

THE VOICE

A black and white dog with glowing orange eyes is sitting on a brown carpet, holding a white helmet in its mouth. The helmet has a black strap and some text on it. The dog is looking directly at the camera.

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of the New Brunswick SPCA

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Brooklyn Mignault

Tells it like it is

Our Cover Photo:

Brooklyn is a five year old female Boxer Malamute mix. She was a rescue adopted from the Fredericton SPCA as a puppy. To say she was a challenge is putting it mildly. She was hyperactive with hip dysplasia and she even ate an AA battery! She had an operation to remove the battery, wore a brace for her hip until her muscles strengthened and was on medication for year to calm her down. They say you love the ones that need you more; in that case, she is well-loved by the Mignault family.



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Welcoming our new President

The NBSPCA warmly welcomes Greg Mignault of Fredericton as its new president.

Greg is no stranger to the NBSPCA, having served in the past as a board member and treasurer. He's worked with various departments of the provincial government as an auditor and accountant, and has wide experience as a volunteer with organizations like the York Sunbury Search and Rescue, Christ Church Cathedral, the Fredericton Pony Club, and the NBSPCA. Greg retired in 2012 and now devotes himself full time to volunteer work. He and his wife Cathy have two children and live in Fredericton with three cats, one dog, and a twenty-eight-year-old standard bred horse.

Greg assumes the presidency at an exciting point in the history of the NBSPCA: a time of financial challenges, promising opportunities for legislative changes, and soaring public concern about animal welfare issues. He's hit the ground running. He's already introduced initiatives to address cat population control, re-examine the provincial system of dog-licensing, and re-think NBSPCA's approach to communications and public relations.

No organization succeeds without effective leadership, and Greg will bring vision and commitment to the Society. Let's all support the new president as he leads the NBSPCA toward an expanding future in animal protection.

Steve Turner, Past President

Legal Matters: Steve Turner

As an enforcement organization the NBSPCA is constantly concerned with legal questions. Our Animal Protection Officers need skill in collecting evidence for court, working with judges and crown prosecutors, complying with charter rights in obtaining and executing warrants, and ensuring that investigations observe linguistic preferences of an accused. We do an effective job. So far in 2016, our officers have obtained six convictions or guilty pleas for animal abuse or neglect, and have charges pending in another nine cases.

Legal matters also arise in our efforts to see that the laws and regulations of New Brunswick are revised for better animal protection. We're currently seeking three changes to enhance the investigative authority of our offices. First, we're seeking authority to issue tickets under the Provincial Offences Procedure Act for violations of the SPCA Act and its regulations. Without this authority we're obliged to take the expensive and time-consuming route of bringing charges and summoning alleged offenders into court even for the smallest offences. To see how significant this is, imagine what the state of New Brunswick highways would be if the police and RCMP had no authority to issue tickets. Second, we're seeking legislation which would compel animal-owners to bring an animal to the door of a house and present it for inspection of an Animal Protection Officer if the APO has grounds to suspect the animal is being neglected or mistreated. Such "present-at-the-door" legislation, modeled on that of other provinces, would protect individuals' charter rights to privacy and home security while still allowing officers to intervene quickly in their role of defending animals. And third, we're seeking some kind of additional protection against civil liability. Most members of the public don't know that the NBSPCA can be, and is, sued in civil court for our efforts to protect animals. We rarely or never lose these cases – our officers are very skilled and careful to operate within their legal authority. But our vulnerability is a constant concern and acts as a drag on our enforcement work. We're seeking legal or regulatory changes which will raise the bar for bringing civil suits against the Society and its officers for their legitimate work. Legal matters are central to everything we do.

President's Message

I would like to start my message with thanks to the previous board. They have established an organization that has a solid reputation for leadership in the area of the humane treatment of animals. This reputation has allowed the Government to enter into a long term contract for Dog Control in the Local Service Districts. The proceeds from this contract help us with sustainable funding for our animal protection mandate. This partnership allows us to work closely together to improve legislation and negotiate improved funding arrangements.

This has given us a solid base to build on the key objectives of my first year. We are going to work on four key areas;

- Continuing efforts to improve legislation;
- Maintaining financial stability while increasing our effectiveness;
- Promoting closer ties with shelters and other affiliates; and
- Being more cat inclusive.

The Animal Protection Officers need sufficient powers to protect the animals of New Brunswick. The previous Board with consultation with the Officers and the Province have developed their priorities. I will refer you to Steve's article that clearly outlines these priorities.

We are looking at becoming more efficient and increasing our funding. We are contracting out our dog licensing to a supplier who can provide a better service and reduce our administrative costs. We are undergoing a review of our protection services with a goal of setting standards of service. Our goal is to involve members in the organization. Newsletters will be more informative, light hearted in discussing the issues of the day and no request for funding will go out without a request for your input. We will publish the results of this input and what steps we will take to address your concerns.

There are many organizations in addition to our shelters that have a role to play in animal welfare. The goal is to coordinate these efforts. To strengthen our ties with shelters we have elected two representatives from SPCA shelters to serve on our Executive. We are currently working on new joint fundraising initiatives to benefit from economies of scale. We have also negotiated several new cost sharing agreements with the shelters. We regularly meet with other organizations and we have a member of CARMA on our new Pet Pregnancy Prevention (PPP) Committee.

In order to fund our "Cat Inclusive" objective we are introducing a voluntary cat tag. This will give cats the same rights as a dog wearing a tag. The newsletter will have more cat related articles and we will be reporting on the successes of the Pet Pregnancy Prevention committee which is a major issue for cats in this province.

I hope that these priorities reflect your concerns. Please take the time to fill out the opinion survey included in this newsletter to let us know if we are properly representing your priorities as leaders in animal protection. Thank you so much for your continued support.

Warmest Regards,

Greg Mignault CMA, CPA

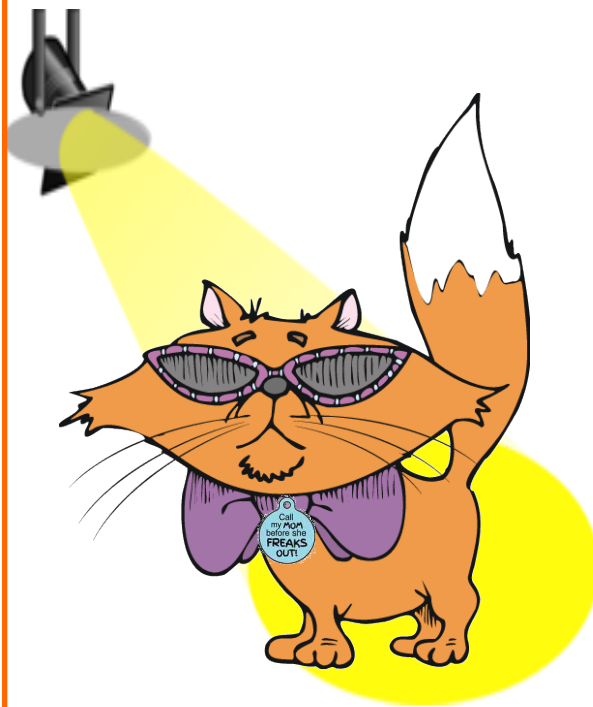
Pet Pregnancy Prevention

The simple fact is there are too many pets for the number of good homes available. The NBSPCA strongly encourages people to adopt animals from shelters. However overpopulation of pets is an alarming issue. With this in mind the NBSPCA has, in partnership with the SPCA shelters and Carma Cat Rescue Maritimes, created a new Pet Pregnancy Prevention Committee.

Watch for additional information to come forward as we progress through our discussions and make recommendations for controlling pet pregnancies.

Equal Rights for Cats

Would you buy a cat tag? The NBSPCA will soon offer voluntary tags for cats. In support of our cat inclusive objective we will offer the same pet identification and return services to tagged cats as we do tagged dogs. The new online tagging system, that we will be introducing in 2017, allows us to economically introduce this new tagging program. Proceeds from voluntary cat tagging will be available to the Pet Pregnancy Prevention Committee for programs they initiate.



The New Brunswick SPCA is a not-for-profit reliant on support from animal lovers like you. To explore ways to show you care, visit our website, or our Facebook page.

Thank you for your interest in caring for and helping animals in distress.

We welcome your comments on this newsletter. Please write to us at spca@nbnet.nb.ca or by letter to: NBSPCA, P.O. Box 1412, Stn A, Fredericton, NB E3B

Silent Sidekicks - Reading to Animals



Danielle Ireland and her therapy dog, Morgan, travel throughout New Brunswick and Maine providing information and education about animal assisted therapy. They visit health facilities, school campuses and public libraries as part of their mission to enrich people's lives and promote health and happiness through positive experiences with animals.

During their monthly visits to the Oromocto Public Library, children have a chance to book a 15-minute session to read with Morgan. Those who do participate in these gently supervised sessions find that their reading, confidence and communication skills are improved. Reading with animals is a great way for children to practice reading in a friendly environment

For more information visit www.silentsidekicks.org

submitted by Christen Sheridan, Director, Oromocto Public Library

Watch your Mailbox!



We are happy to announce that the NBSPCA Christmas Card Campaign will be back this year with seven new cards for you to choose from. It's the easiest way to do all your Christmas shopping at once! Make a tax deductible donation of \$20.00 for each card in honor of family and friends and we will send the card of your choice along with a note explaining that you made a donation the NBSPCA in their name for Christmas. This is a wonderful way to pay it forward for animals in need of being rescued and brought to safety under the SPCA roof. Watch your mailbox in early November for the flyer with pictures of the cards and the order form. Supplies are limited so get your request in early!

Christmas Ornaments in aid of Abused & Neglected Animals



Once again this year the New Brunswick SPCA in partnership with the Oromocto SPCA will be offering hand decorated Christmas ornaments for just \$20.00 each. All proceeds from the sale of these ornaments help us to continue to bring abused and neglected animals to safety and provide emergency veterinary care. Call the Oromocto SPCA at 446-4107 to enquire as to when they will be available for sale



First Dog Brooklyn and Deputy Jethro on the Pet Population Problem



Deputy Jethro

Brooklyn: I don't wanna have puppies!

Jethro: What made you think of that?

B: I heard my human talking about pet overpopulation. He was very concerned. He was also talking about belonging to the SPCA. I wonder what that stands for?

J: I don't know, my human says it too.

B: What if I have 12 puppies? I have heard that can happen. Can I feed them and keep them clean? What are the chances they will get good homes? They could grow up unsocialized and never be able to go to a dog park! They could even get in with a bad crowd, bark all the time and terrorize the neighborhood. They might even bite the mail person. That would be terrible.

J: You can't have puppies because your human said "no".

B: Sometimes I forget "no" and I do things by accident, like chasing the cat! I don't even remember learning "no puppies"! Did you learn "no puppies"?

J: I remember I used to want to be around girl dogs all the time, they smelled good! I didn't like other boy dogs when girls were around and I got into lots of fights. My human was always cranky. Those were bad times.

B: What happened?

J: I went for a drive, had a great sleep at a place called the Fredericton Animal Hotel and then my human came to get me and took me home. I found it much easier to be good and I didn't get into any more fights. I really wondered why I wanted to fight in the first place! Girl dogs smell funny now, I don't know why. I just know, that now I have lots of dog friends that I play with and my human is no longer cranky. I am a happy dog.

B: I seem to remember sleeping over somewhere and also hearing "no puppies". I must have learned it there, too. What a relief!

J: My human was talking to your human. She was saying that dogs and cats without a human to say "no" is a big problem. Some humans are not able to take their pets to the dog and cat hotel for a nap. I think it must be because they do not have the right treats to give the staff?

B: You mean a bone or a toy?

J: I think so. You know bones and toys don't just grow on trees Brookie. We have to shake paws, roll over or do other work to get them.

B: Yes they do grow on trees Jethro! They are called sticks. You can play with them and then chew them up just like bones and toys.

J: So all we need is to get every pet a human that will gather sticks for them to give them to the staff at the dog and cat hotel. We solved the problem Brookie!

B: Hope the humans can figure it out too!

Tune in again next time for more insight in to a dog's world!



Brooklyn

Jethro

Vet's Corner: Dr. Ali Reid



Bones and sticks are not recommended for dogs (risk of puncture and abscess, and they fracture teeth requiring oral surgery). Safe chewing options for dogs follow the rule that anything you can make an impression into with your fingernail should be safe. Not risking a fractured tooth. Great products supported by the veterinary oral health council (tested to also help with tartar) are on the VOHC website. I like to suggest Greenies, Alpo Cheweeze and similar Milkbone Dental Chews (all safe and work on tartar) – good bang for your buck and available at pet stores, Wal-Mart and Giant Tiger. **So no sticks Brookie!**

Also regarding the hyperactivity diagnosis –In most cases the dog has not learned to settle or has had active behaviors reinforced. Some of these dogs are over programmed and over stimulated. Labeling these dogs as “hyperkinetic” may be clearer; they do not habituate to normal stimuli, are reactive, and cannot appear to rest even in calm, quiet surroundings. Within veterinary practice, the condition appears to be rather rare and the signs noted by owners are attributable to breed dispositions, conditioned behavior or lack of appropriate normal outlets for activity and exercise.

KITTY CORNER : Old Wives Tale's and a Crate

Cats, ironically, are the underdog. Dogs are loyal. Cats are selfish. Dogs are friendly. Cats are aloof. Dogs conform. Cats rebel. Where do these Old Wives' Tales come from? Why do we accept them as unquestionable truth? These are human attitudes that we have assigned to our beloved pets over time. The goal of this column, readers, is to turn these accepted views inside out and see our catpanions in a different light. Such as:

If dogs are not supposed to run at large, why is it okay for cats?

Well, you might say, dogs need supervision. Cats are more independent; they need to be outside. You can't treat them like dogs. Yes, you are right. You can't treat cats the way you treat dogs. However, there are some things you can do for cats the same as you do for dogs. Cats are not more independent than dogs. They need our protection. That is another accepted Old Wives' Tale. A cat's world is what you make it – not what you have been told it should be. What if we can give our cats a safe place indoors all of the time? What would happen? Less injuries from cars, less disappearances, less unwanted pregnancies? Yes! All of these things we can protect our cats from, and for my cat, it all started with a crate.



illustrations of.com #1103614

A crate? But crates are for dogs!

Not so! At eight weeks old, I brought home my kitty. This was not a rash decision. I was prepared for her integration into my home. I had thought long and hard about how I was going to raise her. She was, after all, just a baby. I didn't want anything to happen to her while I slept. Babies get into things, no matter what species. I had her bowls, toys, food, and her safe place, her crate. The decision to crate her was a mutual decision between myself and my husband. We both understood that it might mean getting up in the middle of the night in case of messes or crying. We did research. We talked. We were ready.

That night we began a routine that is still going strong today. Around nine o'clock, we had playtime. We played with her until she was tired. Then, I showed her the litter box. After that, we put her in her crate for sleepy time. She went to sleep quickly, and slept until four in the morning. She messed that first night, and after that, she never messed in her crate again.

Many things were established by executing this routine. Playtime tires her out, and is a trigger for her that the house will soon be going to sleep. By taking her go to the litter box, she learned to have good bathroom habits. By crating her, she was kept safe at night and she knows it's time to sleep. I kept her in the crate at nighttime for a week. To this day, she will go to her crate and lie down in it. It is her safe place, her den. Putting her into her crate to go to the veterinarian is a non-issue, because her crate is a good place. Very similar to a dog's routine, right?

So as you can see, although cats are definitely not dogs, there are things that you never thought possible that can be done to ensure the health and happiness of your feline. Like anything, do your research. Consult your veterinarian. Talk to your family. But don't ever say “No way! It can't be done!”

Challenge the old ways of thinking and help protect our kitty friends like we never have before. Talk to your friends, neighbors, and family and let them know that cats are able to adapt to a routine. They can be trained. They are vulnerable and need our love and protection. We can make ourselves and others better catpanions by changing our Cattitude, one person at a time.



And the Winner is . . .

Recently the NBSPCA was a winner in the quarterly lottery held by the ANBL Community Foundation. Shown here with the winning cheque for \$2000.00 is Officer Olivia Justason and Deputy Jethro.



In Loving Memory

Saying goodbye isn't easy. Since July of this year, New Brunswick veterinarians and animal owners have made donations to the NBSPCA in loving memory of these cherished pets.

These donations honour the lifetime of special joy and unconditional love pets bring by making it possible for the NBSPCA to pay it forward, and save the life of a dog or cat in need.

Currently the participating veterinary clinics are Douglas Animal Hospital, Southpaw Animal Hospital and Fredericton Animal Hospital. Feel free to speak with your veterinarian about joining our Pet Memorial Program.

Lilly Gibson Scamp Zoe Toby Lucy Yukon Phoenix Sami Casey Lucy
 Gus Heidi2 Macey Rocky Dharma Wiz Goblet Magic Bob Spunky Meeka
 Koukie Kassie Hootie Angel Whiskers Cali Abby Peter Pistache
 Mia Gadgett Daisy Piper Tater Chanell Mabie Dolly Lou Sage Sookie
 Runkle Sam Tracy Shelby Chloe JJ Twiggy Cuddles Piper Mog
 Hootie Tabi Molly Issey Miyaki Betty Niki Ken-chn
 Micky Lala Diesel Punkin Tony Bud Phoebe Issac Lily Grendle Sugar
 Heathcliff Cooper Chocolate Devon Chanel Mildred Abby Thomas
 Nouny Sport Max Clarence Thumper Bear Ishka Calvin Thumper
 Clarence Bear Tigger Brutus Killer Sweet P Walden Badger
 Shannon Lincoln Gustav Oliver Lope Scooter

WE DIDN'T realize WE WERE MAKING memories. WE JUST KNEW we were having fun.

We are looking for interesting stories for future editions of THE VOICE. Do you have a fun story to tell us about your pet? We want to hear about them! Send your story and your contact information to us via email to spca-nb@nbnet.nb.ca and your story could be chosen to appear in a future edition of THE VOICE.

We will remember . . .



Soon it will be Remembrance Day again and at the appointed hour, across Canada, we will gather together at the local cenotaph to participate in that time honored ceremony of remembrance where we will hear the roll call of all our fallen heroes. We will hear the names spoken, the names of the human heroes. But let us not forget about the other heroes, the animals who were there alongside our brave soldiers.

In the early days of war, it was the horses that were transported by the thousands overseas, from the countryside to the horrors of the front lines. They pulled heavy guns, transported weapons, and supplies and carried the wounded and dying to hospital. The loss of horses greatly exceeded the loss of human life in the terrible battles of the Somme and Passchendaele. The end of WWI marked the last time the horse would be used on a massive scale in modern warfare.

Dogs were also used during the two World Wars to carry messages in battle. They would be turned loose to move silently to a second handler. This required a dog that was very loyal to *two* masters; otherwise the dog would not deliver the message on time or at all. Some messenger dogs also performed other communication jobs, such as pulling telephone lines from one location to another.

Fast forward to today and you will see that dogs are now deployed with our soldiers to places like Iraq and Afghanistan and used to sniff out bombs and search hard to reach places. Their part in keeping the soldiers safe is so important that it is known in a firefight the Taliban will aim for the dogs first. A bomb dogs working career can last between seven and twelve years. These “dogs of war” are provided with the best care the military can provide and are highly valued members of the units to which they are assigned. It is not known how many dogs or horses have been lost in conflict but we do know that thousands of lives were saved because they were there.



So, this Remembrance Day when you stand at your local cenotaph take a moment to think about the contributions of animals. Heroes one and all!

New Brunswick



Nouveau Brunswick

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