

New protocols in works: OSPCA

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New protocols would become more directorial and would include stricter sanitization, screening and cleaning procedures. The OSPCA is also looking at mandatory attire, including gowns and foot coverings.

The organization is also looking at the role of volunteers and procedures for allowing them into the animal care areas, Ms MacDonald said, noting the OSPCA wants to work with public health to create emergency protocols similar to ones used in hospitals during the SARS and H1N1 outbreaks, Ms MacDonald said.

A report detailing a list of protocols and procedures will be made public once OSPCA vets and staff know more about this vicious and highly contagious strain of ringworm, OSPCA board of directors chairperson Rob Godfrey said.

"This is a different strain of ringworm," he said. "It's not your run-of-the-mill vanilla ringworm. There has been nothing of this magnitude in the province before. Every vet we've met with has never seen anything like it."

This is the third outbreak

of ringworm the Woodbine Avenue facility has had since the shelter closed temporarily in February. The first round was a typical case, but each round became more severe, Ms MacDonald said. The shelter was to re-open after a May 6 contamination test came back negative. But a May 10 test indicated there was still contamination.

The board is in the process of selecting an independent consultant to launch an investigation of protocols and suggest changes.

Since ringworm can be an airborne fungus, the OSPCA is testing all aspects of the facility, including ventilation system, tiles, cleaning supplies and drywall.

"It will take as long as it takes," Ms MacDonald said. "Heaven forbid we rush through this and end up right back here."

The initial call to euthanize about 350 animals led to days of protest and death threats against OSPCA staff and volunteers.

The 99 animals euthanized were severely infected with ringworm and were the first to be infected during the first outbreak in late February. The animals were humanely euthanized - first

sedated then euthanized, Ms MacDonald said.

The 210 animals that were not euthanized were to all have been isolated in private veterinary clinics to undergo treatment and testing by Friday night.

An additional 86 cats and 18 dogs showing light symptoms are still in the shelter undergoing testing, which could take up to a month to complete.

But the animals still pose a public health risk, Ms MacDonald said. "It's a wild-card," she said. "What we don't want is an outbreak in a day care or nursing home or another shelter."

Protesters at the shelter offered to take animals for treatment, but that wasn't an option, Ms MacDonald said. "Those animals being tested are a public health issue," she said. "That's a very compassionate offer, but it would be irresponsible of us to do that. No one regrets this more than we do."

Six staff members and two volunteers were infected with ringworm and one staffer may have infected family members.

For more, go to yorkregion.com

CEMETERY LOCATION RAISES CONCERNS



STAFF PHOTO/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

Mary Brawley and Dave Jones, president and secretary of the Dickson Hill Hamlet and Neighbourhood Community Association, stand in front of the property where Memorial Gardens Canada Ltd. proposes to build a cemetery near 19th Avenue and Hwy. 48 on the Markham-Stouffville border. Some residents have voiced objections because of worries about traffic and ground water. However the proponent says well water will not be affected and that new cemeteries will be needed in our growing region. A public information meeting on the proposal is being held May 18 at 7 p.m. at the Markham Civic Centre.

17, Stouffville Sun-Tribune ■ Saturday, May 15, 2010

Registration

WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE SOCCER CLUB

New Soccer Leagues in Town

In addition to the existing Womens (ages over 25) and Mens (over 35) leagues

-mens ages 17-34

(start date Thurs. May 27th,
all games played in town)

-womens ages 17-25

(start date Mon. May 31st,
all games played in town)

To Register: Please go to the Soccer Office located at the Stouffville Arena- 12483 Ninth Line
Hours: Wednesdays 6:30-8:30pm

For more information please call 905.640.1800 or visit www.wssc.info

Come and learn about the programs your local soccer club has to offer.
Registration payment can be made by cash or cheque.



Loyalty Can Be Costly

Shopping Around Still The Key To Saving On Car Insurance

How Much Is Your Loyalty Discount Really Worth?

If you're like most consumers, you worry that switching insurance companies means losing your "loyalty discount". The truth is that switching insurance companies may cause you to lose your loyalty discount (if you had one in the first place), but that doesn't necessarily mean you'll pay more for car insurance or that you can't save a bundle in the end. The fact is, some insurance companies may provide a small discount on your premium if you've been with them for a long time - but that small discount can quickly become irrelevant if another company has a rate for you that is significantly less than what you're currently paying. After all, what good is 5% off of an annual rate of \$1,500 (a \$75 savings) if you could pay \$1,100 (a \$400 savings) with another company?

How Much Do Rates Really Differ Across Companies?

The rates charged by different insurance companies to insure the same driver, with the same car, for the same coverage, can vary by hundreds and even thousands of dollars. And with so many insurance companies providing car insurance in Ontario, odds are you are not currently insured with the company that offers the best rate for your driving profile. This is where InsuranceHotline.com can help by providing an independent, unbiased rate comparison from over 30 top insurance companies to find you the lowest rate available for your profile. Even better, once your lowest rate is found, InsuranceHotline.com can connect you with a licensed insurance broker or agent to seal the deal. It's Fast, Safe and FREE.

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