

From: Erika Benvie (Residence of 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 a bill to make tail docking, dewclaw removal and ear cropping illegal in Nova Scotia which are only a few of the issues with this bill.

As a dog owner and a constituent, I would like to express my opposition to this newest step of government regulation for this standard practice of animal husbandry. We live in a democratic country and not a dictatorship and feel the decision related to docking, dewclaw removal, and cropping is best left to owners and their veterinarians. The government has already taken away veterinarians right of choice in performing these procedures, which is undemocratic. Passing this newest bill to make the practices totally illegal is unjust.

I ask that as the Law Amendment Committee, you take the time to educate yourself and listen to both sides of reasoning prior to passing a bill with no firsthand experience or knowledge. How many stakeholders from the Canadian Kennel Club/purebred dog breeders were invited for consult prior to creating this proposed bill?

If proper consults had been done with all stakeholders, you'd know that there are numerous dogs in companion homes every year who require surgery later in life due to a dewclaw growing around and embedding itself into the side of the dog's leg. Or worse yet, dogs who go on hikes in the woods, who end up with the dewclaw ripped off when getting caught on a branch or stump causing profuse bleeding and surgery requirement.

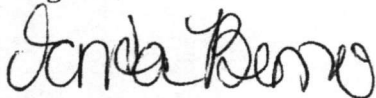
There are other concerns with this bill: Unlike the police I have no way to file an outside complaint against the SPCA. They have more power than our police force. Which is a huge issue in regards to their ability to really over step their bounds.

The SPCA does not require a code of ethics. Something to concern maybe missing in this bill.

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.) This is a legal issue.

Please do not act in a short sighted manner and do the proper thing and vote NO to Bill 27.

Regards,



Erika Benvie