



Cowichan Tribes and BC SPCA Partnership

Cowichan Tribes and BC SPCA are committed to improving animal welfare education and bylaws

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Duncan, BC

Cowichan Tribes, the BC SPCA, and RCMP met on March 15, 2018 to discuss “Teddy” who was a severely neglected dog seized by the BC SPCA on February 16, 2018. The meeting’s agenda was about moving forward for solutions to prevent neglect to animals or pets in the future. Chief William Seymour speaking on the incident says “It is unfortunate what the poor dog went through, and we hope with greater education on proper treatment, and how to identify and report an animal in need of care, we can prevent cases like this in the future”. “Teddy” was unknown to the Cowichan Tribes Bylaw Officer or to the BC SPCA until he was reported and discovered on February 16.

The meeting was a productive one that resulted in multiple action plans for all parties. Cowichan Tribes with input from the BC SPCA are working to update their bylaws for not only the protection of people from animals, but also to include an animal welfare bylaw – currently City of Duncan is the only one in the Cowichan Valley Regional District that has an animal welfare bylaw which was adopted in 2015.

Cowichan Tribes and the BC SPCA are also working on an agreement to help streamline the communication and improve the relationship between both organizations moving forward. Chief Seymour is pleased with this direction and explains that “an agreement shows the commitment to work together and be equal partners”.

“We are very pleased to be invited to work more closely with the Cowichan Tribes,” says Marcie Moriarty, chief prevention and enforcement officer for the BC SPCA. “While we cannot rewrite the past, we hope that through this stronger partnership we can help prevent cases like Teddy from ever happening again.”

With honouring more of a partnership, the BC SPCA has been invited into the community to help educate members of all ages about animal welfare. “By working together to raise awareness about cruelty prevention we believe we can create a brighter future for animals in the region,” says Moriarty. The BC SPCA offers age-appropriate interactive education from kindergarten to grade 12 and is excited to attend many of the Cowichan Tribes events with information booths, as well as making appearances at our local schools and summer camps to work with kids on how to be safe around animals, and how to identify an animal in distress.