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**From:** Lindsay Durant <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** September 17, 2018 1:48 PM  
**To:** Office of the Legislative Counsel  
**Subject:** Proposed Animal Welfare Amendments

My name is Lindsay Durant and I am the owner of Zarah Boxers currently located on Cape Breton Island. The proposed amendment to the Animal Welfare Act is going to hurt future Boxers born to us. It's a well known and proven fact that Boxers are a breed that is docked, not for cosmetic reasons, but for their own lifelong health, welfare and safety. Adult boxers very easily break their tails in their day to day life as pets. Their tails are long and thin and something as simple as wagging it against a chair, table leg or the corner of a wall can cause their tail to break or the skin on their tail to split open. Once that occurs, the Boxer's tail has a hard time healing without continuous reinjury and quite often will then need tail amputation surgery as an adult. As a newborn puppy whose nervous system is not fully developed, who cannot hear, see or walk, this is a simple and painless procedure of putting an elastic band around their tail that is still cartilage. They do not react to this happening and nothing in their behaviour or feeding changes as a result. As an adult, however, this is a painful procedure of surgery on a bone tail that can result in phantom pains, nerve damage, and months of recovery after months of pain from the injury before the vet decides that amputation must occur. Nova Scotia has seen a greater amount of these types of surgeries in recent years and I know of at least one boxer dying as a result of Sepsis due to infection from breaking his tail 5 times in two years.

Banding is a generally accepted practice not only in use for docking puppies, but also in farming for castrations and tail docking. Banding is also used in human medical applications. Two such uses are if a baby is born with an extra finger or toe, or if a finger or toe is reattached after injury and the reattachment has failed and the finger or toe must be removed again.

It's a humane animal husbandry practice that is carried out for the lifelong health of our animals, it's not cosmetic at all. Good, caring breeders carry out banding on their puppies and have done so since man created these breeds. What man has created has some flaws though and for Boxers one of those flaws is their thin, easily breakable tail that dog lovers learned decades ago needed to be removed for the lifelong good of the dog. Please allow us to continue to care for our animals with their overall good in mind. This means safe and humane tail banding as a newborn.

Dog breeding and care is a legitimate industry in Nova Scotia and there are many of us and many dog shows that contribute to the economy and call Nova Scotia home. Breeders and dog owners from all over Canada and the US travel here to our beautiful province for dog shows. This is not to forget to mention the docked breed dog owners who contribute greatly to the prosperity of vets, pet stores, doggy daycares, vacation kennels, and local breeders.

My puppies go to homes all over Canada. Without the ability to care for my puppies future health by docking, instead of those people purchasing my puppies, they will buy them from breeders in other provinces and Nova Scotia will take yet another economic hit. My home in Cape Breton has just sold. Zarah Boxers now has a choice to continue to do business in Nova Scotia or to move to another, more animal welfare friendly, province. If this law goes through, our choice will be simple and Nova Scotia will lose another business.

Please vote not to amend the animal welfare act if it's the lifelong welfare of these animals that you have in mind.

Thank you,

Lindsay Durant