

# SPCA newsletter

Yarmouth SPCA, P.O. Box 335, Yarmouth, N.S. B5A 4B3 • 902-742-9767 www.yarmouthspca.com

Vol. 1 No. 2

## ABOUT THE NOVA SCOTIA SPCA

The Nova Scotia SPCA has been protecting animals from cruelty since 1877. We are a registered charity comprised of a network of Branches, which rely primarily on volunteers and donations to fund animal protection; care and rehabilitation; advocacy; and humane education.

The mission of the Nova Scotia SPCA is to prevent abuse, neglect and cruelty to animals, and provide for province-wide leadership on matters that promote and improve the welfare of all animals through animal protection; humane education; advocacy and engagement and collaboration with stakeholders. Our vision is that Nova Scotia be a No Kill province and a safe place for all animals with a zero tolerance for cruelty. The Society is mandated by the Act to Protect Animals and to Aid Animals that are in Distress to enforce cruelty laws.

Every year, the SPCA responds to thousands of calls related to the welfare of animals across the province. We are the last line of defence for animals in need. Our objective is to see that every displaced animal gets a second chance at a loving forever home. The guiding principles of the SPCA's No Kill model focuses on increasing live release rates with a commitment of attaining a record of 90% or higher. All healthy and medically treatable animals will be given every opportunity for adoption and euthanasia is reserved only for reasons of mercy or aggression. Killing for space is not an option. In 2009, our live release rate was 67%. Today it is 81% and rising.



Kristin Williams

In each of our communities, we are committed to finding solutions that save lives and identify willing adoptive homes. Nova Scotia is viewed as a leader in progressive and creative animal welfare strategies.

One of our advantages is our network. We have the ability to move animals around the province to give them every opportunity to be adopted. Our intake in 2009 was close to 8,000 animals. When an animal is taken into care, we have the strength of 10 Branches and a Provincial Animal Shelter to ensure that each animal is given every possible chance for adoption and that we are able to deliver them into loving homes as soon as possible.

One of our most amazing initiatives was developed in Yarmouth. In the spring of 2010, the Yarmouth SPCA Branch incorporated a new protocol to save dogs infected by Parvovirus. This deadly and very contagious virus is almost always untreatable in a shelter or even a home environment. It usually results in death or euthanasia to control disease spread.

**Community Spotlight on YARMOUTH**

*We are often asked the following question*

**Why can't the SPCA be open admission for all owner-surrender and abandoned cats and kittens?**

Some shelters are open admission, but their kill rates are generally very high. In North America it is very common for shelters and municipal run pounds to have kill rates as high as 90% for cats.

The SPCA is striving to be an open-admission, No Kill animal welfare organization. We will not compromise live release rates to be open admission. In other words, the SPCA will not kill healthy, adoptable animals for space. We aim to place all healthy animals and those with treatable, manageable conditions. We only euthanize for reason of mercy or aggression.

Regrettably that means there may not always be room at the SPCA, at its Branch shelters or through its foster network for all of the animals in need. When capacity and resources require us to reduce intake, the SPCA prioritizes the most vulnerable and provides assistance to the extent possible.



Faith, on her adoption day from the Yarmouth SPCA shelter. She is the first-ever parvovirus survivor to be adopted from a NS SPCA.

Through tenacity and commitment, the Yarmouth team has taken a leadership role in the province and has achieved a 100% survival rate for the animals that come into their care with Parvovirus.

Many people believe that shelters are for animals, but SPCA Branches are a vital part of each community and important to people as well. We help low income individuals; we support spay and neuter initiatives and trap, neuter and return for feral cats; we reunite lost pets with their caregivers; we care for animals after the death of a beloved owner; and we take animals in when an owner can no longer care for them. The Yarmouth SPCA provides critical services and programs to Yarmouth residents.

**Kristin Williams**  
Executive Director of the Nova Scotia SPCA

*Kristin joined the Society in December 2009 with over 15 years of experience in corporate and non profit environments, most recently with the Ontario SPCA.*

# The importance of child and teen volunteerism

Throughout 2010 our adoptable animals benefited greatly from the work of volunteers on their behalf, and some of the most dedicated and hardworking members of the volunteer team aren't even old enough to drive themselves to the shelter!

Whether formally through our volunteer program, as a part of events or initiatives like "Career Day" or other school and service group projects, through placements for students needing community service hours or with special needs, or simply by encouraging their parents to stop by the shelter so they can walk a dog or cuddle a cat before heading off to piano lessons or hockey practice, children and teens are making a difference in the lives of animals in need!

## Some advantages of child and teen volunteerism:

**-Humane Education:** What better way for a child or teen to learn the importance of spaying and neutering than to see first-hand the results of pet over-breeding? Or to learn about what is involved in caring for a pet than by helping to care for MANY pets? Or to learn empathy than by walking a dog or cuddling a cat that has been the victim of neglect or cruelty? Educating the hands and heart through volunteering goes a long way in truly educating the mind, and principles of humane treatment of animals carry over into other parts of life as well, helping children and teens to view and interact with their world in a different and more compassionate way.



Teen volunteer  
Jennifer with Jimmy

**-Learning Responsibility:** "Some parents would be surprised to see their kids happily engaging in some of the dirtiest shelter jobs when it would take a miracle to get them to make their own beds," says shelter manager Renata Tweedy. The secret, she believes, is ownership; a child or teen being specially trained for and entrusted with specific tasks will naturally feel a sense of ownership over the process, coupled with a sense of satisfaction over completing their responsibility with excellence, and the confidence this produces.

**-A Family Affair:** We encourage parents to be present with their kids and teens while they volunteer at the shelter — this is a great way for parents to be a part of the education process and to spend quality time with their kids doing something that makes a difference.

**-Happier, more adoptable pets!:** The attention of a child or teen not only brings joy to an animal in the moment, but also helps greatly in the socialization process that is so important for preparing pets to be adopted into their forever-homes!

Our goal for 2011 is to have child and teen volunteers become a more regular part of the shelter team — each committing to one day a week after school, or one weekend morning or afternoon a month.

If your child would enjoy this new challenge for the New Year, you can email the shelter at [info@yarmouthspca.com](mailto:info@yarmouthspca.com) to learn how to register.

*A special thank you to*

## SPEARS & MACLEOD PHARMACY LTD.

The staff team at Pharmasave (located on Main Street in Yarmouth) has played a special role in shelter life this year. They've been raising money to provide necessities of animal care as well as some special treats for our adoptables. "We're like kids at Christmas around here when we know Pharmasave will be calling for our wish-list," says shelter manager Renata Tweedy. "And I'll admit to getting teary eyed more than once when they've made their deliveries." Time and time again they've filled our empty cupboards with cat and dog food, brought in bags of

non-clumping cat litter when we're down to our last scoop, purchased cleaning and office supplies, and provided some of our adoptables' favourite toys and snacks. This partnership benefited the shelter not only by meeting specific needs, but by allowing us to direct the funds we would have used on these purchases to causes like emergency medical care and spaying/neutering.

L I V E W E L L W I T H

**PHARMASAVE®**

On behalf of the Yarmouth SPCA board of directors, shelter staff, and of course our adoptable pets, THANK YOU PHARMASAVE for your consistent support and partnership!

**URGENT  
APPEAL**

Some may remember that the current shelter building on Hardscratch Road was formerly the office building for an asphalt plant. For the past 30 years, it has been home to the Yarmouth SPCA, where thousands of animals have been rescued, sheltered and adopted into new forever homes. In 2007, we completed a major interior renovation necessitated because of mould and mildew problems. Those immediate issues were very costly and exhausted a "building fund" that the Yarmouth SPCA had been saving for a much-needed expansion, roof replacement, enhancement of the dog runs, and to generally make the building safer and more comfortable for both the animals in our care and the staff. After the recent rains, it became clear that work on the roof needs to be priority, as the patches are no longer sufficient. We need nearly \$5,000.00 to complete this project alone.

Inside the building there is also much to be done, and first in line is the construction of a wall with door and windows to separate the cat adoption room from the reception and office areas, and most importantly the main shelter door. Funding required for this important project will be approximately \$4,000.00.

To make these immediate projects happen, we need your help! Any donation, large or small, is greatly appreciated. Tax receipts are issued for donations of \$10.00 or more. Your generosity is so important to our operations and we thank you for partnering with us to better help and serve animals in need!

*Chris Perry*

Director, Infrastructure Portfolio





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**PLEASE JOIN US • WE NEED YOUR MEMBERSHIP**

Your membership in the Yarmouth S.P.C.A. runs from January to December in any calendar year, so all memberships expire in December. To insure that your membership continues, please complete and return this form. As a valued member of the Yarmouth S.P.C.A., we greatly appreciate the support you have shown us in the past and hope that you will renew your membership with us for the up-coming year. We need more members and encourage you to join us!



## NEW MEMBERSHIP OR RENEWAL

*Membership renewals are due each January.*

Kindly send back this form in order to join or renew. Thank You

Regular Membership - \$15.00

Student Membership - \$5.00

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone # \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Please make your cheque payable to **Yarmouth S.P.C.A.**

Yes, I/we wish to become a member(s) for an annual fee of \$15.00 per person.

OR

renew my/our membership for 2011 for a fee of \$15.00 per person.

I would like to make a further donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL enclosed:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\* We issue tax receipts for all donations \$10.00 or more

*Your donation will help us save animal lives, provide care and treatment of the animals in our shelter, and better inform all members of our community to have respect for all animal life through education and intervention. On behalf of those who cannot speak for themselves - and all those who work daily to protect them...*



*Thank You*



Please visit our website at: [www.yarmouthspca.com](http://www.yarmouthspca.com)

## OUR CHRISTMAS WISH LIST

"You can partner with us to help our rescued, adoptable pets by donating items for use at the shelter. Your generosity not only provides these important supplies, but also means that more of our funds can be directed to providing spay/neuters and emergency veterinary care to animals that need it!"

Non-clumping cat litter • Dog-safe toys, chews and treats • Bleach • Plastic storage totes • Staples gift cards (for printer ink and photocopying) • Stainless steel work tables and shelving • Computer paper and coloured card stock • A walk-on scale for weighing dogs • Pharmasave gift cards (for prescription medications) • Arm & Hammer Cat Litter Deodorizer • Bulk baking soda • A ride-on lawn mower • A couch (for our dog assessment/meet-and-greet area)

*Thanks to our lams partnership, we don't need food for our shelter pets , but all food donated by community members goes back into the community through our program with the Yarmouth Food Bank.*

*We are in need of dry cat food to help owned/rescued cats and owners who are in need this holiday season.*

*Merry Christmas and Happy New Year*



**YARMOUTH S.P.C.A.**

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We *Thank You* for your continued support!