



New Brunswick SPCA Newsletter

Christmas 2006

THE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE & ANIMAL ABUSE LINK

Domestic violence and animal abuse has long been known to be connected, but up until recently, there has not been any study to pull all of the evidence together. In 2001, a collaborative study by the Calgary Humane Society, YWCA Family Violence Prevention Centre, researcher Sue McIntosh and supported by RESOLVE Alberta, explored the link between domestic violence and animal abuse and its affect on children in Calgary. These are just a few things learned:

- 56% of surveyed women in emergency shelters who have pets reported that their partner had either threatened, actually hurt or killed their pet.
- 20% of respondents know that their abuser abused animals as a child.
- 25% of participants delayed their decision to come to the shelter due to concern for their pet's safety.
- 65% believe their children have been impacted by their pets being hurt.

Studies in psychology, sociology and criminology clearly show that violent offenders frequently have childhood and adolescent histories of serious and repeated animal cruelty. The FBI has used this correlation for years in profiling serial killers. Recent research, like the Calgary study, also show that animal cruelty often occurs in tandem with domestic violence – child abuse, spouse abuse and elder abuse.

Animal cruelty is a serious issue in itself. It is a criminal offence. The Criminal Code of Canada defines abuse as willfully causing or allowing unnecessary pain, suffering, or injury to an animal; abandoning an animal or failing to provide it with enough suitable food, water, shelter or care.

It is clear that domestic violence and animal abuse do not exist in isolation. This type of abuse suggests that the abuser may be predisposed to committing other crimes such as vandalism, arson, physical assault and even murder. Action is needed to safeguard the future of our animals, ourselves and our world.

The Calgary Humane Society has since started their "No Excuse for Abuse" campaign designed to increase public awareness of the animal cruelty/domestic violence connection. This is an in depth program with lots of important information. If you would like more information on the Link between Animal Cruelty and Domestic Abuse, please visit the following sites, and help protect those in need:

- www.calgaryhumane.ca
- www.linkageproject.org
- www.latham.org

Reprinted with permission from the Calgary Humane Society "No Excuse for Abuse" pamphlet"



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The NB SPCA is a provincial organization whose mission is to promote responsible, caring and compassionate attitudes towards animals. Our primary objective is the prevention of cruelty, neglect, and abandonment of animals in our province.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I have been involved with the SPCA, both locally and provincially, for over a decade now. Year after year, I continue to see too many animals arrive at shelters across the province and too many cases of abuse and neglect. As you can imagine, this can be discouraging at times.

Recently, however, I had the opportunity to do some traveling outside the country and I was reminded again how lucky we are to live in this part of the world. While it is true that we still have a lot of work to do in New Brunswick in the areas of public education and the prevention of cruelty, the situation could be so much worse. We are lucky to have organizations such as the NBSPCA and its branches across the province who step in to care for animals in need. Through sheltering and intervention, we prevent the suffering of thousands of animals every year. In many parts of the world, there is no SPCA to help the animals, and where there is, these organizations face enormous challenges. This does not mean, however, that we in New Brunswick should simply sit on our laurels. There is much work for us to do here at home, but it is helpful to remind ourselves sometimes of what we have accomplished and continue to accomplish every day in our mission to prevent suffering and abuse.

I would like to take this opportunity to update you on the status of amendments to the Criminal Code of Canada. MP Mark Holland has recently announced his campaign to reform Canada's animal cruelty laws. He has re-introduced in the House of Commons the bill formerly known as C-50, which struck a balance between protection of animals and protection of lawful activities such as fishing, hunting, farming and research. This bill will provide far more protection to animals than the bill introduced in the Senate earlier this year. To find out more about this new Bill-373, visit the web site of the Canadian Federation of Humane Societies at www.cfhs.ca. If you support this legislation, make sure you contact your MP in Ottawa to let him or her know that this issue is important to you.

Finally, I'd like to remind our members and donors that the NBSPCA is in no way affiliated with the Canadian SPCA, a Montreal-based organization that fundraises in New Brunswick. Despite its name, the Canadian SPCA is not a national organization. It operates solely in the Montreal area. Please support animal welfare in New Brunswick by donating to the NBSPCA and your local SPCA Branch or shelter.





MESSAGE DU PRÉSIDENT

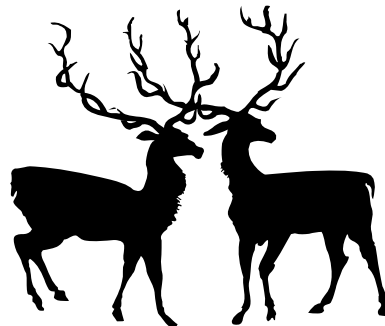


Cela fait plus d'une décennie que je participe à la SPCA, tant au niveau local que provincial. Année après année, je vois trop d'animaux arriver dans nos refuges et un trop grand nombre de cas d'abus et de négligence. Comme vous pouvez l'imaginer, cela devient parfois décourageant.

Récemment, j'ai eu l'occasion de voyager en dehors du Canada, et mon voyage m'a rappelé à quel point nous sommes chanceux d'habiter dans ce coin du monde. Quoiqu'il soit vrai que nous avons beaucoup de travail à faire au Nouveau-Brunswick dans les domaines de la sensibilisation du public et la prévention de la cruauté, la situation pourrait être encore pire. Nous sommes chanceux d'avoir des organismes comme la SPCANB et ses filiales à travers la province qui font leur possible pour aider les animaux dans le besoin. Grâce aux refuges et à l'intervention dans les cas de cruauté, nous venons au secours à des milliers d'animaux tous les ans. Dans biens des pays, il n'y a pas de SPCA pour venir en aide aux animaux, et là où de tels organismes existent, ceux-ci font face à d'énormes défis. Cela ne veut pas dire que nous, au Nouveau-Brunswick, pouvons nous asseoir sur nos lauriers. Il y a beaucoup de travail à faire chez nous, mais il est utile de nous rappeler parfois ce que nous avons accompli et continuons à accomplir dans nos efforts quotidiens à prévenir la souffrance et l'abus.

J'aimerais vous donner une mise à jour sur l'état des modifications au Code criminel du Canada. Le député Mark Holland a récemment annoncé sa campagne visant à réformer la loi canadienne sur la cruauté envers les animaux. Il a de nouveau présenté dans la Chambre des communes un projet de loi anciennement connu sous le nom C 50, qui établit un équilibre entre la protection des animaux et la protection des activités légales telles que la pêche, la chasse, l'élevage de bétail et la recherche. Ce projet de loi offrira beaucoup plus de protection aux animaux que le projet de loi présenté dans le Sénat plus tôt cette année. Pour apprendre davantage sur le nouveau projet de loi 373, visitez le site web de la Fédération des sociétés canadiennes d'assistance aux animaux au www.cfhs.ca. Si vous appuyez cette loi, communiquez avec votre député fédéral à Ottawa pour lui en informer.

Enfin, je tiens à rappeler aux membres et aux donateurs que la SPCANB n'est aucunement associée à la SPCA canadienne, un organisme montréalais qui fait des collectes de fonds au N.-B. Malgré son nom, la SPCA canadienne n'est pas un organisme national. Veuillez appuyer la protection des animaux au N.-B. en faisant un don à la SPCANB et à votre SPCA ou refuge locale.



It's Magic.....

By Gail Jasper

I was visiting the New Brunswick SPCA Pet Expo and it was fun. There was lots to see. But as I wandered about, something was happening on the fringes of my vision. Graceful forms were lingering and long beautiful faces with big eyes drew my attention. I found myself hanging around the fleece fashions stall where THEY were admiring new winter coats and lolling on fuzzy blankets. There was no doubt. I had come under the spell of the greyhound.

Someone shoved a Maritime Greyhound Adoption program pamphlet into my hands. "They are gentle, calm, social animals", it read..."healthy, love human companionship, long lived". It sounded too good to be true, but by now the spell was really working. Could one of these beautiful dogs be a good companion for my lab cross, Sasha, and I? My dream dog would be a calm older animal, at least 4 to 6 years, good with cats, and all right with not being part of the canine agility and flyball club. It seemed impossible, so I discussed the idea with a local greyhound owner and picked up "Retired Racing Greyhounds for Dummies". I became more confident, filled out an application form, and called my vet to ask for a letter of reference.

Then everything moved very quickly. A van load of greyhounds would be arriving in Moncton on Labour Day weekend, just 2 weeks away. Would that be too soon? Hmmm...NO!

Now things really began to happen. There was an in-home interview for Sasha and I. A few hours after the interview, the phone rang. Deb Lavasseur in Moncton was trying to find a home for an older greyhound. Her name was Everine. "Evie" was 8 years old and "cat workable", not a retired racer, but a retired brood mom. She needed a home right away and had been offered to this rescue group. What did I think? I gulped because the spell was again working its magic. A picture of perfect dog hovered in my mind – older, quiet, and TRAINED!. It wasn't much of a decision. I had half fallen in love with Evie, sight unseen, in the previous few minutes. And as soon as I saw her picture and pedigree, I was no longer half in love with her; I was wax in her paws.

The pressure was on! In just 2 weeks, Evie and the other greyhounds would be arriving in Moncton. A cheque was in the mail the following day. A three hour training session was set up for the next weekend. And there was shopping list - a 4' by 3' kennel, bedding, dishes, toys, and good quality kibble. The second interview was really interesting. Deb Lavasseur, founder of MGAP and a canine certified behaviour therapist, and I talked about leadership, separation anxiety, discipline, and the use of the kennel. Then I went shopping. There was just one more week to prepare for Evie's arrival.



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It's Magic.....con't

The week dragged. Would Labour Day would ever arrive? Finally on Saturday, 2 September, I fed Sasha and the cats early, said "goodbye", and set off for the pick-up point in Moncton . I was excited and apprehensive, telling myself not to be disappointed when Everine turned out not to be quite perfect. How could an 8 year old dog who had had several litters possibly be as beautiful as the other dogs? Or as well trained? Or as loveable?

On arrival I was greeted by a yard full of cars, people, and greyhounds walking around on leashes. In the garage, people clustered around the kennels that lined the walls. The dogs had arrived from Maine a few hours earlier to be bathed, de-fleaed, de-wormed, and generally made presentable. All were tired and rather on edge. But there was not a bark or a jump. Good canine manners reigned over all.

Soon I located Everine's kennel and was gazing happily at my dog. A big-eyed, calm, sleek animal gazed back at me. Could this be the aged spent girl I had made up my mind to expect? A glance showed me that yes, there had been litters. But she was still beautiful and very well trained.

Evie cried a little as she left the other greyhounds behind. But since moving into my home, she has made every effort to obey me and get along with everyone. She is a loved and respected family member and a surrogate Mom for our foster kittens.

Of course, adopting a greyhound isn't for everyone. For instance, you can't let your friend trot beside you off leash. You also can't tie him out in the yard. He is not a guard dog, a lap dog, or a hunting dog. Greyhounds are retired working dogs. Like retired working people, they should be loved, respected, and given all the care they need. But perhaps the spell has begun to work its magic on you. Race tracks are now closing and the need is urgent. I believe that anyone who adopts one of these great dogs for the right reasons will have made a good choice - because I know I did.

~ Gail Jasper



IN MEMORIAM



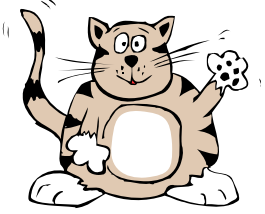
An *In Memoriam* donation made to the New Brunswick SPCA, is a meaningful way to recognize a beloved friend, loved one or companion who has passed away.

People often choose to make a donation to a charity as a permanent way to pay tribute to and celebrate a life well lived. Family and friends appreciate knowing a lasting legacy has been created in the honor of the loved one who has passed on.

Canadian tax receipts are issued for all donations made to the New Brunswick SPCA, and if you wish the next of kin will receive a note telling them of your contribution. All donations are put towards the New Brunswick SPCA's ongoing work to protect animals within New Brunswick from cruelty, neglect and abuse.

To make an *In Memoriam* donation, please contact **Glen McGuire at (506) 458 -8208.**

*If tears could build a stairway, and memories a lane,
I would walk right up to heaven and bring you back again*



LOOKING FOR MORE WAYS TO HELP OUT THE ANIMALS THIS YEAR...HERE ARE SOME GREAT IDEAS!

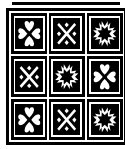
- Yard Sale
- Bake Sale
- Craft Sale
- Pancake Breakfast
- Flea Market
- Car Wash
- Raffle
- Dog Wash
- Dog / Cat Sitting
- Challenge as many of your friends to match your donation to the NB SPCA and see how much you can donate.
- Snow shoveling / Lawn Mowing
- Dance-A-Thon
- Holiday Party Donations—have people over to celebrate the holidays but instead of bringing food, bring a donation!
- Penny / Loonie Collection
- Instead of presents for the holiday, choose a donation gift for them instead!



THANKYOU!

A **HUGE** thank you goes out to **CHERYL PETERMAN** and the **MAJORVILLE QUILTERS LADIES** for their hard work and generous donation of an animal quilt.

This quilt will be raffled off on December 15 and all proceeds will go directly to the NBSPCA.



Happy Holidays and Happy New Year!

Thank you to all our Supporters ~ without you we could not do what we do!

