

'No sign of food'

Con't from P.1

"Cigarette butts all around (the) step that puppy tries to eat," reads one descriptive statement.

"No sign of food or water, and (the dog) often tangled in trees," reads another.

Other statements describe house dogs left outside all day as guard dogs and overturned food and water dishes that never appear full.

Worst Offenders

Hiebert says the RCMP have spoken to some of the worst

offenders, giving them 30 days to comply with The Animal Care Act, provincial legislation that ensures reasonable care for animals.

Though police can dole out substantial fines, Hiebert says laws regarding animal cruelty leave a lot to be desired.

"Our laws have to be changed," she says.

But laws are only part of the solution. Hiebert feels that the community as a whole has a duty to watch out for animals that can't

defend themselves.

"They'll be the dogs that are barking and crying all night, keeping you awake because they're in distress," she says

While she says neglect appears to be worse in the uptown area, Hiebert notes there are reports from throughout the entire community.

And the guilty individuals, she says, won't necessarily have a personality to match their actions.

"You'd be surprised," she says.