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NEWS RELEASE

Memorandum of Agreement signed between OG and OSPCA

Guelph, ON, February 24th, 2015 – Ontario Goat (OG) and the Ontario Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Ontario SPCA) are pleased to announce the signing of a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) to work together when investigating animal welfare complaints on Ontario goat farms, on behalf of all their producers.

“Both organizations are invested in ensuring that the proper care and management practices are in place on Ontario’s goat farms,” stated Jennifer Haley, OG Executive Director. “This agreement allows us to work together to enhance animal welfare across the province,” added Haley.

Under this agreement, OG and the Ontario SPCA will work together to address concerns of animal welfare in the goat industry. The MOA allows for knowledgeable industry representatives to accompany Ontario SPCA inspectors to goat farm calls in order to help and assist goat producers where needed. Additionally, OG will provide technical assistance and resources in cases where distress may be occurring on the farm.

Another component of this agreement is to ensure that both organizations stay informed and up to date with welfare issues within the goat industry. Together, OG and the Ontario SPCA will host joint on-farm training sessions, which will occur on a bi-annual basis. The purpose of these sessions will be to exchange information and experiences regarding on-farm care and code of practice issues.

“The main purpose of this agreement between OG and the Ontario SPCA is to improve dialogue during on-farm situations and promote education over enforcement”, stated Anton Slingerland, OG President. “OG entered into this agreement to not only collaborate with Ontario SPCA but to continue to work hard for our farmers through education and prevention” he added.

"This collaboration is important to the Ontario SPCA. This is the 8th MOA that has been developed by the Ontario SPCA and the livestock commodity groups," says Chief Inspector Connie Mallory. "We are pleased to be working together with Ontario Goat to help animals in need and enhance Animal Welfare in the Province," added Mallory.

About Ontario Goat

Ontario Goat is dedicated to enhancing the goat industry through education, collaboration, innovation and strategic alliances. OG continues to focus on sustainable growth, industry development and profitability in order for all sectors of the Ontario goat industry to reach their full potential. For more information about OG go to www.ontariogoat.ca

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