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Sent: September 22, 2018 3:31 PM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
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Subject: Bill 27 Animal Protection Act

September 22, 2018

To: Law Amendment Committee
cc: Hon. Mark Furey, Gordon Wilson, Suzanne Lohnes-Croft, Keith Irving, Brendan Maquire, Chris d'Entremont, Brad Johns, Lenore Zann, Claudia Chender

Re: Bill 27 Animal Protection Act

Dear Committee:

I am a 64 year old female, living in King's County, NS, and a lifetime animal lover and owner. Presently I share my home and my life with two large dogs who are the center of my world. I am emailing you today to voice my concerns over the proposed changes to the Animal Protection Act (Bill 27) currently before the Amendment Committee.

Of particular concern to me is the proposed change from "owner" to "custodian". I am proud to call myself an animal owner, because with it comes responsibility for the health, happiness, and welfare of my dogs. I take that responsibility very seriously, and would never agree to allow a custodian to make decisions for my animals. For instance, when I leave my dog(s) with my veterinarian, she cannot make decisions concerning my dog's health, without my explicit consent.....only I, as owner, can make such decisions. I strongly object to this proposed change in the wording from "owner" to "custodian".

Another aspect of the proposed changes to the Animal Protection Act that worries me is the fact an inspector can land at my door demanding I present my animal to them for inspection. What concerns me is any individual with an axe to grind can fabricate abuse allegations and send the SPCA on a witch hunt. Said organization will then have the right to seize my dog for so-called further testing.....what further testing are they referring to? It would be comparable to taking my child away!

There are many "grey" areas of concern, but another worth mentioning is the SPCA's right to stop any vehicle and inspect your animal. If they objected to, for instance, my dogs being confined in crates for their own safety, they could take my dogs away! Do you realize how devastating this would be!

In closing there are two things I would like to say. I have always approved of and supported the Society For The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.....they do, not only good work, but necessary work, and speak for the neglected and abused animals who don't have a voice! I commend them for their dedication. That being said, please do not throw all pet owners under the bus with laws that are not well defined, and have the potential to do serious harm to well meaning and responsible animal owners! Finally, I wish to thank you for

taking the time to read and ponder my comments. I ask that you take my concerns seriously, and realize Bill 27, as written, needs polarizing clarification and rewriting to address the grey areas.

Respectfully yours,

Paula Boudreau