



October 13, 2022

Aedes Scheer, President
Humane Society Dawson
Box 1143
Dawson City, Yukon Y0B 1G0



Dear President Aedes Scheer:

RE: Changes to Animal Protection Act

Thank you for your October 5, 2022, email inquiring about changes to the *Animal Protection Act*.

We are developing new legislation that will replace the *Animal Protection Act*, the *Dog Act* and the *Pounds Act* to provide broader protection of animal welfare. In response to ongoing concerns regarding public safety, the risk of feral animal populations becoming established, and being able to enforce standards of care for animals, we completed a comprehensive review of animal protection and control legislation in the Yukon. The new legislation will reflect the values of Yukoners and meet our duty to provide humane care and responsible control of companion animals and livestock.

The Government of Yukon has been working toward revising this legislation for several years. In 2018, we engaged Yukoners through a public survey, received over 900 responses, and held 10 community meetings. In the fall of 2019, we re-engaged with First Nations, communities, the agriculture industry, veterinarians, animal rescue operators, mushers, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and other stakeholders who work with animals. The valuable input received from Yukoners was carefully considered and informed the drafting of this new legislation.

Most relevant to your inquiry, officials from the Department of Environment contacted representatives of the Dawson City Humane Society to invite them to community meetings that took place November 27, 2018. Department staff also met with the shelter manager in November 2019 to outline the expected changes to legislation and no specific concerns were raised.

The proposed changes to Yukon's animal protection and control laws will:

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- Provide updated laws governing the care and control of domestic animals that apply throughout the Yukon, and empower communities to provide enforcement and reduce public safety risks in the Yukon.
- Require animal-related operations to obtain permits to operate. The Act will authorize officers to inspect these operations for compliance with permits. Existing operations will have one year after the day the Act comes into force to obtain a permit.
- Require animal owners to apply for a permit to own specific animals (to be prescribed through regulation). Some exotic animals will also be restricted from being owned in the Yukon.
- Introduce tools for managing feral animals and high-risk animals.
- Enable the setting of standards (through regulation) of care for animal species, and containment standards for livestock species, as required.

Implementation of the new act and regulations is anticipated for 2023 and will be done jointly by the departments of Environment and Energy, Mines and Resources.

I encourage you to contact the Chief Veterinary Officer Dr. Mary VanderKop at animalhealth@yukon.ca to address any questions about how this new legislation may impact animal rescue organizations in the Yukon.

Sincerely,



Nils Clarke
Minister of Environment

cc: Hon. John Streicker, Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources
Manon Moreau, Deputy Minister of Environment
Paul McConnell, Deputy Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources
Dr. Mary VanderKop, Chief Veterinary Officer, Animal Health Unit