

Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives

# "All animals deserve proper care..."



 The Animal Care Act of Manitoba places obligations on animal owners.

### Contact us if you suspect:

- □ An animal is...
  - lacking adequate food or water
  - exposed to extreme cold or heat
  - not provided with suitable medical attention if wounded or ill
  - confined in an area of insufficient space
  - kept in unsanitary conditions
  - confined without adequate ventilation
  - not allowed an opportunity for sufficient exercise
  - suffering, seriously injured or in extreme anxiety or distress
  - abandoned
- □ An unlicensed breeding operation or kennel.

# Confidentiality

- All reports are treated with utmost confidentiality. We do not release the names of persons who report animal welfare concerns.
- Your personal information is protected by the Protection and Privacy provisions of The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FIPPA) and will remain confidential.
- If you are a witness to animal abuse you may be requested to testify in court.

#### For the City of Winnipeg:

Concerns where the incident occurred in Winnipeg are usually made via the *Winnipeg Humane Society,* phone number: **(204) 982-2028** 

## Your report is important to us...

The Office of Chief Veterinarian (CVO) implements the Humane Inspection Program. The primary goal of the program is to protect the welfare of animals through enforcement of <u>The</u> <u>Animal Care Act</u>.

# Reporting an animal welfare concern ...

1. An official report is made via:

Animal Care Line 1-204-945-8000 OR TOLL FREE 1-888-945-8001

OR

### animalcare@gov.mb.ca

- 2. The CVO manages all of the reports regarding animal welfare and assigns an Animal Protection Officer (APO) to conduct inspections.
- 3. The APO makes recommendations after completing an inspection based on compliance with the *Act*. Potential results of the inspection include:

#### a. Dismissal

 A concern is dismissed if the inspection produces no evidence of abuse or animals in distress.

#### b. Corrective Action

- For minor infractions of the Act, the APO makes recommendations requiring owners to make specific improvements.
- A follow-up inspection is performed to ensure the owner has complied with the required corrective action.

#### c. Seizure of Animals

- If there are reasonable grounds to believe the animals found are in distress, the APO may supply any care the APO deems necessary to relieve the distress. The APO may also seize the animals under section 9 (1) of the *Act*.
- The seizure may be immediate or at a later date.
- Seizure of animals is for the purpose of protecting the animals and relieving distress, and is not a form of punishment of the owner.
- Carcasses and other materials may be seized as evidence in an investigation.

#### d. Charges Under the Act

- Investigations will occur if infractions to *The Animal Care Act* are discovered. These may lead to filing of charges, including:
  - Common Offence Notice (CON) with fines
  - Court prosecution with fines, imprisonment or prohibition of ownership.

