



December 9, 2011

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Cecil Snyder
Town of WHITE CITY
Box 220
WHITE CITY, SK S4L 5B1

RE: Funding request from Saskatchewan SPCA

Dear Administrator:

The Saskatchewan SPCA is an animal welfare organization, established in 1928. We investigate and resolve situations involving the abuse or neglect of companion animals and livestock in rural and small town Saskatchewan.

While animal welfare is our primary focus, our work benefits *all* residents of the province. The Saskatchewan SPCA helps ...

- contribute to the quality of life enjoyed by Saskatchewan people;
- support the growth and development of a strong agriculture industry;
- protect environmental health and safety;
- uphold the integrity of the legal system; and
- build an awareness of the link between animal abuse and domestic violence.

The Saskatchewan SPCA operates on a complaint driven basis; that is, when we receive a complaint about the possible abuse or neglect of livestock or companion animals, we investigate and resolve the situation. In the first 11 months of 2011, we received more than 722 new complaints about 20,959 animals in distress. Sadly, the number of complaints we receive each year continues to grow.

Help us protect the welfare of animals in your community.

We are requesting a contribution in the amount of \$1 per resident of your municipality. Your support will assist us to continue to provide valuable programs and services in your municipality and across the province.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and we look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

Frances Wach, Executive Director
Registered charity #119140440RR0001

Pet advocate faces trial

LORI COOLICAN
THE STARPHOENIX

SASKATOON — An Elrose woman who fought the Saskatchewan Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals in court last year, after animal protection workers seized more than 60 cats and other pets from her home, is due to stand trial in Rosetown next month on a criminal charge of animal neglect.

If convicted, Dolores LaPlante, 39, faces a fine of up to \$5,000, a jail term of up to six months, or both. The judge may also ban her from owning, having custody or living with animals for any amount of time considered appropriate.

LaPlante, who is trained as an animal health technician, operates a non-profit



GREG PENDER/STARPHOENIX

Dolores LaPlante and a kitten called Lucy in Saskatoon.

rescue operation for abandoned and wild cats, Saskatchewan Alley Cat Allies (SACA). It has a "no-kill" philosophy and a limited budget, relying primarily on volunteer foster homes to house the animals. She

uses her tiny bungalow as an overflow shelter.

Animal protection officers obtained a warrant to search the house and its yard a year ago.

See ADVOCATE, A2

Advocate Lawsuit

CONTINUED FROM A1

That was after presenting a justice of the peace with a sworn statement outlining the provincial SPCA's grounds for believing there were animals in distress on her property.

Accompanied by a veterinarian, who concluded the animals were in distress from unsanitary conditions and insufficient access to food and water, the officers seized 64 cats, seven turtles, a dog and an iguana from the home. The Saskatoon chapter of the SPCA took custody of the animals, launching a special campaign to raise money for their upkeep.

LaPlante then filed a lawsuit against the Saskatchewan and Saskatoon SPCAs, claiming unspecified damages and seeking the immediate return of the animals. She obtained a temporary injunction preventing the SPCA from euthanizing them or putting them up for adoption while the matter was before the court.

Her lawyer questioned the validity of the warrant that was used to enter her home, arguing the provincial agency had overstepped its powers in dealing with her.

The matter eventually went before the Court of Appeal, which ordered the SPCA to return

LaPlante's dog and iguana. However, the higher court did not order the cats returned to her, concluding that due to the large number of them, it was reasonable to believe they would be in distress if that happened.

The validity of the warrant that allowed animal protection officers to enter LaPlante's home in the first place is likely to be a central issue at her criminal trial, which is scheduled to begin Feb. 21.

Saskatchewan SPCA executive director Frances Wach said the vast majority of the cats seized from LaPlante's home last year were eventually placed in appropriate homes.