

Humane Canada welcomes introduction of Ontario's PAWS Act

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Humane Canada welcomes today's announcement regarding the tabling of the new Provincial Animal Welfare Services Act (PAWS). This announcement is a critical first step in establishing a long-term solution for protecting animals in Ontario in the wake of OSPCA stepping away from its enforcement duties.

SPCAs and Humane Societies are the leading agencies in Canada dedicated to law enforcement and animal welfare. While Ontario has moved to internalize it, SPCAs and Humane Societies continue to have an important role to play in law enforcement whether to lead, assist or consult.

"Humane Societies and SPCAs have been responsible for law enforcement in Canada for 150 years, taking on that mission when the government could not or would not, and developing a unique expertise in this field. While Ontario is stepping forward to assume the mandate, we will be watching closely and advocating to ensure animals don't fall through the cracks." says Barbara Cartwright, CEO of Humane Canada.

Humane Canada notes that government commitment to more than just enforcement is key in a strong judicial system that better protects all animals.

"Crown Prosecutor training is a breakthrough for Ontario in animal welfare. It will strengthen relationships between enforcement and Crown leading to more convictions for animal abusers." says Cartwright.

The new legislation includes several aspects of Humane Canada's recommendations, and while it is a work in progress that increases accountability and transparency, additional protections are required. Humane Canada looks forward to continuing discussions with governments across Canada, including Ontario, in advocating for animal safety and protection.

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Humane Canada, the federation of SPCAs and humane societies, brings together organizations that work with and care for animals to end animal cruelty, improve animal protection and promote the humane treatment of all animals. Humane Canada's National Centre for the Prosecution of Animal Cruelty (NCPAC), established in 2015, provides peer-led resources and training to Crown Prosecutors across Canada that are prosecuting Animal Cruelty.

For more information, visit <https://www.humanecanada.ca/>.