

HUMANE SOCIETY of CANADA

Protecting Animals and the Earth

6th September 2007

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Letters to the Editor
Toronto Star
One Yonge Street
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Re: Cruelty-law update lacks teeth: Humane Society, September 3, 2007

Dear Editor,

We appreciated the opportunity to speak with your reporter, however, once more; key elements of our interview were not included in the Star article. There are 171 humane society inspectors and agents in the province who have the same powers as a police officer, and along with many other dedicated groups and individuals, charities have to bear the financial burden of protecting animals. Therefore while the government has offered \$500,000 of taxpayer funds for humane society inspectors, if the province had to replace them with police officers, this amount of money would only cover the costs of 8 police officers and their vehicles. Ontario taxpayers want and expect more from elected officials. Secondly, there is a proven link between cruelty to animals and violence towards people, and we need more education for judges and Crown Attorneys so that they can take these criminal offences more seriously and crackdown hard on animal abusers.

We need other changes under the law. For example, while they have a right to investigate premises where animals are being kept, at present, humane society inspectors are specifically forbidden from responding to reports of cruelty to animals held behind closed doors in laboratory experiments. Finally, while we support stronger laws to protect wildlife held in captivity, the price of each admission ticket is the only thing that serves to perpetuate this cruelty. The best way to shut down roadside zoos and transfer these animals to wildlife sanctuaries is for every woman, child and man to stop paying to see these wild animals being held in cruel confinement.

Sincerely,

Michael O'Sullivan
Chairman & CEO

The Humane Society of Canada

Humane Society of Canada for
the Protection of Animals and the
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