



# Toronto Animal Services

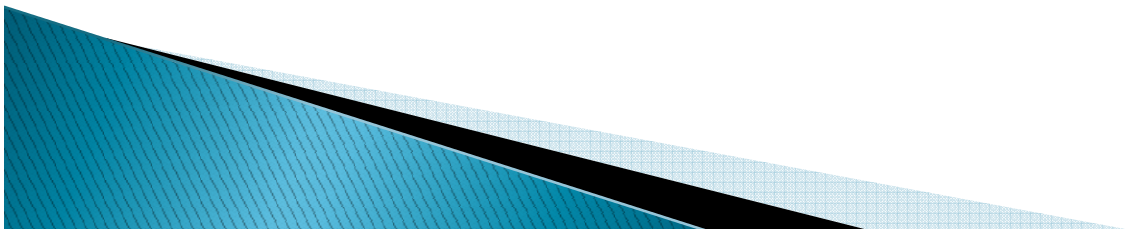
Amendments to Municipal Code, Chapter 349

Licensing & Standards Committee  
May 27, 2013

**Municipal Licensing & Standards Division**

# Background

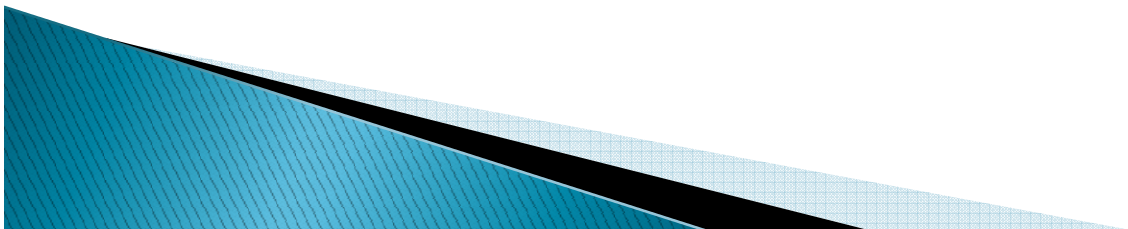
- ▶ Supports the findings of the Core Service and the Auditor General reviews
- ▶ Reflects the City of Toronto's current needs and industry standards of animal welfare
- ▶ Intends to clarify meanings within the existing legislation, undertake technical amendments and enhance overall animal care regulations



# Stakeholder Consultation

- ▶ 6 public consultations
- ▶ 2 online surveys – 860 responses
- ▶ 17 written submissions
- ▶ 1 petition – protesting the prohibition of public tethering
- ▶ Meetings with advocate groups such as: Toronto Humane Society, Animal Justice Canada and Animal Alliance of Canada

Results are appended to the report

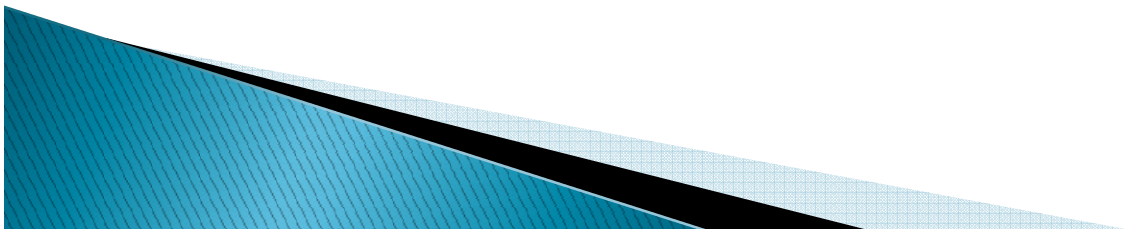


# New & Revised Definitions

Including:

- ▶ Feral Cat & Colony
- ▶ Guard Dog
- ▶ Notice to Caution & Muzzle
- ▶ Rescue Group
- ▶ Service Animal
- ▶ Trap Neuter Return Program

Pages 5 – 7 of report





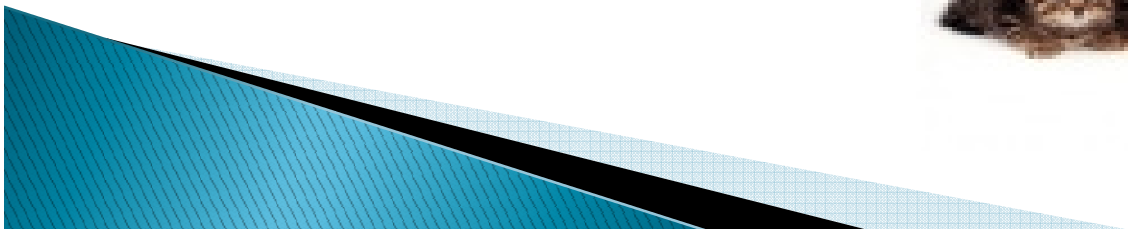
# Prohibited Animals

- ▶ Amendments proposed will provide authority for seizure and transfer of prohibited animals found at large
- ▶ Amendments to the list of exceptions, including updating current park locations



# Pet Limits

- ▶ Advocacy groups support higher limits or no limits and approximately 40% of the survey respondents support an increase to the limit of cats
- ▶ Forms part of an overall strategy to encourage greater opportunity for cat placements and to reduce euthanasia rates



# Improved Animal Care

- ▶ Introduces specific requirements for animal care
- ▶ Improvements include:
  - Food of sufficient quantity
  - Adequate access to potable water
  - Access to an enclosed structure
  - Adequate bedding to protect against cold and dampness
  - Appropriate veterinary care
  - Continuous access to adequate space for exercise



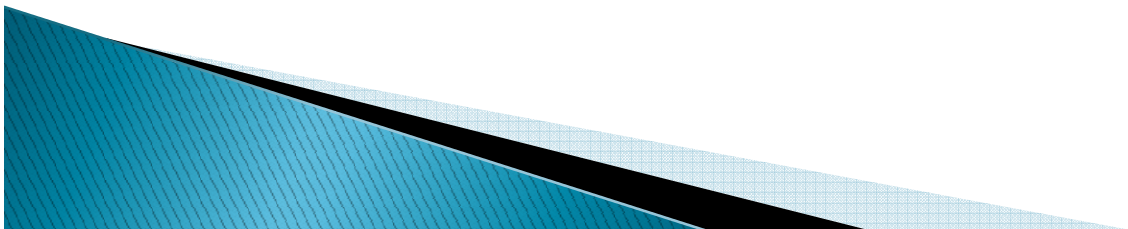
# Tethering in Public

- ▶ Chapter 349 does not permit tethering animals in public places, such as outside of shops
- ▶ Majority of the public consulted did not know tethering on public lands is prohibited
- ▶ 72% of the public want public tethering to be permitted



# Tethering – Public Safety

- ▶ Public Health investigates over 2,000 animal bites/year
- ▶ Approximately 200 bites were reported as being by unattended dogs
- ▶ Dogs who are tethered are stressed and anxious
- ▶ TAS maintains public tethering may pose a risk to the safety of the public

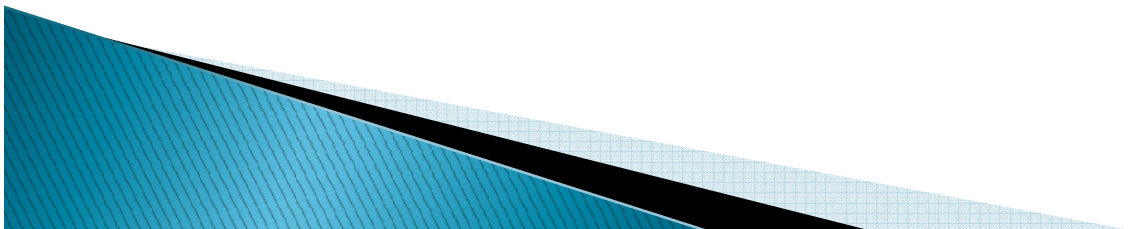


# Other Proposed Amendments

- ▶ Caution Orders – to address dog bites occurring on private property



- ▶ Guard Dogs – posting of notice



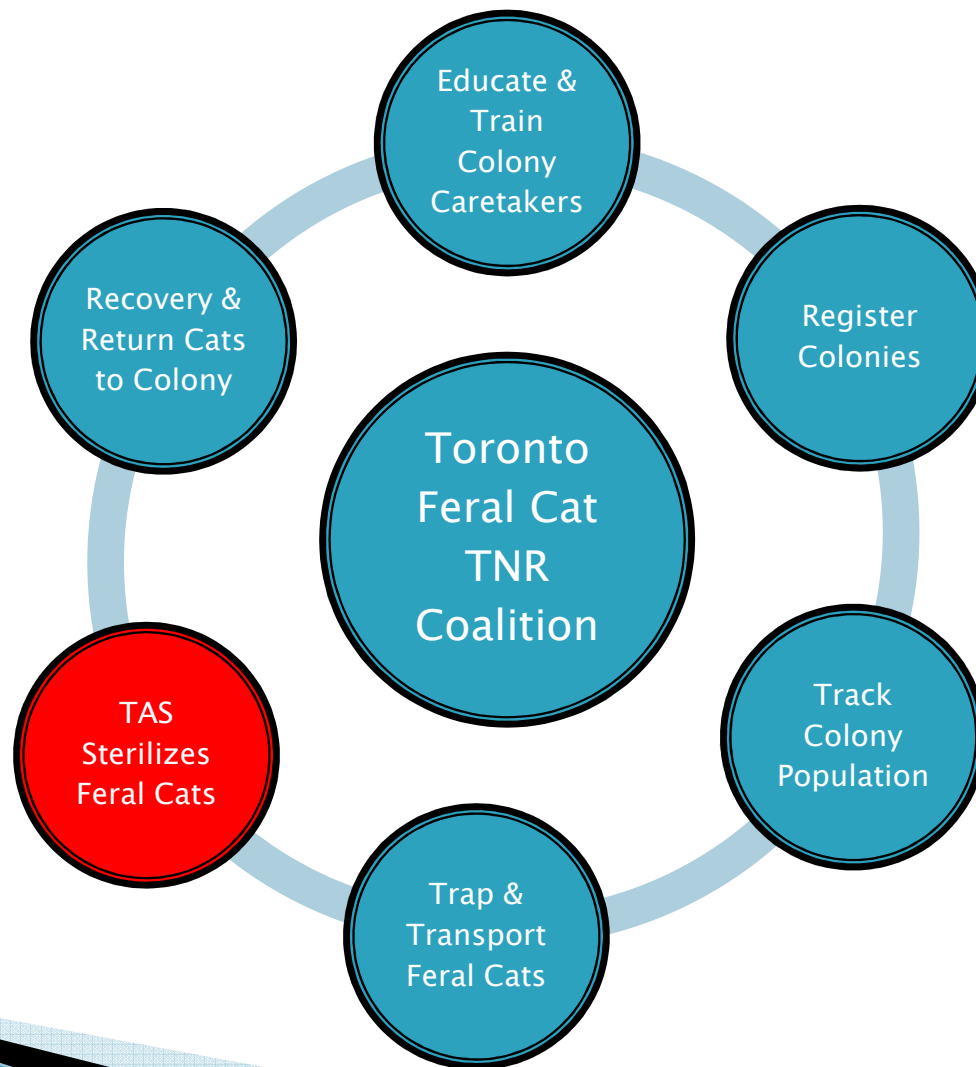
# Feral Cats, Trap Neuter Return Program

- ▶ Program was introduced in May 2010 as part of the Toronto Feral Cat TNR Coalition
- ▶ TAS, as a member of the Coalition, is committed to participating in a strategic Trap-Neuter-Return program in the City of Toronto
- ▶ Since the inception of the program TAS has sterilized 943 feral cats
- ▶ This program is supported through donations to TAS



# Feral Cat Management

## Trap Neuter Return – How it Works



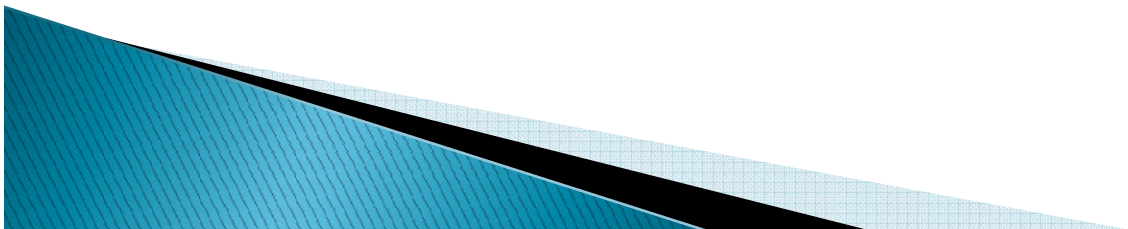
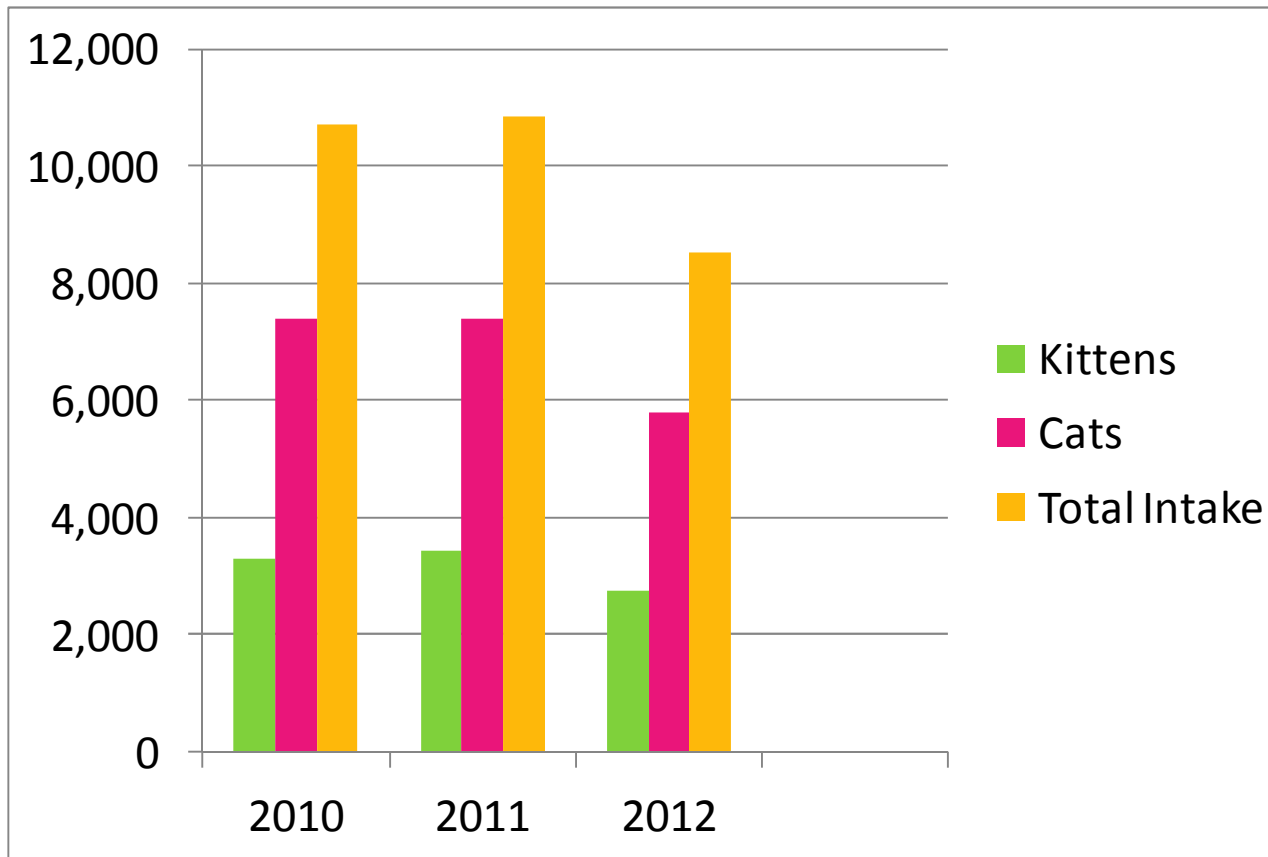


# Trap Neuter Return Program – Goals

- ✓ Improve quality of life for feral cats
- ✓ Reduce the number of feral cats that are euthanized
- ✓ Reduce or eliminate feral cat colonies

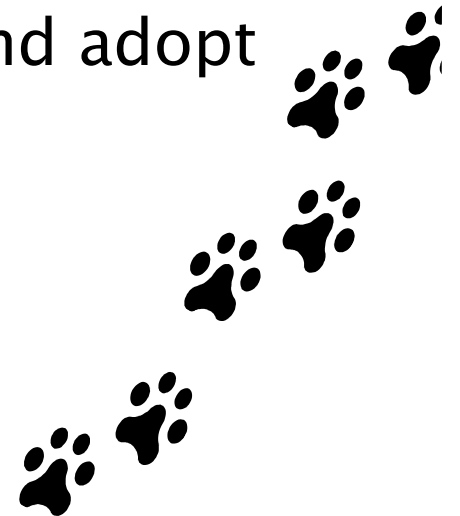


# T-N-R: Measuring Success



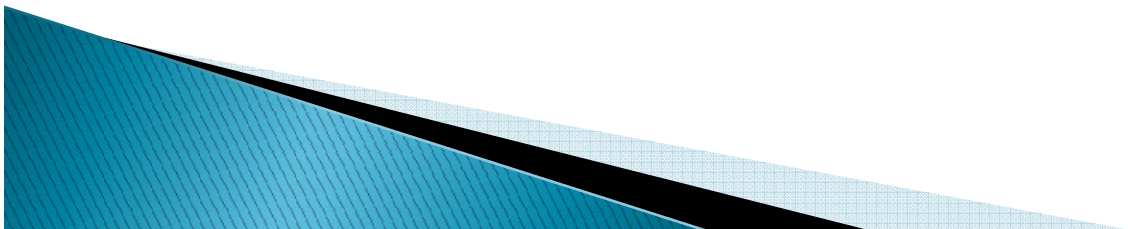
# Lowering Cat Retention Period

- ▶ Cat retention period lowered from 5 to 3 days and aligns with Provincial standards
- ▶ The longer cats stay in animal care centres, the more likely they will become sick
- ▶ Sick cats are more difficult to manage and adopt out



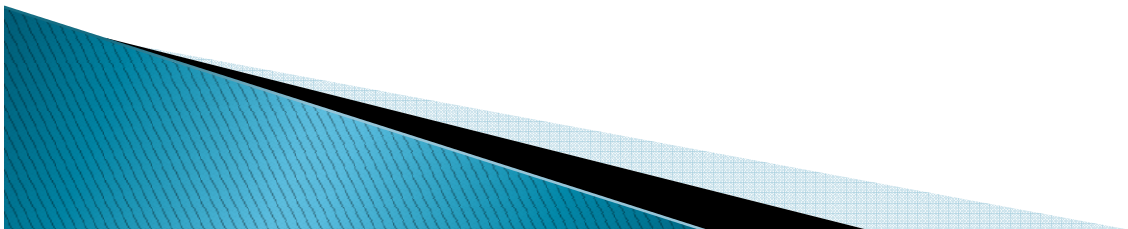
# Fees – Why Increase?

- ▶ Fees have not been increased since 1999
- ▶ The current fee for surrender does not reflect the costs to deliver the service to shelter and care for the animals
- ▶ Fee increases are being proposed to mitigate the subsidization of these services




# Surrender Fee Comparators

CITY	DOGS	CATS	OTHER
BRAMPTON	\$46	\$38	\$17
HAMILTON	\$174 – \$276	\$174	\$64
MISSISSAUGA	\$78 – \$222	\$52 – \$106	\$21
OSHAWA	\$85	\$85	N/A
OSPCA	\$75	\$65	N/A
THS	\$50	\$50	\$5 – \$50
TORONTO	\$35	\$20	\$10
PROPOSED FEE	\$100	\$30	\$30

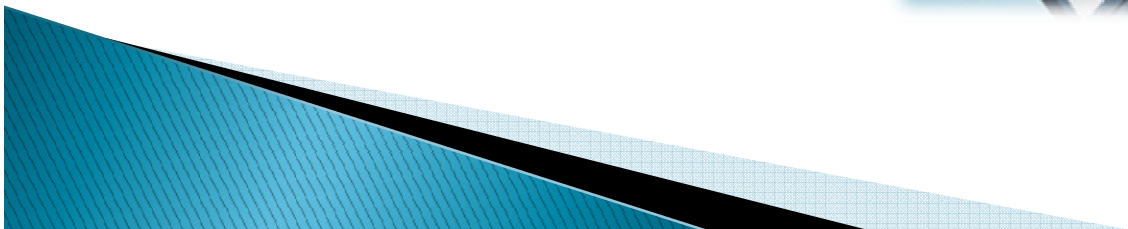


# Authority to Waive Fees

- ▶ The by-law currently gives authority to waive fees for compassionate reasons for surrendering, impoundment, and sheltering
  - ▶ Also gives the authority to waive adoption fees during adoption drives (12 weeks/year in total)
  - ▶ Amendments propose to expand this authority to reduce or waive fees for adoptions all year round and for spay/neuter services
  - ▶ Waiving of fees is a common tool used by animal shelters throughout North America
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# Customer Service

- ▶ Harmonization of pet licence renewal dates for multiple pet owners
- ▶ Ongoing enhancements to the e-Pets licensing system
- ▶ Implement electronic billing and receipts



# No Cost Spay Neuter Services

- ▶ Introduction of a program to provide low income Torontonians with no cost spay neuter services for their cats
- ▶ Costs are supported through donations

## Benefits

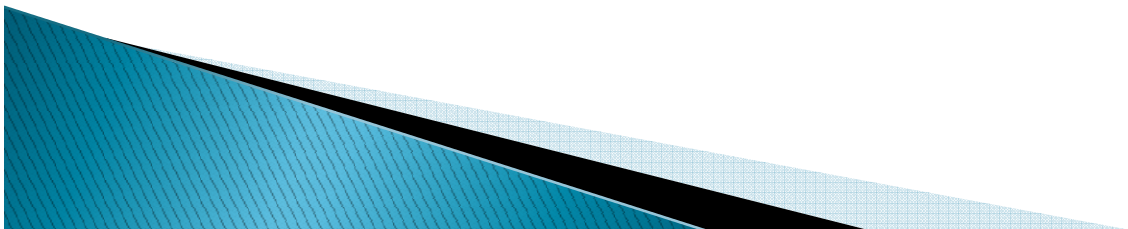
- ▶ Improves the health of animals
- ▶ Supports pet retention
- ▶ Contributes to animal control





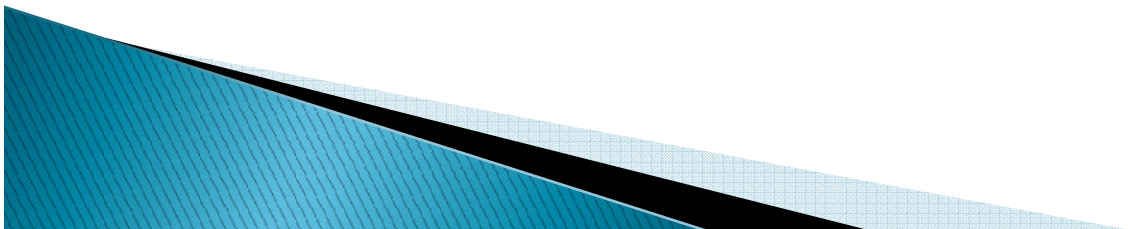
# No Cost Spay Neuter – Eligibility

- ✓ 18 years of age or older
- ✓ A resident of Toronto
- ✓ Owner or keeper of the animal
- ✓ Proof of income per LICO



# Animal Cruelty Issues

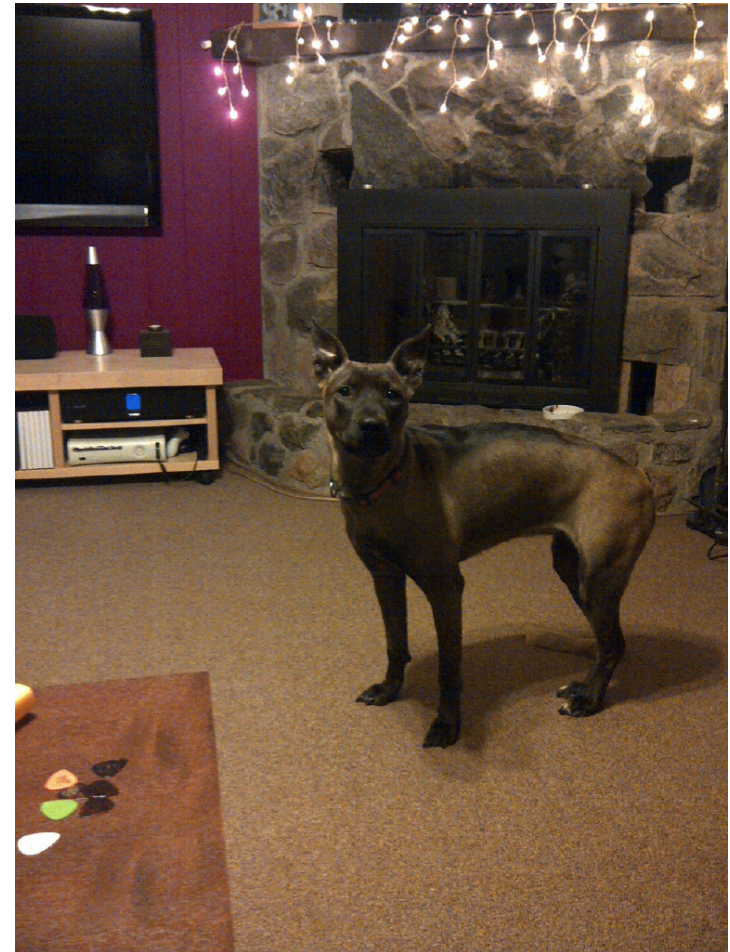
- ▶ TAS recommends that Toronto advance a one stop solution for animal cruelty complaints
- ▶ TAS also requires authority to more effectively deal with hoarding situations where animals are involved
- ▶ Currently TAS has no power of entry and no authority to remove animals from an owner's private residence
- ▶ TAS is investigating options to expand the authority to provide for better management of hoarding and cruelty investigations



# The Great Care TAS Provides



**TWIGGY BEFORE**



**TWIGGY AFTER**



# *Questions*



Municipal Licensing & Standards Division