



News Release – For Immediate Release Thursday, April 1, 2010

County takes on Animal Control duties

The County has hired two Animal Control Officers in an effort to enhance enforcement in the growing municipality. Katie Blakely and Sam Retzlaff will investigate animal complaints, enforce any animal bylaws and provide education to the public.

Since the mid 1990's, The County of Grande Prairie had contracted animal control services to the Grande Prairie and District SPCA. Over the years this grew to include the communities of Wembley, Beaverlodge, Sexsmith and Hythe.

“In reviewing our growth strategies and responding to community needs, the County conducted a review of animal control services in 2009,” said Stu Rempel, County Manager of Enforcement Services. “That review included the services the SPCA was providing and the amount of time we were spending supporting their enforcement activities. The decision was made to move this program under the Bylaw Division of the County’s Enforcement Services Department.”

“The SPCA welcomes the two new Animal Officers and looks forward to continuing its positive growing relationship with the County of Grande Prairie,” stated Brenda Tanguay, Executive Director of the Grande Prairie & District SPCA. The County has had a long and successful association with the Grande Prairie and District SPCA. We are in a joint venture with both the SPCA and the City of Grande Prairie for a regional pound and shelter facility. The SPCA will continue to operate this facility, maintain all their local educational programs and adoptions services.

Effective April 1st, 2010, the following agency contact numbers will apply:

County Animal Control:	780-532-9727 (complaints, general inquiries)
Grande Prairie and District SPCA:	780-538-4030 (administration, general inquiries)
Alberta SPCA:	1-800-455-9003 (animal protection complaints)

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For more information contact:

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Enforcement Services Department
780-532-9727

