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Affiliated with THE ONTARIO SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS
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FORT ERIE SPCA LAUNCHES VOLUNTARY INTERNAL REVIEW

The following statement has been issued today, Monday, Oct. 26, 2020 by the President of the Fort Erie SPCA Board of Directors:

The Fort Erie SPCA Board of Directors, staff and volunteers' top priority have always been the protection and well-being of all animals within our care and across our community. We take pride in providing these crucial animal welfare services. We also recognize the vital role we play in enforcing the Town of Fort Erie's Animal Control By-law that has helped hundreds of families be reunited with their lost pets.

Despite our best efforts, there is always room for improvement. We want to assure you that we are aware of the recent complaints about the Fort Erie SPCA and that we take these concerns very seriously. We are committed to investigating them in a thorough manner and are taking concrete steps to address them.

As part of the investigation and our commitment to providing compassionate care, we have launched a voluntary internal review of our operations with the intent of making impactful changes informed by expert advice.

Currently, we are in the early stages of engaging animal welfare specialists to help shape a new policy framework that will form the foundation for delivering the best animal care possible. Additionally, we have retained external HR counsel to assess our current policies and procedures and make enhancements where necessary.

As a charitable, not-for-profit organization governed by the Pounds Act, we have always followed the rules and regulations set out in this important legislation. We have also consistently passed all mandated inspections by provincial oversight bodies, including the Provincial Animal Welfare Services (PAWS) and the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA). However, we believe we can never do enough when it comes to fostering a caring and attentive environment for the animals at our shelter.

In the coming weeks, we will be providing additional information about our concrete and practical action plan. We look forward to consulting with our community and stakeholders throughout this meaningful and transparent process.

Arthur B. King DVM
Board President, Fort Erie SPCA

"We speak for those who cannot speak for themselves."

