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OSPCA says it found 'animals in distress' at Toronto Humane Society

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By **Melissa Leong, National Post**

The Ontario Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals said today it discovered "animals in distress" after an inspection of the Toronto Humane Society.

Kristin Williams, a spokeswoman for the OSPCA, said inspectors yesterday found four cats in "serious condition" that required "immediate intervention." The agency has suspended the humane society as a member as it investigates allegations of animal suffering.

A coalition of current and former employees, volunteers and veterinarians at the humane society held a press conference today to demand that the society's president and board of directors resign pending an investigation. They allege that animals are being left alone in cages without medical attention due to staff shortages and that the final decision to euthanize animals are made by management, not veterinarians.

Meanwhile, the humane society said it has been vindicated by the surprise inspection by the OSPCA.

The humane society said not a single animal was found to be suffering or needed to be euthanized; an OSPCA veterinarian recommended that two cats be given a dental consult while another two receive additional fluids, it added.

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This is a perplexing story. It seems shelters are either killing too many animals, or not killing enough! The media need keep a close eye on all animal welfare societies (and public agencies too), because governments always seem to look the other way! Things are really getting out of hand in BC, in Quebec, and in Nova Scotia. We are concerned about a rescue dog in Halifax for instance. She never bit a human or did serious damage to another dog, but has been held on death row for nearly a year already! Her poor owner seems to be risking everything, and even won a landmark case to quash the by-law, but still can't find a lawyer unafraid of the government and the NS SPCA, who are colluding to block Brindi's release. It seems that for a tidy sum of \$414,000 a year of taxpayer money, the NS SPCA will not only run the tiny city pound; it will even execute ANY dog for the city AC officers (and the courts), no questions

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