

Throw us a bone, SPCA asks city

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Staff Writer

The SPCA made an impassioned plea Tuesday for municipal help in acquiring property for a headquarters and animal shelter.

Chris Poudrier, legal counsel for the animal advocacy organization, told city council a new building is required to keep strays off the streets and expand animal-related services.

"It is crucial at this point in time that we get this project off the

ground," he said at council's regular meeting.

"The reality is that the services that are available are failing."

The SPCA has almost raised enough money for a 2,400 sq. ft. metal building. It would feature as many as 20 rooms, possibly including a viewing area for pet adoptions, a store selling animal products, and a dog grooming centre.

The facility would also serve as a base for potential new SPCA ini-

tiatives such as pet visits with the elderly and obedience classes. Long-term, the organization is interested in working with the city on animal control services and the issuance of dog licenses.

Poudrier asked council to consider providing property either at the former museum site down the Cliff Lake Road or the old sawmill location further down Highway 10.

"In order for the SPCA to continue to provide the services that

it wants to provide and the services that are required by the City of Flin Flon, they are going to need to become self-sufficient," he said.

"We need to look at this new building and this new proposal as a business and we need a prime location in order to be successful."

Council was not prepared to make a formal commitment to those or any other properties, but Mayor Tom Therien was receptive to the group's request.

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