

Solicitor General

Office of the Solicitor General

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132-2019-212

April 8, 2019

Dear Head of Council:

The Ontario government recognizes the importance of animal welfare. We also know that the province's animal welfare landscape is changing.

Recently, the Superior Court of Justice provided a ruling on *Bogaerts v. Attorney General of Ontario*. This ruling affects the *Ontario Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (OSPCA) Act*, which is the province's main legislation on animal welfare. While the Ontario government is appealing this decision, we intend to strengthen and improve animal welfare.

In addition, the OSPCA has advised me that it will withdraw from its current role of enforcing animal welfare legislation in the communities it serves, effective June 28, 2019.

The Ontario government is actively working to ensure appropriate measures are in place to provide animals with the protections they deserve and that Ontarians expect. To inform our next steps, my ministry will survey municipalities about the current landscape of animal welfare enforcement, including details of bylaws and existing partnerships.

Municipalities are important partners in developing an approach that ensures effective enforcement, is transparent and accountable, and ultimately improves the animal welfare system across Ontario.

Should you have any questions about the survey, please contact Ms. Jenna Bendayan of my office at (647) 274-9353 or Jenna.Bendayan@ontario.ca.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sylvia Jones'.

Sylvia Jones
Solicitor General

c: Ms. Jenna Bendayan