

TODAY'S WEATHER

A FEW CLOUDS
23 °C



4 Day Forecast | Traffic

Toronto International Film Festival
September 10 to 19, 2009

UNSEEN
UNIQUE PERSPECTIVES AND EXPERIENCES IN FILM

STELLA ARTOIS
LEGEND

thestar.com

Friday, August 14, 2009 | Today's Toronto Star |

PHOTO VIDEO COLUMNISTS BLOGS TWITTER RSS MOBILE NEWSLETTERS ALERTS



thestar.com Web find a Business
Advanced Search | Full Text Article Archive



- AUTOS
- CAREERS
- CLASSIFIEDS
- DEATH NOTICES
- REAL ESTATE

HOME NEWS OPINION BUSINESS SPORTS ENTERTAINMENT LIVING TRAVEL WHEELS HEALTHZONE YOURHOME PARENTCENTRAL

Toronto & GTA | Ontario | Canada | World | Insight | Global Voices | Obituaries | Local Highlights | Science-Tech | Acts of Kindness

Raid targets humane society

Agency loses powers of enforcement after animal cruelty alleged

Jun 03, 2009 04:30 AM

DEBRA BLACK
STAFF REPORTER

The Ontario Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals has suspended the Toronto Humane Society as an affiliate, pending the outcome of an investigation.

The suspension was announced just as three OSPCA investigators and a veterinarian, accompanied by Toronto police, raided the downtown headquarters of the Toronto animal welfare group yesterday afternoon.



OSPCA inspectors, with Toronto police, enter humane society June 2, 2009.

According to the OSPCA, the suspension means the Toronto Humane Society will not be able to conduct cruelty investigations and has been stripped of its police powers of enforcement and protection from liability under the OSPCA Act. While the Toronto society operates independently, it is accountable to the OSPCA under the act.

Yesterday's raid and suspension come on the heels of a series of newspaper articles that allege the Toronto Humane Society is allowing "unnecessary suffering of animals" with its restrictive euthanasia policy. **The OSPCA says it has independent witnesses who have similar concerns.**

The OSPCA announced Monday it was launching an investigation into allegations of "inappropriate conduct" at the Toronto Humane Society. Those allegations were soundly rejected by the animal welfare agency's president, who called them "nonsense."

"It's ludicrous to suggest there is any impropriety," said Tim Trow, Toronto Humane Society president. "There is no question that this is a wonderful facility with extremely well cared for animals."

As OSPCA inspectors conducted their investigations inside the animal shelter, Ian McConachie, a spokesperson for the Toronto Humane Society, fielded questions from reporters. "We're confident that any investigation will find the claims made are without merit," McConachie said. "We treat our animals with excellent care while they're in our shelter."

According to Trow, the agency makes decisions on a case-by-case basis when it comes to euthanasia, he said. "We do everything we can ... to keep animals alive unless they're in pain or there is no prognosis for life."

Interactive map: Dog ownership



Toronto dog ownership rates by neighbourhood, where dog ownership is rising and falling, by Toronto neighbourhood, and maps of 20 different breeds by neighbourhood.

- Email story
- Print
- Choose text size
- Report error or complaint
- License this article

BOOKMARK

TORONTO DOG

The Future Shop Advantage

- Best price guarantee until Sept. 30*
- FREE Windows 7 upgrade*
- FREE shipping on online orders over \$39*

» Shop now.

FUTURE SHOP

MORE NEWS

One boy struck by lightning improves, other still critical

Brazil identifies last body in Air France crash

Polio surge in Nigeria worries health officials

U.S. senator arrives in Burma for talks

Concrete slab falls off building

Missing ship reported near Cape Verde

Six killed in Grozny gun battle

Mississauga bus driver faces impaired charge

Allen Rd., Dundas St. W. closed this weekend

Romanian bus collision with train kills 11

RECENT SPECIAL SECTIONS

- CNE
- Back to School
- HDTV
- Digital Photo
- Do It! This Summer Guide
- Golf Magazine 2009
- Sick Kids
- Canada's Best Diversity
- Employers 2009
- Guide to Colleges

Advertisement

HOW TO TIFF

Toronto International Film Festival '09 Guide
Brought to you by

toronto.com
be in the know

UNSEEN
UNIQUE PERSPECTIVES AND EXPERIENCES IN FILM

OWNERSHIP MAPS
 TORONTO DOG BREED MAPS

& Universities
 More Specials

Inside the agency, the investigation team handed Trow a letter that told him of the humane society's suspension effective immediately.

"We're here to take a look around the shelter," said Kristin Williams, a spokesperson for the OSPCA, outside the Toronto Humane Society building on River St. "Whenever we receive a credible complaint involving an animal in distress, we're required to respond."

The OSPCA may review the status of an affiliate at any time to make sure it is in good standing and its conduct is in keeping with the organization's mandate and bylaws, Kate MacDonald, CEO for the OSPCA, said in a news release.

The investigation into the Toronto Humane Society could take a number of weeks, Williams said. The OSPCA will then present its case to Crown attorneys and, if they feel there is enough evidence, charges will be laid, she said.

On Monday, Trow said he welcomed the investigation, hoping it prompts a debate on euthanasia. He said that in the past five years, 30,000 dogs and cats have been killed at the City of Toronto pound.

"Every second animal admitted to the city pound is euthanized," he said yesterday. That's not the case at the Toronto Humane Society.

Trow said that at the humane society 35 per cent of animals were euthanized in 2002; now the figure is down to 7 per cent. "We've fought for that very hard," he said.

Ads by Google
Osteo-arthritis Treatment
 All Natural Chronic Pain Treatment
 We Can Help! Free Consultation GTA.
 NaturalPainReliefCenter.com

MOST POPULAR ON THESTAR.COM

Most Read

- Camera-hogging squirrel an Internet sensation
- For one man, the photos she found are Gold
- Injured boy was carrying metal scooter
- Horoscopes for Friday, August 14
- Cheney poised to spill Bush secrets?

SPECIAL



Why our turtles are in trouble
 They call him "the monster." One look tells you why.



A little late, but worth the wait
 It took only a few seconds on the phone to realize just how badly struggling handset-maker Palm Inc. wants to score with ...



Big picture month: Style
 August is Big Picture Month at the Toronto Star. Big Picture Month will celebrate the best of photojournalism and will appear daily ...



Back to school
 For the latest back-to-school fashions, try tailored uniforms with 90s grunge, fluorescent colours with graphic prints or loud leggings ...

[More Specials](#)

Ads by Google
Pet Adoption
 For Pet Adoption
 Pet Adoption Here
 CareAlotPets.com/Healthy-Pets
» Canada's Best Mortgages
 Rates from 2.50%, 100+ lenders
 Apply Now! (No SIN needed)
 Canada.GetMyQuote.ca/Mortgages
Free Pardon Evaluation
 A free evaluation can change your Life. Do you have 60 seconds?
 www.freepardons.com

TheStar.com [Corrections](#) | [Contact Webmaster](#) | [FAQ](#) | [Site Map](#) | [RSS](#) | [The Star on Twitter](#)

Toronto Star [About Us](#) | [Subscribe](#) | [Subscriber Self Services](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [News Releases](#) | [Star Internships](#) | [Careers at the Star](#)

Advertise With Us [Media Kit](#) | [Online Advertising](#) | [Print Advertising](#) | [Special Sections](#)

Initiatives [Santa Claus Fund](#) | [Fresh Air Fund](#) | [Community Giving](#) | [Classroom Connection](#) | [Speakers Bureau](#)

Torstar Sites [toronto.com](#) | [InsuranceHotline.com](#) | [Pages of the Past](#) | [Stock Photos](#) | [New In Homes](#) | [ShopTV](#) | [More...](#)



© Copyright Toronto Star 1996-2009 [Terms & Conditions](#) | [Privacy Code](#)

