

June 4, 2019

Senate Standing Committee – Social Affairs, Science & Technology
The Senate
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Dear Senators,

The National Companion Animal Coalition would like to express its support for Bill C-84 (an act to amend the Criminal Code with regards to bestiality and animal fighting) which passed through the House of Commons with unanimous consent.

The National Companion Animal Coalition (NCAC) was formed in 1996 to promote socially responsible pet ownership and enhance the health and well-being of companion animals. It is comprised of representatives from the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association, the Humane Canada (also known as the Canadian Federation of Humane Societies), the Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council of Canada and the Canadian Kennel Club. Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada is an observer member and the group also draws upon key individuals involved in animal welfare and municipal animal control when needed.

The bestiality clauses of Bill C-84 respond to the recent Supreme Court of Canada decision in *R v. D.L.W.*, which opened a legislative gap, effectively legalizing the sexual abuse of animals that falls short of penetration. The status quo risks normalizing harmful sexual behavior, jeopardizes animal welfare in Canada, and ultimately fails to properly address the sexual exploitation of vulnerable members of society, including children.

The Criminal Code currently prioritizes cockfighting and attending a cock or other animal fight, but fails to address related activities such as breeding, training or transporting animals to fight or of profiting from the crime. Recognizing that animals other than cocks are trained to fight, the provisions in Bill C-84 dealing with animal fighting explicitly include all species of animals and add an offence of profiting from animal fighting.

Bill C-84 is simple and targeted, it closes dangerous loopholes. We encourage the swift passing of this Bill to ensure the safety of Canada's animals.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



PIJAC President & CEO



CEO - Humane Canada



President - CVMA



CKC