

New Brunswick



"Giving a Voice to Those Who Cannot Speak for Themselves"

Spring 2015
Newsletter



P.O. Box 1412, Station A, Fredericton, NB E3B 5E3 *www.spca-nb.ca* spca@nbnet.nb.ca *506-458-8208*

Weather Brings Expected Increase in Tethering Complaints

On December 1, new regulations banning the tethering of dogs between 11:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. came into effect in New Brunswick. The ban applies regardless of the season or the temperature, but many New Brunswickers rightly see the ban as providing some protection for dogs against the cold of winter nights. The NB SPCA knew that the first winter enforcing a ban on overnight tethering would be a challenging one, even if the weather remained on the mild side. Mother Nature, however, had a different winter in mind with lots of snow and plummeting temperatures. As a result, the number of calls exceeded all projections and by the end of February had reached close to 400, a number which will be surpassed as this brutal winter continues.

While the number of complaints is high, the most gratifying aspect is the high level of compliance achieved simply by having an Animal Protection Officer (APO) visit the owner and explain the new Regulations to them. Yes, there is no doubt that the minimum fine of \$500 has its impact and we are thankful it does because it makes the job of our APOs safer by minimizing night time investigations. It is both safer and less costly to approach the owner of a tethered dog during the day and gain their cooperation then to carry out a night-time investigation, which may require multiple officers. These night-time investigations are being utilized if a re-visit indicates the owner hasn't held to their promise to not tether at night or complaints continue to come in from concerned members of the community.

Gloucester county had the greatest concentration of tethering complaints with well over double that of the Charlotte county, which was virtually tied with Carleton, York, Westmorland, Restigouche and Northumberland counties. The fewest complaints came from Kent County.

If one measures success in the number of dogs saved from suffering in the cold, then the enforcement of the new tethering regulations is indeed a success. This success was only achieved thanks to the concerned individuals who called in to report tethering concerns, the excellent job done by our Animal Protection Officers and the financial support of our donors. The NB SPCA would also like to acknowledge the support of the Minister and staff of the Department of Environment and Local Government, without which New Brunswick would never have become the first province to have tethering laws.

Hilary Howes, Executive Director



President's Message

The New Brunswick SPCA has had an exciting winter.

On December 1, 2014, new Government regulations prohibiting overnight tethering of dogs came into effect. That concluded an intense year of negotiations with Government, concerned citizens, and other stakeholders about changes to the animal protection legislation. Through the cold winter months just past, our Animal Protection Officers (APOs) worked hard to educate the public and enforce the ground-breaking new measures. Elsewhere in the newsletter, executive director Hilary Howes reports in detail about that effort.

The year just past brought some sobering realities. The NBSPCA finished 2014 with a substantial budget deficit (the first in many years). This was due to increased demand for our services (APO calls were up nearly 13% in 2014 over 2013) and to a fall in our usual revenue from bequests. But there has been much good news. In recent months we negotiated a renewal of our contract with Government to provide dog control services in the rural areas. Dr. Elizabeth Hale from Red Bank has joined our Board of Directors, representing the New Brunswick Veterinary Medical Association, and former-secretary Rose St. Pierre has assumed the important position of treasurer. We have a new NBSPCA webpage and a new Facebook page! And we would like to welcome the Valley SPCA la Vallée in Grand Falls as the newest member of the family of SPCA branch societies across New Brunswick. Well done, Valley SPCA la Vallée!

Our Annual General Meeting

The 2015 Annual General Meeting of the NBSPCA will be held on Sunday, April 26, 2015, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Fredericton, at 2:00 p.m. Members and everyone interested in animal protection are warmly invited to attend. The agenda consists of annual reports on our work from the President, Executive Director, Treasurer, Chief Animal Protection Officer, and others; the election of members to fill vacant at-large positions on the Board of Directors; recognition of our Animal Protection Officers; and discussion and action on any new business for which notice is given. There'll be refreshments! See you there.

Call for Nominations for At-Large Board Positions

Under new by-laws adopted at last year's AGM, nominations to vacant at-large positions on the Board of Directors must be received two weeks prior to the AGM. Email any nomination to spca@nbnet.nb.ca by April 12 (send it to the attention of the Secretary or the Nominating Committee), or send it by regular mail to NBSPCA, Box 1412, Station A, Fredericton NB, E3B 5E3, early enough for it to arrive by the 12th. Remember you must be a member yourself to nominate someone; you must send a short biographical sketch of the person nominated; and, of course, you should make sure that the person is willing to accept the nomination if elected.

There are five at-large positions on the Board, each carrying a two-year term. Two are up for election at this year's AGM. The continuing at-large Board Members are Wayne Foley (Fredericton), Carole LeBlanc (Moncton), and Fran Menton (Saint John). The two members whose term is expiring this spring are Vanessa Packman (Sussex) and Leanne Fitch (Fredericton). Vanessa Packman has indicated that she will re-offer. Most of our Board is not elected at the AGM, since it consists of the presidents of the various branch societies.

Call for New Business

Under new by-laws adopted at last year's AGM, items of new business for discussion at the AGM, or formal motions, must be received by the Society at least seven days prior to the AGM. Email any notices of business to spca@nbnet.nb.ca by April 18, marked for attention by the Secretary or the President, or send them regular mail to Box 1412, Station A, Fredericton NB, E3B 5E3 enough in advance for them to arrive by the 18th.

Watch our Webpage and our Facebook Page for more information about the AGM, nominations, business, etc. The AGM is the highlight of the NBSPCA's year: let's go for the biggest and most enthusiastic turnout ever.

Steve Turner, President

Rapport de la President

L'hiver 2015 a été une période très intéressante pour la SPCANB.

Le 1^{er} décembre 2014, le gouvernement a adopté de nouveaux règlements interdisant le maintien en laisse des chiens durant la nuit. Il s'agissait de la conclusion d'une année de négociations intenses avec le gouvernement, des membres du public et d'autres intervenants relativement à la modification des lois sur la protection des animaux. Au cours des mois d'hiver, nos agents ont travaillé très fort pour sensibiliser le public et faire respecter ces nouvelles mesures, qui font du Nouveau-Brunswick un chef de file dans la protection des animaux. Ailleurs dans le présent bulletin, notre directeur général, Hilary Howes, vous fournit de plus amples renseignements concernant ces efforts.

Au cours de la dernière année, nous avons également été confrontés à certaines difficultés. Pour la première fois depuis de nombreuses années, la SPCANB a enregistré un déficit budgétaire considérable. Cela est attribuable à une augmentation importante du nombre de demandes de service (hausse de 13 % par rapport à 2013) et à une baisse des dons reçus par l'entremise d'un legs. Mais il y a aussi de bonnes nouvelles à annoncer. Au cours des derniers mois, nous avons renégocié notre contrat avec le gouvernement provincial pour les services de contrôle des chiens dans les régions rurales de la province. La D^{re} Elizabeth Hale, de Red Bank, est devenue membre du conseil d'administration à titre de représentante de l'Association des médecins vétérinaires du Nouveau-Brunswick, et notre ancienne secrétaire, Rose St-Pierre, a assumé les fonctions importantes de trésorière. Nous avons un nouveau site Web et une nouvelle page dans Facebook. Finalement, nous tenons à souhaiter la bienvenue à la Valley SPCA La Vallée, la société la plus récente à se joindre à la grande famille des SPCA au Nouveau-Brunswick. Bravo Valley SPCA La Vallée!

Assemblée générale annuelle

L'assemblée générale annuelle de la SPCANB aura lieu le dimanche 26 avril 2015, à l'hôtel Crowne Plaza, à Fredericton, à 14h. Tous les membres ainsi que toute autre personne intéressée par la protection des animaux seront les bienvenus. L'ordre du jour comprendra les rapports annuels du président, du directeur général, de la trésorière, de l'agent principal de protection des animaux et d'autres personnes. On tiendra une élection pour remplir les postes vacants au sein du conseil d'administration et on reconnaîtra le travail de nos agents de protection des animaux. De plus, on donnera suite à toute nouvelle question soumise à l'avance en bonne et due forme. Des rafraîchissements seront servis! Au plaisir de vous y voir!

Appel de candidatures pour des postes de membre à titre personnel

Selon les nouveaux règlements adoptés à l'AGA de l'année dernière, toute mise en candidature pour des postes de membres à titre personnel doit être reçue au moins deux semaines avant l'AGA. On peut envoyer les mises en candidature par courriel à spca@nbnet.nb.ca (à l'attention du secrétaire ou du comité des candidatures) ou les envoyer par la poste à SPCANB, C.P. 1412, Succ. A, Fredericton (N.-B.) E3B 5E3. Les mises en candidature doivent être reçues au plus tard le 12 avril. N'oubliez pas que pour proposer un candidat, il faut être membre de la SPCANB, soumettre une courte biographie de la personne, et, bien sûr, s'assurer que la personne est prête à siéger au conseil si elle est élue.

Il y a un total de cinq postes de membres à titre personnel, dont le mandat de chacun est de deux ans. Deux postes deviendront vacants à l'AGA de cette année. Les autres postes sont actuellement occupés par Wayne Foley (Fredericton), Carole LeBlanc (Moncton) et Fran Menton (Saint John). Les deux membres dont le mandat expirera au printemps sont Vanessa Packman (Sussex) et Leanne Fitch (Fredericton). Vanessa Packman a indiqué qu'elle a l'intention de présenter sa candidature pour un autre mandat. La plupart des membres du conseil ne sont pas élus à l'AGA, car ils sont présidents des filiales de la SPCANB.

Points à l'ordre du jour

Selon les nouveaux règlements adoptés à l'AGA de l'année dernière, les nouveaux points à l'ordre du jour et les motions officielles doivent être reçus par la Société au moins sept jours avant l'AGA. On peut les soumettre par courriel à spca@nbnet.nb.ca ou par la poste à SPCANB, C.P. 1412, Succ. A, Fredericton (N.-B.) E3B 5E3, à l'attention du secrétaire ou du président. Tout avis doit être reçu au plus tard le 18 avril.

Consultez notre site Web ou notre page Facebook pour de plus amples renseignements sur l'AGA, les mises en candidature, l'ordre du jour, etc. L'AGA est le point culminant de l'année pour la SPCANB : venez en grand nombre!

Steve Turner, président

NBSPCA Annual General Meeting

Sunday, April 26, 2015

Crowne Plaza Hotel, Fredericton

2 PM

Assemblée générale annuelle de la SPCANB

dimanche 26 avril, 2015

l'hôtel Crowne Plaza, Fredericton

14 heures

New Brunswick SPCA
SPCA Nouveau-Brunswick
P.O. Box 1412 Stn A/CP 1412 Succ A
Fredericton, NB E3B 5E3

Meet the Animal Protection Officers Chad Rasmussen Moncton NB



“Our job is to defuse situations, to educate, to protect animals, and to ensure compliance with the law without seizures or use of our legal power whenever we can do so.”

- Chad Rasmussen, Animal Protection Officer



When we asked APO Chad Rasmussen to describe a typical day in his work as an APO, his answer was, “there is no typical day. Every time the phone rings there is a new situation waiting, and that’s what I love about the job.”

Chad grew up in Calgary, and later followed his family to the Moncton area where he worked as an Asset Protection Agent for the Hudson’s Bay Company. Just as the Bay was closing, the New Brunswick SPCA was creating a position for a full-time Animal Protection Officer to serve the Moncton area, and he is now in his fourth year as one of the NBSPCA’s three full-time APOs.

The job, he notes, is never easy, but it offers many satisfactions. He recalls a night last summer being dispatched to rescue a dog struck by a hit-and-run car in a rural area south of Sussex. After a long, frustrating search in the dark, he finally located the badly-injured dog lying in a road-side ditch, covered with water and unable to move. He administered first aid to the animal for forty-five minutes, trying to stop the blood flow and dress the worst of the wounds. He then drove the injured animal an hour to the nearest emergency clinic, where it was treated for broken teeth and massive damage to one leg. Later, fully recovered, the dog was taken to the Moncton Animal Shelter and adopted by an animal-loving family. Cases like that, he noted, are why he regards his APO work as “the most rewarding job I have ever done.”

“For all its feel-good rewards,” Chad adds, “being an APO has its depressing and dangerous side.” Physical threats come with the turf. He remembers confronting an angry, resentful farmer with a small, badly-suffering calf. The man refused either to call for veterinary aid or fetch a gun to put the calf out of its misery. Finally, given the choice between acting or being legally charged, the farmer brought his rifle and dispatched the calf. But he then pointed the gun at the APO and warned him to leave immediately, “or you’ll be next.” Fortunately, Chad adds, those situations are rare. When APOs show up, the most common response of animal owners is “shock and surprise” that a uniformed officer should be at their door. “Most people honestly think they are doing the right thing by their animals,” he remarked. “Our job is to upgrade owners’ understanding of their responsibility toward the animals in their charge.”

Chad finds some things about the APO’s job frustrating. Social media, he thinks, has begun to make APOs’ jobs harder. “Social media are good in stirring up public concern about animal welfare,” he notes, but they can also spread incomplete or false information about specific cases, sometimes make it more difficult for law enforcement to obtain legal convictions, and at worst, cross the line into vigilantism. Another challenge for the Society, he says, is that the public still confuses the NBSPCA, and its protection and enforcement role, with the SPCA branches, and their sheltering and re-homing role. That confusion extends, he thinks, even to the courts and other enforcement agencies. “We’ve still got a job to do explaining to the public who we are what our work consists of,” Chad says.

He speaks enthusiastically about the excellent, supportive relationship he enjoys with the Moncton Animal Shelter, other APOs, the RCMP, and even with the Moncton fire department and paramedic teams. “Working with these dedicated people,” he says, “is always a pleasure.” For Chad Rasmussen, professionalism and people-skills are the two keys to success for an Animal Protection Officer. “I especially enjoy applying the techniques of conflict resolution in the situations I deal with,” he says. “Our job is to defuse situations, to educate, to protect animals, and to ensure compliance with the law without seizures or use of our legal power whenever we can do so.” We think that sums up the role of the APO very well.

S Turner, March 2015

