



March 5, 2019

Re: [OSPACA tells province it will no longer enforce animal cruelty laws](#)

Yesterday, the Ontario SPCA (OSPACA) announced that it would no longer investigate and enforce animal cruelty laws after March 31st. Many are asking what this means for Animal Protection Services in our community (since 1887) and what does it mean for the animals. As of today, our cruelty and investigation officers, trained by the OSPACA, remain on the front lines of animal welfare in Hamilton and Burlington.

The Hamilton/Burlington SPCA (HBSPCA) is a professional agency with specialized resources and a sophisticated network of partners to support animals at risk.

Animal Protection Agents with enforcement authority at the HBSPCA enforce animal cruelty legislation, provide specialized knowledge (e.g. animal hoarding), work closely with the health and social service communities, and assist policing agencies. In addition they draw on specialised resources including forensic services, veterinary care and rehabilitation at the HBSPCA. Our Agents are educators and facilitators too, seeking solutions to help keep people and pets together where appropriate.

The HBSPCA Protection Team responds to approximately 100 calls each month about animals who are potentially at risk, including pet companions and farm animals. Most recently, Agents rescued 64 cats from one dwelling, many requiring considerable veterinary care, rehab and socialisation prior to rehoming; charges have been laid. Yesterday, an Agent removed a severely neglected dog; presenting conditions included poor circulation due to matted hair, advanced dental disease, and eye and skin infections.

The HBSPCA continues to deliver protection services while awaiting the government's response to the OSPACA new direction and is ready to join discussions on alternative approaches to animal protection and how it will be funded. Above all, the HBSPCA is committed to thriving animals and ensuring that no animal is left behind.

Marion Emo
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