

## 1. Annual General Meeting - Thursday March 1st

The Annual General Meeting of the North East SPCA will be Thursday - March 1st at 7 pm in the Dry Craft Room at the Kerry Vickar Center. This meeting is open to the public, and the membership of the North East SPCA. You may buy a membership at the meeting - and memberships are always available at [www.northeastspca.org](http://www.northeastspca.org) - The meeting will present the yearly reports with the appointment of an auditor. Make a date for the Annual General Meeting on Thursday March 1st.

## 2. Kirby Hardwick, New Program Manager

The North East SPCA is very pleased to announce that Kirby Hardwick has been selected as the new Program Manager for the SPCA. Kirby has begun her orientation. Kirby brings with her Media experience from the Melfort Journal, and fund raising and organizational experience with her tenure as Main Street Melfort coordinator. The board is excited to be working with Kirby on the initial stages of fund raising, and the commencement of construction of the Harry and Eve Vickar Shelter this Spring. Welcome aboard Kirby!



We cannot begin to thank Melody Motors in Melfort enough for their continued support of our organization! Melody Motors partnered with us on September 30th to host a Drive 4UR Community fund raising event at the Melfort Mall. We raised \$5060.00 through Ford! Thank You to everyone who came and test drove a vehicle that day and took the time to fill out the form. Without you this would not have been possible!

**Chase the Ace** "Chase the Ace" is a proven hit to 7 community groups and many others every Thursday Night at the Legion in Melfort. The NE SPCA served dinner on Dec 28th and \$324 was raised. THANK YOU to Johanna Hnatiuk, Jodie, Sheldon and Jazmin Moore and Ivy Wu for working in the kitchen.

Thanks to those who supported us by buying the meal. Another big Thank You goes to Rumberger Fettis Accounting for sponsoring the meal.



## The Harry and Eve Vickar Shelter - Building update. Construction begins this Spring!

It's been a long wait but construction will begin on the Harry and Eve Vickar Shelter this Spring. Don't forget continual updates are available on our website [www.northeastspca.org](http://www.northeastspca.org). Visit the site frequently for building updates during the winter months, and remember to donate, or attend one of the many events of the NE SPCA. The good news is the building finances are ahead of schedule.



Diamond North Credit Union staff collects money. Instead of buying gifts for the managers they donate the money to a charity. This year they picked North East SPCA. \$218 was donated to the Helping Paws Campaign. Thank You Diamond North.

**Paws Up! - the Barking Lot Dog Salon in Nipawin!** For the month of February; if you give a tip to the Barking Lot Dog Salon in Nipawin it will be donated to the North East SPCA. This is the second year the Barking Lot has done this, and we believe it's a creative and very generous idea!

### 3. Cabaret Awesomeness!



You can't beat \$15 at the door, the music of "40 ounce Philosophy", and a ride home courtesy Melody Motors. We really enjoy this fund raiser as we meet many volunteers and contributors to the North East SPCA and even the Band helps out. Many thanks to Melody Motors with drivers Willy and Corbin, Dress Well with Gisele, Birds of Paradise, and Melfort Scotia bank for selling tickets. Volunteers make things happen. Thanks to Bill, Sandy, Pat S., Victor, Shannon, Brenna, Alanna, Jenny, Alison, Carla, Erin, Pat R and Tami for their time. We do this every year so please remember us for next year.

### 4. National Cupcake Day - Mon Feb. 26th



For Cupcake Day this year orders will be sold in half dozen amounts and orders can be placed anytime. Write [spcacupcake@gmail.com](mailto:spcacupcake@gmail.com) or call or text 306 921 7421, and you may speak directly with Sarah Neigel

who once again is handling orders. Cupcakes will be ready on Feb 26th for delivery to Melfort business locations or pick up to individuals at Golden Grain Bakery. (Delivery and pick up locations may change so be sure to check the NE SPCA website.) \$10 for a half dozen, **but remember you must order by Feb 10th.** Don't be disappointed - with your purchase you'll be supporting the NE SPCA and have a great dessert or lunch treat for a few meals. Remember you can always freeze them too.

"Volunteers are the only human beings on the face of the earth who reflect this nation's compassion, unselfish caring, patience, and just plain loving one another." ~Erma Bombeck

### The Exploding Cat population is our problem.

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Ask any Vet and they'll tell you this has been a worse year than most for the numbers of cats in North East SK communities. Neutering or spaying your beloved pet makes the Region a better place to live, and a safer one for the cat population. In one year an unspayed female cat and her mate producing 2 litters per year with 2.8 surviving kittens per litter can total 12 cats in one year - 67 cats in 2 years - 370 in 3 years, 2,107 cats in 4 years and in the 11th year, the population explodes to 11,606,077. Just from one female and a mate. Spay or neutering does cost money. The vet will charge you around \$100 if you adopt a cat; and to note that the vet charge is the rock bottom price including the shots that your new cat needs. If you adopt its a great deal. Why not think of a spay or neutering fee as a 'donation' to the cat population and the North East SPCA. Shelter cats may, or may not be neutered - but the fact remains that the responsibility lies with the owner. Spay or Neuter is a wise choice to keep the cat population at bay. Numerous studies are underway to spay or neuter a large number of cats and move them into the population; general leading to a downswing as intact cats tend to move to other cat populations.

This is a known fact, but only a few towns or cities have moved forward, because the cost would have to be reflected back to the taxes of the area. Either way, its up to us to control the cat population.



### The Quarter Inch Quilt Shop does it again!

Allison Rogers of Quarter Inch Quilt Shop in Melfort made this quilt and Joan Bessey quilted it. They generously donated it to the North East SPCA for a raffle. Tickets are \$2 each or 3 for \$5. They will be for sale at the Quarter Inch Quilt Shop in early November or from a NE SPCA Board Member. The quilt will be on display at Quarter Inch Quilt Shop in early November. Be sure to stop by and check out the neat stitching Joan put on it- balls of yarn, meow and purr! Draw will be this April.





## 5. Facebook Auction - \$2695 !



Facebook Auctions are fun and a labor of love for Alison Beecher and Erin Campbell. The Fall and Christmas auctions were very successful. A huge thank you to Bob Jung and the Melfort Mall for letting us run the auction pick up there! Also thank you to everyone that picked up their items. We are very glad to only be walking

out with two small bags compared to the four vehicle loads that we came with. Alison and Erin will make their famous return this Spring so watch the North East SPCA Facebook page

**Robert Trombley of Melfort Elks** presents Pat Rumberger of the NESPCA with a cheque for \$400 in recognition of NESPCA volunteers working an Elks bingo in November. The donation is greatly appreciated.



## 6. "The Business of Money"



To our many donors and volunteers a heartfelt "Thank You" - Here's a fast overview of the last few months.

--November - The Town of Nipawin agrees to \$5000 over 3 years once construction begins.

The United Church Trade Fair from October raises \$514 for the NE SPCA. Also in the year to date in November Pat Shields reports \$316 has been made from recycled cans and bottles to the Melfort Liquor Store. The building committee also begins to look at tenders from the North East.

Stickers have been ordered - 25 rolls of logos - you'll be wearing one this spring and summer - even if you aren't a member.

Telethon date is set to June 3rd at the Kerry Vickar Centre - The SPCA will be partnering with NEOSS for this event.

-- December - Melody Motors Drive One for your community raises \$5060. Also a couple of memberships were sold. \$1400 is donated from the Community Spirit Fund through the Affinity Credit Union - and \$138.86 was donated from the Star City School. Memorial donations for the month are \$200. Donation boxes from events in Nov and December total \$120.

Raffle tickets sales total \$650, and our Facebook auction raises \$2695. The December 2nd Trade Fair in Melfort raises \$455. Melfort's 2nd Chase The Ace begins with 6 other community groups. 24 memberships are sold in total. **Cash Calendar sales for 2017 are \$787.** The Dec 28th Chase the Ace Supper raises \$324. An additional \$40 is raised through recycling. A January 2018 pick up of Pet Houses is planned.

-- January 2018 -- all moneys from the Pet Houses will be turned in at the **February board meeting.** Plans continue with the Building Committee and draftsmen to complete building layout plans.

Like any business there are costs of running the North East SPCA even before construction begins this Spring. There are accountants, auditors, posters and plans, Thank You cards and postage. Insurance, telephone, bank fees, a few office supplies that are not donated, and storage costs of office equipment that is in cold storage. Many donations will be used in our new building - and all memorials will be honored in a special way. Learn more by attending the General Meeting March 1st at the Kerry Vickar Centre.

"Wherever you turn, you can find someone who needs you. Even if it is a little thing, do something for which there is no pay but the privilege of doing it. Remember, you don't live in the world all of your own."

-Albert Schweitzer

## 7. Don't Miss These Dates

**February 26** - "Cupcake Day" - remember you must have your orders in by **Feb 20th** - details on the bottom of Page 2.



**March 1st** - AGM 7 pm at the KV Centre. The public is welcome and don't forget to buy your membership from the website [www.northeastspca.org](http://www.northeastspca.org)

**April or May** - construction will begin at the Hamilton Street location; The Harry and Eve Vickar Shelter.

**June 3rd Sunday** - Planned Telethon with NEOSS at the Kerry Vickar Centre - broadcast on Access Communications.



Exposure to winter's dry, cold air and chilly rain, sleet and snow can cause chapped paws and itchy, flaking skin, but these aren't the only discomforts pets can suffer.

Repeatedly coming out of the cold into the dry heat of your home can cause itchy, flaking skin. Keep your home humidified and towel dry your pet as soon as he comes inside.

Bring a towel on long walks to clean off stinging, irritated paws. Bathe your pets as little as possible during cold spells. Washing too often can remove essential oils. Antifreeze is a lethal poison for dogs and cats. Be sure to thoroughly clean up any spills from your vehicle in your garage

Make sure your companion animal has a warm place to sleep, off the floor and away from all drafts. A cozy dog or cat bed with a warm blanket or pillow is perfect.

## 8. The Back Page

A few things even ailurophiles (cat lovers) might find surprising ...

- Cats can be allergic to you. Indoor cats in particular can be susceptible to cigarette smoke, dusty houses, human dandruff, pollen, and some kinds of cat litters.
- Cats aren't always affected by catnip. In fact, half the cats in the world don't respond at all.
- Cats can actually live with dogs. If they're introduced while still young - 6 months for cats, 1 year for dogs - they'll get along just fine.
- Cats have strategies for sharing space. A 2013 study concludes that they appear to 'timeshare' territory in order to avoid squabbles between themselves.
- Cat illnesses are often similar to ours. Cats are susceptible to more than 250 hereditary disorders, including their own form of Alzheimer's.
- Cats don't necessarily purr because they're happy. Sure, they purr when they are content, but also when they're sick, wounded, giving birth, nursing, or in a stressful situation.



### CRAZY CANINE CROSSES:

- If you cross a Pointer and a Setter you get a 'Poinsetter', a traditional Christmas pet.
- A Bloodhound and a Labrador – 'Blabador', a dog that barks incessantly.
- A Pekinese and a Lhasa Apso – 'Peekasso', an abstract dog.
- A Collie and Malamute – 'Commute', a dog that travels well.
- A Deerhound and a Terrier – 'Derriere', a dog that's a pain in the butt.
- A Labrador and a Curly-Coated Retriever – A 'Lab Coat Retriever', a favorite of scientists.
- A Collie and a Lhasa Apso – 'Collapso', a dog that folds up for easy transport.
- A Bloodhound and Borzoi – 'Bloody Bore', a dog that's just not much fun.



### Ever Thought of Testing Your Dog?

While taking a dog psychology class, the course instructor mentioned that a great way to test your dogs is to fall down and act like you are wounded. He said that a dog that has a bad temper will typically decide to try and bite his owner. And if the dog is typically good, it will lick the person on the face and act concerned. So, with that in mind, I decided to test out my dogs one night to see what would happen. I was sitting down in my living room eating pizza and watching TV. At this point, I decided to test the theory. I stood up and clutched my chest and then made a quick shout and dropped to the floor. Guess what the dogs did? They completely ignored me, went over to the table and began chowing down on my pizza!

