



April 23, 2019

A Message from our Executive Director

As many of you are aware, the Ontario Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals made an announcement in early March that they would no longer be enforcing animal cruelty legislation in the province of Ontario.

Since this announcement, many of you have had questions as to what this means for animals across the province, as well as the role of the officers at the Kitchener-Waterloo and Stratford-Perth Humane Society.

The Ontario SPCA has enforced animal welfare legislation for over 100 years in Ontario and were granted police powers to enforce the Ontario SPCA Act. This is a very unique set-up as they are a not-for-profit with police powers to enforce both the Provincial Offences Act and the criminal code. The Ontario SPCA is also the body that appoints and oversees agents and inspectors who work directly for the Ontario SPCA, or out of Affiliate Societies such as ours.

Since the Ontario SPCA has decided to no longer enforce animal welfare legislation, the Agents and Inspectors appointed by them will lose their status as a Peace Officer and the legal right to enforce the Act. This includes the officers working out of the Kitchener-Waterloo and Stratford-Perth Humane Society.

The Ontario SPCA ceased livestock investigations on March 31, 2019, and they will cease all animal cruelty investigations as of June 28, 2019.

At this time, any welfare concerns for domestic animals can still be reported to 310-SPCA or the Kitchener-Waterloo and Stratford-Perth Humane Society. Any welfare concerns for livestock can be reported to 310-SPCA and they will direct you as to who to call. As we get closer to the June 28th deadline, we will keep you informed as to who to call past this time.

Please note that police also have the powers to enforce the Ontario SPCA Act and can attend to any concerns of animal cruelty, abuse, abandonment or neglect. In an emergency, you can call your local police directly.

We understand that the Ontario government is reviewing the animal welfare enforcement model and determining how they will move forward to enforce animal welfare legislation after June 2019. As we learn more, we will keep you apprised of any announcements.

What we can tell you is that the Kitchener-Waterloo and Stratford-Perth Humane Society remains dedicated to animal protection within our regions. We continue to help animals through standards-of-care bylaws in many of our communities and we look forward to learning what the new animal welfare enforcement model will be. Should there be an opportunity for our organization to continue supporting animals affected by cruelty, our Board and leadership are truly committed to the cause.

Should you have any questions at all, please don't hesitate to contact us directly.

Kathrin Delutis,
Executive Director