

**Ministry of Agriculture,
Food and Rural Affairs**

**Ministère de l'Agriculture,
de l'Alimentation et
des Affaires rurales**



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JUN 18 2010

His Worship Frank Scarpitti
Mayor
Town of Markham
Anthony Roman Centre
101 Town Centre Boulevard
Markham, Ontario
L3R 9W3

JUN 22 2010

Dear Mayor Scarpitti:

Thank you for your letter of May 12, 2010, regarding the Ontario Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals' (OSPCA) Newmarket shelter. I appreciate your taking the time to contact me.

I first want to assure you that I take this situation very seriously. We all care very deeply for animals and this is a very emotional and difficult situation. I understand that the Newmarket shelter halted its plans to euthanize the animals under its care that were affected by ringworm.

I have made note of your Council's request for the ministry to inspect the OSPCA's Newmarket shelter. Our ministry conducts inspections of such facilities under the authority of the *Animals for Research Act*, and I wish to assure you that this request will be considered when determining its inspection schedule.

I have also sent a copy of your letter to my Cabinet colleague the Honourable Rick Bartolucci, Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services. Matters pertaining to the *Ontario Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act* fall under his purview. I trust that Minister Bartolucci will give consideration to the other concerns you have raised.

Again, thank you for your letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carol Mitchell".

Carol Mitchell
Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs

c: The Honourable Rick Bartolucci