

PET WELLNESS

MAY 2018



Quiz: Are you a responsible pet owner?

Page 10



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Critters
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Bay F - 411 Herold Court
3-406 Ludlow Street E
2-202 Primrose Avenue
112 - 110 Ruth Street East

Dog City
123 Budz Crescent

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Pet Planet
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Pet-I-Coat Junction & Barkery
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All About Cats & Dogs Veterinary Hospital
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All West Veterinary Clinic
3120 Laurier Drive

Arlington Animal Hospital
3010 B Arlington Avenue

Cumberland Veterinary Clinic
#25 - 1501 8th Street East

Erindale Animal Hospital
#14 - 410 Ludlow Street

Forest Grove Veterinary Clinic
#8 - 415 115th Street East

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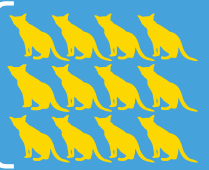




SPAY AND NEUTER!

A female cat that has not been spayed can produce three litters per year with the average litter size ranging from four to six kittens.

1 yr



PET WELLNESS

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ANNUAL PET LICENSE IS REQUIRED BY LAW!

Non-licensed pets face fines starting at \$250.

saskatoon.ca/petlicensing



ANIMAL SERVICES

Owners who care license their pets



The City of Saskatoon requires that all cats and dogs over the age of four months be licensed. The license should be attached to the animal's collar or added to the pet's microchip information. PHOTO: CITY OF SASKATOON

BY JEANNIE ARMSTRONG

Pets have never played a more important role in the lives of Canadians. According to recent surveys, close to 90 per cent of dog and cat owners across the country consider their pets to be beloved family members.

Canadians are going to great expense to pamper their pets with premium foods and treats, health supplements, designer clothing, interactive toys and spa treatments. Nothing is too good for our fur babies!

However, the most important investment you can make for your pet is also the most affordable. Obtaining a valid pet license from the City of Saskatoon is the best way to safeguard your cat or dog should it go missing.

A valid pet license is one of the most effective ways of identifying a lost or stray animal and ensuring its safe return home, says Andrew Roberts, Special Use Facilities/Capital Planning Manager with the City of

Saskatoon.

"The license tag itself acts as a means of pet identification," says Roberts. If a licensed pet goes missing and is brought to the Saskatoon SPCA, it will be provided with safe shelter until the owners can be notified and reunited with their pet. On average each year, the Saskatoon SPCA reunites over 700 pets with their original owners.

THE PERKS OF PET LICENSING

"One of the benefits of licensing your animal is the 'Pet-At-Large' perk, which is essentially a 'get out of jail free' card," says Roberts.

With a valid pet license, pet-at-large and pound fees will be waived once per the lifetime of the animal. These fines can run as high as \$350 if your pet is caught running at large without a license. Pound fees are \$50 in addition to \$10 care and sustenance daily fees.

With the purchase of a pet license, you and your dog can also enjoy using all of the City of Saskatoon's ten dog parks. It's a great opportunity to enjoy the outdoors, get some exercise and meet new friends. Only dogs with valid licenses are allowed to visit the dog parks.

With a valid pet license, you and your pet can also join in the fun of Saskatoon's pet-friendliest summer celebrations: the 13th annual Saskatoon Pets in the Park Festival (July 8) or the Dog Day of Summer free swim at Mayfair Pool on August 29.

SO AFFORDABLE

The City of Saskatoon requires that all cats and dogs over the age of four months be licensed. The license should be attached to the animal's collar or added to the pet's microchip information.

"Our license fees are very reasonable in comparison to other Canadian cities. There are quite a few communities that charge



much more,” says Roberts.

The annual fee to license a dog is \$56. If the dog is spayed/neutered, or under one year of age, the fee is reduced to \$28. The annual fee to license a cat is \$33. Owners of spayed/neutered cats pay only \$16.50.

Pet licenses are valid for one year from the date of purchase and must be renewed annually. The City of Saskatoon issues reminder letters one month in advance of the expiry date on the license.

“The fees collected from pet licenses support all of our Animal Services programs, including the development of dog parks, the contract with the Saskatoon SPCA to provide pound services, our contract with Saskatoon Animal Control to provide bylaw enforcement as well as some of the city-wide pet events that we offer,” says Roberts.

Pet license fees also help support the City of Saskatoon’s Subsidized Spay and Neuter Program. This program assists low income pet owners who might not otherwise be able to afford to have their pets spayed or neutered.

“We want people to enjoy having a pet. It’s a great thing. We don’t want low-income



A valid pet license is one of the most effective ways of identifying a lost or stray animal and ensuring its safe return home.

PHOTO: CITY OF SASKATOON

families to not be able to afford to spay or neuter their animal, which can cause a problem with population control,” says Roberts. “This program provides support

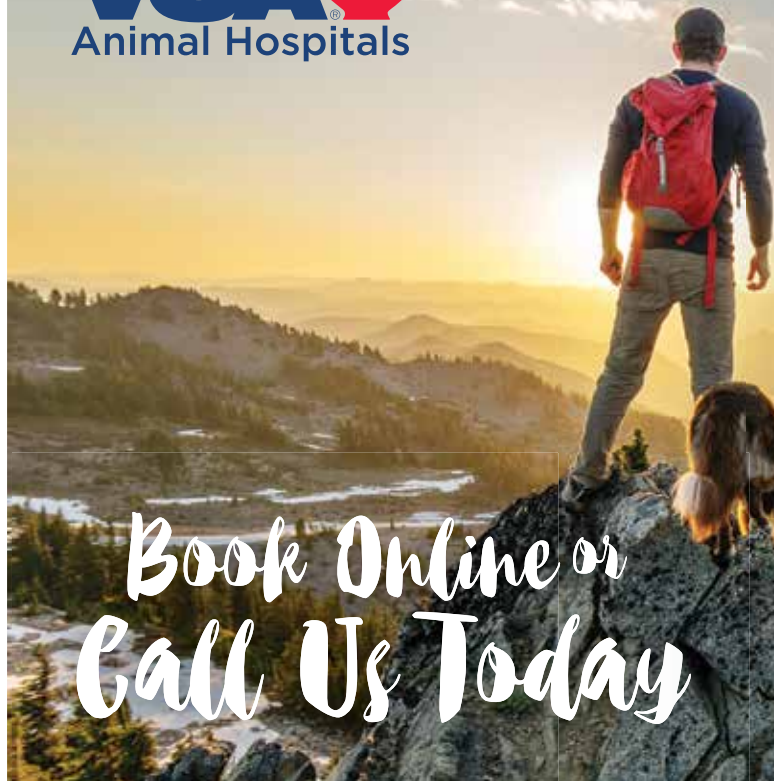
for about 150 pet owners each year. We try to subsidize as many procedures as we can within our budget limitations.”

There are three easy ways to license your cat or dog. You can purchase or renew your pet license online at saskatoon.ca/petlicense.

A pet license can also be purchased in person from a customer service representative at City Hall, located downtown at 222 Third Avenue North; Saskatoon Animal Control at #4 – 1622 Ontario Avenue; or the Saskatoon SPCA on Clarence Avenue.

A number of local pet stores and veterinary clinics also issue pet licenses. For a complete list of participating pet license vendors, see page 2 of this guide.

The entire community benefits when pet owners license their animals, says Roberts. “Not only is pet licensing an important part of responsible pet ownership, it helps to support all of the Animal Services programs offered by the City. Without that source of revenue, we’d probably be looking at a more tax-supported program, so it is to everyone’s benefit.”



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BECOME A DOG PARK AMBASSADOR!

Volunteer at your local dog park.

saskatoon.ca/dogparks



Saskatoon currently has ten active dog parks, totalling over 200 acres of naturalized green space – the most of any community in Saskatchewan. PHOTO: CITY OF SASKATOON

Saskatoon a leader in dog park development

BY JEANNIE ARMSTRONG

It's good to be a dog in Saskatoon! Our pet-friendly city has over 200 acres of naturalized spaces where dogs can run and play off-leash while accompanied by their owners. Ten active dog parks have now been developed in Saskatoon – the most of any community in Saskatchewan.

In comparison, the City of Regina offers only two year-round off-leash dog parks and five seasonal off-leash areas.

Andrew Roberts, Special Use Facilities/Capital Planning Manager with the City of Saskatoon, says our community is fortunate to have so many dog parks. “They provide a great opportunity for people to get outdoors with their dogs off-leash. It gives the dogs a chance to exercise and socialize with other animals. There’s also a socialization aspect for dog owners.”

Roberts says that offering a good quality of life is fundamental to the City of Saskatoon's Strategic Plan (2013-2023). Contributing to Saskatoon's friendly, welcoming vibe are facilities and programs that promote active living, including an abundance of beautiful

parks and trails.

“We are always looking to balance the use of our green spaces so that everyone has the opportunity to use and enjoy them. Not everybody has a dog or likes dogs. So, we want to offer spaces where people can go and exercise their dogs responsibly and not negatively impact other people's enjoyment of our parks,” says Roberts.

Each of the City's ten dog parks is uniquely appealing. Different landscapes and terrain mean that dogs and their owners can enjoy varied opportunities for exploration, play and interaction.

For example, Sutherland Beach Dog Park occupies 55 acres of riverbank land – perfect for hours of roaming and hiking. At the other end of the scale are the smaller, more contained neighbourhood dog parks, like Caswell Dog Park in Caswell Hill, which is less than an acre in size.

The newest dog park developed by the City of Saskatoon is Paul Mostoway Dog Park in Hampton Village. Opened in December of 2017, it is situated on Richardson Road,

west of McClockin Road.

The Avalon Dog Park, located at the end of Broadway Avenue, south of Glasgow Street, received significant upgrades in 2017. “We improved the pathway system to enhance accessibility,” says Roberts, adding that the paths are now wheelchair-accessible.

“Phase two of our improvements to the Avalon Dog Park will include making it a little bigger, by expanding the park out to the west.”

This year, the City will proceed with developments to Chief White Cap Dog Park, located along the river bank in the R.M. of Corman Park. “That will be our next formalized dog park. The land is currently used as a dog park, but it's not clearly defined,” says Roberts. Fencing and signage will be added this summer. When complete, Chief White Cap Dog Park will offer 80 fenced acres of naturalized prairie, with access to the river.

While it's not feasible to have a dog park in every neighbourhood, Roberts says, “We



want to try and have a sufficient number of them, in strategic locations, so that everybody is within reasonable proximity to a dog park.”

The City is open to suggestions for locations of new dog parks, he adds. “When we receive a suggestion, we take a look at where the existing dog parks are in relation to that suggestion. Is there a suitable location in that area that could be used for a dog park? We always try to find a balance with other uses for green space.”

The development of new dog parks and upgrades to existing ones is funded by the City of Saskatoon’s Animal Services Capital Reserve. “That reserve is funded by not only the tax base but also from the fees collected through animal licensing,” says Roberts.

To ensure dog parks offer a satisfying user experience, the City of Saskatoon has established a volunteer Dog Ambassador program. “The Dog Park Ambassadors take a leadership role in educating people who are using the dog parks about the basic rules and responsibilities of pet ownership,” says Roberts.

To access any of the ten dog parks, a valid



Dog parks provide a great opportunity for people to get outdoors with their dogs off-leash, for exercise and to socialize. PHOTO: CITY OF SASKATOON

dog license is required. Owners are required to have visual and voice control of their dogs, and to clean up after their pet.

The Ambassadors develop a sense of ownership of the dog parks they represent and are encouraged to seek ways to improve and promote these sites. “The Ambassadors also provide us with input on any needs or issues concerning the dog parks which we might not be aware of,” says Roberts.

“We have a lot of people who are passionate about their pets and passionate

about our dog parks. For the most part, our dog parks are looked after very well by the citizens. We really don’t have a lot of issues.”

The City of Saskatoon is currently inviting applications from people interested in joining the Dog Ambassador team. If you are passionate about dogs and your community, consider becoming a Dog Ambassador. Check out the City of Saskatoon’s website at saskatoon.ca/dog-parks for information on how to become an ambassador.

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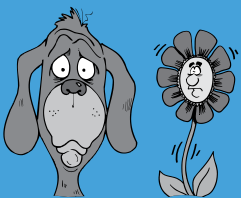
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Dog feces do not fertilize the ground and have negative effects on grass and plants. Be a good neighbour and clean up after your pet.



DOG PARKS



All dogs must have a current pet license to access the dog parks.

For more information on Dog Park openings & closures, visit saskatoon.ca/dogparks.



DOG PARK ETIQUETTE:

- Your pet license is like an all-access pass to Saskatoon's Dog Parks. Only licensed dogs are invited to play!
- Be a good buddy and interact with your dog, keeping him or her within sight at all times. Off-leash doesn't mean unattended.
- Scoop your dog's poop. Bring a few extra baggies, just in case.

- Play nice! Your dog should know and obey basic commands of come, sit and stay before visiting a Dog Park.
- If you take a toy to the park, expect other dogs to play with it. Better yet, leave the toys at home.
- Is your dog hot to trot? The mere presence of a female dog in heat can cause a frenzy among potential four-legged Romeos. It's best to have

- your dog spayed or neutered before planning a Dog Park visit.
- If you have concerns about the behaviour of a dog or its owner while at the park, contact the Saskatoon Animal Control Agency at 306-385-PETS (7387).
- Have fun! When dogs and owners play by the rules, everyone has a good time!



DOG DAY OF SUMMER

Free end of season licensed pooch swim.

saskatoon.ca/dogdayofsummer



Dog-friendly areas in Saskatoon

BY JENNIFER JACOBY-SMITH

Four-legged residents in Saskatoon love to discover the great outdoors just like their humans do. But to ensure the safety of all, there are limits on the areas your furry family members can explore in and around the city.

There are two naturalized areas that are off limits to dogs: the Northeast Swale that borders the Silver Spring, Evergreen and Aspen Ridge neighbourhoods, and the Beaver Creek Conservation Area south of the city on Highway 219.

Other areas that permit dogs, but require that dogs be on leash are Saskatoon Natural Grasslands in Silver Spring, Cranberry Flats Conservation Area located south of Saskatoon along the River, and the Crocus Prairie Conservation Area located just off Central Avenue.

A portion of the Northeast Swale, between Central Avenue and Fedoruk Drive to Agra Road, has also been designated for on-leash dog use. Signage is on site.

Renny Grilz with Meewasin Valley Authority says the biggest concern in limiting dog access to naturalized areas is reducing conflict with nature. “We want to provide habitat for the wildlife as well as reduce net risk to the owner and their pets.”

One consideration in restricting pet access is the presence of any species at risk within these naturalized areas. The Species at Risk Act encourages various levels of government to cooperate in an

effort to protect natural habitats, nesting sites and diverse species of wildlife that reside within these spaces.

Other areas may be designated as pet accessible, but on-leash only. In these areas there are wildlife using those sites such as nesting birds or deer bedding down with a fawn in the spring.

“If you look at something like a deer with a fawn, they’re very protective as well,” says Grilz. “You don’t want to create a situation for potential conflict.”

If a nesting bird draws the attention of an off-leash dog and gets chased away from its eggs or its chicks, they may not return to their nest if it has been disturbed or has the scent of a dog. If they abandon the nest, they may not re-nest anywhere else and that species has lost an opportunity to create another generation.

In addition to nesting birds, coyotes may also be lurking in some of the city’s naturalized areas. If your dog startles the coyote or the coyote feels threatened by your dog, you might find yourself in the middle of a fight.

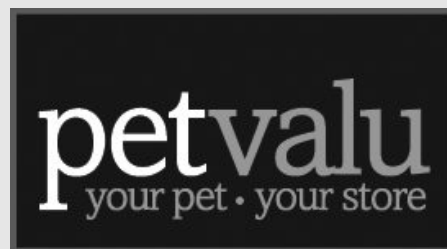
“If you have your dog running out in front of you and there’s a coyote on the trail, there may be a conflict,” says Grilz. “But if you have that pet closer to you that reduces the risk to yourself and to your pet.”

Whether using naturalized spaces that are off-leash or on-leash, Grilz encourages dog owners to pick up any dog waste and dispose of it properly.



To protect the safety of people and pets alike, there are certain places in Saskatoon that require dogs to be on a leash or other outdoor places that aren’t best suited for furry friends. *GETTY IMAGES*

There are plenty of options dogs and their owners can enjoy when it comes to finding an outdoor space your dog can explore. The City of Saskatoon offers a variety of dog parks and other naturalized areas where fresh air and outdoor recreation. Visit saskatoon.ca/dogparks and see page 8 of this guide for a map of 10 dog parks and other recreational areas.



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saskatoon.ca/petlicensing



 ANIMAL SERVICES



QUIZ: Are you a responsible pet owner?

Before acquiring a pet for your family, it's important to consider the expense and time required to care for your animal's health, happiness and well-being. PHOTO: CITY OF SASKATOON

BY JEANNIE ARMSTRONG

It's easy to fall in love at first sight with a cute puppy or kitten, but are you ready to take on the serious, life-long responsibilities of pet ownership?

Asking yourself the following questions will help determine if you are ready to be a pet owner... or if you already have a pet... whether or not you're living up to all of the responsibilities that pet ownership entails.

Q: Many pets live 15, 20 years or longer. Are you and your family ready to make a lengthy commitment to provide for and care for a pet throughout its lifetime?

Q: The costs of pet ownership are considerable, including the purchase of healthy food, a pet license, veterinary care including vaccinations, check-ups, and having your animal spayed or neutered. Does your budget allow for these expenses? If your pet should become seriously ill, can you afford to provide medical care?

Q: Have you researched the type and breed of pet that would best suit your lifestyle?

Pets require and deserve a lot of attention; some types and breeds require more attention than others. For example, working breeds of dogs such as Labrador Retrievers, Dalmatians, Boxers and German Shepherds, require lots of daily physical activity to prevent them from becoming bored or anxious, and developing behavioural problems.

Q: Can your family accommodate the daily demands of a pet, including feeding, exercising and socializing your pet? Basic obedience training is an important first step to a well-socialized dog.

Q: Is every member of your family in agreement that now is the time to introduce a pet into your family circle? Do any members of the family have allergies or health concerns that need to be considered?

Q: Are you committed to sourcing your

pet from an ethical and credible source? Before acquiring a pet, do your homework to ensure your dog or cat comes from a credible, humane breeder or a rescue organization, such as the Saskatoon SPCA.

Q: Will you have your animal spayed or neutered, to prevent your pet from contributing to the overpopulation of cats and dogs in Saskatoon? Spaying or neutering your pet will prevent unwanted offspring from ending up at local shelters or abandoned on the street. It also offers life-long health benefits and improves your pet's behaviour.

Q: As a pet owner, are you prepared to comply with all of the regulations established by the City of Saskatoon in the Animal Control Bylaw? This Bylaw contains provisions to ensure that pets, their owners and neighbours live in harmony. Regulations in the Bylaw state dog and cat owners must:

- provide a license and permanent identification for your pet;
- prevent your animal from being at-large;
- remove pet feces from your own

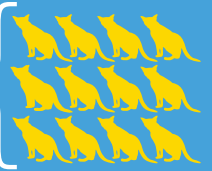




SPAY AND NEUTER!

A female cat that has not been spayed can produce three litters per year with the average litter size ranging from four to six kittens.

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property as well as any other public or private properties;

- prevent your cats or dogs from barking and howling and creating a nuisance;
- ensure that your cat or dog isn't engaging in aggressive or dangerous behaviour.

If you answered "no" to any of these questions, it's probably a good idea to take a closer look at the responsibilities involved in pet ownership.

"Responsible pet ownership benefits everyone," says Andrew Roberts, Special Use Facilities/Capital Planning Manager with the City of Saskatoon.

"We have an Animal Control Bylaw that lays out the rules and responsibilities of owning a pet. Just like any other city, those rules are in place, not only to benefit pet owners, but also non-pet owners," says Roberts.

Pet licensing is the foundation for many of the services provided to pet owners by the City of Saskatoon. "Pet licensing helps provide identification and supports the safety of your pet. If your pet gets lost or goes astray, a pet license is an effective way of identifying your animal and ensuring its safe return home," says Roberts.

The fees from pet licensing also support the Saskatoon SPCA, Animal Control and the development of dog parks in our city. "Dog parks allow people to enjoy the outdoors with their animals and not negatively impact



Some types of pets can live 20 years or longer. Parrots, for example, have an average life span of 75 years. Are you prepared to provide for and care for your pet throughout its lifetime? GETTY IMAGES

other users," says Roberts.

The City of Saskatoon is responsive to the needs of citizens, both pet owners and those who do not own pets. They meet regularly with representatives from the Saskatoon SPCA, Animal Control and the Western College of Veterinary Medicine to discuss regulations stated in the Animal Control Bylaw. "They can bring forward suggestions for bylaw amendments. Our solicitors will review them and if they have merit, we will look at them," says Roberts.

"We recently amended our Animal Control Bylaw to reduce the holding period for a lost or stray animal at the SPCA from five days to three days. If the animal is definitely a stray or abandoned, instead of having to

wait for a five-day holding period before it can move into adoption, now it's three days. This amendment means that animals can get into the adoption program sooner and be rehomed to a new family sooner, reducing the stress on the animal."

Roberts says that the City of Saskatoon website has a lot of helpful information regarding responsible pet ownership. "The information about all of our programs is there, as well as links to organizations like the SPCA."

To learn more about responsible pet ownership, go to www.saskatoon.ca and click on the Pet Licensing & Animal Servicing heading.

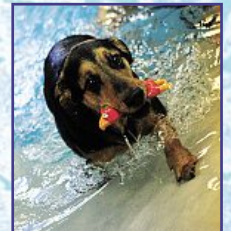
5 PRINCIPLES OF RESPONSIBLE PET OWNERSHIP

1. Provide a license and permanent identification for your pet;
2. Spay or neuter your pet;
3. Provide training, socialization, proper diet and medical care;
4. Don't allow your pet to become a threat or nuisance;
5. Acquire your pet ethically and from a credible source.

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Non-licensed pets face fines starting at \$250.

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ANIMAL SERVICES

Is Saskatoon's cat population out of control?

BY TOM EREMONDI

Are there too many cats in Saskatoon? The answer is a definite and serious yes, say representatives from shelter organizations in the city.

"We're finding that in Saskatoon right now there are too many people taking on cats and then surrendering them a year or two later," says Erin Lashta, Centre Manager for Saskatoon's SCAT Street Cat Rescue. "We get lots of cats from people who realize they can't afford vet bills, that they're allergic or often because their family situation is changing."

Adding to this, she notes, are the number of roaming cats – cats that have been born on the street, abandoned instead of being taken to a shelter, or strays that simply wander away from home and never return.

And then there are the cats coming in from rural areas – most likely the result of people abandoning their cats near farms, believing them to be ideal new homes.

"The Saskatoon SPCA takes in about 2,500 cats every year and those are just the ones who come in through the doors," reports Heather Sutherland, the organization's Volunteer and Public Relations Coordinator. "There are many cats we don't take so we have a waiting list that is quite extensive. If we allowed every cat in, the numbers would just swell."

Lashta says, "We're full at SCAT. We've been at capacity for more than two years. In 2008, we took in under 200 cats and last year it was more than 400 from 1,200-plus calls. Because of that, we're running on triage. We prioritize cats in emergency situations

One roaming cat, who is not spayed or neutered, can quickly add dozens more to the city's cat population. PHOTO: GETTY IMAGES



Last year, SCAT Street Cat Rescue took in over 400 lost or abandoned cats, and received calls about 1,200 animals. The Saskatoon SPCA takes in about 2,500 cats every year.

PHOTOS: SCAT STREET CAT RESCUE





SPAY AND NEUTER!

A female cat that has not been spayed can produce three litters per year with the average litter size ranging from four to six kittens.

1 yr



or animals that are heavily vulnerable – cats that are pregnant, kittens that have been orphaned and injured cats.”

These increasing numbers are a burden on the SPCA, often detracting it from its real mission, Sutherland says. “The more cats you have, the more medical issues there will be, so we end up using more of our funding to care for animals that, if people were responsible, shouldn’t be here.”

Complicating this is a lack of education, notes Lashta. Responsible pet ownership involves being aware of and understanding what commitment is required with owning a pet

“There are people taking in cats not realizing their responsibilities. They’re finding vet bills to be too high, or if they neglect to spay or neuter, they’re discovering behavioural problems that they’re not prepared to deal with. That leads to people wanting to surrender them,” says Lashta.

Sutherland agrees. “It’s about being responsible. If you have a cat that is spayed or neutered, you’re not contributing to the overpopulation. People who allow intact animals to go outside are potentially letting them reproduce.”

To solve the problem, pet owners have

to be responsible and take action. “Spaying and neutering is only effective if pet owners participate but it definitely works,” Sutherland says.

While there is an expense associated with spaying or neutering your pet, that cost comes with being a responsible pet owner. The City of Saskatoon also offers a Subsidized Spay and Neuter Program to help low-income families who might not be able to afford the procedure. The program is administered on a first-come, first-served basis until the annual funding is allocated.

Licensing your pet also helps to control populations. “The Subsidized Spay and Neuter Program is supported through license fees. When you buy a license, you’re actually helping others to spay and neuter their pets,” says Sutherland.

The alternative, both organizations suggest, is a worsening problem. Cats that haven’t been spayed or neutered and are released on the streets will breed and breed often. With cats that reproduce several times a year, even with low street survival rates, one released cat can potentially become dozens in just a short time.

For more information visit streetcat.ca or saskatoonspca.com.



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Good dogs bite too

How to interact with our canine friends

BY ELIZABETH IRELAND

In the past five years, reported dog bites have increased by 60 per cent in the Saskatoon area.

All breeds of dogs are capable of biting when they feel scared or threatened, including beloved family pets. On average, there are 300 reported dog bites per year in the greater Saskatoon area.

Dr. Johnmark Opondo, Deputy Medical Health Officer in Saskatoon with the Saskatchewan Health Authority, leads the area's communicable disease control. One of the diseases he works to control is rabies – a viral disease that causes brain inflammation in humans and other warm-blooded mammals. It is fatal in humans.

“The primary concern with a dog bite is risk of the transmission of rabies,” says Dr. Opondo. “My advice to parents is to teach their children to be careful around animals, especially if it's not your own pet or the animal is acting strangely.”

While it is recommended that all dogs are vaccinated for rabies in Saskatchewan, it is not mandatory. Wild animals such as bats, foxes and skunks can carry rabies. If a human is exposed, rabies is treated through urgent medical care, proper wound management and, if necessary, post-exposure vaccination.

Dr. Opondo recognizes that even in cases of dog bites with no risk of rabies, the impact can still be traumatic for children and can lead to future phobias.

“I grew up with companion dogs myself and pets are great to have. However, the dog needs to be socialized for the environment it will be living in and that's why it's important to research your dog and its needs before purchase or adoption,” says Dr. Opondo.

Proper socialization with family members and other dogs at an early age (preferably before the puppy is 20 weeks old) is the key to successful dog ownership. An older dog can still be trained and learn through remedial socialization but it is a slower process and more work for the pet owner.

“Biting is a species-specific defense response in dogs and often the person bitten is someone the dog already knows,” says Scott Johannson, Supervisor of Animal Health & Behaviour with the Saskatoon SPCA. “The assumption is that there are a few big bad dogs out there but, in fact, all dogs can bite if they feel scared or threatened in some way.”

Johannson has worked for the Saskatoon SPCA for nine years and is a certified dog trainer with a focus on learning behaviours and



When they feel scared or threatened, all breeds of dogs are capable of biting – even family pets. (PHOTO: GETTY IMAGES)



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positive reinforcement. He also has four pugs of his own. He emphasizes that dogs give off clear signs of stress and wanting to be left alone before a bite takes place. These signs include a stiff body, wide eyes, lowered or pinned ears, a tucked tail and avoiding eye contact with humans. It is good sense to avoid approaching a dog with no owner present and never try to break up a dog fight.

Johannson outlines two potential scenarios and his suggestions for the best way to respond:

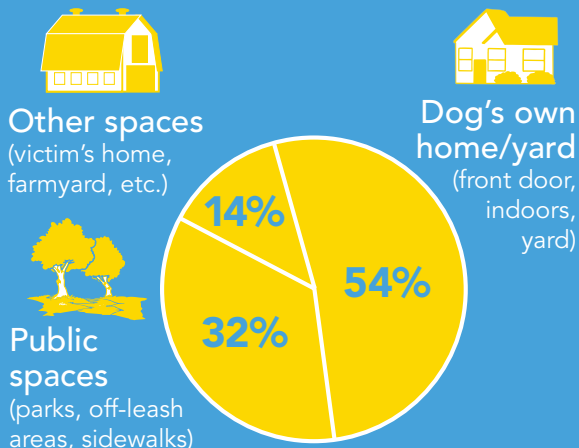
- You are walking your own dog when an unattended and unfamiliar dog tries to approach. Johannson suggests carrying a “treat bomb” of dog treats that can be thrown towards the unattended dog to distract it while you walk quietly away with your own dog.
- You are by yourself and an unattended dog approaches. Johannson suggests the “be a tree” approach of standing still, folding in your arms in and looking at the ground. This is especially good advice for children around unfamiliar dogs.

What should you do if you or your child is bitten by a dog? First, get the dog owner’s name and phone number. Next, it is important to call Animal Control at 306-385-7387 to report the incident. If the bite has broken the skin, contact your doctor right away to discuss rabies, tetanus immunization or possible infection.

It’s vital that people report dog bites for both the safety and well-being of the person bitten and the dog involved. Dogs that have potentially interacted with wildlife before biting a human are the biggest concern.

More information can be found on the City of Saskatoon’s website at saskatoon.ca/gooddogsbitetoo.

WHERE DOG BITES HAPPEN



The facts

(Saskatchewan Health Authority)

1. 60% increase in reported dog bites in the last five years in our health region.
2. All breeds of dogs can bite.
3. The majority of reported bites occur to adults.
4. On average there are 300 dog bites reported per year in our health region and that number is increasing. It's important for people to report dog bites for the safety and well being of the person bitten and the dog involved.
5. Without vaccination, rabies is fatal.

Everyone can prevent bites from happening – including you!

Pet Loss Support

The death of a pet can be one of the most devastating experiences an individual or family has to face. If you are having difficulty coping with the loss of a beloved pet or are dealing with an end of life decision, you are invited to gather with other animal lovers, like yourself, in a safe, supportive and informal environment to share your experiences, feelings, stories and pictures.

The Pet Loss Support Group

meets the first & third Sunday of every month at 2pm at the Edwards Family Centre 333 4th Avenue North. (There’s no cost to participate and no obligation to attend on a regular basis). For more information or to receive bereavement resource material, we invite you to call

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How to keep your pet safe this summer

Summer may be a time for vacations and recreational activities for human beings, but pets may not be privy to the same luxuries. Summer recreation may not always include our four-legged friends, as summer heat and other issues can pose a threat to companion animals. As a result, pet parents must make pet safety a priority when the weather heats up.

Summer months can be uncomfortable and dangerous for pets. Temperatures that may be tolerable for adults and children who are dressed accordingly may not be so for animals covered in fur. It's vital to help pets stay comfortable and safe as summer temperatures heat up. Pet parents also must be aware of particular dangers that go hand-in-hand with summertime activities.

- **Practice vehicle safety.**

It is never acceptable to leave pets in parked cars, even for a minute. Temperatures inside vehicles can rise quickly and considerably in a matter of minutes, even with the windows opened slightly. On a 30° C. day, temperatures inside parked cars can reach 40° C. within 10 minutes. Pets can suffer irreversible and even fatal organ damage in that period of time. If you have to run errands, keep dogs and cats at home where they will be more comfortable.

- **Stay off of hot asphalt.**

If you've ever walked on the hot sand or an asphalt driveway on a hot day, you understand just how scorching those surfaces can get. Dogs and cats do

not have protective shoes to wear, so safeguard the delicate pads of their paws by keeping companion animals off of hot surfaces. Schedule walks in the early morning or late afternoon when temperatures are cooler.

- **Schedule a pet grooming visit.** Speak with your veterinarian to see if it's appropriate for your pet to get clipped shorter or to be shaved in the summer. But a fur coat can offer protection from the sun, so weigh the pros and cons before taking action. Apply sunscreen to your dog's skin if he or she has a thin coat.

- **Provide a way for pets to cool off.** If you're hot, chances are your pet is hot, too. Offer a means for pets to cool off, such as a wading pool when you are outside. Offer plenty of fresh water. Keep pets who do not enjoy the heat indoors with the air conditioner running on hot days.

- **Look for indicators of heat stress.** Heat stress is marked by heavy panting, dry or bright red gums, thick drool, vomiting, diarrhea, or wobbly legs. Move pets exhibiting such symptoms to a cool place, drape a damp towel over the animal's body, rewetting the cloth frequently, and get the animal to the vet as soon as you possibly can.

- **Exercise caution in the water.** Dogs can get swept away by rip currents just like human swimmers. If you will be boating, invest in a life jacket for your pooch and look for water hazards, such as currents, sink holes, and blue-green algae in lakes and ponds. (MNS)



On warm summer days, it's important to keep your pet safe and comfortable. Never leave pets in parked cars, for any amount of time. Provide ways for your pet to cool off, such as a wading pool. Always ensure your pet has plenty of fresh water to drink. PHOTO: GETTY

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ANIMAL SERVICES

Protect your pet and others with regular vaccinations

BY TOM EREMONDI

Vaccinating your pets just makes sense. It's a protection to your pet, yourself and others.

Dr. Jordan Woodsworth, wellness veterinarian with the Western College of Veterinary Medicine (WCVN) says, "It's one of the tools veterinarians have in their tool belts to keep animals healthy."

She says animal practitioners use vaccines to "treat for diseases that are really common, easily transmissible, those that are the costly or difficult to treat and those that might have an implication for human health."

Dr. Woodsworth adds that vaccinations are divided into core and non-core vaccinations. "Core vaccinations are those recommended for all animals that are healthy. Non-core vaccinations are conditional, so they'll be given based on a specific animal's risk, its exposure to other animals, and where they live and spend their time."

Veterinarians base vaccinations on recommendations made by the American Animal Hospital Association and the American Association of Feline Practitioners. Core vaccines for dogs will protect them from distemper virus, adenovirus, parvovirus and rabies. Cats who receive core vaccinations will be protected from herpes virus, calici virus, panleukopenia and rabies.

Dr. Woodsworth says the vaccines are inexpensive and easy to administer. "For cats, the first of the three recommended vaccines come together in one vial so cats can get all three with just one shot. This is the same for the first of the three recommended vaccines for dogs."

Your pets should be protected soon after they're born. It's recommended that puppies and kittens receive their first shots once they're six weeks old and then every three to



Regular vaccinations will help protect your pet cat from herpes virus, calici virus, panleukopenia and rabies. PHOTO: GETTY IMAGES

four weeks after until they're 12 to 16 weeks old. The rabies shot is given after the pet is 12 weeks old.

The vet says adult dogs should receive the vaccine again when they're a year old and, depending on the product, every one to three years after. There are also some specific vaccines for certain breeds – owners should consult with their vets to discuss these.

Vaccines for adult cats will depend on its health, living conditions and other factors. Owners should consult with their pet practitioners to establish a vaccination schedule.

As there is with humans, Dr. Woodsworth says there is an anti-vaxxer movement among some pet owners. "It comes and goes in waves. When I was in private practice, before I started working at the Vet College, I did

have some discussions with clients. I know there are also sites on the Internet opposed to vaccines for animals."

Extensive scientific research has determined vaccines are a low-risk, proven way to ensure a pet's health. According to Woodsworth, while no medical treatment is absolutely without risk, in the vast majority of cases, the benefits of vaccines far outweigh any possible reactions. "Veterinarians work to keep clients informed of the risks and help them be aware of what to watch for."

Dr. Woodsworth says those with concerns should feel free to discuss them with their pets' doctors. "It's my view, and I think most vets share that view, that it's good if a client does some research and has questions. We're more than willing to work with them to determine what will be best for their animals."



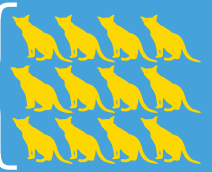
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SPAY AND NEUTER!

A female cat that has not been spayed can produce three litters per year with the average litter size ranging from four to six kittens.

1 yr



Tips for travelling with pets

TROY MEDIA

The stress of long distance travel is harder on pets – especially if they are not used to it – than it is on you.

But there are times when you really have to take them on a trip (or you just can't bear leaving them behind.)

Here are eight tips to mitigate the stressful effects of travelling on your pets.

* Make sure that your pet will have a place to stay once you reach your destination. Don't assume that just because you are welcome, your pet will be too. Inquire from the hotel or resort if they allow pets to stay with you.

• If they do, in which part of the hotel premises are the pets allowed? And if you are bringing along a dog you need to make sure that it is allowed on the grounds for its daily walks. If you are bringing along a cat, make sure that you will be given a secure room where it can't find an escape route.

• When flying, you will want to make prior arrangements as to the process of transporting a pet. Check to see if your airline allows pets in the cabin with their owners. If not, you need to make sure that your pet will be well taken care of during the period that you are separated from each other.

• If you are expecting to suffer jet lag once at your destination, most likely your

pet will suffer from the same condition too. The tips on avoiding jet lag do not just apply to humans; do the same for your pets to prevent them from getting sick.

• It isn't recommended that you take your pets along on a long-distance bus trip. It is much better, for their welfare, if you simply take your car.

• If you are travelling during warm or hot weather, you will need to keep your pets cool as much as possible. They don't adapt well to heat like we do; they don't sweat and their fur intensifies the heat even more.

• Your car's air-conditioning may not be sufficient to keep them cool. If your pet is panting or wheezing, you may need to place them on a block of ice covered with a piece of cloth. Check on them every once in a while to ensure that they are cool but not cold. A steady supply of drinking water is also good to help regulate their body temperature.

• When taking your pets for a walk to do their business, never be tempted to take them off the leash. They may run away to chase after squirrels or towards traffic. They can also get into fights with other animals. This is even truer for cats, who have an independent attitude and a habit of not listening

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Consult your airline well in advance about any instructions and restrictions they have when flying with animals. PHOTO: GETTY IMAGES

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ANIMAL SERVICES

Pets are VIPs at these Saskatoon events

BY RYAN HALL

Saskatoon summers are jam-packed with exciting festivals and gatherings. There are two special events where pets are not only welcome, they are considered VIPs!

Summer fun kicks off with the annual Pets in the Park Festival, presented by Pizza Hut. Now in its 13th year, Pets in the Park takes place July 8, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., at Kiwanis Memorial Park (the north side of the Delta Bessborough Hotel).

Established in 2005 as a fundraiser for the SPCA, New Hope Dog Rescue and SCAT Street Cat Rescue, Pets in the Park has become one of the most popular summer events held in the city. It has also succeeded in raising awareness and support for companion animal causes. Last year, nearly 8,000 visitors helped raise \$70,000 to provide for the medical needs of sick, homeless, and injured pets.

“Every year has seen growth, and we continue to be blown away by the support of the community and our sponsors,” says event organizer Karin Machin.

Perhaps this success is due to the wide variety of activities available to attendees, including live music, concessions and a beer garden. There will also be dog sport demonstrations featuring Rally-Obedience, Flyball, Music Freestyle, and Barnhunt. For those who like to shop, several vendors will be in attendance, offering a variety of pet-friendly products and services including free dog nail trims from Petsmart and a



Last year, over 300 dogs enjoyed their own pool party during the City of Saskatoon's Dog Day of Summer event. Dogs must be licensed, with up-to-date vaccinations, to share in the fun.

PHOTO: CITY OF SASKATOON



Pets in the Park is open to all types of companion animals, from dogs and cats to lizards, birds and ferrets. All animals must be on a leash. *POSTMEDIA FILE PHOTO*



ANNUAL PET LICENSE IS REQUIRED BY LAW!

Non-licensed pets face fines starting at \$250.

saskatoon.ca/petlicensing



ANIMAL SERVICES



The 13th annual Pets in the Park Festival takes place July 8, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., at Kiwanis Memorial Park. Events include dog sport demonstrations as well as displays of pet-friendly products and services. *POSTMEDIA FILE PHOTO*

professional photo opportunity. Finally, a silent auction and raffle are also planned, ensuring there is something for everyone.

While dogs are by far the most popular pets in attendance, the event is open to all people and companion animals. "Over the years we've seen just about everything – from cats to lizards, birds to ferrets," says Machin.

Regardless of the species though, the rules are the same for all: they must be on a leash, be okay with crowds, and be well-socialized. Additionally, retractable leashes are not allowed.

For more information about Pets in the Park, visit www.petsinthepark.ca.

On Wednesday, August 29, the City of Saskatoon will host the 5th annual Dog Day of Summer at Mayfair Pool. Canines of all shapes and sizes are invited to come and enjoy the water.

This event started following a request from a citizen with a service dog for a day in the pool, and has since grown to allow any vaccinated and well-socialized dog with a valid license to participate. Last year, the event drew over 300 dogs, and organizers anticipate those numbers will only continue to grow.

"Both the owners and their pets really have a blast," says Andrew Roberts, Special Use Facilities/Capital Planning Manager with the City of Saskatoon. "Swimming is not only an excellent work-out for dogs, it also provides mental stimulation and a constructive release for any pent-up energy."

While the dogs are busy in the water, there will be plenty to keep the humans occupied as well. The Saskatoon SPCA will be in attendance, barbecuing a variety of tasty food, with proceeds going to support their work in the city. Additionally, there will be staff from the City's Animal Services present to answer any questions about civic animal services and programs.

The doors will open at 11 a.m., with a 45-minute service dog swim scheduled first. To maintain order, pool time for the rest of the day will be divided into one-hour blocks, with 50 to 60 dogs allowed per section.

All dogs must be licensed, well-socialized and up to date on their



On Wednesday, August 29, the City of Saskatoon will host the 5th annual Dog Day of Summer at Mayfair Pool. Canines of all shapes and sizes are invited to come and enjoy the water. *PHOTO: CITY OF SASKATOON*

vaccinations. Registration is on a first-come, first-served basis and will open from Sunday, July 15 to Tuesday, August 28. For more information or to register, visit saskatoon.ca/dogdayofsummer.

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A well-trained dog is a joy to be around for every member of the family. They are calmer and more attentive and responsive to their owners.

PHOTO: CITY OF SASKATOON

You too can have a Polite Pup!

Training results in happy dogs, happy owners

BY PAUL SINKEWICZ

For some dog owners, the thought of a visit to the local dog park causes a knot of anxiety to tighten in their tummy.

A visitor on the porch may set off an embarrassing canine cacophony.

Pulling into the driveway may elicit the dread of discovering which piece of furniture has borne the brunt of nervous gnawing.

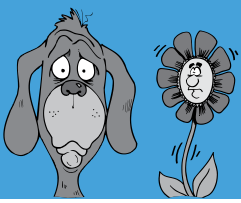
It doesn't have to be this way.

The Saskatoon SPCA's Polite Pups

training program puts proven animal behaviour modification methods into the hands of dog owners.

Polite Pups launched last summer as a pilot program, and proved to be an invaluable resource to local pet owners.





POOP IS NOT FERTILIZER!

Dog feces do not fertilize the ground and have negative effects on grass and plants. Be a good neighbour and clean up after your pet.



“We wanted to be able to show the dog owners of Saskatoon the services we can provide,” said Jasmine Hanson, Education and Public Relations Coordinator at the Saskatoon SPCA. “We have a lot of experience with dog behaviour and have some awesome staff members here that can be an excellent resource for people looking for some help in teaching their dogs some manners and skills.”

She said the first year was a big success.

“We were actually blown away by the feedback. Students reported that the skills we were helping them teach their dogs were immediately effective in helping improve behaviour outside of the class,” said Hanson. “They were reporting their dogs became more calm, responsive, attentive and there was an improved relationship between them and their dog overall.”

Hanson said participants especially appreciated the level of challenge and the pace of the class, as well as the positive reinforcement philosophy.

“In fact, when we asked the graduates what they would change about the course, most of them said they just wanted more sessions because they enjoyed it so much.”

The SPCA recently held an early spring class indoors with four dogs, but is looking forward to the first outdoor class of the season, held on the property on South Clarence Avenue in Corman Park, just a few minutes south of the city.

The SPCA has experienced, certified staff that can help with canine behaviour issues and modifying aggressive tendencies.

The training they provide makes owners more confident and gives the dogs the comforting structure they crave, as well.

If owners are looking elsewhere for help with training, Hanson advises they do their due diligence in checking out credentials. Because the field is unregulated in Saskatchewan anyone can claim to be a dog trainer.

She said to look for someone who is a Karen Pryor Academy training partner,



Once your puppy is four months of age, or older, he or she can be enrolled in the Saskatoon SPCA's Polite Pups training program. PHOTO: GETTY IMAGES

or certification from the Council of Professional Dog Trainers and/or the International Association of Animal Behaviour Consultants.

Hanson said there are quite a few myths about the social behaviours of dogs that the class helps dispel. One is the belief that dogs just know what the owner wants – like barking isn't right, for example, or that the dog should go outside to poop or pee.

“In reality, dogs just live in the moment,” said Hanson. “They express their natural behaviours freely, and they need patient and clear direction to help them understand what their humans want. That's what makes clicker training so effective, the method we use in our Polite Pups courses.”

Clicker training is a method whereby positive behaviours earn a ‘click’ from a small, hand-held device, accompanied by a treat. After a while the dog associates the sound with positive feedback and it reinforces the desired behaviour. It gives the animal a sense of consistency as they progress through the course.

“It's harder to be consistent with just verbal reinforcement,” said Hanson. “That's the nice thing about the clicker, it provides the dog with the consistency they need to recognize what is desired and what is not.”

The class is comprised of five different

modules, and each focuses on a different aspect of the dog's behaviour. Those modules include Attention and Focus, Self Control, Teamwork, Public Appearances and Communication.

Each new session begins with an orientation class on a Wednesday evening that lasts 90 minutes to meet the instructor and learn about the methods being taught. Then participants attend every Saturday for five consecutive weeks for an hour-long class.

Dogs can attend the classes after reaching four months of age, because generally at that point the dog will have received all of its primary vaccinations, so it's a little bit safer for that puppy to be around other dogs.

“The younger you start teaching your dog these skills, the better, but we do accept dogs of all ages in these courses,” said Hanson. “We've had dogs that are upwards of eight years old that we've been able to help quite a bit through the program.”

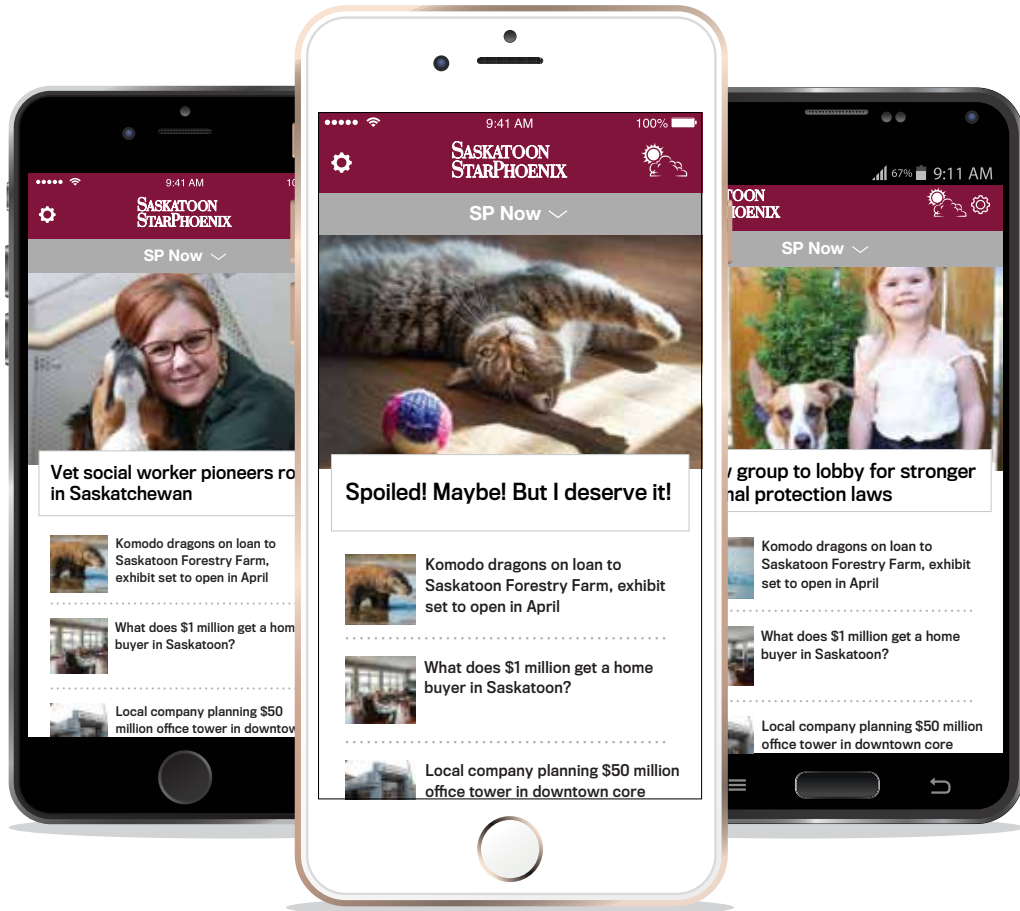
The training program also reinforces the fact that there are no “bad” breeds.

“At the Saskatoon SPCA, we are proponents that it's not the breed of the dog, it's how they are raised and the nurturing that they receive. And I think that's really great for people to see in a group-training environment. They'll see someone with a tiny little Chihuahua practising skills wonderfully next to a huge German shepherd. It has nothing to do with the breed. It's really just a matter of the individual dog, and at the end of the day, this course is really good at helping people understand their dog as an individual.”

The cost to enrol in the Polite Pup training program is \$120, or \$90 if the dog was adopted from the SPCA.

The next session begins with a May 23 orientation, and there are 24 spots available. Another set of classes will begin in July. For more information, visitsaskatoonspca.com/caring/politepups.

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