



March 26, 2021

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Sonia Furstenau
Leader, BC Green Party
MLA for Cowichan Valley
170 Craig Street
Duncan, BC V9L 1V9
Email: Sonia.Furstenau.mla@leg.bc.ca

Dear Sonia Furstenau:

Thank you for your letter dated February 18, 2021, requesting a status update on the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Amendment Act* (2017).

Since 2016, the Ministry has been engaged in consultations and the development of an overarching regulatory framework to protect cats and dogs used for commercial breeding and selling purposes in B.C. Following consultations, the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Amendment Act* (2017) received Royal Assent in early 2017. These amendments enable the creation of a licensing and/or registration system for commercial cat and dog breeders and accompanying inspections against minimum Standards of Care.

While progress on a registry for cat and dog breeders has been made, work on this project is paused as ministry staff are presently focusing on addressing the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the agricultural, food and fisheries sectors. Once the COVID-19 pandemic is over, the Ministry will need to evaluate the priority of the registry project in the context of government's economic recovery mandate.

Animal welfare is a priority in B.C. It is an offence under the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act* (PCAA) for anyone to cause an animal distress. This includes anyone who causes a cat or dog distress in the breeding and selling of them. The PCAA provides some of the highest penalties in the country available for convictions of causing animal distress. Concerns about an animal's welfare should be reported to the B.C. Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals at 1-855-622-7722.

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Thank you again for writing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lana Popham". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lana Popham
Minister