



## Inadequate Animal Cruelty Bill now in the House

The House of Commons began second reading debate on Bill S-213 on Monday, Feb. 26<sup>th</sup>. The CFHS is extremely disappointed that this inadequate bill has support from Conservative, Bloc Québécois and even from a number of Liberal Members of Parliament – including some MPs who acknowledge that Bill S-213 (introduced by Senator John Bryden) doesn't adequately address animal cruelty in Canada.

The only change Bill S-213 makes is to increase penalties and allow restitution for humane societies or others who care for abused animals.

However, Bill S-213 makes no changes to the gaping loopholes in the current law that allow people who commit criminal animal cruelty to go unpunished.

For example, Bill S-213 would still contain the confusing offence of 'wilful neglect', which makes it nearly impossible to successfully prosecute even the worst cases of neglect.

Bill S-213 also does not provide equal protection to strays and wildlife as it would to owned animals such as pets or farm animals. Bill S-213 does not make it an offence to kill an animal brutally or viciously, despite the documented link between violence toward animals and violence toward people. And finally, Bill S-213 does not make it an offence to train animals to fight other animals or to receive money for fighting animals.

Last December, just days before the bill was passed by the Senate, the CFHS made a presentation to the Legal and Constitutional

Affairs Committee, laying out our concerns about Bill S-213. Our points were echoed by the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association.

The Senate Committee acknowledged that Bill S-213 is not enough and asked the CFHS to provide more information on a few specific issues we had raised. Yet Senators passed the bill suddenly three days later, without having reviewed the additional information they had requested.

### Overwhelming opposition to S-213

In early November the CFHS and the International Fund for Animal Welfare commissioned a poll by SES Research that shows 85% of Canadians support stronger legislation for cruelty against animals that would make it easier for law enforcement agencies to prosecute criminal acts against stray and wild animals.

Also last fall – following a particularly heart-wrenching dog abuse case in her community – Didsbury, Alberta dog groomer Tamara Chaney launched a petition opposing Bill S-213 and urging the government to introduce effective animal cruelty legislation like the former C-50. Tamara's local petition has generated phenomenal support from across the country. In mid-February, Tamara's MP, Myron Thompson, tabled the petition in the House of Commons – the final tally was that 111,896 Canadians had pledged their opposition to Bill S-213!

Yet the Senate and some MPs are ignoring this support. Not only will the bill do little to help prevent animal cruelty in Canada, it was also

an undemocratic act as it did not allow for further debate on the issue and clearly did not represent the will of the electorate.

**Act Now:** The next step for Bill S-213 is another hour of Second Reading debate, which could happen at any time. Then a vote will be held to determine whether to send the bill to Committee for further study or to let it die.

If you haven't done it yet, please write to your MP and the Minister of Justice to urge them to reject Bill S-213. A sample letter can be found online at [www.cfhs.ca](http://www.cfhs.ca). Don't know how to reach your MP? Visit [www.parl.gc.ca](http://www.parl.gc.ca) or call 1-800-622-6232 to get his or her contact information.

Remember, you can send a letter to your MP's Parliament Hill office postage free!



Photo courtesy of Ontario SPCA  
Starving dog rescued by the Ontario SPCA

## A note from CEO Steve Carroll

Charities depend, either in whole or in part, on the generosity and benevolence of caring Canadians. The relationship between the donor and the charity is built on trust. And donor trust can only be achieved and maintained if the charity is transparent in its business practices and accountable to donors as to how donor investment is managed.



This isn't rocket science! A charity that does not commit to respectful and ethical fundraising and does not clearly and regularly communicate these principles with its donors will soon find itself in trouble.

Some donors have indicated the term 'fundraising' does not adequately convey a

sense of the actual application of the funds raised. In keeping with our commitment to our donors (and, indeed, our ethics) the CFHS website ([www.cfhs.ca](http://www.cfhs.ca)) provides a breakdown of our 2007 priority program areas. The same information appears on the back page of this issue of *Animal Welfare in Focus*.

You will note that the word 'fundraising' is no where to be found. Instead, we use the term 'Sustainability'. Why? Simply, because without the generous support of our donors, the CFHS cannot sustain itself to carry out the important work we do on behalf of our donors and our member agencies across Canada.

This goes well beyond semantics: it is our reality.

The CFHS – celebrating 50 years as the national voice of animal welfare – is a business. We are non-profit. We are a charity. But, we are still a business and to that end we need to ensure we are viable. Our donors expect we will run a tight ship and invest their contributions diligently. Our donors – we could call them non-capital shareholders – need to know we are achieving the return on their investment which we promised. To that end, we are and will always remain accessible, transparent and accountable to you, our cherished donors.

**Did you know?** *Philanthropy* is the act of donating money, goods, time, or effort to support a charitable cause, usually over an extended period of time and in regard to a defined objective.

### Yes! I'd like to support the Canadian Federation of Humane Societies.

- Please accept my gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Please send me information on monthly giving (SAM)
- Please send me planned giving information
- My email address is: \_\_\_\_\_
- Please do not trade my name



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Donations of \$10 or more will be issued an annual tax receipt. Charitable registration # 11883 0884 RR0001		Signature _____

# At the Table:

## Canadian Veterinary Medical Association

The CFHS has a long history of liaison with the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA), particularly through participation on its Animal Welfare Committee. This committee is made up of veterinarians from across the country, as well as a few ex-officio members from other organizations, such as the CFHS.

Animal welfare advocacy is one of the main priorities of the CVMA. The work of the Animal Welfare Committee concentrates largely on developing position statements, guidelines and standards that address the welfare, humane treatment, and care of animals. Recently the committee has undertaken a revision of the CVMA's document, *A Code of Practice for Canadian Kennel Operations*, and has also been developing *A Code of Practice for Cattery Operations*. These documents, although not mandated by law, establish a standard of care for dogs and cats. They can be used as an educational tool by dog and cat breeders, boarding operations, animal welfare groups and others interested in the promotion of

sound care, management and welfare practices.

Another focus of the Animal Welfare Committee is animal abuse. The committee developed a website on animal abuse to provide information for veterinarians and the public on how to recognize animal abuse, who to call, and the specific role of veterinarians in reporting abuse.

This year, the CFHS has also collaborated with the CVMA on the amendments to the animal cruelty provisions of the Criminal Code (the CVMA, like the CFHS, opposes Bill S-213 and has called for the government to pass effective legislation like C-373). You can read more about the animal cruelty bill on the front page of this issue.

### Canadian Veterinary Reserve

The CFHS is now a member of the newly-established Advisory Board for the CVMA's Canadian Veterinary Reserve (CVR), funded by



the Canadian Food Inspection Agency. This CVR will improve Canada's veterinary capacity to respond to reportable infectious disease emergencies. The CFHS is also a member of a subcommittee working on civil emergencies. This will cover large-scale natural and man-made emergencies like floods, fires, chemical spills, etc. Although it is a daunting task, this subcommittee is working on developing a plan for dealing with such emergencies. It will involve veterinarians, veterinary technicians, shelters, public health agencies, other NGOs, all levels of government and more. The CFHS will be working closely with our member societies to clarify what role they can play during emergencies and how the overall plan will reflect this.

# Feline science: BC SPCA working to better understand your cat – and you

Humane societies around the world are increasingly using science and research to develop standards for animal welfare, and Canadian societies are no exception. The BC SPCA is one CFHS member society that is continuing to invest in research for animals.

The BC SPCA's biggest current research project is based on cat-owner relationships, and is being conducted by animal welfare research manager Nadine Gourkow.

The BC SPCA has developed its Cat Sense program, which involves improving the welfare of cats in shelters. Implemented in 2001, it is based on the first phase of Gourkow's research, which looked at improving the

welfare of cats in shelters and improving the quality of cat adoptions.

Gourkow found that there are several factors that can reduce stress in cats in a shelter environment. When cats have control over their environment, are able to get away from the public and from other cats, and when they have the freedom to express natural behaviours such as hiding and perching, they are more likely to adjust well and be adopted out.

When they are less stressed, potential adopters see the cats as being more friendly and playful, and are more likely to adopt. When the BC SPCA made changes to its cat housing through its Cat Sense program, they found a 22 per cent reduction in disease and an increase in adoption by 45 per cent. Instead of being adopted out in an average of 9-12 days, cats are adopted out in an average of 4.5 days.

After the success of the initial research and implementation of the Cat Sense program, Gourkow is now working on the second phase of research, focusing on understanding the relationship between cats and their owners in order to improve cat retention.

This first part of the research will involve conducting a wide survey of urban, northern and rural communities in BC in order to understand cat ownership. It will focus

specifically on the factors that lead to a breakdown in that relationship and the frequency with which it happens.

The second part of the research will follow between 50 and 100 cat-owner relationships for about a year to gain more insight into factors that would lead to a cat being relinquished. These reasons could include the time of year or an owner moving to a different location.

Finally, Gourkow will work to develop strategies, based on the initial research, to reduce the factors that would lead to a cat being relinquished. While Gourkow does not know what the results of the study will be, she hypothesizes that some of these strategies could involve education and pushing for more pet-friendly housing.

Gourkow says it's crucial to raise awareness about the importance of basing animal welfare practices on scientific knowledge. "I think this kind of work is really important but only if humane organizations open their minds to it and are prepared to take the knowledge and incorporate it into practice," she says. "Organizations should really make a point of informing themselves about the knowledge that is out there."

When this research is completed, Gourkow hopes it will lead to further research across the country on the welfare of cats and encouraging cat retention.



Photograph by Wendy Berry

### Great reading!

The SMARTER than JACK books contain true stories submitted by the public and are sure to convince you that humans may not be the superior beings after all!

**A portion of proceeds from each book you buy goes directly to help the CFHS.**



### Order Details:

TITLE	#	PRICE	SUB-TOTAL
Smart Rescued Animals		\$17.95	
Canadian animals are SMARTER than JACK		\$17.95	
Why animals are SMARTER than US		\$17.95	
Animals are SMARTER than JACK		\$17.95	
Dogs are SMARTER than JACK		\$17.95	
Cats are SMARTER than JACK		\$17.95	
Heroic animals are SMARTER than JACK		\$17.95	
Smart Sassy Animals		\$17.95	
Shipping (1 <sup>st</sup> book \$4.00 + 2.50 for each additional book)			
<b>Subtotal</b>			
GST(6%)			
<b>Total</b>			

# Improving Transport Regulations

For years, farm animals have needlessly suffered while being transported in Canada because of the commercialization of farming, the size of our country and consumer demand for the lowest possible prices.

Canada's regulations for the welfare of animals during transport fall below those of many countries around the world.

"Canada needs to improve transport regulations as far as the welfare of animals is concerned," says Shelagh MacDonald, Program Director of the CFHS. "Every year millions of animals die during transport due to overcrowding, extreme temperatures and long times in transit without food or water."

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) recognizes that changes need to be made to current Transportation of Animals Regulations, which were originally enacted in 1975. Although most farm animal issues fall under provincial jurisdiction, transportation is a federal responsibility.

For the past five years, the CFIA has been holding consultations with the livestock industry and other stakeholders, including the CFHS, on how transport conditions can be improved. The CFHS, along with the BC SPCA and the Ontario SPCA, submitted extensive recommendations last year. These recommendations are supported by research and focus on seven key issues: travel time, density of animals in trucks, transportation of compromised animals, loading and unloading of animals, ventilation in transport trucks, funding for enforcement and trucker training.

In Canada, cattle and sheep can spend more than two full days in a truck without food, water or rest, while other animals such as pigs and horses can remain in a truck for a day and a half. In addition, there are currently no regulations requiring ventilation in transport trucks. As a result, thousands of animals die each year from heat exhaustion or, in the winter, from freezing when they are at the outer edge of the truck.

Currently there are no laws in Canada regulating how tightly animals are packed on trucks. The CFHS' submission recommends changes to the regulations to reduce loading densities.

In 2005 a regulatory change was made to clarify that the transport of non-ambulatory animals is prohibited. In addition, some changes were made to the Compromised Animals Policy clarifying what a compromised animal is and stipulating specific requirements for how they must be transported. (Compromised animals include those that are infirm, ill, injured or fatigued.) However, the

application of these stipulations is not always clear.

The CFHS wants to see changes in the regulations that would prohibit certain painful methods of handling animals during loading and unloading and that animals unfit for travel will not be loaded.

Funding is an essential part of reducing animal suffering in transportation. Even if progressive regulations are introduced in Canada, they will be useless without funding to enforce them.



Photo courtesy of Animals' Angels  
Pigs packed on truck

The CFHS is also calling for amendments requiring that truckers transporting farm animals receive training. Currently, this is not required and any trucker who violates current regulations might receive only a small monetary fine.

In late 2006, the CFIA submitted the proposed transport amendments to Regulatory Affairs. Once approved, they will go to the Minister of Agriculture for approval.

In a country where the cheapest goods are usually at the forefront of consumers' minds, we urge you to stop and consider the impact this has on farm animals. It is time Canadians take the responsibility to change our laws to prevent farm animals transported in overcrowded and unventilated trucks with little food and water for days.

**Act Now:** Send a letter to your local MP and Agricultural Minister Chuck Strahl to let them know you support meaningful changes to improve the Transportation of Animals Regulations. You can also show your support by sending your message of support via the CFHS website at [www.cfhs.ca](http://www.cfhs.ca).

## Who's Who in Animal Welfare in Canada

Many of you have contacted us in recent months expressing concern and confusion regarding the roles and responsibilities of some organizations working in the animal welfare sector. We share your concerns and we understand the confusion that can result when organizations with similar sounding names come knocking on your door asking for your support. We hope the table below will clarify the landscape for you. As always, we invite your feedback.

Making a difference in animal welfare in Canada	Canadian Federation of Humane Societies	Canadian SPCA	Humane Society of Canada	Humane Society International - Canada
Mandate to act as the national voice of urban, rural, large and small member animal welfare organizations in ten provinces and two territories across Canada?	✓	✗	✗	✗
Is a wholly Canadian charity and not a chapter of an American non-profit?	✓	✓	✓	✗
Lead charity working for legislative reform nationally to reduce animal cruelty?	✓	✗	✗	✗
Raises funds across Canada?	✓	✓	✓	✓
Implements national animal welfare programs across Canada?	✓	✗	1	2
Supports capacity building of animal welfare organizations across Canada?	✓	✗	✗	✗
Provides the animal welfare sector with an annual leadership and development conference to strengthen programs and support across Canada?	✓	✗	✗	✗
Demonstrable track record in working to improve farm animal welfare?	✓	✗	✗	✗
Actively working to amend farm animal transportation regulations?	✓	✗	✗	✗
Is committed to providing services and support in both official languages across the country?	✓	✗	✗	✗
Recognized and respected by the federal government as the national animal welfare resource of choice?	✓	✗	✗	✗
Founding member/participant on key animal welfare stakeholder groups such as National Companion Animal Coalition, National Farm Animal Care Council, Canadian Council on Animal Care, Canadian Veterinary Medical Association?	✓	✗	✗	✗

1, 2: The CFHS is not clear as to what, if any, national animal welfare programs these two organizations offer across Canada.

### We want to hear from you!

The CFHS celebrates its 50th anniversary in 2007. We all know Canada has come a long way in this time...but there is still more work that needs to be done to create a truly humane Canada. As a long time supporter of animal welfare, what do you think needs to change in Canada to move us all toward a more compassionate and respectful relationship with the animals in our midst? Animals matter and so do your views! Send us your suggestions by e-mail to [info@cfhs.ca](mailto:info@cfhs.ca) or by mail at 102-30 Concourse Gate, Ottawa, ON K2E 7V7. In the May issue of AWIF, we'll publish a selection of our supporters' views and ideas.

## Donor Bill of Rights\*

Philanthropy is based on voluntary action for the common good. It is a tradition of giving and sharing that is primary to the quality of life. To assure that philanthropy merits the respect and trust of the general public, and that donors and prospective donors can have full confidence in the not-for-profit organizations and causes they are asked to support, we declare that all donors have these rights:

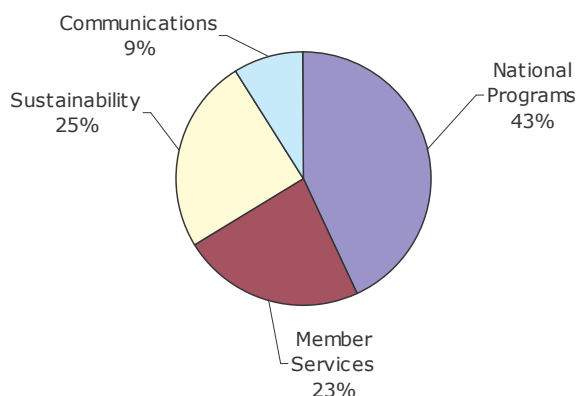
1. To be informed of the organization's mission, of the way the organization intends to use donated resources, and of its capacity to use donations effectively for their intended purposes.
2. To be informed of the identity of those serving on the organization's governing board, and to expect the board to exercise prudent judgement in its stewardship responsibilities.
3. To have access to the organization's most recent financial statements.
4. To be assured their gifts will be used for the purposes for which they were given.
5. To receive appropriate acknowledgment and recognition.
6. To be assured that information about their donations is handled with respect and with confidentiality to the extent provided by law.
7. To expect that all relationships with individuals representing organizations of interest to the donor will be professional in nature.
8. To be informed whether those seeking donations are volunteers, employees of the organization or hired solicitors.
9. To have the opportunity for their names to be deleted from mailing lists that an organization may intend to share.
10. To feel free to ask questions when making a donation and to receive prompt, truthful and forthright answers.

\* American Association of Fund-Raising Counsel (AAFRC), Association for Healthcare Philanthropy (AHP), Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE), and National Society of Fund Raising Executives (NSFRE).

## Your Investment in the CFHS

At the CFHS, we take pride in the care with which we manage our supporters' donations and, equally, with the transparency and accountability we demonstrate regarding how those funds are applied to promote respect and humane treatment toward all animals in Canada. Improving animal welfare across Canada takes money and without your support this work would prove impossible. Our donors need to know their contributions are invested wisely and diligently. In 2007, our primary program activity areas include:

- **National Programs – 43%**
  - Legislative reform: initiatives to better protect animals from cruelty or maltreatment
  - Farm animal welfare: founding member of National Farm Animal Care Council; advocacy on farm animal transportation regulations
  - Companion animal welfare: founding member of National Companion Animal Coalition; active on Canadian Veterinary Medical Association's animal welfare committee
  - Other national advocacy work
- **Member Services – 23%**
  - Capacity building, Federation development, member-to-member communications, funding and information research services
  - Member recruitment, retention; annual skills-building Leadership Summit;
- **Communications – 9%**
  - Website and electronic newsletters, site content development and website maintenance
  - Printed materials: newsletters, brochures and information packages
  - Public and media relations
- **Sustainability – 25%**
  - Direct mail, planned giving, corporate sponsorships and partnerships



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Canadians who care about animals know and understand that protecting animals and improving animal welfare is a struggle that never ends. We are very happy to announce the launch of the new CFHS 'Leave a Lasting Legacy' Program. The LLL Program provides four main gift categories: charitable bequests, life insurance, publicly traded securities, and/or real estate. These are easy ways you can help sustain animal welfare in Canada during your lifetime and beyond. For more information please visit our website at [www.cfhs.ca/donate\\_now](http://www.cfhs.ca/donate_now) or call Steve Carroll at 1-888-678-CFHS x 20.

Animal



Welfare  
In Focus

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As the national voice of humane societies and SPCAs, the Canadian Federation of Humane Societies supports its member animal welfare organizations across Canada in promoting respect and humane treatment toward all animals.

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Views expressed in *Animal Welfare in Focus* are not necessarily those of the Canadian Federation of Humane Societies.

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