



NEWS LINE

For release December 30, 2009

SPCA official urges produces to check livestock daily

During the very cold first 15 days of December the SPCA received 22 horse complaints and Morris Airey, director of animal protection services for the Alberta SPCA, says this serves as a good reminder to check livestock daily, if possible. The complaints concerned horses out on pasture that had been there in the summer and fall. The forage was depleted. Horses can paw through the snow and do quite well in the winter providing there is forage under the snow.

Airey says, "I encourage everyone to assess winter feed supplies and monitor their livestock closely. Livestock can lose body condition quickly if feed supplies are not adequate."

Assistance is readily available should a situation arise if animals are in distress. "The Alberta SPCA has a good working relationship with Alberta Farm Animal Care (AFAC). We both tend to the welfare of livestock. We sometimes call them in for assistance for management problems that we may be dealing with and the reverse is also true. At times AFAC calls us in to provide assistance, especially when they're finding difficulty in gaining compliance from a producer, as to the care of their livestock," adds Airey.

Alberta SPCA currently employs nine peace officers in Strathmore, Red Deer, Edmonton and Grande Prairie to enforce animal welfare legislation.

--PLEASE CALL 1-800-468-7021 TOLL-FREE FOR VOICE CLIPS --

AFAC scripts and clips are also available at www.afac.ab.ca

Clip No. 1:

During the very cold first 15 days of December the SPCA received 22 horse complaints and Morris Airey, director of animal protection services for the Alberta SPCA, says this serves as a good reminder to check livestock daily, if possible. He anticipates a busy time during the winter months as a result of a shortage of livestock feed brought on by the summer drought:

(19... "winter.")

Clip No. 2:

Airey encourages livestock owners to assess winter feed supplies:

(14... "see.")

Clip No. 3:

Airey comments on the horse complaints received during the first part of December:

21...access.")

Clip No. 4:

Assistance is readily available should a situation arise where animals are in distress. Airey is happy that Alberta SPCA and Alberta Farm Animal Care enjoy a good and close working relationship:

(18... "livestock.")

Clip No. 5:

Alberta SPCA currently employs nine peace officers to enforce animal welfare legislation, adds Airey:

(12... "Grande Prairie.")

For further information contact:

Jim Haggins AFAC Manager (403) 932-8050