

Glooscap Kennel Club (Located in Windsor and Surrounding Area)
Member in Good Standing with the Canadian Kennel Club

Subject: Opposition to proposed Bill 27 – Animals Rights Act
To: Law Amendments Committee (Expressing Our Opposition for Bill 27)

Dear Law Amendment Committee,

Since 1979, Glooscap Kennel Club has been active in the community of Windsor and the surrounding area, teaching the public about ethical dog ownership, providing dog therapy services to our local senior residences, providing the public with information about different breeds, including mix breeds that may suit their family. The Glooscap Hot Dogs have also been an integral part of the club for many years and are in demand to do freestyle agility entertainment shows and demos with our dogs at various community events, including a variety of agricultural exhibitions. All our dogs are family pets first and foremost.

The Glooscap Kennel Club is writing you today because we are opposed to Bill 27. We believe substantial work is needed to this bill before it can become law. We hope that you will take the time to evaluate our concerns as a club that represents multiple dog owners.

The Glooscap Kennel Club believes changing the definitions from owner to "custodian", is unsettling. As the definition a custodian is "anyone in possession of the animal". We all love our dogs and believe if there is a concern with our dogs we the owner should be the ones an inspector works with to resolve any issue. We take full responsibility for our dogs and should be given that responsibility in the law; and as such, we are the owners of our animals.

The Glooscap Kennel Club and its members are concerned that inspector in the amendment law have the right without a warrant, and by force if necessary, to enter the premise and search for the animal. Inspector should not have more power than our police force that requires a warrant. This is over stepping our constitution rights as residents of Nova Scotia.

The Glooscap Kennel Club also has concerns with a section in (Protecting The Welfare Of Animals – (7) *Where an animal is not in distress, but the inspector has reasonable and probable grounds for believing that an animal has been abused or tortured by the actions of its custodian, the inspector may seize the animal.*) This will give power to inspectors that may not be qualified to make decisions on what is distress for a specific dog. We believe all owners should have due process when an inspector is concerned about what is distress. We believe in the law that you are innocent before proven guilty.

The Glooscap Kennel Club has several members that own breeds that have docked tails or cropped ears. This is a standard practice of animal husbandry and should be the right of the breeder along with their vet. It should not be decided by a bill that doesn't respect the reasons for doing the procedure in the first place. We disagree with this ban.

The Glooscap Kennel Club is concerned about "*An animal is in distress if the animal is (e) subjected to cosmetic surgery as defined in Section 27.*" Nova Scotia has some of the top breeders in Canada. They take the outmost care of their animals and tremendous pride when showcasing them at events like hunting trials, lure coursing, flushing events, agility events, conformation events and more. Reputable breeders of purebred dogs are not the enemy. They are dedicated to the protection and preservation of their breeds and most are significantly involved with the Canadian Kennel Club and their National Breed Clubs and Associations.

The Glooscap Kennel Club supports dog owners and breeders and feels the amendments in Bill 27 go beyond respecting those rights. Glooscap Kennel Club also believes in ethical dog ownership and all dogs should be afforded a law that protects them.

The Glooscap Kennel Club has concerns with Bill 27 as it has been developed and we would be happy to be part of any committee that would like to relook at an amended bill so as to protect the rights of Nova Scotians and their companion animals in a balanced and reasonable approach.

We vote NO to Bill 27.

Regards,

Glooscap Kennel Club Executive
On Behalf of the GKC Membership
President Jean Trask