

April 21, 2010

For Immediate Release

LONDON HUMANE SOCIETY CLARIFIES POSITION ON PROPOSED BY-LAW CHANGES

The London Humane Society (LHS) would like to clarify its position on recent proposed changes to its corporate bylaws.

The new bylaws will bring best practices to LHS governance, modernize the bylaws, such as allowing for electronic communications, and create two classes of membership. Active members will be those individuals who are directors or become directors of the corporation. Supporting membership will be available to persons accepted by the Board and who support the objects of the LHS. Active members would have the right to vote at members' meetings while supporting members would not have voting rights.

As a non-profit charity that receives no financial assistance from any level of government, the animals of the LHS depend on donors. The class of supporting members reflects the importance of donors to LHS. The LHS's Board of Directors recognizes that donor priorities include fiscal responsibility to ensure the animals receive the care and protection needed.

With the proposed membership categories, supporting members will still be involved in the LHS through supporting members events, such as shelter open houses and receipt of the newsletter. LHS remains committed to receiving input and gathering feedback from supporting members.

The LHS is an Animal Welfare organization which is defined by the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association as a human responsibility that encompasses all aspects of animal well-being, including proper housing, management, nutrition, disease prevention, responsible care, humane handling, and, where necessary, humane euthanasia.

Canadian Veterinary Medical Association defines Animal Rights as a philosophical view that seeks to end the exploitation of animals and animal use industries, including the slaughter of animals for consumption, animal research and animals used in entertainment.

The entire membership was advised of the changes in the membership approval process in the fall edition of Pawsitive News. This publication is our main communications vehicle and is mailed to every member and community stakeholder. It is also available online. In addition, a second notice was sent out to 800 members, who are monthly donors, to remind them of the new membership process. "The majority of donors who were informed of this opportunity either did not respond or chose not to apply for membership," said Peter Klein, Board Chair.

The London Humane Society is operated under the guidance of a volunteer board of directors and is regulated by the Ontario Corporations Act, Canada Revenue Agency, the OSPCA, Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services and works closely with regional police services and the Ontario Provincial Police. It is an affiliate of the OSPCA but is not governed by the OSPCA or the City of London.

About the London Humane Society

Animal cruelty complaints investigated

- 2007: 908
- 2008: 1061
- 2009: 1101

Investigation Calls from April 15, 2007 to April 15, 2009; Increase of 55 per cent in this period

- April 2007 - 209
- April 2009 - 321

Animals cared for have increased 80 per cent in this period

- 2007, 632 animals to London Humane Society
- 2009, 1143 animals to London Humane Society

www.londonhumanesociety.ca

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