



October 31, 2022

Kalin Pallett, President
Wilderness Tourism Association of the Yukon
#4- 1114 Front Street
Whitehorse, YT Y1A 1A3

Dear President Pallett:

RE: Tabling of the Draft Animal Protection and Control Act

We value and respect the tourism sector and acknowledge the contributions it brings to the economy and to Yukon culture. We sincerely acknowledge the challenges faced by the industry as a result of the pandemic and appreciate the efforts required for these small businesses to recover and thrive. We support the growth of Yukon tourism and believe that the proposed Act will provide assurance to your clients that those businesses providing experiences with working dogs or horses are meeting the highest standards.

The Yukon's current animal protection and control legislation is outdated. This has led to high-profile, possibly preventable deaths of Yukoners, as well as an ongoing concern for public safety from roaming dogs and the need for methods to better control feral animal populations. There have also been demands to ensure that working dogs and horses are cared for throughout their life. The new proposed APCA enables modern animal welfare standards to be adopted and fills the current significant gaps and challenges around the enforceability of animal control and welfare in the Yukon.

The proposed Animal Protection and Control Act will also provide a framework to close the current legislative gaps concerning the ownership of exotic animals, expand our tools to enforce animal control in remote communities and regulate animal businesses and organizations.

The principles captured in the proposed Act reflect the priorities we heard during our engagement with Yukoners – that people and businesses who own animals must be responsible for providing the care they require and respect the safety of people, property and the environment.

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As discussed over the phone with WTAY on October 25, 2022, the details of this legislation will come forward in regulations that are yet to be drafted. This means the Act will not come into force until the regulations are completed and approved. There will be ongoing engagement with stakeholders, including WTAY, to work on the details of these regulations. This will include adopting national codes of practice for animal care with modifications that reflect the realities of working animals in the Yukon.

Thank you again for expressing your concerns and interest in contributing to the development of the regulations. We will be reaching out to you during this next phase, but please don't hesitate to contact Dr. Mary VanderKop at animalhealth@yukon.ca to further discuss the proposed APCA or to arrange a meeting.

Sincerely,



Nils Clarke
Minister of Environment

cc: Ranj Pillai, Minister of Tourism and Culture
Justin Ferbey, Deputy Minister of Tourism and Culture
Dr. Mary VanderKop, Chief Veterinary Officer, Department of Environment
Neil Hartling, Chair, Tourism Industry Association of the Yukon