

**Media Release**  
**Clarendville Area SPCA**  
**Tethered Dogs**  
**Date of Release: October 18, 2009**

The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador has initiated a consultation process to consolidate and update existing animal health and protection legislation with the intent of introducing a new Animal Health and Protection Act. The Clarendville Area SPCA is working with the provincial SPCA to ensure that our voices and those of the animals are heard and hopefully it will be reflected into law.

In recent months, the Clarendville Area SPCA has had two dogs come into their care that spent their lives tethered on a chain. The SPCA is asking the provincial government to consider changing the law to give SPCA Special Constables the authority to removed tethered dogs from their owners.

Niles was a large white dog that his owner agreed to relinquish to the SPCA after being investigated. The law dictates that the SPCA is unable to identify the owner. This poor dog had been tied on a chain for 9 years and wouldn't even come out of his doghouse for the owner. An SPCA Constable had to use a rabies pole and drag Niles out of his house and into a crate in order to move him.

Sadly, 2 years ago this same dog was investigated but by law the owner was providing the basic necessities of life. The law does not require that pets have a good quality of life and the SPCA could not legally take the dog from its owner. Even worse, the same owner had a dog taken from him 10 years before.

Niles was brought to the shelter where shelter workers tried to integrate him into shelter life. He was a very nervous dog but it was hoped that with time, he would be taught how to live indoors with people. He was given daily walks but he was not able to walk very far because his hind legs had no muscle tone. After spending so many years tethered, Niles was not able to run and play so his muscles did not develop properly. It was hoped that Niles would be able to be placed in a loving home but because of his lack of socialization for so long, he was unable to interact with shelter workers, volunteers, or the other dogs. After spending several months living at the shelter, it was finally decided to euthanize Niles.

The second dog was Storm. He recently came into the care of the Clarendville Area SPCA. Although his whole story is not known, we do know that his owner left him with someone else who upon being investigated, agreed to relinquish him. It is thought that Storm lived on a chain for 8 years. Again, no law had been broken so the Special Constable could not take the dog without permission from the owner. Storm was very friendly and very hungry. He was well underweight especially for a dog that was constantly chained and could not exercise. Again, hopes were high that with the right

owner, Storm could live his final years in a loving home. However, Storm's social interaction was limited as well and he would become aggressive whenever the shelter workers or volunteers tried to get him into the outside or indoor runs. After only several days at the shelter, he bit a volunteer twice. Storm had to be euthanized.

The Clarendville Area SPCA strongly feels that the sooner a dog is rescued from a life on a chain the better the chance that he can be taught how to live with and trust people. Animal groups are lobbying government to pass a law concerning tethered animals that will allow investigators to take these animals without the owner's permission. Let your government know that you demand better animal protection laws. All our voices count! Details on the provincial government's review process for animal rights is available at [www.nr.gov.nl.ca/agric/consultation](http://www.nr.gov.nl.ca/agric/consultation). Please go to this site and consider submitting your written thoughts to the review.