



Hon. Candice Bergen, P.C.

Member of Parliament for Portage—Lisgar

Députée de Portage—Lisgar

May 29, 2018

Dear Constituent,

Thank you for taking the time to write to me about animal welfare in Canada. This is an important issue and your concerns are appreciated and taken into consideration.

Animals should be protected from unnecessary suffering. I think Canadians would agree that penalties for animal cruelty offences should send a strong and clear message that animal cruelty is totally unacceptable in our society.

On April 9, 2008, Parliament passed Bill S-203, An Act to amend the Criminal Code (cruelty to animal). This bill raised maximum penalties for the more serious existing offences of animal cruelty to five years in prison from six months, and granted judges the discretion to order that a convicted offender be prohibited from owning or residing with animal for any length of time considered appropriate, up from the previous maximum of two years.

As the Conservative Opposition, we believe that Bill S-203 was a step in the right direction, as it improved upon existing legislation and delivered an added measure of protection for all animals. The being said, we remain open to further initiatives in this regard.

Once again, thank you for writing with your concerns. If you have any other questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Hon. Candice Bergen, P.C., M.P.
Conservative House Leader

House of Commons

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