

The SPCA NewsPaws

Dedicated to Animal Welfare in Newfoundland and Labrador

A visit to the HAPPA Sanctuary

by Carolyn Hickey

25 ACRES OF HORSE HEAVEN! That's my thought every time I think of our visit to the Horse and Pony Protection Association (HAPPA) Sanctuary in Hopeall, Trinity Bay.

We had driven out to see the sanctuary and visit with the people who care for the neglected, abandoned and abused horses entrusted to their care. We were welcomed by Cliff George, Byron Hierlihy, Erin Walsh and Hughey - the most recent arrival at the Sanctuary. Suffering from malnutrition, ticks and bites from other horses on the farm from which he and his sibling were removed, Hughey nonetheless whinnied softly while munching away on his hay and carrots. Byron tells us he hasn't stopped eating since he arrived!

By this time, the other horses are curious about us and our big 90 pound dog, Sadie. Harry - a little red Newfoundland Pony and the youngest resident - spent lots of time playing with Sadie. Erin says that, as the smallest, he's been waiting for someone to play with! Sadie is just the size to fill the bill! Erin tells me (I know little about horses!) that horses are actually a lot like big dogs - they get attached to people who care for them, are jealous of attention their buddies receive, and appreciate kindness. They are a lot harder to care for, however!

Cliff and Erin told us about some of the other residents: one who had spent so much time working hard labour that her neck ligaments are permanently damaged; another - a lovely little Newfoundland Pony, was found forgotten and hungry, tied to a tree once the novelty wore off and the kids found other things to do; Queen, who was so badly treated that she stays away from everyone except one large stallion - who protects her and makes sure there's enough food for her. That same stallion had watched his owner die from a heart attack and is now angry at everyone else. How did these horses end up at this Sanctuary? Cliff tells us that sometimes, they're there because

well-meaning people find they really can't handle these cute pets they've gotten. Too often, these lovely animals have been worked too hard, fed too little, left alone too often. Horses are sometimes seized - sometimes purchased - by the HAPPA Sanctuary, from negligent owners who are reluctant to part with the animals they are mistreating.

HAPPA is totally dedicated to the suffering horses around our Province. It began as another organization in the late 1980's as a movement to save the Newfoundland Pony -



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www.spcastjohns.org

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HAPPA Sanctuary *cont'd*

whose numbers dwindled from over 4000 to less than 200 within a matter of a few years as they were sold in mainland markets for meat. Now, the Sanctuary rescues all breeds of horses and ponies. In the warm, clean, comfortable stables we see many pictures of former rescued animals that have spent time - sometimes died and are buried - at the Sanctuary.

Cliff tells us that now the most interest in the Newfoundland Pony comes from people living abroad who want to protect the tiny work horse. While some are being bred here, there is little market for them locally. And - while it's good to think that people want to save them - he wishes that breeders would breed only when they know the offspring will go to a future owner who truly understands the responsibility they're taking on. Because - if they don't - far too often, these horses are neglected and abused. The lucky ones end up with HAPPA.

By now, I'm feeling pretty comfortable with these great



animals, and wishing the city by-laws permitted me to have one in my own backyard. There's a good reason for that by-law- a backyard is not the place for them. I ask Cliff what he considers to be a 'good home'. Without hesitation, he replies that a horse needs love and attention, ample space to roam, good food to eat and proper -expensive - veterinary care. Having a horse and not providing these necessities is what keeps the Sanctuary busy - many horses still suffer needlessly.

Cliff and the other people who care for the animals at the HAPPA Sanctuary do phenomenal work with the facilities they have. When asked what they need, Cliff tells me his wish list includes a bigger stable (unfortunately, the need is there) and an artesian well so they won't run out of water every July and August. However, these 'luxuries' are a long way off, due to the recurring expenses of veterinary bills, hay and the general up-keep of the Sanctuary as it now stands.

The HAPPA Sanctuary in Hopeall employs three people part-time- a necessity because there is too much work and too much need to be filled by volunteers. However, for Cliff, Erin, Byron, and the rest of the Board of Directors, this Sanctuary is a labour of love.

If you would like to find out more about the Horse and Pony Protection Association - or make a donation - check out their website at www.happanl.ca. OR e-mail at info@happanl.ca. On the web site, you'll see pictures of all of the horses and the sanctuary, and learn everything you need to know about HAPPA. OR go visit the HAPPA Sanctuary! On a nice day, it's a lovely drive! You'll be happy you did!

All inquires are welcomed -all donations are needed and appreciated!

To Submit articles, make suggestions/comments, contact Cheryl at:

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NEWFOUNDLAND POWER

Investigative Report



On February 15, 2010 the St. John's SPCA received a call of concern from a resident in Dunville, Placentia saying there was a cat and two dogs in a house and one of the dogs was dead. The caller said the owner of the animals had not been at the house for about two weeks. Special Constables Debbie Powers and I of the SPCA met the RCMP at the house to find "Charlie" alive, greeting us at the window. He appeared to be an older dog, extremely thin but very sweet. When we entered the house the stench was overwhelming and as we proceeded to walk through the house we found a Golden Retriever dead on the floor still tethered to an appliance in the kitchen.

This poor dog was very thin with no signs of fat or muscle and with the ribs, back bone and hip bones all protruding. There was blood and feces on the floor. The caller had stated that he had been inside the house earlier and untied "Charlie" from the wall but left the dead dog as he found it.

The caller said he didn't know where the cat was, nor could we find it when we searched the house, and the caller had indicated that when he went into the house he left the window opened so the cat could have gotten out. We did leave some food and water for the cat just in case it was hiding in the house, the house was a terrible mess so it would have been

very easy for the cat to be hiding somewhere. We removed the dead dog and brought it to the Veterinary Pathologist in St. John's and are awaiting results of the post mortem.

"Charlie" was brought back to the shelter and affectionately renamed "Josh" in honour of the RCMP officer who rescued him that day and we are delighted to report he has been adopted to a new home.

The fate of the cat was discovered by a relative of the owner of the animals who had called us to say she went into the house the next day and found the cat dead under one of the beds. The cat had a severe injury to the head and looked as though the cat had been hit in the head. The cat's body was also taken to the Veterinary Pathologist in St. John's and we are awaiting the results of the post mortem.

The RCMP are continuing their investigation and it looks possible that charges will be laid.

UPDATE: The results of the cat post mortem and dog post mortem are completed and charges have been laid by the RCMP. The owner of the animals is due in court in St. John's on April 14, 2010.



IN MEMORY DONATIONS by Carolyn Hickey - SPCA Secretary

The following people have been remembered by in memoriam monetary donations from SPCA supporters. We aim to be inclusive. Please let us know if we've miss a name you know has been honoured by a donation in-memoriam.

NOVEMBER/ DECEMBER

Harvey Austin
Mary Burt
Kevin Dwyer
Claude L. Martin
John Peters
Marjorie Pope
Donald Randell
Rupert Wiseman
Peggy Woodford

JANUARY 2010

Nellie Babcock
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Paul Smith
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Marianne Zahn

FEBRUARY 2010

Florence Butler
Lawrence Joseph
Connolly
Winifred Donnelly
Mark Fitzpatrick
Gerald Knight
Joyce Rockett
Herbert Russell
David Sheppard

Violet Simmons
Paul Smith
Adam Tizzard
Mary Yabsley

MARCH (1-4)

Teddy Bennett
Matthew Brown
Mary Edina Gillingham
Lily May Janes
Patrick Lenehan
Helena Sullivan

New Coin Boxes Now Available.

If you have a business or office that would be willing to collect change in one of our fabulous new coin boxes and at the same time raise awareness for animal welfare, please email Kate or call her at 726.0301 to help. Together we can make a difference!



COIN BOX

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LONG'S HILL NEIGHBOURHOOD CONVENIENCE



Dave and Mary d'Entremont have owned and operated a neighbourhood convenience store at the top of Longs Hill in St. John's for about 34 years. They have hosted a coin box there for the SPCA for as long as they can remember! The store is welcoming and carries just about whatever you'd need to make a meal. They also make their own sub sandwiches and cookies - if you don't want to make them yourself!

Any time you go there, either Dave or Mary - and sometimes both of them - are behind the counter - assisting whenever necessary, friendly and knowledgeable. They serve a varied clientele because their neighbourhood is in transition and there are several schools in the area. Students from St. Bonaventure's Private School, Holy Heart of Mary High School and Macpherson Elementary School often spend their lunch money there. All are greeted with a smile and treated with courtesy. Many of them leave all of their change - and some make sure it's placed in the SPCA

coin box. (Dave and Mary also support the Alzheimer's Society and Read for Rides with coin boxes)

Having had one theft of our coin box many years ago, now Mary and Dave don't let the box become too full - they say it's too tempting for some! They change up the coin into paper money and save it until I come to pick it up. And every time I go there, I'm bound to spend time chatting and just watching Dave and Mary interact with their customers. They are truly special - and the SPCA is fortunate to have them as supporters! Thanks, Dave and Mary - from the Volunteers, Staff, Board of Directors and - especially - the Animals of the SPCA! Your loyalty is truly appreciated.

Longs Hill Neighbourhood Convenience Store is located at 101 Long's Hill.

Everyone's welcome!

NewsPaws

Mrs. Hilda Smith



Hilda Smith came to Newfoundland from Montreal in 1962 with her husband Dr. P.D.P. Smith and two children. Hilda was a botanist who worked with the MUN Biology Department as a lab demonstrator for several years. Almost immediately after the family's arrival in St. John's, Hilda made the acquaintance of others in the area who were working to improve the lot of all animals. She soon took on a significant role in the movement. In the early 1970's a lot of the work involved giving telephone advice on animal care, connecting animal owners with those willing to adopt (again by telephone), fund raising and publicity, and educating children's groups through visits or animal shows. The SPCA's efforts in the 1960's and '70's were not limited to improving the lot of house pets. The first meetings with animal rights groups over the seal hunt took place and a law suit was brought against a local department store's inadequate care for the animals in its pet department. Periodically, complaints over the maltreatment of farm animals were dealt with. In 1965 the Society established a small animal shelter in partnership with the City of St. John's but this proved a difficult project to manage and was discontinued soon after. The first shelter run entirely by the Society opened in 1972 off Torbay Road. Running it involved enormous efforts by all of the volunteers and through it all, over nearly forty years, Hilda was a leader, volunteer, and worker, as she continuously worked to help the animals of the City and the Province. She is now residing at the Glebe Centre in Ottawa.

Submitted by Jill Whitaker



Aspen.

Hi everybody, Aspen here:

I am having my adopted mother (Roxanne) type this letter for me. It has almost been a year since I came into my new home. It was January 09 when I was placed into a foster home with my 4 surviving babies.



My foster parents took really good care of my babies and after 7 weeks they were all adopted out and placed into really nice homes. I stayed with my foster parents and had my cherry eye fixed and I was spayed. During my recovery from my two surgeries my foster parents took really good care of me and then I was adopted by my foster parents in May 09.

During the year my foster parents enrolled me into Obedience classes and I received my level one certificate in Aug 26, 2009, as well I go to doggie daycare three times a week to help me overcome my assertiveness towards other dogs. It has done wonders for me as now I am not tense being around other dogs.

My foster parents take me on weekly organized dog walks which at times have up to 20 dogs and owners, when I am not involved in the organized dog walks my foster parents take me for daily walks to keep me fit as a fiddle. We go to various trails throughout the city and I enjoy the walks very much, my ears are back, my tail is wagging with excitement as I get to prance my stuff and feel very proud to be with such a wonderful family.

I am hoping to start new obedience classes soon so it will keep me focused on my new skills. I plan on doing as many levels as possible to show my new foster parents what I am capable of. I am so happy here in my new home, I am warm, fed, and loved and have a HUGE garden to run in and chase squirrels.

I am very happy and will update you all in another year.

Riley.

Adopted in August 2000, Ryley died peacefully (December 14, 2000) after a brave two- year struggle with diabetes causing blindness and growing debility. Always loving and polite with everyone, human and animal, once she was introduced, Ryley was a kind and gentle creature and it makes us all very sad to lose her. But these past weeks, especially since the heavy bewildering snow added to her difficulties, we all knew that it was time for her to go.

Dr. Martin and his assistant came to the house because the trauma of any visit to the vet's office frightened her. With their help she passed away quietly and, I believe, gratefully, with all her family around her: Arthur, Scott, John, dogs Molly and Sasha, and cats Smudge and Patch. She will be cremated at the Devonshire facility.

All these wonderful female companions came from your shelter for which we are all truly thankful.

Yours affectionately,

John Holmes



Update on Changes to Provincial Animal Welfare Legislation

Press Release: Natural Resources March 1, 2010 New Animal Protection Legislation on Spring Legislative Agenda

The Provincial Government confirmed today that a new Animal Health and Protection Act will be introduced into the House of Assembly during the spring session. "We have been reviewing our existing six live animal statutes and consulting with special interest groups on the consolidation of these acts into a new, modern and tougher Animal Health and Protection Act," said the Honourable Kathy Dunderdale, Minister of Natural Resources and Minister Responsible for the Forestry and Agrifoods Agency. "We are now ready to bring forward an all encompassing piece of legislation for debate that will address concerns and issues raised over cruelty to animals in this province and stiffer penalties for such behavior." The Provincial Government announced last April that it would be reviewing its existing live animal statutes. The Department of Natural Resources consulted the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA), municipalities and representatives from the livestock industry and considered submissions from other special interest groups and the public in this process. Officials are now in the process of developing a draft bill for the consideration of the legislature.

The six acts being consolidated into one are the Animal Protection Act, Dog Act, Heritage Animals Act, Livestock Act, Livestock Health Act and Poultry and Poultry Products Act. Most of this legislation was enacted in the 1970s and has not been significantly updated. The new Animal Health and Protection Act will address the definition of animal cruelty and appropriate penalties, enforcement and animal control activities. As part of this review, the Animal Health Division of the Department of Natural Resources also evaluated animal welfare legislation across Canada. "Our comprehensive consultation process helped determine the areas in which improvements are required," said Minister Dunderdale. "What we heard reaffirmed the importance of consolidating

the current legislation into one comprehensive act, and placing greater emphasis on increased penalties around animal cruelty. Our department has received letters and e-mails from concerned citizens about the recent cases of animal abuse and neglect in our province, and this public awareness and outrage will go a long way in improving the reporting of these incidents and the rescuing of animals that may be in crisis. Cruelty to animals is illegal and we all have a responsibility for reporting any incidents. Our new legislation will provide stiffer penalties for those individuals convicted of these crimes."

Societal expectations and attitudes towards the care of animals have changed since much of the existing legislation was introduced. The new legislation will provide the greatest protection and enforcement possible in regards to animal welfare and will address the fines and penalties for inappropriate treatment of animals and neglect. Details will be provided when the draft bill is released during the spring session.

All six existing pieces of legislation continue to be enforced as the draft bill is developed. Extreme cases of death and grievous treatment can also be dealt with under the Criminal Code of Canada. Cases of abuse can be reported to Crimestoppers by calling 1-800-222-TIPS (8477). For further details on the review process, please visit www.nr.gov.nl.ca/agric/consultation.

***Your emails and letters to Minister Dunderdale are very important. Please let's keep the pressure on government to make positive change that will improve the lives of the thousands of animals in our province.

Minister Dunderdale's email address is: kathydunderdale@gov.nl.ca

Her mailing address is: Minister Kathy Dunderdale, P.O. Box 8700, St. John's, NL A1B 4J6

GIFT MEMBERSHIP

Finding it more difficult to buy the perfect gift for your loved one? Why not consider giving a Membership to the SPCA. With your gift membership the recipient will receive an acknowledgment card and a subscription to our newsletter. You will receive a tax deductible receipt for your donation. Great for special occasions (weddings, birthdays, graduations, arrival of a new family member) Just fill out the membership form on the back of this newsletter and we'll take care of the rest.

Elle's Story



My name is "Elle" Windsor, and my mommy, Heidi Windsor, adopted me from the SPCA 15 yrs. ago. I just had my 16th birthday in January ! The kind folks at the St. John's SPCA thought I was about one year old when I was adopted. I didn't have a very good start in life, but, man, the last 15 years have been fantastic. I lived with my mom and dad in Mt. Pearl for 8 years, and then we all moved to Doha, Qatar, in the Middle East. My parents are teaching here. Well, that was 7 years ago, my how time flies when I am laying in the sun on the living room rug, or hanging out on my shelf mom and dad built for me so that I could look out the window and see a few birds.

You can see from my picture (I am lying on the sofa), that my coat isn't quite as nice as it used to be. My mommy took me to the vet last year and he told her I have a little problem with my thyroid, so, I have to take pills every day. I don't realize it though, as my mom puts it in my soft food, and I don't even know ! Lately, I seem to like my softer food. Can you believe I just had my 16th birthday over here in Doha, Qatar.

I have lived here in the sunshine for 7 years, so, I don't even remember the cold weather back in Newfoundland.

Just thought I would get mommy to send you my picture, and let you know what a lucky pussy cat I am. Well, I know I don't look quite as good as I did in my younger days, but hey, I'm 16 now !! I spend most of my time napping now, well, I am a senior citizen !

Love to all the wonderful people at the St. John's SPCA, from "Elle Windsor"

Upcoming Fundraising Events

Annual Spring Sale

Saturday, April 17, St. Mary's Auditorium, Craigmillar Avenue

Doors open 10am, Admission \$2

Join us for Morning Coffee, Homemade Lunch of Soup and Chili Baked Goods, Books, Plants, Antiques, Jewellery and much more.

Bring the whole family!

Giant Flea Market

Saturday, June 5, St. Mary's Auditorium, Craigmillar Avenue

Doors open 10am, Admission \$1

Lots of great bargains!

NL Pet Expo

June 12 & 13

St. John's Remax Centre, Mayor Avenue

Be sure to visit our booth with lots of pet related information

Annual Walk for the Animals and Family Fun Day

Sunday, June 27 at 1pm

To register or to get sponsor sheets, please visit www.spcastjohns.org or call Cheryl 682.7963

THE SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS

Please join us. Animals cannot help themselves.

They depend on people who care to fight for them.
The S.P.C.A. is a voluntary organization actively working for the
Humane treatment of all animals

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John's who want to receive NewsPaws directly.)

DONATION

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Check if renewing.
Gift Membership
Please check here if you are interested in volunteering for
the S.P.C.A. Get involved as little or as much as you like.

Annual Membership is due November 1st. of each year.

Please send payment to: S.P.C.A., PO Box 1533, St. John's, NL A1C 5N8

SIGN UP A FRIEND

Special Message to longtime members! Next time you decide to
renew your SPCA membership, why not find just ONE MORE new
member: maybe your parents, your siblings, a friend or co-worker.
The animal problems that we deal with daily are not lessening and
the more members we have, the more we will be able to do for the
strayed, abandoned and abused animals in this Province.



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