

Animal Care and Control caring for hundreds of evacuated pets

May 11, 2016

Over the past week, the Animal Care and Control Centre has served as a "second home" to hundreds of pets who arrived in Edmonton with their owners after evacuating Fort McMurray.

Staff have been kept extremely busy caring for more than 150 animals at the Animal Care and Control Centre (ACCC) and over 180 at the City of Edmonton Reception Centre. So far, evacuated animals in ACCC care have consisted of cats, dogs, guinea pigs, chinchillas, reptiles, a gerbil, a hedgehog, a rabbit and a bird.

"ACCC and our partners in the animal care community have banded together to act swiftly in a time of tremendous need," said Ron Gabruck, Director of the Animal Care and Control Centre. "The courage, compassion and tireless effort of our team, and of everyone involved in the emergency response, has shone a bright light on what has otherwise been a pretty dark time for many people."

Animals sheltered by ACCC are cared for in a clean, comfortable and safe environment and are under the watch of veterinary staff. Evacuee owners are able to visit their pets at ACCC and staff have gone above and beyond their regular duties — even texting photos and messages to owners.

To date, close to 60 of the pets housed at ACCC have been reunited with their owners. The ACCC has documented and tracked each animal through a comprehensive process that includes:

- Providing matching wrist/neck bands to owner and pet
- Collecting important pet information as well as owner contact information through an intake form
- Taking photos of the animals

At the request of the Provincial Operations Centre, ACCC deployed officers to Fort McMurray to support the animal rescue operation that was already underway. The ACCC team is assisting with the transfer of animals in the local crews' care, the capture of stray and injured dogs, and the transport of sick and medically-injured animals to the People and Animal Reunion Centre in Edmonton. Hundreds of pets have already been brought to the reunion centre and the Alberta SPCA is calling owners as their animals are ready to be picked up.

People with pets left in Fort McMurray after the evacuation should fill out the [Rescue Request Form](#) — which allows for faster reunification — and visit the Alberta SPCA [website](#) for updates on the rescue operation.

For more information:

facebook.com/animalcareandcontrolcentre
albertasPCA.org
abvma.ca/
albertaanimalhealthsource.ca
edmontonhumaneSociety.com/support-ehs/fort-mcmurray-wildfires
edmonton.ca/HelpingFortMac
photos.edmonton.ca/Animal-Care-and-Control/ACCC-EvacuatedYMPets

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