

Canadian Animal Cruelty Legislation: Bill S203 passed by Canadian Parliament



As the Professional Regulatory Organization responsible for the practice of veterinary medicine in Alberta, the Alberta Veterinary Medical Association has a keen interest in the recent acceptance of Bill S-203 by the Canadian Parliament. The veterinary profession as a whole is deeply concerned about issues of animal welfare and animal cruelty. We support any steps taken to help eliminate animal cruelty.

At a national level, the Alberta Veterinary Medical Association, through its affiliation with the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association has worked for over nine years in an effort to develop legislation that can be effective in protecting animals from cruelty. We have opposed the passage of Bill S-203 due to knowledge that it effectively blocks bill C-373. The latter would have gone much further and addressed additional flaws in the current legislation and allow for sufficient means to pursue animal cruelty offenders.

The successful bill does increase penalties for killing or harming animals and still offers adequate protection for legitimate animal use activities. It is hoped that the resolution of the long standing political impasse will allow significant improvements to take place. Our focus can now return to the real task, taking care of the animals.

Despite the weakness of Bill S-203, Albertans are very fortunate to have in place a modern and effective Animal Protection Act. The Alberta Veterinary Medical Association believes that the effective implementation and enforcement of this legislation can and will go a long way toward enhancing animal care in our province.

Duane Landals B. Sc. Ag, DVM
Registrar, Alberta Veterinary Medical Association

Equine Bio-Security Brochure

The Alberta Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) and the Alberta Equestrian Federation (AEF) would like to announce a joint project to deliver a Bio-security Brochure for the horse owner.

Recent disease occurrences have emphasized the necessity for horse owners to be aware of measures they can take to prevent the occurrence of infectious disease amongst their animals, as well as measures to prevent the spread of disease when it does occur. The brochure will outline simple everyday tasks and measures for horse owners that are easy to do that will greatly improve the health status and disease prevention of their horses. In addition, it will also emphasize the importance of a good working relationship between the owner and their veterinarian to develop an individualized health plan for the owner's horses.



The complimentary brochure will be available from the AEF, AVMA, and its' member veterinarians. The new brochure should be available May 2008 for distribution.

Important Dates & Upcoming Events

April 16&17/08: AVMA Council Meeting, AVMA Boardroom, AVMA Office
Edmonton

June 2/08: AVMA Registration Day, Crowne Plaza, Chateau Lacombe—Edmonton

July 27—31, 2008: CanWest/ World Veterinary Congress, Vancouver, BC

The AVMA E-News is circulated periodically to provide timely information to AVMA Members

Alberta Veterinary Medical Association
#950, Weber Centre
5555 Calgary Trail NW
Edmonton, Alberta
T6H 5P9

Telephone: (780) 489-5007
Toll Free: 1-800-404-2862
Fax: (780) 484-8311
E-News e-mail: kathy.mosmann@avma.ab.ca
Web: www.avma.ab.ca