



March 25, 2025

Municipality of the District of Argyle
c/o Alain Muise, CAO
27 Courthouse Road
Tusket, NS B0W 3M0

Dear Mr. Muise,

Re: Termination of Service Agreement

I am writing to inform you of an important change regarding the services currently provided by the Nova Scotia SPCA to your community. After careful review and consideration of the significant financial and resource challenges facing our organization, the Nova Scotia SPCA has made the difficult decision to discontinue both the bylaw enforcement and animal sheltering components of our services to The Town of Yarmouth, the Municipality of the District of Argyle, the Municipality of the District of Yarmouth, and the Municipality of the District of Clare, effective June 27, 2025.

Bylaw Enforcement

The decision to discontinue bylaw enforcement services stems from the increasing need for additional supports for our enforcement officers to ensure their safety and well-being. The challenges of managing animal-related bylaw enforcement have placed considerable strain on our officers, and we recognize that to maintain a healthy, balanced work culture, additional resources and support systems are needed. Without these, the risks of burnout and compassion fatigue are too great to ignore. We believe that, in the long run, the decision to discontinue bylaw enforcement services is necessary to protect the mental and physical health of our staff.

Animal Sheltering

The decision to cease animal sheltering services has been incredibly difficult. Our SPCA Animal Shelters are facing an ongoing and significant strain on both shelter space and human resources, driven by the growing number of people needing to surrender their pets. Many families are struggling financially and are unable to provide adequate care for their animals, including necessities such as food and medical treatment. Given these challenges, we believe it is essential to focus our resources—both financial and human—on supporting families in keeping their pets, rather than continuing to allocate resources to animals brought in through bylaw enforcement. Unfortunately, the increasing demand has outpaced our ability to provide the level of care and attention that every animal deserves.

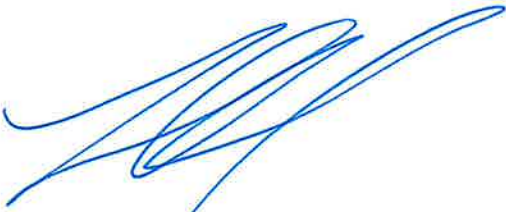
We are committed to honoring the three-month notice period, as outlined in our agreement, to provide your municipality ample time to seek alternative arrangements for bylaw enforcement and animal sheltering services.

We deeply appreciate the trust and partnership we have shared with your community. It has been an honor to work together to improve the lives of animals in the Municipality of the District of Argyle. During this notice period, we remain available to provide any relevant information or support as you explore other service providers.

Please feel free to reach out to me directly at emurphy@spcans.ca if you have any questions or require further assistance.

Thank you for your understanding, and we wish your community all the best in continuing to meet the bylaw enforcement needs of its residents and animals.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'EM', with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Elizabeth Murphy
Nova Scotia SPCA CEO