
From: Seaswift Whippets <seaswift.whippets@gmail.com>
Sent: September 17, 2018 10:23 AM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: Fwd: Bill 27: Animal Protection Act

Dear Committee Members:

As an individual who lives in the province of Nova Scotia, and a breeder and exhibitor of purebred dogs for close to 10 years, I am writing you to express my grave concerns regarding Bill 27 which I understand will receive final reading and potential passage into law during today's sitting of the Legislature. This Bill is intended to amend the existing Animal Protection Act in Nova Scotia. If the Bill passes, it essentially provides powers to agencies within the province to violate the constitutional rights of citizens who own cats and /or dogs to be secure against unreasonable search or seizure.

Bill 27 will extend powers to the SPCA to demand access to our pets **without probable cause and without a search warrant**. It empowers an individual SPCA officer, if dissatisfied with the perceived level of care or if concerned with the animals' welfare in any way or for any reason, **even with no sign of abuse**, to have the authority to seize the pet.

There is no question that situations exist where dogs and cats are kept in conditions that are unacceptable and inhumane and where intervention is required. But this Bill gives discretionary powers to individuals without any judicial oversight to render judgement if they feel the need to intervene on behalf of a companion animal - without due process. While I applaud and support the work of the SPCA generally, I do not feel their officers should have such authority and I also feel that this Bill will provide those with extreme animal rights agendas to exercise this authority against members of the dog community which includes registered breeders and others who raise purebred dogs and cats, all of whom care for and keep animals in perfectly acceptable conditions.

I do not understand why this Bill is receiving such swift treatment without any consultation with the Dog Clubs and other animal interest groups in our province. There are several recognized and provincially incorporated entities such as the Halifax & Dartmouth Kennel Clubs whose directors and members would gladly participate in a discussion of the implications for the passage of this Bill, but to my knowledge no one has been consulted.

As an owner and breeder of CKC registered Whippets & Italian Greyhounds, I am deeply concerned that this Bill will give authority to individuals who may be anti-breeder, or who have inflated and extreme concepts of animals' rights to exercise their agenda with the authority which Bill 27 will provide them. **I am concerned with the SPCA, a non-profit animal charity, being given more power than the RCMP is mandated, with regard to search and seizure, a violation of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.**

I sincerely request that you not support passage of this Bill until wider consultation with the those who will be affected can be undertaken. If you need assistance identifying individuals and groups who can contribute meaningfully to this issue, or if you would like to discuss any aspect of this email, I encourage you to contact me.

Thank you,

Melissa Richards
President
East Coast Sighthound Association
CKC Lure Coursing Council Rep, Zone 1
Seaswift Whippets