

Ontario Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

Be Kind to Animals Week May 4 to 10

SPCA relies totally on donations from public

Animals who are abused or abandoned have more hope thanks to the Ontario Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

The organization, which is also called the Human Society, was start-

ed in 1873 by citizens who were concerned about neglected and abused children and animals.

A few years later, the SPCA became a separate organization whose purpose was to put an end to animal suffering, to promote the idea that no one

has the right to cause physical or mental pain or suffering to an animal and to work within the laws to improve the conditions for animals while maintaining a balanced sensitivity towards both animal and human needs, said a booklet provided by the SPCA.

The SPCA is the only charitable organization in Ontario that's authorized by the provincial government to protect animals against injury,

abuse or neglect.

The SPCA relies solely on donations to run their services.

And those services are numerous. Services include agents and inspectors investigating cases of cruelty and neglect; sheltering strays, lost,

neglected or unwanted pets; caring for and rehabilitating wildlife (in Midland) and educating the public on such issues as the importance of neutering pets. The society

is also involved in letter writing campaigns and petitions.

Inspectors and agents at the SPCA branches and affiliated societies act as a law-enforcement agents, investigating complaints and prosecuting people who are found guilty of abusing animals.

And if the SPCA wasn't around?

"We have 100s of inspectors and agents doing police work. The police would have to pick this up and there would be a great strain financially," said Vicky Earle, chief executive officer for the Ontario SPCA.

"Our shelters do a tremendous job of adopting out animals. If we lost the shelters ... there would be more euthanasia and a higher number of unsatisfied breeding situations for animals. It would be a very tragic lost to the province."

To donate call 905-898-7122, 416-213-7102 or write to the Ontario SPCA, 16640 Yonge Street, Newmarket Ontario, L3Y 4V8.

"If we lost the shelters ... there would be more euthanasia and a higher number of unsatisfied breeding situations for animals. It would be a very tragic lost to the province," said Vicky Earle, chief executive officer for the SPCA



Photo by Ian McInnes
Less animals would have to be put down if people had their pet neutered

Neutering prevents disease in animals

Not only does neutering your pet prevent overpopulation, it can also help the animal itself - preventing diseases that can occur as the animal gets older.

Every year, over 10,000 animals are destroyed at animal shelters across Ontario.

This number can be drastically reduced if people took responsibility for their pet.

Neutering doesn't cost much, but can prevent testicular tumors, prostate problems, perineal hernias and certain skin and glandular growths in male dogs (and abscesses in male cats), ovarian tumors and

uterine growths, potentially fatal uterine infection, false pregnancies and mammary gland infections, mammary tumors and death during whelping or kitting, said a brochure from the Ontario SPCA.

And neutering an animal makes it a better pet, said Vicky Earle, chief executive officer of the SPCA in Newmarket.

"There is less chance of them wandering, fewer diseases and their behavior is more appropriate for a pet."

Unless a veterinarian says not to, there is no reason why an animal can't be neutered, she said.

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