

Ministry of the Solicitor General

Ministère du Solliciteur général

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MEMORANDUM TO:

All Chiefs of Police and
Commissioner Thomas Carrique
Chairs, Police Services Boards

FROM:

Stephen Waldie
A/Assistant Deputy Minister
Public Safety Division and Public Safety Training Division

SUBJECT:

Animal Welfare Interim Strategy

DATE OF ISSUE:	June 28, 2019
CLASSIFICATION:	General Information
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As you are aware, the Ontario Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals has stated that it is withdrawing from animal welfare enforcement services as of June 28, 2019.

On June 6, 2019, the legislature passed the *Ontario Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Amendment Act (Interim Period), 2019*, a temporary measure to keep animals safe until a permanent animal welfare model is implemented.

The legislation includes provisions that allow for the following during the interim period of June 29, 2019 – December 31, 2019:

- The Solicitor General may appoint any person as the Chief Inspector for the interim period; and,
- The Chief Inspector may appoint any person as an inspector for the interim period.

The Solicitor General has appointed a Chief Inspector for the interim period. The Interim Chief Inspector has appointed temporary inspectors from local humane societies who have indicated they wish to continue enforcing during this interim period.

Provincial inspectors are also being appointed to provide additional coverage across the province. In addition, specialized inspectors with subject matter expertise in livestock and agriculture, horses, zoos and aquariums have been appointed to provide support to other inspectors and police services. Police services will continue to have the authority to enforce animal welfare laws.

The province has launched a new toll free number available 24/7 for the public to report animal welfare concerns, which is **1-833-9ANIMAL** or **1-833-926-4625**. Police can also call this phone number for support on animal protection cases and will be directed to the appropriate entity.


Should you wish to share information on the new toll free number in your local region, the ministry has developed materials, including posters and social media shareables, which can be accessed through this link: www.ontario.ca/animalprotection.

Should police services need to locate a local veterinarian in responding to calls, the College of Veterinarians of Ontario offers the following Find a Veterinarian Tool: <https://onlineservice.cvo.org/webs/cvo/register/#/>

The ministry has also issued a bulletin on the interim measures which can be accessed online through <http://news.ontario.ca/m/52801> for English and <http://news.ontario.ca/m/52802> for French.

The ministry looks forward to engaging with you as we continue to build a permanent animal welfare model.

Sincerely,



Stephen Waldie
A/Assistant Deputy Minister
Public Safety Division and Public Safety Training Division