

# HUMANE SOCIETY of CANADA

Protecting Animals and the Earth

16th April 2009

**Re: Piercing the Veil of Secrecy Over the Fate of Neville the Coyote**

Dear Mayor Miller and Members of Council,

I am writing to you in my capacity as Chairman & CEO of The Humane Society of Canada. This reinforces all of our previous communications which still go unanswered.

On 7<sup>th</sup> April 2009, local Beaches resident, Katharine Blake, spoke with Mary Lou Leiher, the Toronto Animal Services staff member appointed by the Mayor and Members of Council to supervise the capture and relocation of Neville and received an e mail from Ms. Leiher dated 9<sup>th</sup> April 2009 which can be found at:

[www.humanesociety.com/images/pdfs/2009/MaryLouLeiher.pdf](http://www.humanesociety.com/images/pdfs/2009/MaryLouLeiher.pdf)

In her conversation and via e mail, Ms. Leiher confirmed that:

- ✓ Three humane box traps have been set somewhere in the area.
- ✓ That in the past the City had only ever killed one coyote that had a broken leg sometime in 2003 (*please provide us with written confirmation containing specific details outlining that this is the only time the City has killed a coyote*).
- ✓ The City did not advise how the coyote's leg had been broken or why they did not try to treat, rehabilitate and release the animal back into the wild (*please provide us with written confirmation containing specific details that outline why the City had to kill the coyote including a copy of the veterinarian's diagnosis and treatment report*).
- ✓ That the City has already decided where to relocate Neville following a successful capture, but refused to share any further information until afterwards.
- ✓ That under no circumstances will the City or the Province work with the news media or The Humane Society of Canada to notify them when Neville is captured or allow them to record or monitor the coyote's release to ensure that he is not killed or sent to suffer in captivity in a zoo.

Given the heightened level of mistrust over the actions of elected officials and civil servants in this matter it is unclear to us why you would continue to fan the flames and once more call into question your lack of responsibility in discharging your taxpayer funded public trust.

This is precisely why no one believes a single word you say concerning the humane capture and safe release of Neville which is reinforced by your explicit approval that year after year allows Toronto Animal Services to kill nearly every wild animal they handle and nearly every second dog or cat that enters your taxpayer funded facilities.

We will continue to monitor the situation through the network of contacts we have established despite your best efforts to create and sustain a veil of secrecy concerning the fate of Neville.

Awaiting your reply, I remain, yours sincerely,

Michael O'Sullivan  
Chairman & CEO

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the Protection of Animals and  
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**From:** Mary Lou Leiher [mailto:mleiher@toronto.ca]  
**Sent:** April 9, 2009 3:32 PM  
**To:** Katherine Blake  
**Subject:** Re: Follow-up on Neville Coyote capture and release  
Dear Ms. Blake,

Thank you for your questions. I will address the ones that I am able to answer at this time.

The Ministry of Natural Resources has authority and jurisdiction over trapping and relocating of wildlife. We are working closely with them on the relocation for the coyote. We will not be working with or under the supervision of any organization that does not have authority or jurisdiction over trapping and relocating wildlife.

Once the coyote is captured and relocated, the City will release information on where it is. We will not be releasing this information before the coyote's capture.

I will be out of the office next week and will not be available for further correspondence with you until after I return.

Thank you

Mary Lou Leiher  
Supervisor  
Toronto Animal Services  
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