
From: Cindy Viner <[REDACTED]>
Sent: September 17, 2018 2:23 PM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel; john@johnlohr.ca
Subject: Animal Protection act

To whom it may concern,

In reference to the proposed legislation in the animal protection act, I would like to take issue with one item in particular, which is the docking of tails on certain breeds. Docking is a practice that has been going on for many many years, and in a recent court ruling in Nova Scotia, in Feb of 2018, this was deemed to be considered animal husbandry, by the courts.

There are so many people who operate behind closed doors, people that you and the SPCA will never be the wiser to. In fact there is a kennel in my area that seems to breed a different dog every year, sells without vet checks and sends the pups home at 6 week and in my opinion should not be allowed. Yet, even with complaints, they somehow check all the right boxes and they continue to be in business...and then there are people who have been breeding for decades, properly breeding specific breeds, and indeed are experts in their chosen breed, who are being harassed on a regular basis because they are transparent with their breeding practices.

When this particular issue went to court earlier this year, the defendant, Debbie Baggs, was cleared of charges in this regard, due to the docking being a tying off of the tail right after birth, not being amputated by a vet. The boxer breed, and many other docked breeds (500+ to be clear) have for generations, had tails that were "docked" due to the breed being either a hunting/working breed, or having injury due to the formation of the long bony tail. The tails themselves, on a boxer, if kept long, have a high probability of becoming injured and having what is called "Happy Tail", rendering them injured, in severe pain, and then eventually amputated, IF the pet owner can afford the procedure. This tying off of the tail is done as an act of animal husbandry, to protect the pup from their own exuberance! If you have never owned a boxer, you can not know the exuberance that they live life with, and the rate at which their hind end moves!

The proposed legislation has been manipulated in such a way that the previous court case, and subsequent win by the defendant, is deemed moot.

I would ask that you consider removing the docking of tails, as it is an act of animal husbandry on a working/ hunting animal, that should be allowed. Breeders with decades of experience know exactly how long to leave a tail to allow for the signalling that dogs use it for. My pup is 7 months old, and has suffered no ill side effects as a result of early banding of his tail. I would love to continue to support Nova Scotia breeders, however by passing this sort of legislation, you are going to force buyers to purchase their pups from other provinces.

Please continue to focus on puppy mills, neglected animals and the like. Please leave this particular issue with the experienced breeders.

Thank you

Cindy