

Your Local News

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SPCA warns of door-to-door scam artists

Ontario SPCA reminding citizens that they do not solicit door-to-door for donations

By Katie Strachan
The Oshawa Express

With tough economic times upon us very few have money leftover to donate. But for those that do the Ontario Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) are warning residents to beware of scammers. The Ontario SPCA has had numerous complaints from the public about fraudulent door-to-door canvassers asking for donations in the past few weeks. Although the claims have been mainly reported in Hamilton, Burlington and Newmarket, a spokesperson for the Ontario SPCA says it can happen anywhere. She also clarified door-to-door solicitation is absolutely not a means of collecting donations for the Society.

There are many ways to ensure that donator's hard-earned dollars in these tough economic times reach the animals that need them according to Kristin Williams, spokesperson for the Ontario SPCA. "If you wish to make a donation to help the animals please ensure that your hard-earned money is delivered to those who need it most," says Craig Mabee, Ontario SPCA Director of Development. "You can donate by calling our toll free hotline at 1-888-668-7722, visiting our website at www.ontariospca.ca, or by mailing a payment to your local community shelter or to the Provincial Office."

The Provincial Office is located at 16586 Woodbine Avenue, RR3, Newmarket, Ontario L3Y 4W1. Mabee encourages residents who have been approached by fraudulent solicitors to report any incidents immediately and directly to the police. The SPCA has been protecting animals since 1873, and is a registered charity made up of over 50 Communities relying solely on donations to fund animal protection, care and rehabilitation; advocacy; and humane education. Visit them online at www.ontariospca.ca for more information or to donate to the cause. The Ontario SPCA has many different routes for those wish to donate from monthly plans to single donations to the donation of stock they desperately need. There are even MasterCard available that help the SPCA operate.

The website contains more information. If you're interested in adopting a new pet the Ontario SPCA also has over 60 adoption centres across the province where you can go to adopt an animal that needs a loving home. You can find a list of the adoption shelters on the website. The Ontario SPCA's adoption centre staff will help you through every step of finding your special friend - one that is just right for you.

They can answer any questions, help you decide which pet is a good match for your family, and be available for advice after you bring your new pet home.