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**From:** Brenda Potter <chimisiberians@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** September 23, 2018 9:10 PM  
**To:** Office of the Legislative Counsel  
**Subject:** Bill 27

As an owner and breeder of purebred dogs for 40 years, I am writing you to express my grave concerns regarding Bill 27. If passed, this Bill essentially provides powers to agencies within the province that violate the constitutional rights of citizens who own dogs and/or cats 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, which in some areas is poorly written and very vague, goes way too far in giving 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. As an owner and breeder of CKC registered Siberians, I am also 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, or just a disgruntled neighbour, to exercise their agenda with the authority which Bill 27 will provide them.

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 Kennel Club whose directors and members (of which I am one) would gladly participate in a discussion of the implications for the passage of this Bill, but to my knowledge no one has been consulted.

I sincerely request that this Bill not be passed until wider consultation with those who will be affected can be undertaken.

Thank you,

Brenda Potter

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