

May 12, 2010

The Honourable Carol Mitchell
Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs
Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs
Public Archives Building
77 Grenville St., 11th Floor
Toronto, Ontario M5S 1B3

RE: **ONTARIO SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION
OF CRUELTY (OSPCA)**

Dear Minister Mitchell,

The Town of Markham is very concerned over recent events at the Newmarket OSPCA Shelter. Markham has always provided for the care of animals through agencies like the OSPCA and worked with the Province on many initiatives to protect, support, and enhance animals living within the community.

Markham is requesting your support in having OMAFRA staff undertake an immediate inspection of the Newmarket Shelter to ensure the residents of Markham that all provincial standards are being met for the operation of a shelter. We also request the Ministry's support in the encouragement of the OSPCA to consider alternatives to the current euthanasia strategy, and to engage the local municipalities and their resources in the consideration and implementation of alternative options.

Attached is a resolution of Council adopted at the meeting held on May 11, 2010, in support of the above request.

Yours sincerely,



Frank Scarpitti
Mayor

- c. Premier Dalton McGuinty
Mayor Barrow, Town of Richmond Hill
Mayor Morris, Town of Aurora
Kate MacDonald, OSPCA
Kimberley Kitteringham, Town Clerk



RESOLUTION OF COUNCIL MEETING NO. 8 DATED MAY 11, 2010

ONTARIO SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY (OSPCA) (2.8)

Whereas, the Ontario Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (OSPCA) is regulated under the Animals for Research Act, administered by the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) relative to the impoundment and care of stray animals for Ontario municipalities; and,

Whereas, the Ontario Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (OSPCA) is contracted by the Town of Markham to provide proper animal care and veterinary services for stray animals during their impoundment; and,

Whereas, without advance notice, the Town of Markham learned of the potential euthanasia of up to 350 animals due to an uncontrolled outbreak of Dermatophytosis (commonly known as ringworm) the week of May 11, 2010; and,

Whereas, the Town of Markham is concerned about the health of the Town's animals under the OSPCA's care; and,

Therefore, be it resolved that the Town of Markham requests that the following actions be undertaken:

1. That OMAFRA immediately undertake an inspection of the OSPCA's Newmarket facility and work with the OSPCA to assess and address concerns within its power related to the OSPCA's care of the Town's animals; and,
2. That the Town of Markham review reasonable animal care options with OSPCA veterinarians for those animals affected, or potentially affected by the ringworm outbreak and where reasonable and possible, provide additional care and support; and,
3. That no animals be euthanized until examined by an independent veterinarian; and,
4. That the OSPCA develop a response to the outbreak that places emphasis on the treatment and possible relocation of affected animals; and
5. That the OSPCA provide detailed recommendations to the Town to ensure such an outbreak is properly controlled in the future, and that the Town is properly informed of any such outbreaks and consulted on any future mass euthanasia plans; and further,
6. That the OSPCA be requested to address Council in response to its corrective actions.