

New Brunswick



Nouveau Brunswick

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**The animal
welfare people.**

**Autumn 2009
Newsletter**

Providing a voice for those who cannot speak for themselves.

Bearisto named to Order of NB

Long time animal rights activist Fred Bearisto has been named to the Order of New Brunswick! The Fredericton businessman received the province's highest honour on New Brunswick Day. The co-founder of the International Fund for Animal Welfare, with its roots in the NBSPCA, considers his work on behalf of animals among his favourite parts of a life-long career of giving.

We've moved!



The NBSPCA has new HQ!

Our offices are now on Lincoln Road, Fredericton, part of the Agricultural Experimental Farm. The move brings additional office space, storage, and animal care facilities. Our mailing address and contact info remain the same.



NB animal abuse penalties now toughest in Canada

NBSPCA members have spoken for New Brunswick animals and government has listened!

Years of lobbying by our members have helped make the penalties for animal abuse in our province some of the stiffest in Canada. Thanks to your ongoing efforts on behalf of animals, the 110-year-old NB SPCA Act was updated this summer, taking us from among the bottom of the animal legislation list to the top!

Provincial judges and other justice community members can now sentence individuals and businesses who abuse and neglect animals to a maximum of \$100,000 and/or 18 months jail time. This is up from the previous maximum penalties of \$168 per offence. One main aim of these updates is to address puppy mills and similar operations from setting up shop in New Brunswick

The changes give provincial prosecutors more choices when they handle cases such instances of neglect. Your letters, phone calls and emails to your elected officials letting them know how you feel about animal abuse have helped us take this large step forward. All three political parties voted unanimously to support the SPCA ACT Bill 85 sponsored by Oromocto MLA Jody Carr.

The Act to Amend the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, Chapter 43 of the Acts of New Brunswick, 2009, came into force on July 31, 2009. The proclamation can be found in OIC 2009-310 dated July 23, 2009.

These exciting changes are further proof of how the New Brunswick Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and its partners are advancing the cause of animal welfare in our province. Together, we are making a difference!

Message from the President

By Joy Bacon

It has been a busy spring and summer and I am delighted to bring you up to date on all that has been happening.

In June, the government passed legislation that increased the minimum penalties for animal neglect and abuse. This legislation was noteworthy in that, while proposed by Opposition MLA Jody Carr, it received unanimous support from all members of the Legislative assembly. From now on, any individual found guilty of animal abuse and neglect is subject to a fine of no less than \$500 and may be sentenced to prison for a term of up to 18 months. In the past our cruelty Inspectors have worked hard to secure convictions for animal abuse, only to be frustrated by the token sentences handed out under the previous legislation. We hope that the new, stiffer penalties will act as a stronger deterrent and allow animal abuse to be recognized as the serious crime it is.

On July 1, the NBSPCA became responsible for dog control in the unincorporated areas throughout the province. We took over arrangements that were in place previously for the remainder of 2009 with the intent of determining future requirements during the summer/fall. At this point we can say we are still learning but we will continue to work with our partners to ensure that appropriate services are in place for 2010. This is so important as we work to improve animal welfare overall in the province. In providing animal protection services we have learned that animal protection and animal control cannot easily be separated from one another. In particular, dogs running at large are at great risk of injury or starvation, and "dangerous" or "nuisance" animals have often earned that designation because they have been the victims of neglect or abuse in the past. By taking responsibility for rural animal control, the New Brunswick SPCA will be able to ensure that those control services are provided in the most efficient and humane way possible.

The summer also brought some other changes that were not program-related but are nonetheless important as we move to provide cohesive services province wide. Bernadette MacFarlane joined us as our office manager on Aug. 4. She will be there Monday through Friday and provide crucial support especially to the inspection and animal control programs.

As well, in late July we had the opportunity to establish office space at the Agricultural Station in Fredericton. It was available as it was no longer required for government offices and the rent was within our means. While not elaborate, it does provide a better space from which programs can operate.

We continue to work with government partners and it is likely pet establishment licensing will be in place early in the New Year. While we had hoped to have this in place by summer, it is likely that even if it had it been ready we would have had some difficulty implementing it in a timely way in conjunction with assuming responsibility for dog control. We are still a small organization with limited staff and as with any organization growth must be managed.

Much remains to be done and many battles lie ahead. We need to do more against commercial puppy mills, irresponsible kennel operations, and the often "invisible" neglect to which some farm animals are subjected. We need to invest more in humane education, and to provide more protection for cats, especially in rural areas.

Support from all of our partners and those who care about animal welfare will make this happen. Support comes in many ways. It can be financial, it can be lobbying for change, and it can be supporting education as well many other ways.

I know I speak for the members of the Board of Directors of NBSPCA when I say Thank You for the support you have offered in the past and I am confident will continue to offer in the future.

Rovers and Readers



The first Rovers and Readers event on Aug 26 brought together kids, dogs and animal welfare education. Seen here, sisters Anna and Maeve Parent share a story with Border collie, Lola. The NBSPCA teamed up with the Sussex Regional Library on National Dog Day to celebrate dogs and their care.

Autumn 2009 edition

The NB Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (NBSPCA) is a provincial organization whose mission is to promote responsible, caring and compassionate attitudes toward animals. Our primary objective is the prevention of cruelty, neglect, and abandonment of animals in our province.

President: Joy Bacon
Executive Director: Glen McGuire
Editor: Vanessa Packman

Visit our web site: www.sPCA-nb.ca
We're also on Facebook!

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Message du Président

Par Joy Bacon

Nous avons été très occupés pendant le printemps et l'été, et je suis ravie de pouvoir vous donner une mise à jour sur tout ce qui s'est passé pendant cette période.

En juin, le gouvernement a adopté un projet de loi qui augmente la pénalité minimale que l'on peut imposer aux personnes reconnues coupables d'abus ou d'négligence à l'endroit des animaux. Il est important de souligner que, quoique proposé par Jody Carr, un membre de l'opposition officielle, le projet de loi a été adopté à l'unanimité par tous les membres de l'Assemblée législative. À partir de maintenant, toute personne reconnue coupable d'avoir abusé ou négligé des animaux peut être condamnée à une amende minimale de 500 \$ et à une peine d'emprisonnement de jusqu'à 18 mois. Par le passé, nos agents de protection des animaux travaillaient fort pour que les personnes accusées d'avoir abusé des animaux soient reconnues coupables de leur crime, mais ils étaient frustrés en raison des sentences minimales rendues en vertu des dispositions législatives précédentes. Nous espérons que les nouvelles sanctions plus sévères décourageront encore plus l'abus des animaux et feront en sorte que ces actes soient reconnus comme des crimes graves.

Le 1^{er} juillet, la SPCANB est devenue responsable du contrôle des chiens dans les régions de la province non constituées en municipalités. Nous avons repris les arrangements existants pour le reste de l'année 2009, avec l'intention de déterminer les futurs besoins pendant l'été et l'automne. À l'heure actuelle, nous continuons à recueillir de l'information et nous travaillerons avec nos partenaires pour faire en sorte que les services nécessaires soient offerts en 2010. Il s'agit d'un aspect très important de nos efforts visant à améliorer la protection des animaux partout dans la province. En offrant des services de protection des animaux, nous avons appris que la protection et le contrôle des animaux ne sont pas toujours des fonctions distinctes. En particulier, les chiens errants risquent de se blesser ou de mourir de faim et les animaux dits « dangereux » ou « nuisibles » sont souvent désignés ainsi parce qu'ils ont été victimes de négligence ou d'abus. En étant responsable du contrôle des chiens dans les régions rurales, la SPCA du Nouveau-Brunswick pourra s'assurer que ces services sont offerts de la façon la plus efficace et la plus humaine possible.

Cet été, nous avons également mis en œuvre d'autres changements importants. Bernadette MacFarlane est entrée en fonction le 4 août dernier à titre de gestionnaire de bureau. Elle sera sur place du lundi au vendredi et offrira des services essentiels pour appuyer nos programmes de protection et de contrôle des animaux.

À la fin juillet, nous avons eu la possibilité de louer un bureau à la Station de recherche agricole à Fredericton. Le bureau était libre parce que le gouvernement n'en avait plus besoin, et le loyer était abordable. Il ne s'agit certainement pas d'un bureau de luxe, mais il nous permettra d'améliorer notre prestation de programmes.

Nous continuons de travailler avec nos partenaires au sein du gouvernement provincial et il est probable qu'un système de permis pour établissements hébergeant des animaux familiers soit en place dans la nouvelle année. Nous voulions mettre en place un tel système cet été, mais il nous aurait été probablement difficile de le faire, même s'il était prêt, en raison de nos nouvelles responsabilités en matière de contrôle des chiens. Comme toute autre organisation, nous devons gérer la croissance, surtout parce que nous sommes encore une petite organisation avec du personnel limité.

Il reste beaucoup de travail à faire et beaucoup de batailles à livrer. Nous devons faire plus pour combattre les usines à chiots, les propriétaires de chenils irresponsables et la négligence souvent « invisible » de certains animaux d'élevage. Nous devons investir plus de temps dans la sensibilisation et offrir plus de protection aux chats, surtout dans les régions rurales. Tout cela nécessitera beaucoup d'efforts, de l'argent et des ressources. J'ai cependant confiance que nous pourrons relever ces défis dans les mois et les années à venir.

L'appui que nous recevrons de tous nos partenaires et de ceux qui ont à cœur le bien-être des animaux nous permettra d'atteindre ces objectifs. Le soutien prend de nombreuses formes – l'appui financier, les pressions politiques pour faire adopter des changements et même l'appui des programmes d'éducation, entre autres.

Tous les membres du conseil d'administration se joignent à moi pour vous remercier du soutien que vous nous avez accordé dans le passé et que vous nous accorderez à l'avenir.

Bits and Pieces

It is with great sadness that we mark the recent passing of long-time NBSPCA supporter Alison MacMillan of Rothesay.

Yet, her work on behalf of animals continues. We gratefully acknowledge the very generous bequest made by her estate to the NBSPCA.

Kibble
Pet Food Bank Network

is one year old!

As the Kibble Pet Food Bank Network celebrates its first birthday on Oct. 4, our four outlets are now providing pet food and supplies to more than 200 animals per month! This NBSPCA initiative helps pet and livestock owners facing financial challenges to feed their animals.



Dates to remember

Monday, Sept. 28

World Rabies Day

Month of October

National Adopt a Shelter Dog
Month

Nov 1 to 7

National Animal Shelter
Appreciation Week

Check our NBSPCA calendar on our www.spcanb.ca web site for

NBSPCA takes on animal control duties in rural New Brunswick

Animal control services for much of rural New Brunswick are now being provided by the NB SPCA.

Members of the public who need to notify an animal control professional about a loose dog or other related incidents will find little difference when they call their local dog constable. Many of the animal control officers made a smooth transition to the NBSPCA network since the July 1 switch, while administration is working to quickly fill the spots that opened during the change over. Meanwhile, municipal residents should continue to use their municipal contact information should they need to reach their local officer.

Animals that have been collected will now be housed at SPCA shelters until the owner can be notified and the issue handled.

Chief inspector Paul Melanson said both the NBSPCA and their new staff members are positive about the change, and that the officers are keen to share resources. Having the service under the NBSPCA umbrella will help officers provide a more cohesive service to those they protect, as well as being less confusing for the public.

Click tip:

Grab a close up photograph of you and your pet while you are enjoying the gorgeous fall colours! It's a great reminder of the good times and a valuable tool should your dog go missing!

**The Kibble Pet Food Bank Network
web site now has listings of
hay, feed and bedding suppliers!**

Check out <http://kibblecanada.tripod.com>
for details.

Animal shelters sanctioned by the NB SPCA

Charlotte County SPCA (506) 465-7657
www.cc-sPCA.petfinder.com

Fredericton SPCA (506) 459-1555
www.frederictonsPCA.ca

Gloucester SPCA (506) 548-8537
www.gloucestersPCAbathurst.freesevers.com/

Miramichi SPCA
www.geocities.com/miramichi_sPCA/

Moncton SPCA (506) 857-8698
www.monctonsPCA.ca

Oromocto and Area SPCA (506) 446-4107
www.oromoctosPCA.ca

SPCA- Péninsule Acadienne Humane Society
(506) 336-9443 or 344-5072
www.sPCA-pa.ca

Restigouche SPCA (506) 684-4396
Email: restsPCA@nb.aibn.com

Saint John SPCA (506) 333-2082
www.saintjohnsPCA.com

Victoria County SPCA (506) 356-1117

