation including fields and yards. Will complete a medical test prior to placement including a spay/neuter surgery and routine vaccinations. Requesting a donation of your choosing. Please contact cats@scarscare.ca!

Disappearing Food?
Tiny Turds?
Rodent Problem?
WHO YA GONNA CALL?
MOUSE BUSTERS!
Adopt a Mouse Buster from SCARS today!



Mouse Busters- The Untamed Feline Placement Program
These cats are feral and would be best suited for a shop or barn
For more information please visit www.scarscare.ca



Rescue Stories

Judy Had Been Shot



I'm Judy. SCARS was contacted about a young dog that had been shot in the front leg. One of the men who works animal control in the area transported me to vet care to determine the severity of my wound. The news was not good.

The gunshot completely shattered my elbow. Fragments everywhere! If the shot had even been an inch or two higher it would not have done so much damage. After consultation with specialists, it was decided that an amputation was the best course of action. An operation to try to save my leg would have been complex, difficult and far from a guaranteed positive outcome. Surgery was scheduled and now I'm getting used to life with only three legs.



Bonnie Had a Broken Femur



I'm Bonnie. A couple of weeks ago my femur was broken and my hip socket was smashed somehow. No one did anything about my injury. It hurt so badly, as you can imagine, but I didn't have a caring owner to look after me. Dogs live in the moment and I accepted that my life was going to be

painful for a while. I got on with it.

By the time I was rescued, my femur had started to heal. It was thickened and shortened and my hip joint wouldn't work properly. The vets at the Westlock Veterinary Center decided to perform an FHO (femoral head osteotomy) to give me back some function and quality of life. I wanted to know what an FHO was and they told me "it is a procedure where the head (or ball) of the femur is removed. The remaining part of the femur forms a false joint with the muscles, ligaments and tendons in the area. Even though this false joint is not as good as a real joint, there is a significant reduction in pain and over 90% return to normal function." If you would like to help SCARS with the cost of my surgery, they would be very happy to receive any amount you can spare.



Look At Me Now

Hi SCARS. We adopted Olive (formerly Tessie) about six months ago and couldn't be happier. She had demodectic mange before we adopted her, but is now fully healthy and has grown into an amazing family member.

She is quite the character and is always making us laugh. She's been quite the celebrity in her short life, being on Global Edmonton News and most recently in the 2018 SCARS calendar (which makes an excellent Christmas gift). She loves spending time at the dog park, curling up on the couch (sometimes) and still loves chasing her tail. We love our Olive and thank SCARS and her foster mom for everything they have done.

David & Michelle



Olive before & after



Memorial donation from Cst. Vonnie Wood

Please join us in saluting the memory of Cst. Vonnie Wood whose generous donation allowed us to purchase a much-needed rescue truck. Cst. Wood was a member of the RCMP. The dogs pictured on the truck belonged to her.

We purchased this truck several months ago but recently added the wrap that honours our benefactor and allows SCARS to be easily recognized when we visit communities. We feel very blessed to be able to honour her memory through our ongoing rescue missions to save the animals she cared about so much.



Adorable and Adoptable

Here are a few of our adoptable pets. To see more, visit www.scarscare.ca. There are typically 200 companion animals of all ages, types and sizes in our care. We are always looking for adopters and more foster homes. If you have room in your home and in your heart for a new friend, contact SCARS.



Luigi is 2.5-year-old, male, mixed breed



Naya is a 2-yr-old female husky mix



Kooma is a 3-yr-old, female akita mix



Mya is a 2-yr-old female mix breed



Teddy Bear is a 2-yr-old male mixed breed



Apollo is a 6-mo-old male mixed breed

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 pets waiting to be rescued. Our goal is to make the fostering experience as enjoyable as possible for you and your family.



Alfred is a 6-mo-old male mixed breed



Tagga is a 3-yr-old female, mixed breed



Marcus is a 4-yr-old male, mixed breed



Brie is a 2-yr-old female, mixed breed

Giving life with 4 walls, a roof and a floor

What's a pup to do when it's minus 20 outside and all that's above is the moon and the stars and all that's below is the cold, wet snow? Well, find a hole and hope to live another day!

SCARS is a registered charity whose mission is to rescue and rehome unwanted and abandoned pets from rural communities that lack animal control and veterinary services. In addition, we provide residents with spay-neuter services and pet shelters to improve the lives of owned animals.

Why our Walls 4 Winter program is needed

Dogs in rural Alberta communities often live outside. The intent is usually not neglect. Residents often adore their pets, but outdoor life for pets is a common practice. Winters are harsh and a pet shelter is literally the difference between life and death.

Dogs and cats generate most of their heat from their belly. Lying curled up in a shelter with a well-insulated floor and walls, surrounded by straw, will keep the animal alive.

Many people in rural communities cannot afford adequate shelters for their animals. Pets are forced



to take refuge under decks, in holes or under abandoned structures—sadly, this often isn't enough to survive. It is very common for animals to freeze, especially puppies and kittens. But it doesn't have to be that way. SCARS can help.

What we offer

The Walls 4 Winter program provides fully insulated pet shelters to residents who participate in the our Spay-Neuter-Return program. Surgical sterilization of owned pets is the long-term solu-

Thank you to OML Construction

SCARS volunteers Mike & Laurel Cunnington had the privilege of attending OML Construction's Christmas Party on December 2, 2017 where SCARS received a cheque for \$16,000!

A group of their employees participate in their "1% Club" where they can contribute up to 1% of their earnings to the charity chosen for the year. This year SCARS was the lucky recipient!

The photo is of Mike accepting the cheque from Scott Gilbert, the Safety Officer at OML and founder of the 1% Club. We are very grateful for their amazing generosity!



tion to reducing the vast numbers of unwanted pets, while the shelters provide quality of life.

A lot of effort and love goes into every shelter and many people are involved in the process from design to delivery. The largest dog shelters are approximately 100 pounds each. There are three sizes for dogs as well as a version for cats. Each shelter is framed, insulated and painted.

How delivery works

Our volunteers deliver small numbers of shelters throughout the year. We also organize large deliveries each fall. A group of volunteers will take up to 50 shelters at a time and spend the day meeting with residents and their dogs, and setting up shelters.

Moe Duval of Duval Transport volunteers his time and provides trailers for our large deliveries. This is what he said about one of his experiences.

"I had the opportunity to participate in delivering free dog and cat houses. The SCARS volunteers knew what they were doing and often referred to residents and their pets by name. They knew which pet gave birth to which puppies and where they lived. They talked to the residents about their free spay/neuter program, dropped off houses for pets that have already participated and collected homeless pets. One of the homeless dogs had given birth to four beautiful little puppies a week earlier. They were laying on a sheet of plywood out in the

open, curled up in a ball to stay warm. The experience left me feeling very emotional. I learned so much about SCARS and what they do to help homeless pets and assist pet owners. It's truly awesome."

The need is great

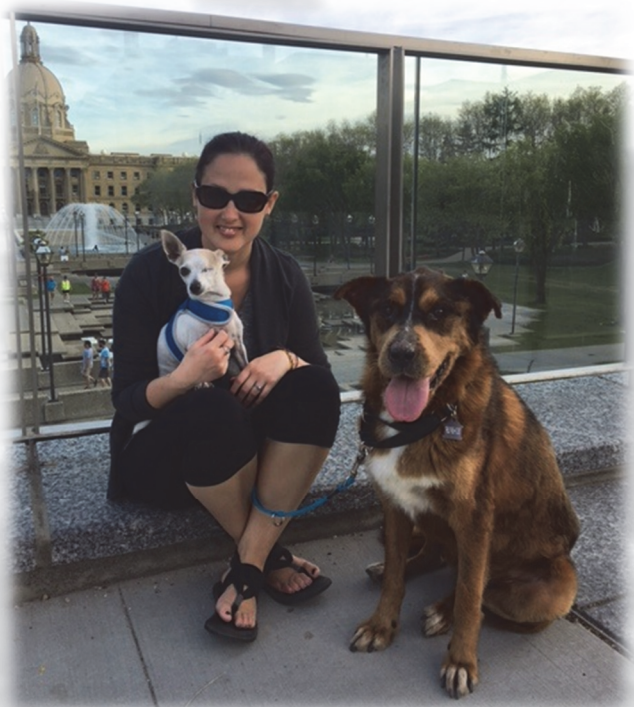
When we rescue a pet that has experienced frostbite we are reminded how important these shelters are to communities. Muskwa is a dog that suffered from severe frostbite before he came into our care last February. He was able to recover and was adopted. Sadly, a few months later he passed away from an autoimmune disorder but he enjoyed the time he spent with his new family.

The need for these shelters is great, but our volunteers are passionate and dedicated. We want a world where no pet has to go it alone in the cold.

So what's a pup to do when it's minus 30 outside and all it's got are 4 walls, a roof, a floor and straw all around? Why, curl-up warm and live to see another day!

Note: we are grateful to Canada Helps for featuring this story on their website at www.canadahelps.org/en/giving-life/connecting-with-charities/

Muskwa before and after



Canines & Cocktails 2017



Our 12th annual Canines & Cocktails dinner gala with live and silent auction was held on November 3 at the Palace Banquet facility in Edmonton. With over 450 people in attendance, our sold-out event netted over \$90,000 for SCARS operations.

This year's theme was "The Great Catsby" and many of our guests were inspired to dress up "roaring twenties" style for the evening.

We are grateful to our event volunteers and our Emcee, Rob Christie from "Rob Christie in the Morning" at 96.3 Capital-FM. We also want to thank the "White Wolf" (Rob Gray) for performing on his classical guitar throughout the evening, and Gary Hanna and Ted Power for the exciting live auction.

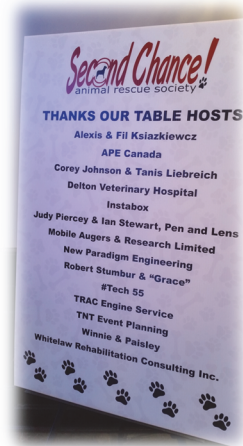
The evening featured a delicious buffet style dinner and the opportunity to go home with a stunning variety of quality auction items.

This year, we honoured front-line volunteer, Paula Bissell. Paula helps people and pets in the

community of Wabasca. She fosters pets, monitors the local pound and responds to calls for help. She has a talent for building relationships and inspiring change. She has saved hundreds of animals from starvation, illness, injury and abandonment. She is also a major financial supporter. Thank you to our...

Table hosts

- Alexis & Fil Ksiazkiewicz
- APE Canada
- Corey Johnson & Tanis Liebreich
- Winnie & Paisley
- Instabox
- #Tech 55
- TRAC Engine Service
- TNT Event Planning
- Mobile Augers & Research Limited
- New Paradigm Engineering
- Delton Veterinary Hospital
- Judy Piercey and Ian Stewart, Pen and Lens
- Robert Stumbur & "Grace"
- Whitelaw Rehabilitation Consulting Inc.



Thank you as well to our...

Event Sponsor (\$25,000)

- Paula Bissell (dinner sponsor)

Protector sponsors (\$1,000 to \$2,499)

- Instabox
- Westlock Veterinary Centre
- Corby Spirits & Wine (dinner wine sponsor)
- Christensen & McLean Roofing Co
- Escape Journeys Travel

Friend sponsors (\$500 to \$999)

- Mojo
- Priority Printing



The Roaring 20s!



10 Things You Need to Know Before You Adopt

By Kathy McCartney

Many people adopt dogs without fully understanding what they're getting into. I know I did. I made a lot of mistakes with our first dog, things I either misunderstood or things I simply didn't know. And because I had grown up with dogs and was very comfortable with them, I thought I knew more than I did.

I don't want you to make the mistakes I did, so here are what I think are the top ten things you need to know about sharing your life with a dog. These are all real reasons that dogs are left at shelters or returned to rescues.

As you go through the list, try to picture yourself living day to day with the issue being discussed. Be brutally honest! I think dogs are the most wonderful animals and companions in the world, but dog ownership is not for everyone. If, after reading this, you decide that now is not the time for a dog, take heart! You've made the responsible decision. If you decide to jump into life with dogs, now you know some of what you'll face. Here are my top ten:

1. Dogs shed

Let's get this straight right now: ALL dogs shed. Even so-called "non-shedding" breeds. They might shed lightly, but they do shed. All mammals do. The only question is, how much will your dog shed? One of my current SCARS dogs sheds more than any other dog I've had, more than I had imagined a dog could shed. There is dog hair in the microwave, stuck to the walls, in our food. I have clothes that I no longer wear because I can't get out of the house without dog hair stuck to me. Lee Livingood once said that if you aren't willing to think of dog hair as a condiment, then dog ownership is not for you. **Ask yourself:** Can I learn to live with dog hair on everything, everywhere, all the time? **Puppy Alert:** It is impossible to know how much a mixed-breed puppy will shed until it is full grown *and* has gone through a full cycle of seasons.

2. Dogs bark

This is another fundamental truth about dogs. And like shedding, it varies from dog to dog. Some dogs bark a LOT, at the door bell, at cats, at other dogs, when they're excited, etc. etc. Other dogs are much quieter, but until you get the dog home and it has settled in, you won't know if you have a barker or not. If you live in an apartment or condo, or just like a quiet life, give this careful consideration.

Ask yourself: How much of a problem is it if my dog barks?

3. Dogs are social animals and *need* to be part of the family

Dogs are pack animals and are hard-wired to be with their pack at all times. Once you bring a dog home, you become its pack and it needs to be with you. If you have a busy life, long work hours, travel a lot, work shifts, spend a lot of time shuttling kids around, and so on, then the hard truth is that you might not have time for a dog. Dogs are highly social and require physical and mental stimulation. If you are already stretched thin trying to do everything in your life, then you should think twice before adding a dog to the mix. **Ask yourself:** Do I have the time and lifestyle to include a dog in the majority of my activities?

4. Dogs have different temperaments

Just like humans, dogs have different temperaments. They are born with personalities that are calm or excited, assertive or submissive. These traits are innate, and really don't change much over the course of the dog's life. Since a dog's basic temperament is not going to change, *we* have to be prepared to adapt. One of my dogs is highly excitable and even after more than four years of being fed twice a day she *still* does her wild and crazy happy dance when food appears. And I *still* have to insist that she sit and calm down before the food goes down.

As well, dogs can be a little quirky. One of my dogs absolutely refused to relieve himself in the yard. Another of my dogs ate the toilet paper and nothing I tried would make him stop. You must be prepared to accommodate your dog's temperament and personality quirks. **Ask yourself:** Do I have the flexibility to accommodate a dog's individual needs? **Puppy alert:** A puppy's temperament won't fully show itself until the puppy is full grown. You have to be ready for anything.

5. Dogs have different activity levels, but *all* dogs need exercise

As with temperament, dogs are born with different energy levels that are innate. You might end up with a low energy guy — happy to putter around the block a couple of times a day. Or you could get a high energy dog — one that *needs* a minimum of two hours of vigorous activity to tire it at all. But whatever the energy level of the dog, all dogs must be walked — every day. This is not optional. Your dog will not be healthy or happy if it does not get to walk. And please

note: letting it out in the yard does not count! Dogs need to “travel,” and explore the neighbourhood. **Ask yourself:** Where in my schedule can I fit in a minimum of two half-hour walks per day? **Puppy Alert:** You won’t really know what your puppy’s activity level will be until it is full grown. So be prepared!

6. Dogs must be taught manners

Your friends and family won’t like it if your dog jumps on them, chews their stuff, pees on their jeans or barks incessantly. You won’t like it if your dog won’t come when you call, stay when you tell it to, or jumps on the kitchen table. Basic training is essential. If you are not comfortable training your dog yourself, find a trainer you like and learn how to teach your dog what you expect. A good trainer will help you understand dog behavior and communication, as well as showing you how to teach your dog some basic commands. Training is not about being harsh. It is about building a relationship of trust between human and dog. **Ask yourself:** Am I willing to put in the time and effort to teach my dog to be a polite citizen?

7. Dogs and lawns/landscaping are not a good combination

Like shedding and barking, this is another fact of life with dogs. Female dogs’ urine will leave small brown circles all over your lawn. Male dogs will kill the near side of the shrubs around your yard. As well, a dog may love to dig or run laps, both of which can damage your landscaping. It takes a lot of work to have a beautiful garden and it can be upsetting to see it take a beating from a dog. **Ask yourself:** Can I tolerate a yard that shows the effects of a dog?

8. Dogs get sick, vets are expensive

The question is not “if,” it’s “when” will my dog need the vet? Every single dog will get sick or injured at some point in its life. Veterinary costs can add up very quickly, especially in the case of chronic conditions. Tests, medications and various procedures can leave you needing to ask for an increase in your credit card limit! I want my dogs to have the best possible care — it’s not about the money. But, I have to find the money to pay the bill. The hard truth is that if you are stretched for cash at the end of the month, you may not be able to afford a dog. **Ask yourself:** How easily could I pay a \$1,000 vet bill? Or, how easily could I afford pet insurance? And, no, \$1,000 is not outrageous or even that expensive for many procedures, such as a broken bone or dental work, for example.)

9. Dogs require “upkeep” – nails, shots, etc.

Buying food is only the beginning of the cost of having a dog. All dogs need to be kept up to date on their shots, have their nails clipped, get tick repellent and so on. Some of the ongoing upkeep you can do yourself (like clipping nails), especially if you invest in a good book of general dog care for information. But a lot of it will take you back to the vet. **Ask yourself:** Am I willing to pay for the ongoing costs of keeping my dog healthy?

10. Dogs age

We tend not to think of this in the excitement of bringing a new dog home, but the fact is that dogs live much shorter lives than humans. We will still be young when our dog is in its extreme old age. If you want a dog to be a jogging partner, for example, you will have to face the fact that your dog’s ability to run with you will come to an end at some point. And old dogs, like old humans, have arthritis and other health problems.

Also, there will come a point when your old dog just cannot carry on anymore. Making the decision to give your beloved companion a peaceful death is one of the most difficult, and most important, things dog owners have to do. **Ask yourself:** Am I willing to accommodate my dog as it ages?

And last but definitely not least, **getting a dog is a long-term commitment.** You must be prepared to have an adult dog for 10 years or more, a puppy for 15 years! We know that sometimes life throws curveballs at us — injury, illness, allergies — but take the time to think ahead in your life and ask yourself if your plans can include a dog for 10-15 years.

Life with dogs is so wonderful, so joyful that people have never stopped wanting dogs with them. If you approach dog ownership knowing what some of the challenges are, then you are set up for a life of love and laughter for you and your dog.

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Kathy McCartney is a retired teacher who volunteers with the SCARS Public Relations Team. For four years, she has been providing presentations about SCARS and dogs at public events, and to schools, businesses and service groups. She has had six



What We Do and How to Help

Second Chance Animal Rescue Society (SCARS) is a non-profit, registered charitable organization (Reg. no. 863478467RR0001) that is dedicated to reducing the number of abandoned animals in Alberta. Since 2002, SCARS has rescued, rehabilitated and rehomed thousands of homeless cats and dogs, and we have helped communities become safer and healthier.

Our mission is to promote the humane care and protection of all animals and to prevent cruelty and suffering. We take in as many animals as our resources allow. We typically have over 200 in care and rehome 1,000 plus each year. The animals live with our volunteers who get to know them and begin the training process in a positive environment. For dogs, it includes crate training, leash training, house training, and more. We provide our volunteers with training and ongoing support. This helps us match pets to families that are suitable to the pet's needs and the needs of the family adopting. All pets are spay/neutered, vaccinated and microchipped and provided with whatever veterinary or behavioural care they need. Our adopters can return pets to us for any reason for the life of that pet. **Once a SCARS pet, always a SCARS pet.**

In addition to our rescue efforts, we provide education, spay and neuter, services and resources like pet shelters to families in rural communities where poverty and lack of pet services can lead to animal neglect. Our goal is to reduce the number of unwanted pets and help people who own pets provide adequate care. Stray animals can create health and safety risks to people (especially children), but happy, healthy owned pets bond with their families and contribute positively to their community. Here are some ways you can help:

Donate or sponsor—Our veterinary expenses are enormous. When you donate online, you get a tax receipt by email the same day.

Foster an animal—We rely on our volunteer foster homes to provide temporary care until we can find suitable permanent homes.

Adopt an animal—You can provide a needy animal with a loving, permanent home. To see pictures of adoptable animals, visit www.scarscare.ca.

Volunteer—We need help with fundraising, adoption events, animal care and transportation, and our daily operations.

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

Please support our participating vet clinics—Look for them on our website under animals/adoption information/participating vets.

Buy our merchandise—purchase SCARS calendars, clothing, totes, leashes, lunch bags, or one of our "Gifts from the Heart" certificates which are symbolic of donating pet supplies or services.

Please subscribe to our e-newsletter at scarscare.ca, **watch us on Global TV Edmonton** Saturday mornings at 9:50 AM, and **follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.**

We welcome feedback or suggestions, please contact scars@scarscare.ca or 780.466.SCAR(7227).

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

www.scarscare.ca



Report Animal Abuse and Neglect

Animals can't speak for themselves. If you suspect animal abuse or neglect in Alberta, please report it confidentially to:

- Outside Calgary and Edmonton - call the [Alberta SPCA](http://AlbertaSPCA) at 1-800-455-9003
- In Calgary—call the Calgary Humane Society at 403-205-4455
- In Edmonton—call the Edmonton Humane Society at 780-491-3517

Please Support Champion Petfoods



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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 to support them with ongoing ACANA and ORIJEN food donations.