



2011
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"Protecting those who cannot protect themselves."

SPCA / currents

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE SWIFT CURRENT SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS

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Used Bookstore:

37 1st Ave NE, Swift Current 773-8564

Shelter:

2101 Knight Crescent 773-1806
(just south of Swift Current off Highway #4)

Mail: Box 1163 Swift Current, SK S9H 3X3

Email: swiftcurrentspca@sasktel.net

Website: www.spcaswiftcurrent.com
Membership applications and member surveys are available at the Shelter and Bookstore.

Email your newsletter ideas, articles, or comments to: secretary@spcaswiftcurrent.com

Do You Love Your Pet?

What makes our pets love us? What do they feel? We may never know how a dog or cat feels about its owner, but we know how they make us we feel when they curl up next to us for a nap, or get excited to see us whenever we come home.

Do you love your pet? Many describe their pets as if they were human children. Indeed, for those without kids a pet may fill the role of offspring. Or even for those with adult sons and daughters who no longer live at home. How odd, then, that any person who loves their pet would allow them to roam the neighbourhood.



For the last month or so, a big scraggly orange and white tomcat has been patrolling around our yard. With several female cats in the house, it's easy to understand why.

For some, this cat might be a nuisance animal. Like the skunk that sprays in your yard, the rabbit that destroys your garden, or the deer that munches on your flowerbed - even animals that belong around humans can become nuisances. Dogs and cats that are allowed to leave their yards can scare neighbourhood children, turn gardens into litter boxes, and destroy everything from lawns and plants to the birds we welcome to our feeders.

As you'll read in this issue's shelter report, less than 50% of stray dogs and just 3% of cats are returned to their owners. Microchips allow vets, shelters, and bylaw personnel to locate pet owners quickly. That's why we're including a free microchip and registration with all animals adopted in February. If you're in the market for a pet, you can take advantage of this great deal. But if you're already a pet owner, show them you care by getting them microchipped this month. Call 773-1806 to make an appointment and make it easy for your pet to find its way home. Microchipping costs only \$25.

Shelter Report

Last year we were very successful with finding homes for 273 pets and reconnecting 43 lost pets with their families. However, our statistics showed that while 49% of stray dogs get to go home with their owners only about 3% of cats get back to their families. We find this lack of parity between dogs and cats disturbing and extremely sad as it seems to indicate that cats are being considered as “disposable”. To help address this issue we are offering a special deal for the month of February. With every animal adopted we are including a free microchip and free registration for your new family member. Microchipping is an excellent way to be able to easily track down a pet's family so that they may be reunited. Most vet clinics and shelters have scanners to read these chips whose registration data is logged with national microchip data bases. With last year as a guide for what we can accomplish, we hope to make this year even more successful and we have had a great start already.

Lisa Dyck
Shelter Manager

upcoming events >>>

Kitty Kat Walk and Adoption Fair

March 19 & 20, 2011 - The annual **Kitty Kat Walk Fashion Show** will be held on Saturday March 19th at the Swift Current Mall. The show will be emceed by a Golden West Radio announcer. On Saturday and Sunday we'll also be running an adoption fair at the East end of the mall. If you're interested in volunteering for the adoption fair, call Melanie at 773-3713.

Dog Walk in the Park

June 18, 2011 - **Associate Veterinary Clinic** is planning a dog walk in Chinook Park this June. The SPCA will be there at the concession stand. More information will be released in the next newsletter.

"Dogs are our link to paradise. They don't know evil or jealousy or discontent. To sit with a dog on a hillside on a glorious afternoon is to be back in Eden, where doing nothing was not boring--it was peace."

~ Milan Kundera

shelter alumni: Vinny >>>

My name is Vinny.

I once was a feral street kitty that was the runt of my litter. I was adopted in November 2009 from the SPCA and now I spend my days living in Herbert, SK playing a key role in the household as a strictly indoor furry family member. I rule my house with an iron paw and no pencil or pen will go uninspected. I am as curious as they come and the most helpful in discovering spiders or flies by alerting my humans with my never ending range of vocals. I have a very special place in my human's hearts and in their bed - I love to sleep with them every night on their pillows and there is always lots of morning snuggles and hugs. I never stray too far away from one of my owners' laps.



I would like to thank my very kind and loving foster parents (John & Melanie) and the Swift Current SPCA for finding me a furrever home!

SPCA bookstore >>>

Romance is in the Air. There may not be a bigger collection of romance novels anywhere else in Saskatchewan. Come down to the used bookstore at 37 1st Ave. NE and explore the racks for your next great read. As you can see from the photos at right, we believe that nothing beats curling up with a good romance novel.

While you're there, don't forget to check out our unique selection of Canadiana, and unmatched deals on all hardcovers! Open Monday – Friday: 9:30am – 11:30am and 1:00pm to 5:00pm, Saturdays: 1:00pm – 5:00pm.

quick bits >>>

SPCA Calendars are now only \$5! Look for them at the following points of sale: The SPCA Shelter, the SPCA Bookstore, Cowtown, Associate Pet Hospital, Bank of Montreal, Signs 'n Such, Details Hair Design, Royal Bank, Urban Ground, and Village Coffee Tyme.

Available now! **Parking spots for rent** behind the SPCA bookstore. For only \$30 a month you could have your own assigned parking spot downtown. Call 773-8564 or drop in at the Used Bookstore if interested.

SPCA services >>>

Microchipping

Microchipping is a technique used by many veterinarians, pet stores, and animal shelters to quickly identify an animal. The chip itself is about the size of a grain of rice and is implanted under the animal's skin. This chip can be detected and "read" by a number of hand-held readers. When an animal comes into the shelter, it's scanned for a microchip - the unique code that is read can then be used to locate information about the pet's owners. Some facts about microchips:

- They never need charging or replacing.
- Chips sometimes move to other areas of the body after implantation, which is why most people will scan the entire body.
- Implantation is as simple and painless as getting a shot.

According to a study covered by ScienceDaily (Oct. 14, 2009), the rate of animals returned to owners was 2½ times higher for dogs, and 20 times higher for cats. (Note the rates of return for in the Shelter Report on the facing page.) Because collars and tags can be removed or fall off, and tattoos can be difficult to read, why not microchip your pet and Some other benefits of microchipping include:

- No renewal fees
- Lifetime registration on the database
- 24-hour worldwide recovery service
- Hassle free "peace of mind" that your companion animal is safe

Don't let your pet become lost. Call 773-1806 to make an appointment to have your pet microchipped today. Cost of microchipping is just \$25, which includes registration.



A typical microchip, shown larger than actual size.



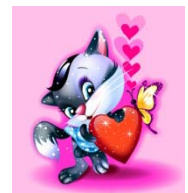
From left to right: Hailey, Alexis and Tyler

Local Youth and RBC Raise Funds

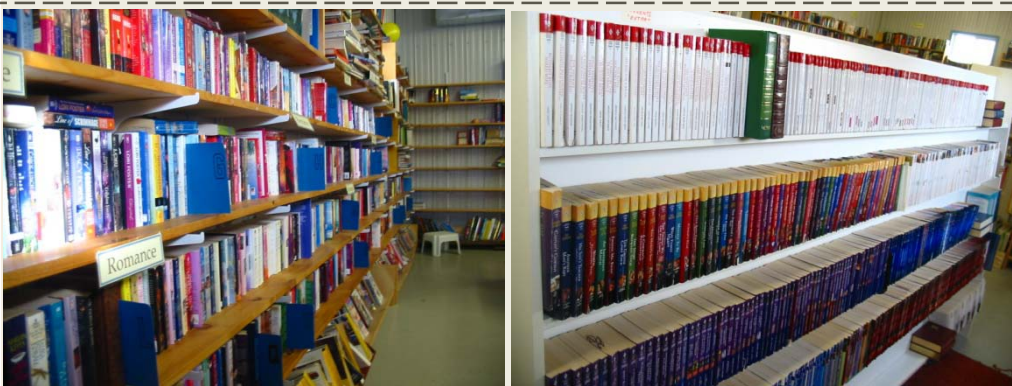
Three young women joined together at RBC to help raise funds for SPCA Swift Current. On Saturday, January 22nd, Hailey, Alexis and Tyler sold calendars, cookies and hot chocolate at the Royal Bank, raising over \$200. Way to go girls! Thanks for your efforts - you've got true fundraising talent.

2012 Calendar entry form now online!

Following the success of last year, we are pleased to announce that the entry form for the 2012 Calendar is now online. You can submit your entries, and upload your photographs. Entry fees are the same as last year – \$10 per entry for the 'Pet-of-the-month' contest, and \$5 per entry for the 'Buy-a-day'. Visit our website at spcaswiftcurrent.com and follow the links.



“Dogs come when they're called; cats take a message and get back to you later.”
- Mary Bly



Show Your Birds You Love Them Inside and Out

In this season of lovebirds, let's remember our pet birds. From cockatiels to macaws, and from parrots to parakeets, there are lots of very simple treats that you can offer birds. Even better, these treats can help make up the vitamins missing from regular bird food.

I've done some research and the array of treats available for birds is amazing. There are even a few surprises! Here are some of the foods I've learned birds like:

- **Fruits** - No surprise here, fruits and berries make up a large portion of many birds' diet in the wild. Try halved grapes, orange slices, bananas, blueberries, raspberries, strawberries, and even pieces of melon, mango and kiwi. Think of where your birds come from. I have a bird that loves grapes, raspberries, and oranges. To be safe, remove all pits and seeds, and *carefully wash or remove skins* to keep pesticides away from your pet. **AVOID AVOCADOES**, as parts of this fruit may cause heart failure in birds.
- **Bread** - Again, not a huge surprise here. Bread is made from grains, which birds eat naturally. Besides sharing a piece of toast with your pet, try some rolled oats, shredded wheat or other whole grains.
- **Nuts** - Make it easy and de-shell them. Sunflower seeds are ok in the shell because they're easily cracked open. *Never feed a bird nuts that have been salted or flavoured.*
- **Vegetables** - Some vegetables are a hit with our avian friends. Try fresh broccoli, cauliflower, peas, spinach, or carrots. Leafy greens also go over well. As always, make sure the vegetables are cleaned well. **AVOID: mushrooms and onions.**
- **Pasta, rice, potatoes** - This one was a surprise for sure. *Cooked* pasta, rice or potatoes are all appreciated by many birds. They're safe to eat (when cool) and a great source of carbohydrates.
- **Hot Peppers** - Now here's something I didn't expect. Apparently birds lack the receptors that make hot peppers feel hot to us. Still, I'd go quite sparingly with this kind of treat

Fancy Homemade Suet

Sure, you can buy suet, but isn't everything always better when it's homemade? This recipe is from birding.about.com.

Ingredients:

- 1 Cup rendered suet (lard or vegetable shortening is an easy alternative)
- 1 Cup chunky peanut butter
- 3 Cups stone ground cornmeal
- 1/2 Cup white or wheat flour

Directions:

Melt the suet and peanut butter together until they are smooth and liquid. Add the cornmeal and flour, mixing well. Allow the mixture to cool slightly to thicken, then pour it into molds or containers to use. Refrigerate or freeze suet until it is firm and you are ready to use it.

You can also add things such as chopped unsalted nuts, dried bits of fruit, birdseed, or honey.

SPCA Bookstore Celebrates 35 Years

On February 12th the SPCA Bookstore welcomed many visitors to its 35th year anniversary. The bookstore began in 1976 as a means of fundraising. Today, that little store has grown to over 15,000 books and is a community institution. Our bookstore is run completely by volunteers, who receive, price, sort, shelve, and sell donated books from the Swift Current area.

Many came to join us, meet the volunteers and enjoy coffee, fruit and baked goods.



Above: Good friends and warm coffee. ↑

↓ Below: SPCA Vice-President **Melanie Weinbender** and founding Secretary **Meryl Campion** catch up.



Some people say that cats are sneaky, evil, and cruel. True, and they have many other fine qualities as well.

— Missy Dizic

A bird does not sing because it has an answer. It sings because it has a song.

- Chinese Proverb