

Ministry of the Solicitor GeneralPublic Safety Division
Public Safety Training Division25 Grosvenor St.
12th Floor
Toronto ON M7A 2H3Telephone: (416) 314-3377
Facsimile: (416) 314-4037**Ministère du Solliciteur général**Division de la sécurité publique
Division de la formation en matière
de sécurité publique25 rue Grosvenor
12^e étage
Toronto ON M7A 2H3Téléphone: (416) 314-3377
Télécopieur: (416) 314-4037

MEMORANDUM TO: All Chiefs of Police and
Commissioner Thomas Carrique
Chairs, Police Services Boards

FROM: Marc Bedard
Assistant Deputy Minister
Public Safety Division and Public Safety Training Division

SUBJECT: **Introduction of the Provincial Animal Welfare Services
Act, 2019**

DATE OF ISSUE:	October 29, 2019
CLASSIFICATION:	General Information
RETENTION:	Indefinite
INDEX NO.:	19-0081
PRIORITY:	High

As a follow up to the June 2019 all chiefs memo on the animal welfare interim model and the August 2019 memo, which highlighted animal welfare responsibilities for police, I am writing to advise that the Provincial Animal Welfare Services (PAWS) Act, 2019 was introduced today, a key component of a proposed new animal welfare system.

Thank you for providing input through the police survey and consultation to inform the development of a long-term animal welfare system, which the government continues to work to have in place by January 2020. If passed, the new legislation will enable the provincial Chief Animal Welfare Inspector to appoint qualified inspectors and ensure training as the province phases in the implementation of the new system.

The proposed new provincial animal welfare system includes:

- A new enforcement model that would establish a provincial enforcement team made up of a chief inspector, locally deployed provincial inspectors and specialized inspectors for agriculture, zoos, aquariums and equines.
- The proposed PAWS Act aims to improve animal welfare by:
 - Introducing new offences to combat activities such as dog fighting, and harming or attempting to harm an animal that works with peace officers or a service animal;

- Giving inspectors necessary powers to help animals in distress and to hold owners accountable;
- Empowering inspectors to request a person who is committing certain offences to identify themselves and, if a person refuses, empowering inspectors to arrest if a police officer cannot attend;
- Providing the government the ability to empower others, beyond inspectors, to take action when an animal is in imminent risk of serious injury or death when a pet is left in a hot car;
- Significantly increasing penalties for serious, repeat and corporate offenders. These new penalties would be the strongest in Canada;
- Improving oversight and ensuring increased transparency and accountability, including establishing a one-window complaints mechanism for the public.

The province will also establish a multi-disciplinary advisory table made up of a wide range of experts, including veterinarians, agriculture representatives, academics, animal advocates and others to provide ongoing advice to the ministry to improve animal welfare.

The proposed legislation also provides clarity to local police services who would continue to be enabled to enforce animal welfare legislation. As part of the new system, the Ontario Provincial Police would have regional specialized capacity to support major and criminal investigations.

The proposed legislation will be available for review on the Legislative Assembly website. The ministry has also issued a bulletin on the introduction of the legislation which can be accessed online through

<https://news.ontario.ca/mcscs/en/2019/10/ontario-adopts-new-animal-welfare-system.html>

If passed, the government intends to bring forward transitional regulations to ensure the protection of animals while long-term regulations are developed through consultations, including with advice from the multi-disciplinary table.

The ministry looks forward to your continued input as we plan for implementation of the proposed new animal welfare model. Should you have any questions or comments, please contact animalwelfareservices@ontario.ca.

Sincerely,



Marc Bedard
Assistant Deputy Minister
Public Safety Division and Public Safety Training Division