



2007-2008 ANNUAL REPORT



They also deserve respect

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A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

For ANIMA-Québec, March 2008 marked the conclusion of the third year of inspecting environments where cats and dogs are kept. Three years of travelling the roads of Quebec has given our organization the confidence and maturity that now enables us to carry out our activities far more efficiently.

I am proud to present ANIMA-Québec's report on the last 12 months of its operations. Our report reflects the experience we have acquired over the years and the commitment and professionalism of a team of employees and managers who cares about the fate of cats and dogs in Quebec. Thanks to their concerted efforts, more and more inspections are being made, thereby improving the living conditions of thousands of animals. What is more, ANIMA-Québec has now gained public recognition and is considered an indispensable reference organization in Quebec in regard to keeping and raising cats and dogs. Our inspectors, managers and administrative staff have every reason to be proud of the work accomplished by our organization.

In regard to human resources, I would particularly like to mention the arrival of Ms. Véronique Langlois, who has been managing ANIMA-Québec since May 2007. Her experience and management skills have helped us establish the administrative structures that are now indispensable. The increasing number of inspections and their consequences in regard to the files presented to the *ministère de la Justice* as well as the resulting seizures, required firm administrative foundations. In spite of the ever increasing complexity of these situations, the results encourage us to continue in the same direction and with the same energy. In this regard, I cannot omit mention of the determining contribution made by Dr. Suzanne Lecomte, our Chief Inspector. These two key figures are now supported by assistants with whom they can no longer do without.

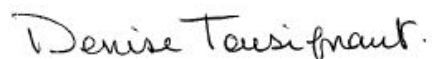
Since inspection activities are the heart of ANIMA-Québec's mission, a fourth person has joined our team of inspectors over the past year. Once again, during the upcoming year, we intend to increase the number of hours assigned to inspections. To this end, we have planned a training program that will allow us to refurbish our bank of candidates for the position of inspector. Among the other development projects we intend to pursue is the preparation of a guide of generally recognized practices for the feline species and a communications plan.

Last year, in this annual message, I mentioned the difficulties we were experiencing in informing the general public of ANIMA-Québec's achievements. Due to constraints imposed by the *Act respecting access to documents held by public bodies and the protection of personal information*, our organization can only reveal the location and purpose of its interventions following a conviction.

Since several of our cases have now been taken to court, we are finally able to produce a list of these convictions and publicize the photos illustrating the conditions in which certain animals were maintained. Since our most recent seizures have been widely reported in the media, I am pleased that the Quebec public is now able to view the work accomplished by ANIMA-Québec in a more objective manner.

To see to the safety and welfare of cats and dogs in Quebec, ANIMA-Québec considers the participation of all its community partners to be essential. The synergy created allows us to avoid duplication and wasted energy which, in the end, only dilute the concrete impacts of our actions for animals in need. In fact, over the years, our organization has made efforts to establish close relations with an increasing number of partners. Working together means counting on what unites us, on the objective we each pursue in our own way, rather than on our differences. This also means recognizing that everyone is contributing to the same overall objective, within the limits of their mandate and means. Within the scope of its mandate, ANIMA-Québec wishes to work together with all its partners who care about improving the living conditions of cats and dogs.

In closing, I would like to point to the exceptional support provided by our main sponsor, the CDMV, which has supported ANIMA-Québec since the very beginning. Many other participants also support our work and we thank them once again. These partners are vital since they help ANIMA-Québec achieve the means to fulfill its greatest ambitions.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Denise Tousignant".

Dr. Denise Tousignant, V.M.
President

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

At the end of the 2007-2008 fiscal year, the Board of Directors was composed of the following members. During the year, two members resigned and one new person was recruited.

Dr. Denise Tousignant, V.M. President	<i>Ordre des médecins vétérinaires du Québec (OMVQ)</i>
Vice-President	Vacant
Dr. Sylvie Blain, V.M. Treasurer	<i>Académie de médecine vétérinaire du Québec (AMVQ)</i>
Mr Louis McCann Secretary	<i>Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council of Canada (PIJAC-Canada)</i>
Mr Daniel Giroux Director	<i>Société protectrice des animaux de Québec</i>
Ms. Emmanuelle Jodoin Director	<i>Société protectrice des animaux de l'Estrie</i>
Dr. Gaston Mainguy, V.M. Director	<i>Ministère de l'Agriculture, des Pêcheries et de l'Alimentation du Québec (MAPAQ)</i>
Me Charles Marchand Director	Lawyer
Mr Serge Marquis Director	<i>Société protectrice des animaux de la Mauricie</i>

The important mandate assigned to ANIMA-Québec requires the active participation of the members of the Board of Directors. The expertise and dedication of each director contributes to the organization's development. Their commitment, combined with the constant support of the MAPAQ, is essential to the pursuit of ANIMA-Québec's mission and activities.

ANIMA-QUÉBEC PUTS ITS MISSION INTO ACTION

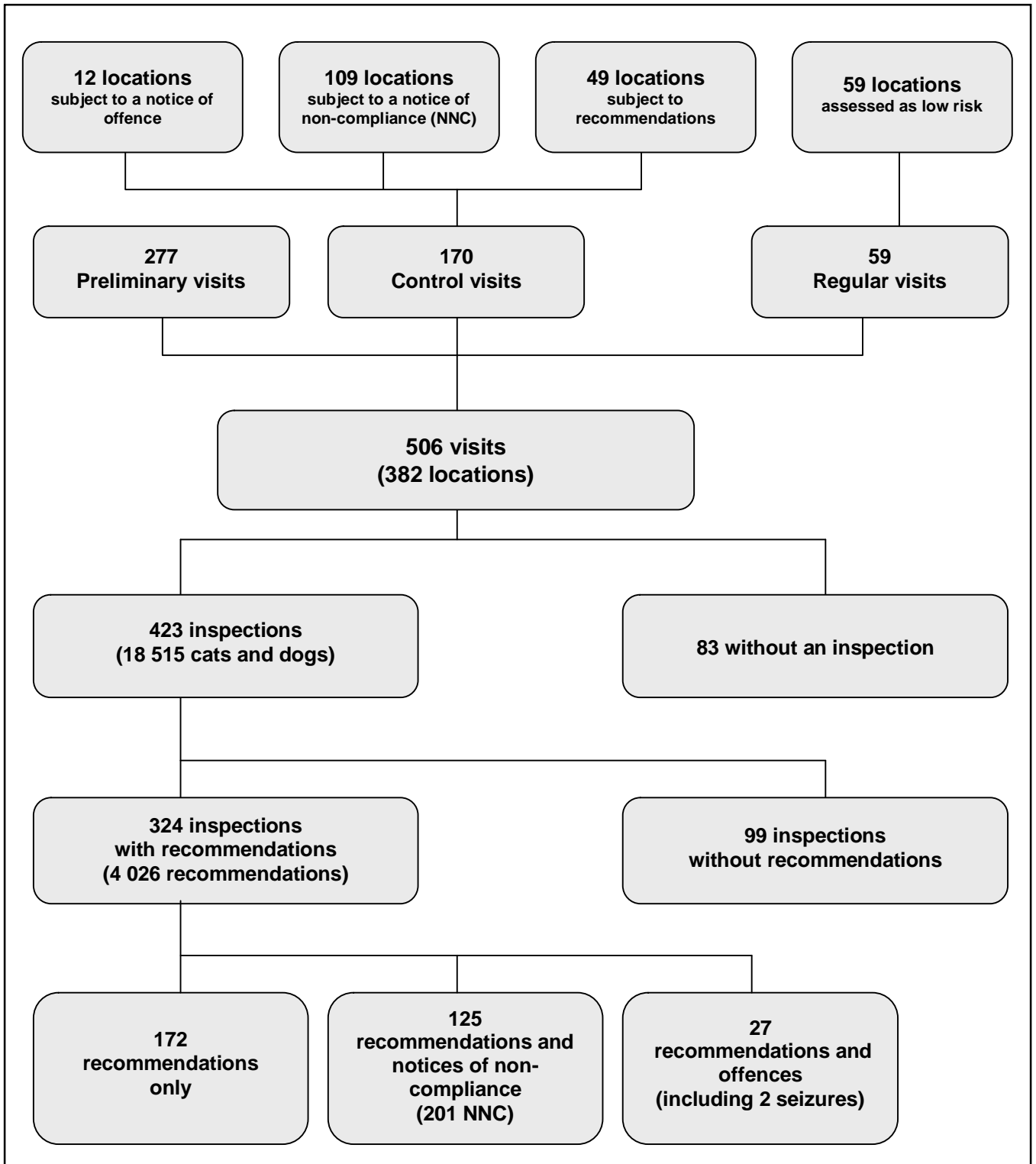
Between April 1, 2007 and March 31, 2008, the inspectors assigned to apply provincial legislation concerning the safety and welfare of animals made **506** visits in **382** locations where cats and dogs are kept. Their work is broken down in the following manner:

Administrative regions		Types of facilities	
Montérégie & Longueuil	59	Breeders	171
Lanaudière & Laurentides	46	Private households	63
Québec City	46	Animal boutiques	58
Chaudière-Appalaches	35	Shelters	36
Central Quebec	30	Sled dogs	32
Mauricie	30	Services	22
Outaouais	27		
Lower-St.-Laurence & Gaspésie	27		
Eastern Townships	26		
Montréal	26		
Saguenay - Lac-St-Jean	12		
Laval	10		
Abitibi-Témiscamingue	8		

The diagram on the following page summarizes the inspections carried out during the past year. The inspection itinerary included three types of visits: Preliminary visits, control visits to verify whether the recommendations made as a result of the preceding inspection have been followed, and regular visits in locations evaluated as low risk during the previous visit. Based on the perceived risk, this itinerary also depended on complaints received. Accordingly, **194** (70%) of the **277** first visits were made following a complaint.

All visits were carried out without previous notice. Some did not allow an immediate inspection since the owner was absent. In such cases, the inspector left a notice mentioning that he had been there, as well as an excerpt from the Act; a new visit was planned.

In 2007-2008, **423** (83.6%) of the **506** visits resulted in an inspection and assessment of the conditions in which **18,515** cats and dogs were being kept. In **99** (23.4%) of the **423** inspections, no element compromising the safety and welfare of the animals was observed, either because practices were adequate or because the operation had ceased its activities.



INSPECTIONS CARRIED OUT BETWEEN APRIL 1, 2007 AND MARCH 31, 2008

In all the other cases, being **324** (76.6%) of the **423** inspections, the inspectors found one or more elements liable to affect the welfare or safety of the dogs or cats. These observations were listed in an inspection report remitted to the person in charge of the location with a list of recommendations designed to improve the welfare of the animals in their custody. During the year, **4026** recommendations were forwarded to the persons concerned. These recommendations included the following:

- Watering and food
- Exercise areas and exercise
- Buildings and land
- Cages, enclosures and doghouses
- Collars and tie chains
- Vermin control
- Animal density
- Lighting and ventilation
- Equipment and products used
- Disease prevention
- Euthanasia protocols
- Health and hygiene care
- Keeping of files and registers
- Transportation

Among the breaches noted, some contravened the Act. In such situations, the inspector can issue a notice of non-compliance (NNC) if he considers that the person responsible for the animals will be able to make the necessary corrections in a short period. In this manner, **125** (38.6%) of the **324** inspections which led to recommendations being made were also subject to one of more notices of non-compliance. A total of **201** NNCs were issued during the year, imposing corrections to be made within a prescribed period.

Many owners and guardians took the recommendations and corrections required into consideration and introduced the appropriate changes. In addition to the improvements to the facilities noted during the control visits, the inspectors observed a reduction in the ratio of "number of animals per person". Among several operators, this reduction was the result of reducing the number of dogs and/or cats while for others, the number of persons taking care of the animals was increased.

On the other hand, certain individuals avoided the changes imposed by the entry into force of Section IV.1.1 of the *Animal Health Protection Act* (R.S.Q., c. P-42). In these cases, the inspectors had no other choice than to submit an offence report to the competent authorities. Between April 1, 2007 and March 31, 2008, **27** offence reports were drawn up.

It should be noted that it is the Director of Criminal and Penal Prosecutions that is responsible for deciding whether or not to institute criminal actions. To date, all the offence reports presented by ANIMA-Québec have been subject to the issuance of a notice of offence. Defendants receiving such notices have a choice between registering a plea of guilty or declaring they are not guilty of the offence. When a plea of not guilty is recorded, a court hearing is planned.

During 2007-2008, the ANIMA-Québec inspectors were assigned to testify five times. One of these trials was cancelled since the defendant pleaded guilty a few days before the hearing. Three others resulted in a verdict of guilty, since the judges considered that the facts presented by the inspectors established the proof of the offences claimed. In the fifth trial which sought to determine the fate of 121 dogs seized by ANIMA-Québec, the judge ruled that all these animals should be remitted to ANIMA-Québec.

A second seizure of dogs was carried out in January 2008. No decision has yet been rendered in this file but, since the owner handed over his animals to ANIMA-Québec, they were put up for adoption as soon as they had received the appropriate care and husbandry required by their condition. For more details on the offences judged and the seizures made, the reader is invited to consult our website: www.animaquebec.com.

The following table presents ANIMA-Québec's inspection activity report.

	Accumulated as at 01/04/07	From 01/04/07 to 31/03/08	Accumulated as at 31/03/08
Registered facilities	663	201	864
Registered facilities subject to a complaint	431	183	614
Total number of complaints	742	375	1117
Maximum number of complaints for one location	22	--	27
Visits made	537	506	1043
Locations visited ⁽¹⁾	389	382	666
Percentage of registered facilities visited	58.7%	---	77.1%
Non-compliance notices issued	258	201	459
Offence reports drawn up	11	27	38
Seizures carried out	3	2	5

⁽¹⁾ The accumulated number of locations visited is calculated by adding to the preceding accumulated number, the number of locations visited for the first time (in this case 389 + 277 = 666).

It is encouraging to note that, during 2007-2008, the inspectors carried out almost as many visits (506) as they had made (537) since the legislation they apply came into effect. Thanks to this growth in the number of visits, further to an increase in inspection staff, almost 80% of registered facilities have been visited.

The past year also stands out for the notable increase in the number of offence reports submitted for study to the *ministère de la Justice*. This trend will probably be maintained if certain persons in charge of places where animals are kept, continue to ignore the legal requirements designed to protect the animals' welfare and safety.

We can also expect that the inspectors will be called upon to appear before the courts more often. We hope that the decisions rendered have a dissuasive effect on the offenders and that the jurisprudence created in the wake of each of ANIMA-Québec's interventions will contribute to improving the conditions under which cats and dogs are kept throughout Quebec.

AN IMAGE IS WORTH A THOUSAND WORDS

EXAMPLES OF OFFENCES*

Facilities



Habitat, water and food



Health care



Facilities and cleanliness



Facilities



Access to water



*For more information, consult the list of convictions on the website at: www.animaquebec.com

ANIMA-QUÉBEC: A VOICE IN ACTION

The members of the Board of Directors and the staff are particularly proud of the organization's achievements in 2007-2008:

- ❖ Fourth seizure (120 dogs) carried out in November 2007 in Saint-Paul-de-la-Croix. Judgement on the motion to dispose of animals rendered on January 10, 2008. Press release on Wednesday, January 23, 2008 announced 95 dogs available for adoption. The shelter and adoption operation was carried out from January 25 to 27, 2008 in partnership with the Berger Blanc. New families were found for 84 dogs. Follow-up with the families in February and March 2008.
- ❖ Fifth seizure (six dogs) carried out in January 2008. Agreement with the owner who transferred his animals to ANIMA-Québec. Press release on January 30 announced five dogs available for adoption. The sheltering and adoption operation was carried out in partnership with the *SPA de Québec*. New families were found for all the dogs. Follow-up with the families in March 2008.
- ❖ Our February 2008 press release announcing six convictions and the first list of convictions and seizures was posted on the website.
- ❖ Our March 2008 press release announcing four convictions and the second list of convictions was posted on the website.
- ❖ Major partnership agreement for a three-year term signed on February 20, 2008 with the CDMV for the *A Bite for Life!* project and the annual golf tournament. These activities pursue two vital objectives: to publicize the mission of ANIMA-Québec and to raise funds among potential donors working in the animal health sector.
- ❖ Participation of 34 veterinary clinics in the *A Bite for Life!* program for a total contribution of \$16,395.
- ❖ New staff hired: an Executive Director, an Inspector and two Assistants (administration and inspection).
- ❖ Members of the Board of Directors and partners are acclaimed: Award of Merit of the *Comité interprofessionnel du Québec* presented to Ms. Tousignant, Louis McCann Trophy presented to Mr. McCann for his mobilizing leadership, innovative ideas and the quality of his initiatives, and a trophy for work in the community awarded to the *SPA de l'Estrie* during the Banff Summit on strategies for animals in urban environments.
- ❖ Participation in the conventions of the following organizations: *Académie de médecine vétérinaire du Québec* (AMVQ) and the *Ordre des médecins vétérinaires du Québec* (OMVQ).
- ❖ Columns in the magazine *Le Rapporteur* (AMVQ).

- ❖ Articles in the magazine *Le Vétérinaire* (OMVQ).
- ❖ Attendance at the ExpoZoo Salon with the support of PIJAC.



The Minister Laurent Lessard accompanied by the inspection team and Ms. Tousignant during signing of the agreement in June 2007



Ms. Tousignant and Mr Huard, Executive Director of the CDMV. Official photo taken in April 2008 during the AMVQ Convention to mark the signing of the agreement. (Photo: Patrick Roger)



Ms. Élisabeth Lebeau, Executive Director of the ATSAQ, and Ms. Langlois. Official photo taken in April 2008 during the AMVQ Convention to mark a donation made in 2007.



Ms. Denise Tousignant et Ms. Johanne Côté, Vice-President, *Comité interprofessionnel du Québec*



Mr Louis McCann with Ms. Clarke Cameron on his left and Keith Burgess, respectively President and Vice-President of PIJAC

SUMMARY REPORT OF THE COMMITTEES' ACTIVITIES

INSPECTION COMMITTEE

Composition

Dr. Gaston Mainguy, DVM, Committee's President
Dr. Nathalie Hébert, DVM
Dr. Julie Lamontagne, DVM

The Inspection Committee is responsible for general supervision of inspection activities. Advising and supporting the Chief Inspector, it promotes the continuous improvement of inspection practices. Among others, this year marked the beginning of work to review our working tools, leading to a completely modified notice of non-compliance form and the revision of biosecurity measures.

The Committee also focuses on problem files submitted to it, including those that are subject to legal action.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Composition

Dr. Sylvie Blain, DVM, Committee's President

During 2007-2008, work was carried out in cooperation with the *Académie de Médecine Vétérinaire du Québec*. The Committee carried out research activities and gathered information as well as beginning the preparation of the first guide of generally recognized practices for the feline species.

FINANCING STRATEGY COMMITTEE

Composition

Mr Louis McCann, Executive Director, PIJAC Canada, Committee's President
Dr. Sylvie Blain, DVM
Mr Pierre McCann, Director of Global Banking and Trade Solution at CIBC

With the participation of the Executive Director, this Committee initiated a reflection process on possible fundraising activities, a spokesperson and promotional activities.

During the past year, the Fundraising Strategy Committee's main achievements were:

- Choosing and developing new activities to support the organization's finances and promote its visibility;
- The participation of the members of the Board of Directors and staff in the fifth edition of the CDMV - ANIMA-Québec golf tournament;
- A major partnership agreement with the CDMV;
- Adding new corporate donors
- Renewing the concept of the ANIMA-Québec Day during Animal Life Week

THE FUTURE

The population of Quebec has certainly learned more of ANIMA-Québec's mission and achievements thanks to increased media presence. However, there is still much work ahead to ensure that ANIMA-Québec is recognized as the organization that sees to the safety and welfare of cats and dogs in Quebec through its inspection, education and information activities. We will continue to carry out this important mandate with the participation of our partners and donors in order to pursue the application of Section IV.1.1 of the *Safety and Welfare of Animals* of the *Animal Health Protection Act* throughout Quebec.

Intervention strategies:

- Organize a training session for new inspection candidates;
- Recruit new inspectors;
- Increase the number of inspections;
- Bring situations contravening the *Act* before the courts;
- Work to ensure a renewal of the agreement with the MAPAQ;
- Encourage the adoption of a regulation on the obligatory registration of owners of locations targeted by inspections;
- Draw up an operating guide - seizures;
- Present a new ANIMA-Québec Day as part of Animal Life Week held each year in October;
- Develop new fundraising strategies;
- Publish a guide of generally recognized practices - feline species;
- Develop new promotional tools;
- Promote our organization among various clienteles, including potential donors;
- Work with our natural partners, the media and the general public and create a feeling of belonging to the ANIMA-Québec cause;

Lastly, everyone who cares about animal safety and welfare must work together, in complementarity or in partnership for this cause that unites us all.

