

From: Carly & Jeff Barsalou (Residence of Dartmouth, Nova Scotia)
Subject: Opposition to proposed Bill 27 – Animals Rights Act
To: Law Amendments Committee

Dear Law Amendment Committee,
I am writing you today because I am concerned about Bill 27. As a dog owner and a constituent, I would like to express my opposition to this newest step of government regulation for companion animals.

These concerns include:

1. The bill to make tail docking and dewclaw removal illegal in Nova Scotia for it is a standard practice of animal husbandry and should be allowed to continue.
2. The chief inspector may formulate and co-ordinate the establishment of industry customs and codes of practice supporting the human treatment of companion animals. No one person should have the power to determine industry customs and codes of practice this should be a committee with all stakeholders represented (CKC, Dog Breeders, SPCA, Rescue Groups, Veterinarians, and so on)
3. If the SPCA oversteps their power there is no process to issue a complaint against them. They have more power than our police force. Which is a huge issue with regards to their over reaching their bounds because they don't answer to any complaint system.
4. They also have the right without proof to seize an animal (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.) No person should have the power to seize an animal without proof they are in distress. We need due process.
5. Inspector in the amendment law has the right without a warrant, and by force if necessary, to enter the premises and search for the animal. When did we give an inspector more power than our police force that requires a warrant to enter a private dwelling.
6. An animal is in distress if the animal is (e) subjected to cosmetic surgery as defined in Section 27. I have a dog that has its dew claws removed and tail docked. This amendment bill will now allow the inspector to come into my private dwelling and remove my companion animal for having a husbandry process performed. My TV has more rights.

As a residence of Nova Scotia, I have the right to choice, you are taking that right away from me and giving it to a body that will in the end have more power than our police force. These are only a few of the many issues with this amendment. Please do not act in a short-sighted manner and do the proper thing and vote NO to Bill 27.

Regards,

