

PETA: 'It's not just cruel, it's also illegal to abandon an animal'

“If this was a child tied to a fountain every emergency response would be coming out to help and an animal should be no different,” said Rebecca. “It’s ridiculous that it takes calling an organization in North Carolina, USA instead of one around our neighbourhood for things to get done.”

PETA media assistant manager Katie Arth said the organization assisted the Milton women “by immediately providing them with several phone numbers for local law enforcement agencies and were in the process of advising them further when we received confirmation that local officials had taken custody of the dog.” While it’s unclear who made the call, Milton Fire Department dispatch was contacted at 7:58 p.m. regarding the dog, which resulted in Milton Animal Control being dispatched at 8:05 p.m., Town Clerk Troy McHarg told the *Champion*. The dog was then picked up by two animal control officers at 9 p.m., he said.

OMHS Manager of Animal Protective Services Laura Mackasey said she confirmed on Thursday evening



Rebecca and Samantha Chaput contacted authorities after they discovered a brown boxer in distress. The pooch, pictured panting, was tied to a fountain and left in 32-degree weather. *Supplied photo*

that the Town was attending the scene and had one of her animal control officers on stand-by in case assistance was needed.

“If we were not able to get a hold of Milton Animal Control, we would’ve attended,” she said, alleging, “We deal with a lot of after-hour calls due to shortfalls from the Town of Milton. It’s a growing concern that residents

Who should you call if you see an animal in need?

Call **Town of Milton Animal Control** at (905) 878-7252, ext. 2254 if you find a dog running loose in Milton, see a dog or cat that has been hit by a car or have an after-hours emergency related to dogs or cats.

Call the **Oakville and Milton Humane Society** at (905) 845-1551 if you find wildlife that has been hit by a car, discover injured, sick or orphaned wildlife or want to report animal cruelty or neglect.

Call **Halton Regional Police** at (905) 878-5511 if you see a dog unattended in a car in the hot summer or cold winter months, or find livestock loose on the road.

Visit www.milton.ca/en/live/animal-control.asp for further details.

of Milton are not able to get a hold of animal control officers in a timely manner.”

But McHarg said, “The Town disagrees with the opinion of its former animal control service provider” regarding the municipality’s response to animal control matters. He said in this situation, the animal control officers attended the

scene within one hour of being dispatched, which is the Town’s target. Currently, the Town is serviced by two animal control officers.

“We’re able to provide a 24/7 service; if they (the animal control officers) are not on shift, they’re on call,” said McHarg. “We’re also looking at different enforcement service models and will be presenting a case (to council) for increasing all bylaw services to the community.” McHarg was unable to provide further details on the potential changes at this point and said they will be contained in a staff report at the July 25 Council meeting.

Milton Animal Control’s after-hours voicemail directs residents to contact the humane society regarding wildlife concerns, cruelty and neglect and Milton Fire dispatch for life-threatening domestic pet emergencies.

Dogs that are found at large in Milton are transported to the Burlington Animal Shelter, which told the *Champion* Tuesday that the boxer is doing well. His owner has yet to be found.

The dog’s well-being came as wel-

come news to the Chaput sisters, both long-time animal rights supporters who are gearing up to devote their lives to the cause, starting with their enrolment in Sheridan College’s animal care program this fall.

“We’re very relieved and happy to know that the boxer is doing well,” said Rebecca. “It fills our hearts to know that he’s being taken care of.” The Chaputs hope that others will persevere to help local animals in need, even if challenges present themselves while seeking assistance. “An animal’s life is important,” said Rebecca. “Please, if you see an animal in need, don’t give up and keep trying.” PETA, known for its strong and vocal positions on animal rights issues, deplored the scenario that played out in the quiet Milton park. “It took a dangerous lack of empathy for someone to tie this dog in a park and abandon him to die slowly in extreme temperatures from starvation or heatstroke,” said Arth. “It’s not just cruel, it’s also illegal to abandon an animal in distress or fail to provide an animal in your possession with food, water or shelter.”



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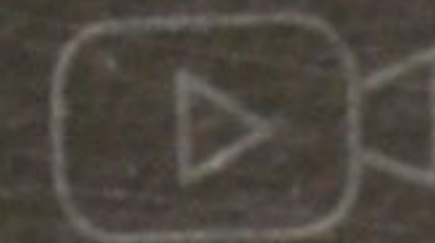
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