



# Central Alberta Life

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## Marvin the horse tugs on the hearts of Albertans

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The rehabilitation of a severely malnourished horse, rescued from a property in Red Deer County in July, has captured people's hearts and donations have flowed in for his care.

Dan Kobe, communications manager with Alberta SPCA, said an appeal went out to SPCA supporters and as of last week a total of \$6,375 had come in to help Marvin the horse whose story was shared earlier this week.

People who want to adopt Marvin have also been contacting the SPCA.

The yearling, that was too weak to stand and half the size of similar horses his age due to his poor health, was taken into care by Alberta SPCA along with two other starving older horses on July 12.

Marvin, who was named by his new, temporary caretakers, is still extremely thin with his ribs, sternum, shoulders, hip and tail head bones protruding.

He currently has partial sight in one eye that was injured while he was thrashing around trying to get up before he was rescued. Sores on his body from all the time he spent lying down are healing, and he's being treated for a bacterial fungus while his immune



Marvin was still very skinny on Aug. 17, five weeks after being rescued from a property in Red Deer County. (Photo by Susan Zielinski/Advocate staff)

system improves.

Kobe said at this point Marvin is expected to survive, which was a concern during his first few weeks in care. It's unknown how many weeks, or months, it will take for him to re-

cover to be adopted.

"He seems to be doing quite well," said Kobe, who last saw Marvin happily rolling around on the grass under the protection of his caretakers this week.

Kobe said Marvin's case was extreme, but neglect is not uncommon.

"Unfortunately we see situations of neglect that would upset most people on a regular basis," Kobe said.

"It's something that our peace officers have to deal with every day. The people who do this job are quite amazing. They do see a lot, and they do feel a lot, and they keep on powering through to make sure they're helping animals wherever they can."

He said awareness about proper animal care is increasing in society, and the SPCA is helping to educate younger generations about how to treat animals.

"Social media has put a bigger spotlight on things. But there's a certain part of society where this thing just unfortunately continues to happen."

So far the Alberta SPCA has spent \$2,300 on veterinary care, care taking and transportation for Marvin and the two other horses removed from the same property, Marvin's mother and an older brother, that are in care elsewhere.

Kobe said it's not clear how much money will be needed to pay for Marvin's care, but if more money comes in than is needed, the remaining amount will be applied to the next serious case of animal neglect.

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