

### ***Animal Welfare (Ontario) called in to respond to extreme animal neglect***

At the beginning of August, a concerned citizen reported a case of severe neglect involving a dog. The report was made directly to Animal Welfare Services in Ontario, highlighting urgent concerns regarding the animal's wellbeing.

Given the seriousness of the allegations, an emergency request was submitted to Chief Toulouse. The request sought immediate permission for an Animal Welfare Inspector, acting under the authority of **Animal Welfare Services (Ontario)**, to enter the community and intervene.

The request aimed to facilitate timely inspection, assessment, and, if necessary, the removal or treatment of the neglected animal in accordance with provincial animal protection laws. In this case, the dog was rescued by a concerned citizen and no charges were pressed against the previous owner.

**“Animal Welfare Services (AWS)** within the Ministry of the Solicitor General is responsible for enforcing the [Provincial Animal Welfare Services Act](#). The chief animal welfare inspector and provincial animal welfare inspectors, including inspectors with specialized expertise in livestock, zoos, aquariums, and equines, provide enforcement across Ontario. They carry out inspections, respond to concerns, conduct investigations, as well as provide outreach and education on animal care best practices. Provincial inspectors also follow a [standard code of conduct](#).”

Calls made to AWS are received through the Ontario Animal Protection Call Centre (OAPCC) at [1-833-9-ANIMAL](#) (264625), available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Cases of neglect of animals should *always* be reported to AWS.

*If you do not feel comfortable calling AWS you can contact the Sagamok By-Law Officer at (705) 865-2421, our By-Law Officer will make a connection with AWS for their services.*

### ***Did you know***

It is estimated that there are currently 30 to 40 dogs roaming freely within the community. This poses a significant safety risk to all residents.

When allowed to run at large, dogs often form packs, which is a natural behavior. These packs can become aggressive, attacking other dogs and seeking out female dogs in heat. In many unfortunate cases, the targeted female dogs are injured or even killed.

Uncontrolled roaming and the failure to spay or neuter pets are major contributors to the growing dog population and related safety concerns.

**Spaying and neutering are critical steps every dog owner must take** to help reduce the stray dog population and ensure a safer environment for everyone in the community.

In addition to the dangers posed by roaming dogs, there is also a serious health concern: **Canine Parvovirus**. This highly contagious and often deadly illness is commonly spread among unvaccinated dogs, especially those that roam freely.

The **mortality rate for untreated or unvaccinated dogs can be as high as 91%**, making it one of the most dangerous preventable diseases affecting dogs today.

The **most effective protection** against Canine Parvovirus is **vaccination**. Ensuring your dog is fully vaccinated not only protects your pet but also helps reduce the spread of this deadly virus in the community.

Sagamok Justice Department

By-Law