From page 1.

breakout, for a couple of hours after coming home from work, Ms McDowell, Michele Langston and Katie Patrick take up their positions along Woodbine.

Not only is this group of women standing its ground until the promised investigation is complete, it is also standing up to accusations against them, as a whole, by the OSPCA. The shelter cancelled an adoption blitz in late June citing an increase in threats against staff and the

public from aggressive protestors. "We want to clear our names," Ms McDowell said. situation developed and who is responsible." "We want no harm to the people inside the shelter or to the building.

"We've become the scapegoat. Why are we being blamed for the shelter not getting things done."

"We were thrilled these animals were up for adoption," Ms Patrick said. "Getting the animals out is exactly what we want. Why would we stop them? We were ready to cheer them on."

But the main issue remains the lack of an independent investigation. The secrecy surrounding the OSPCA leaves many wondering what the agency has to hide, Ms Patrick said. She compared the lack of action and discussion to the 2008 Maple Leaf Foods listeria situation.

"When that broke out, everyone knew what the next steps were," she said. "What do they have to hide? Why are they so secretive?"

The protesters are not the only ones fighting for answers. The Stop the Slaughter of Over 350 Animals Facebook page has more than 39,000 members.

The people who continue to protest have serious concerns and want reassurances this situation will not be repeated, said Newmarket-Aurora MPP Frank Klees.

Mr. Klees tabled a resolution in the provincial legislature and is collecting signatures to bring the OSPCA under the control of the Community Safety and Correctional Services Ministry.

According to the Community Safety and Correctional Services Ministry, the OSPCA is responsible for its own actions and the ministry has no legislative role in this matter, spokesperson Anthony Brown said.

Mr. Klees also said he has regular conversations with OSPCA board of directors chairperson Rob Godfrey for updates on the progress of the promised investigation.

"I have every confidence the board is moving forward," Mr. Klees said. "The board is responding. The investigation will take place. We need to know how the

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