

## APPENDIX A

April 27, 2016

Dear:

At its meeting on April 27, 2016, the Regional Municipality of York Police Services Board was advised by the Chief of Police of the dramatic increase in the number of incidents where police have been called in relation to sick or injured animals. This has resulted in a corresponding increase in our police officers' use of firearms to humanely dispatch a number of these animals to end their suffering.

The use of force regulations under the *Police Services Act* permit police officers to discharge a firearm to destroy an animal that is potentially dangerous or so badly injured that its suffering must be humanely ended. However, this provision is meant to be used in exceptional circumstances. Otherwise, the law limits the use of police firearms to situations where officers must protect against loss of life or serious bodily harm.

Police firearms are not meant to be used as primary tools for wildlife management. In addition to being an inefficient use of police resources, the routine use of armed police officers to dispatch sick or injured animals may give rise to officer and public safety concerns.

Please be advised that, effective immediately, York Regional Police will no longer respond to animal complaints related to sick or injured animals that do not pose a risk to public safety unless the animal is related to a motor vehicle collision. We trust that you will ensure your [ministry / municipality] has the capacity to respond to complaints related to sick or injured animals within your jurisdiction.

Please feel free to contact XXX should you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,