

## Fwd: Excelsior Hog Farm

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From: Ethier, Tom AGRI:EX <Tom.Ethier@gov.bc.ca>  
To: McGuire, Jennifer AGRI:EX <Jennifer.Mcguire@gov.bc.ca>  
Sent: November 9, 2020 11:34:42 AM PST  
Attachments: image001.png, 11 06 BC SPCA letter to DM MoA.pdf, ATT00002.htm, ATT00001.htm

I haven't reviewed yet.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Craig Daniell <cdaniell@spca.bc.ca>  
**Date:** November 9, 2020 at 9:30:49 AM PST  
**To:** "Ethier, Tom AGRI:EX" <Tom.Ethier@gov.bc.ca>  
**Cc:** Amanda Frith <afrith@spca.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** Excelsior Hog Farm

**[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.**

Good morning Tom,  
I hope this email finds you well.  
Attached please find a letter from the BC SPCA relating to the Excelsior Hog farm matter.  
Sincerely,  
**Craig Daniell**  
**Chief Executive Officer**  
**and guardian to Thor, Johnny and Zoey**  
**BC SPCA**  
1245 East 7th Avenue  
Vancouver BC V5T 1R1  
604.647.1322  
1-855.622.7722 • [cdaniell@spca.bc.ca](mailto:cdaniell@spca.bc.ca) • [spca.bc.ca](http://spca.bc.ca)  
Animal Cruelty and Wildlife Hotline: 1.855.622.7722



**PROVINCIAL OFFICE**

1245 East 7th Avenue, Vancouver, British Columbia, V5T 1R1  
P 604.681.7271 • F 604.661.7022 • 1.800.665.1868 • [spca.bc.ca](http://spca.bc.ca)  
Charitable Registration # BN 11881 9036 RR0001

November 6, 2020

Mr. Tom Ethier  
Deputy Minister of Agriculture  
PO Box 9120, Stn Prov Govt  
Victoria, BC V8W 9B4

Dear Mr. Ethier,

**Re: Enforcement of the PCA Act on commercial farms**

I am writing to provide an update on an evolving issue regarding the BC SPCA's enforcement of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act (PCA Act) on commercial farms.

In 2019, the BC SPCA received a complaint and a video appearing to depict the unacceptable treatment of animals allegedly at Excelsior Hog Farm in Abbotsford. In response to this video, BC SPCA special constables, with prior notice to and subsequent later approval from Excelsior, attended at the farm with experts in porcine welfare to investigate the allegations, but observed no evidence of code violations at the time of the inspection. As the only evidence in the investigation was a video that was subsequently discovered to be obtained illegally following a break-in to the property, the BC SPCA was advised by Crown counsel that the case could not move forward as the evidence would not be admissible in court. From an investigative perspective, the file was then closed.

As you are no doubt aware, the Excelsior case has resulted in significant media attention and public protests, many of which have been directed against the BC SPCA. The protesters and their supporters (a number of which are BC SPCA donors and supporters) mistakenly believe that the decision to not proceed with a prosecution was solely that of the BC SPCA. More concerning is the belief that the BC SPCA is condoning acts of animal cruelty perpetrated by Excelsior and protecting the interests of industry by failing to take action in this case.

While I fully support the decision made by our Cruelty Investigations Department not to pursue the allegations further criminally, there is no doubt that this incident has caused significant and potentially long lasting challenges for the organization including recent protests at both our Abbotsford and Vancouver facilities this week, impacting the operations of our animal care, hospital and provincial office teams. This is particularly challenging to address during a pandemic. In addition, some of our staff have been subjected to unacceptable personal attacks on social media as a result of the case. Moreover, the BC SPCA has lost financial support from a number of long time donors, who now believe the Society is not doing enough for farm animals.

The BC SPCA has been active in advocating for higher standards of care for farm animals throughout its 125-year history. In addition to our work in B.C., our farm animal experts actively participate in the NFACC Code development process that brings together industry, animal welfare, veterinarians, scientists and others to seek mutually agreed improvements to farm codes of practice. We have always been a strong supporter of this inclusive process, believing that more is achieved through collaboration rather than adversarial relationships. That approach, however, is based on the premise that Codes of Practice are indeed implemented by industry

associations and we are growing increasingly skeptical that this is the case.

While we cannot confirm the veracity of the claims made on the Excelsior video, we are extremely concerned by a trend we see developing, namely that industry lead verification schemes are not achieving a level of public accountability and trust and that what is needed is government mandated regulation and oversight, perhaps through a third party auditing program that provides the assurance needed for British Columbians that commercially raised farm animals are being raised according to industry supported Codes of Practice.

At present, it appears the task of regulating industry appears to fall to the BC SPCA, via its enforcement function. This is a wholly unacceptable situation on at least three levels. Firstly, enforcement is not an effective tool to regulate an industry. Secondly, the BC SPCA, as a donor funded organization, has no capacity to regulate the more than 6,000 commercial farms in British Columbia, nor does it wish to be involved in such an endeavor, and finally we are well aware of the apparent lack of trust that industry has in the work of the BC SPCA.

We understand that no new directives can be taken at this time prior to the formation of government and Cabinet members being sworn in, but hope it is my hope that you will prioritize this issue for the incoming Minister, as well as provide them with a brief on the challenges raised. We look forward to scheduling a meeting with the new Minister to discuss the issue further upon their appointment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Craig Daniell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a small loop at the end of the last name.

Craig Daniell  
Chief Executive Officer



*OUR MISSION: To protect and enhance the quality of life for domestic, farm and wild animals in British Columbia.*

***The BC SPCA is a not-for-profit organization reliant on donations from the public. Charitable Tax # BN 11881 9036 RR0001***

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BCSPCA

604.773.0421

1.800.665.1868 • [gurton@spca.bc.ca](mailto:gurton@spca.bc.ca) • [spca.bc.ca](http://spca.bc.ca)

**Subject:** Recommendations for commercial farm animal welfare compliance in B.C.

**Purpose**

This briefing note outlines: criteria for assurance of acceptable standards of animal welfare in British Columbia; gaps between the current state and a credible, effective system of accountability; and recommendations for consideration.

**Background**

As of 2017, more than 115 million terrestrial farm animals were raised annually on approximately ten thousand farms in B.C.<sup>1</sup>. We offer that three elements are required in order to provide public assurance that the needs of these animals are met and that they are not suffering:

1. Auditable **standards of care** and a legitimate process for updating those standards over time to reflect science and public expectations within a practical framework for farmers;
2. A proactive system of regular third-party **on-farm inspection or auditing** that assesses compliance and provides transparent reporting on the outcomes; and
3. An **enforcement mechanism** to address non-compliances not satisfied through the audit system.

At present, British Columbia relies on two structures to meet these goals, the sufficiency of which we believe must be called into question:

- A. The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act (PCAA), enforced on an entirely complaint basis by a registered charity (the BC SPCA) at no cost to the tax-payer, with Canada's Codes of Practice<sup>2</sup> referenced in regulation as instruments for defense against prosecution.
- B. Voluntary application of Canada's Codes of Practice through industry-operated assessment programs.

**Current Situation**

A number of recent developments are noteworthy in examination of the situation and our pathway forward:

1. Scientific knowledge regarding the impacts of conventional farming practices on the well-being of farmed animals has grown substantially over the past decade, producing much greater understanding of the needs of these species and the deficiencies of current practices.
2. Public expectations have shifted significantly, with a dramatically heightened concern about conventional farming practices and a lack of sufficient legislation and enforcement in this area. 42% of British Columbians surveyed in 2020 indicated the provincial government is doing too little or far too little to protect farm animals (compared to 38% who feel the province is doing enough or too much).

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/farming-natural-resources-and-industry/agriculture-and-seafood/statistics/industry-and-sector-profiles/fast-stats/faststatsbc\\_2017.pdf](https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/farming-natural-resources-and-industry/agriculture-and-seafood/statistics/industry-and-sector-profiles/fast-stats/faststatsbc_2017.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.nfacc.ca/codes-of-practice>

3. In our view, industry's on-farm assessment programs have proven insufficient at implementing the Codes quickly enough or with sufficient rigor to serve as a reliable compliance system to satisfy public expectations for accountability and transparency.
4. As a result of the gaps in accountability and transparency, independent activists have taken it upon themselves to access these farms (through illegal trespass or legal employment) in order to document practices. The BC SPCA and other authorities are then left to handle legal investigations with the evidence available – evidence that is often challenging or impossible to make use of.
5. These activities have become more common and more adversarial over the past 5 years; these cases disproportionately impact the BC SPCA's organizational resources.
6. The animal agriculture sector's pursuit of "ag-gag" laws that prevent whistleblower actions on farms have further damaged public trust of this sector, as evidenced by research conducted at UBC<sup>3</sup> and polling showing only 21% of British Columbians would support such measures.
7. The ability now exists under the PCAA (section 15.1) for the proactive inspection of all animal agriculture sectors and commercial dog and cat kennels by an authorized agent as "regulated activities".

We offer that the resultant environment has produced a misalignment between the prevailing system and what is required to meet public expectations.

The BC SPCA has shouldered an onerous amount of public concern on this issue. We have noted that when asked about farm animal welfare compliance measures, the Government of British Columbia generally refers to the BC PCAA and its enforcement by the BC SPCA. We believe it is imperative to acknowledge that the BC SPCA's election to provide complaint-based enforcement of the PCAA was not designed to and cannot possibly satisfy the need for proactive compliance with animal welfare on commercial farms in B.C. In 2021, the BC SPCA will be conducting trial inspections of commercial farms under s. 15.1 of the PCAA to assess application of that provision in practice, and will share outcomes with government.

### **Consideration**

Our assessment is that significant gaps exist in the accountability and transparency of farm animal welfare practices in B.C., and that these gaps present substantial risk to public trust in the provincial government, the BC SPCA, and to the farming industry itself. We offer that an intentionally designed proactive compliance system for the welfare of commercially raised farm animals is urgently needed. We request an opportunity to work in partnership with the provincial government on options for: proactive third-party monitoring; compliance measures; and transparent reporting of aggregated anonymized results of audits to the public.

### **BC SPCA Subject Matter Experts**

As the largest animal welfare organization in B.C. with experts in the field of farm animal welfare, the BC SPCA is a longstanding leader on issues of farm animal welfare and on animal law. Our subject matter experts available to government on this file include:

Geoff Urton, MSc – General Manager of Strategy & Innovation, [gurton@spca.bc.ca](mailto:gurton@spca.bc.ca)

Marcie Moriarty, BSc, LLB – Chief Prevention and Enforcement Officer, [mmoriarty@spca.bc.ca](mailto:mmoriarty@spca.bc.ca)

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<sup>3</sup> Awareness of ag-gag laws erodes trust in farmers and increases support for animal welfare regulations.  
<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0306919216300045>

## FW: BC SPCA Briefing Note on Farm Animal Welfare Compliance

From: Ethier, Tom AFF:EX <Tom.Ethier@gov.bc.ca>  
To: Evers, Charlene AFF:EX <Charlene.Evers@gov.bc.ca>  
Sent: February 26, 2021 9:01:04 AM PST  
Attachments: image004.png, image006.png, image007.jpg, image005.png, BC SPCA Briefing Note\_Farm Animal Welfare Compliance 2021 02 25.pdf, image003.png

Are we cliffing this?

**From:** Geoff Urton <gurton@spca.bc.ca>

**Sent:** February 25, 2021 3:48 PM

**To:** Ethier, Tom AFF:EX <Tom.Ethier@gov.bc.ca>; McGuire, Jennifer AFF:EX <Jennifer.Mcguire@gov.bc.ca>

**Cc:** Evers, Charlene AFF:EX <Charlene.Evers@gov.bc.ca>; Craig Daniell <cdaniell@spca.bc.ca>; Marcie Moriarty <mmoriarty@spca.bc.ca>; Alison Cuffley <acuffley@spca.bc.ca>

**Subject:** BC SPCA Briefing Note on Farm Animal Welfare Compliance

**[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.**

Dear Tom and Jennifer,

Many thanks again for taking time with us this coming Monday. I've attached a briefing note we've prepared to ground our conversation.

Looking forward to speaking more then,

Geoff

Geoff Urton

General Manager, Strategy & Innovation


(he/him/his)

BCSPCA

604.773.0421

1.800.665.1868 • [gurton@spca.bc.ca](mailto:gurton@spca.bc.ca) • [spca.bc.ca](http://spca.bc.ca)

Working from the traditional territories of the Łəḱʷəŋən (Lekwungen) people of the Songhees and Xwsepsum (Esquimalt) nations.

Connect with us online 

**OUR MISSION:** *To protect and enhance the quality of life for domestic, farm and wild animals in British Columbia.*

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*Charitable Tax # BN 11881 9036 RR0001*

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## BC SPCA | Farm Compliance Inspections

From: Alison Cuffley <acuffley@spca.bc.ca>  
To: Minister, AGRI AGRI:EX <AGR.Minister@gov.bc.ca>, Minister, AFF AFF:EX <AFF.Minister@gov.bc.ca>  
Cc: Tom.Ethier@gov.bc.ca, Ethier, Tom AFF:EX <Tom.Ethier@gov.bc.ca>  
Sent: June 23, 2021 11:22:06 AM PDT  
Attachments: 2021 06 23 - BC SPCA Section 15.1.pdf, 2021 06 22 Letter to BC Dairy association.pdf

**[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.**

Good afternoon,  
Please find attached a letter from Marcie Moriarity, Chief Prevention and Enforcement Officer, regarding upcoming farm compliance inspections as well as an example letter to the B.C. Dairy Association.  
Kind regards, Alison

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**Alison Cuffley**  
*She/her/they/them*  
**Officer, Government Relations**  
**BC SPCA**  
1245 E 7th Ave  
Vancouver, BC  
V5T 1R1  
604-647-1321

[acuffley@spca.bc.ca](mailto:acuffley@spca.bc.ca) • [spca.bc.ca](https://spca.bc.ca)

Animal Cruelty and Wildlife Hotline: 1.855.622.7722

*Respectfully acknowledging that I work on, and this email was sent from, the unceded traditional territory of the downriver hənq̓əminəm speaking peoples - ,xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), and salilwataʔ (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations, and the Skwxwú7mesh-ulh Snichim speaking peoples - Skwxwú7mesh Uxwumixw (Squamish) Nation whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day.*

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P 604.681.7271 • F 604.661.7022 • 1.800.665.1868 • [spca.bc.ca](http://spca.bc.ca)  
Charitable Registration # BN 11881 9036 RR0001

June 23, 2021

PO Box 9409 Stn Prov Govt  
Victoria, BC V8W 9V1

Dear Minister Popham,

I am writing to provide you an update regarding the BC SPCA's upcoming commercial farm compliance inspections using powers granted under Section 15.1 of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act. We will be contacting the following industries; turkey, pork, beef, dairy, eggs, and chicken, and I have attached an example letter for your records. Each commodity will be receiving a personalized letter, and we have provided contact information for Shawn Eccles should they require a BC SPCA contact.

Please don't hesitate to contact me directly if your office has any questions about these inspections.

Regards,



Marcie Moriarty  
Chief Prevention and Enforcement Officer

CC: Deputy Minister Tom Ethier

**PROVINCIAL OFFICE**

1245 East 7th Avenue, Vancouver, British Columbia, V5T 1R1  
P 604.681.7271 • F 604.661.7022 • 1.800.665.1868 • spca.bc.ca  
Charitable Registration # BN 11881 9036 RR0001

June 23, 2021

BC Dairy Association  
3236 Beta Ave,  
Burnaby, BC  
V5G 4K4

Dear Mr. Dunn,

The BC SPCA has met with the Honourable Lana Popham, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries, as well as the Deputy Minister and Ministry staff, to advise of our intention to begin unannounced proactive inspections of regulated activities. The Ministry has confirmed that the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act (PCA Act) provides the BC SPCA the authority to conduct proactive inspections under s.15.1.

The Government of British Columbia, through the PCA Act, created the British Columbia Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (BC SPCA) in 1895 and gave the Society the power to enforce the PCA Act. In 2011, the BC government amended the PCA Act to include broader inspection powers for “regulated activities.” Section 15.1 of the PCA Act provides the BC SPCA, as authorized agents, the ability to enter “any premises or a vehicle where an operator is engaging in a regulated activity for the purpose of determining whether this Act and the regulations made under it are being complied with.”

In 2019, the provincial Animal Care Codes of Practice Regulation under the PCA Act, classified commercial dairy cattle farming as a regulated activity. This gives the BC SPCA the ability to enter and inspect commercial farms during ordinary business hours to ensure the farm is following the PCA Act and associated regulations.

To date, the BC SPCA has not used this section of the PCA Act, inspecting farms only after a cruelty complaint is received. In part, this is due to a resource and capacity issue of limited numbers of constables and large file loads. The BC SPCA will now be visiting a subset of farms in 2021 to perform inspections under section 15.1, even if no cruelty complaint has been received. This program is targeted to begin mid-year, with possible timeline adjustments owing to factors outside of our control such as the COVID-19 pandemic.

We respectfully request that you share this information with your members and inform them of their responsibility to allow BC SPCA inspectors access to their farm during business hours. A veterinarian with experience in commercial dairy cattle production will also be in attendance. The inspection will include all animals currently housed on the premises and utilize the Animal Care Assessment framework (ProAction – Animal Care module) developed through the National Farm Animal Care Council in order to assess compliance with the requirements of the National Farm Animal Care



*Council's Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Dairy Cattle.*

BC SPCA staff always follow strict biosecurity protocols when visiting farms, including handwashing, disposable coveralls, boot covers, following any reasonable biosecurity requests from the operator, and spacing out visits between farms by several days when possible. Our protocols are based on the Government of Canada's National Biosecurity Standards for each sector. We welcome any additional biosecurity instructions from your association for consideration in our biosecurity protocol.

Further, BC SPCA inspectors will be following additional safety protocols for COVID-19 by ensuring all staff are wearing masks and other PPE, performing additional handwashing/hand sanitizing, and social distancing. We ask all that while the BC SPCA staff are in the barn, farm personnel remain at least 6 feet from inspectors and wear a mask to ensure COVID-19 safety protocols are followed.

Thank you for sharing this advance notice of s.15.1 inspections of farms to dairy farmers. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions regarding this initiative.

Sincerely,

Shawn Eccles  
Senior Manager, Cruelty Investigations

Phone: (604) 834-7856  
Email: [seccles@spca.bc.ca](mailto:seccles@spca.bc.ca)

## FW: BC SPCA | Farm Compliance Inspections

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**From:** Lalani, Arif AFF:EX <Arif.Lalani@gov.bc.ca>  
**To:** McGuire, Jennifer AFF:EX <Jennifer.Mcguire@gov.bc.ca>, Last, Gavin AFF:EX <Gavin.Last@gov.bc.ca>  
**Cc:** Norton, Chris AFF:EX <Chris.Norton@gov.bc.ca>, Zachary, Dawnae AFF:EX <Dawnae.Zachary@gov.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** June 25, 2021 9:10:43 AM PDT  
**Attachments:** Letter to BC Chicken Marketing Board 2021.06.22 FINAL.docx

Arif Lalani | ADM | Agriculture Resource Division | Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries  
C 250.208.9902 | E [arif.lalani@gov.bc.ca](mailto:arif.lalani@gov.bc.ca)

---

**From:** Raymond, Mark AFF:EX <Mark.Raymond@gov.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** June 24, 2021 5:05 PM  
**To:** Lalani, Arif AFF:EX <Arif.Lalani@gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** BC SPCA | Farm Compliance Inspections

Are you aware of this?

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Beyers, Georgina AFF:EX" <[Georgina.Beyers@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Georgina.Beyers@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Date:** June 24, 2021 at 3:57:57 PM PDT  
**To:** "Todosichuk, Ardice AFF:EX" <[Ardice.Todosichuk@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Ardice.Todosichuk@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Cc:** "Anderson, Arlene AFF:EX" <[Arlene.Anderson@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Arlene.Anderson@gov.bc.ca)>, "Raymond, Mark AFF:EX" <[Mark.Raymond@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Mark.Raymond@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Subject:** FW: BC SPCA | Farm Compliance Inspections

Hi Ardice,

We've received notification (and concern) from BC Chicken marketing board that the SPCA is undertaking proactive inspections. Our team has expressed concern that this is out of line with the intent of the Animal Care Codes of Practice regulation – see analysis below.

Does the Ministry have a perspective on this?

Thank you,  
Georgina

Georgina Beyers  
Director, Industry Development  
BC Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries  
250-896-6221

---

**From:** "Giacomazzi, Terri AFF:EX" <[Terri.Giacomazzi@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Terri.Giacomazzi@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Date:** Thursday, June 24, 2021 at 2:03 PM  
**To:** "Botkin, Clayton AFF:EX" <[Clayton.Botkin@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Clayton.Botkin@gov.bc.ca)>, "Beyers, Georgina AFF:EX" <[Georgina.Beyers@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Georgina.Beyers@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Cc:** "Droppo, Tom AFF:EX" <[Tom.Droppo@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Tom.Droppo@gov.bc.ca)>, "Forbes, Christina D AFF:EX" <[Christina.Forbes@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Christina.Forbes@gov.bc.ca)>, "Galliazzo, Katie AFF:EX" <[Katie.Galliazzo@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Katie.Galliazzo@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Subject:** RE: BC SPCA | Farm Compliance Inspections

Hello all,  
s.13

Terri.

---

**From:** Botkin, Clayton AFF:EX <[Clayton.Botkin@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Clayton.Botkin@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 24, 2021 1:30 PM  
**To:** Beyers, Georgina AFF:EX <[Georgina.Beyers@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Georgina.Beyers@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Cc:** Droppo, Tom AFF:EX <[Tom.Droppo@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Tom.Droppo@gov.bc.ca)>; Forbes, Christina D AFF:EX <[Christina.Forbes@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Christina.Forbes@gov.bc.ca)>; Giacomazzi, Terri AFF:EX <[Terri.Giacomazzi@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Terri.Giacomazzi@gov.bc.ca)>; Galliazzo, Katie AFF:EX <[Katie.Galliazzo@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Katie.Galliazzo@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Subject:** FW: BC SPCA | Farm Compliance Inspections

Hi Georgina,

I have no idea what to respond to this, or who this should land with. BC Chicken just sent it to me. Do you have any clarification or direction on this? It is very unexpected. I am cc'ing the other livestock specialists in case any of their commodities have received similar notices.

Clayton

---

**From:** Bill Vanderspek <[billvanderspek@BCChicken.ca](mailto:billvanderspek@BCChicken.ca)>  
**Sent:** June 24, 2021 1:15 PM  
**To:** Botkin, Clayton AFF:EX <[Clayton.Botkin@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Clayton.Botkin@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Subject:** FW: BC SPCA | Farm Compliance Inspections

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**From:** Shawn Eccles <[seccles@spca.bc.ca](mailto:seccles@spca.bc.ca)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 24, 2021 12:26 PM  
**To:** Bill Vanderspek <[billvanderspek@BCChicken.ca](mailto:billvanderspek@BCChicken.ca)>  
**Subject:** BC SPCA | Farm Compliance Inspections

Good afternoon Mr. Vanderspek,

Please find attached a letter outlining proactive farm compliance inspections to be undertaken by the BC SPCA,

Regards

Shawn

**Shawn Eccles**  
(He/Him)  
**Senior Manager, Cruelty Investigations**  
**BC SPCA**  
1245 East 7th Avenue  
Vancouver BC V5T 1R1  
604.575.2249  
1.800.665.1868 • [seccles@spca.bc.ca](mailto:seccles@spca.bc.ca) • [spca.bc.ca](http://spca.bc.ca)  
Animal Cruelty and Wildlife Hotline 1-855-622-7722

*Respectfully acknowledging that I work on, and this email was sent from, the unceded traditional territory of the Kwantlen, Semiahmoo, s̓c̓əwəθən məsteyəxʷ (Tsawwassen), Katzie, Kwantlen, Kwikwetlem, and Qayqayt First Nations, as well as numerous Stó:lō First Nations whose historical relationships to the land continues today.*

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P 604.681.7271 • F 604.661.7022 • 1.800.665.1868 • spca.bc.ca  
Charitable Registration # BN 11881 9036 RR0001

June 24, 2021

British Columbia Chicken Marketing Board  
#220 - 1848 McCallum Road,  
Abbotsford  
V2S 0H9

Dear Mr. Vanderspek,

The BC SPCA has met with the Honourable Lana Popham, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries, as well as the Deputy Minister and Ministry staff, to advise of our intention to begin unannounced proactive inspections of regulated activities. The Ministry has confirmed that the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act (*PCA Act*) provides the BC SPCA the authority to conduct proactive inspections under s.15.1.

The Government of British Columbia, through the *PCA Act*, created the British Columbia Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (BC SPCA) in 1895 and gave the Society the power to enforce the *PCA Act*. In 2011, the BC government amended the *PCA Act* to include broader inspection powers for “regulated activities.” Section 15.1 of the *PCA Act* provides the BC SPCA, as authorized agents, the ability to enter “any premises or a vehicle where an operator is engaging in a regulated activity for the purpose of determining whether this *Act* and the regulations made under it are being complied with.”

In 2019, the provincial Animal Care Codes of Practice Regulation under the *PCA Act*, classified commercial chicken farming as a regulated activity. This gives the BC SPCA the ability to enter and inspect commercial farms during ordinary business hours to ensure the farm is following the *PCA Act* and associated regulations.

To date, the BC SPCA has not used this section of the *PCA Act*, inspecting farms only after a cruelty complaint is received. In part, this is due to a resource and capacity issue of limited numbers of constables and large file loads. The BC SPCA will now be visiting a subset of farms in 2021 to perform inspections under section 15.1, even if no cruelty complaint has been received. This program is targeted to begin mid-year, with possible timeline adjustments owing to factors outside of our control such as the COVID-19 pandemic.

We respectfully request that you share this information with your members and inform them of their responsibility to allow BC SPCA inspectors access to their farm during business hours. A veterinarian with experience in commercial broiler production will also be in attendance. –The inspection will include all animals currently housed on the premises and utilize the Animal Care Assessment framework developed through the National Farm Animal Care Council (*Raised by a Canadian Farmer* Animal Care Program) to assess compliance with the requirements of the National Farm Animal Care Council's *Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Hatching Eggs, Breeders, Chickens and Turkeys*.

BC SPCA staff always follow strict biosecurity protocols when visiting farms, including handwashing, disposable coveralls, boot covers, following any reasonable biosecurity requests from the operator, and spacing out visits between farms ~~visits~~ by several days when possible. Our protocols are based on the Government of Canada's National Biosecurity Standards for each sector. We welcome any additional biosecurity instructions from your association for consideration in our biosecurity protocol.

Further, BC SPCA inspectors will be following additional safety protocols for COVID-19 by ensuring all staff are wearing masks and other PPE, performing additional handwashing/hand sanitizing, and social distancing. We ask all that while the BC SPCA staff are in the barn, farm personnel remain at least 6 feet from inspectors and wear a mask to ensure ~~to~~ COVID-19 safety protocols are followed.

We are having a hard time finding current information pertaining to your member farms and would greatly appreciate your assistance in providing details for the farms. Please forward a list of all broiler farms that are members of your organization, including name(s) of owner, address, and contact details (phone/email) as well as approximate number of animals, if available. We ask that you please forward this list by July 9. It will be kept strictly confidential and used only for the purposes of inspections under s.15.1.

Thank you for sharing this advance notice of s.15.1 inspections of farms within your industry. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions regarding this initiative.

Sincerely,



Shawn Eccles  
Senior Manager, Cruelty Investigations

Phone: (604) 834-7856  
Email: [seccles@spca.bc.ca](mailto:seccles@spca.bc.ca)

## FW: BC SPCA | Farm Compliance Inspections

---

**From:** Evers, Charlene AFF:EX <Charlene.Evers@gov.bc.ca>  
**To:** Ethier, Tom AFF:EX <Tom.Ethier@gov.bc.ca>, Lalani, Arif AFF:EX <Arif.Lalani@gov.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** June 25, 2021 9:36:24 AM PDT  
**Attachments:** 194860\_MIN\_IBN\_BCSPCA May 21 2021.docx, 193499\_IBN\_MIN\_BCSPCA.docx

Just found this other one as well (193499) from a meeting with Minister on Feb 2.....

---

**From:** Evers, Charlene AFF:EX  
**Sent:** June 25, 2021 9:33 AM  
**To:** Lalani, Arif AFF:EX <Arif.Lalani@gov.bc.ca>; Ethier, Tom AFF:EX <Tom.Ethier@gov.bc.ca>  
**Cc:** Zachary, Dawnae AFF:EX <Dawnae.Zachary@gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** RE: BC SPCA | Farm Compliance Inspections  
As requested...

---

**From:** Lalani, Arif AFF:EX <Arif.Lalani@gov.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** June 25, 2021 9:20 AM  
**To:** Ethier, Tom AFF:EX <Tom.Ethier@gov.bc.ca>  
**Cc:** Evers, Charlene AFF:EX <Charlene.Evers@gov.bc.ca>; Zachary, Dawnae AFF:EX <Dawnae.Zachary@gov.bc.ca>; Evers, Charlene AFF:EX <Charlene.Evers@gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** RE: BC SPCA | Farm Compliance Inspections  
Sorry Charlene can you pull this note for Tom please . It was in May.  
Arif Lalani | ADM | Agriculture Resource Division | Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries  
C 250.208.9902 | E [arif.lalani@gov.bc.ca](mailto:arif.lalani@gov.bc.ca)

---

**From:** Lalani, Arif AFF:EX  
**Sent:** June 25, 2021 9:19 AM  
**To:** Ethier, Tom AFF:EX <Tom.Ethier@gov.bc.ca>  
**Cc:** Evers, Charlene AFF:EX <Charlene.Evers@gov.bc.ca>; Zachary, Dawnae AFF:EX <Dawnae.Zachary@gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** FW: BC SPCA | Farm Compliance Inspections  
BN that was developed for you meeting with BCSPCA.  
Arif Lalani | ADM | Agriculture Resource Division | Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries  
C 250.208.9902 | E [arif.lalani@gov.bc.ca](mailto:arif.lalani@gov.bc.ca)

---

**From:** Last, Gavin AFF:EX <Gavin.Last@gov.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** June 24, 2021 5:50 PM  
**To:** Lalani, Arif AFF:EX <Arif.Lalani@gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** FW: BC SPCA | Farm Compliance Inspections

Hi Arif, now I understand what your IM was about.

Ardice shared a BN for meeting with SPCA from May, there was a quick reference to SPCA intentions to conduct inspections:

s.13

Thoughts?

Thanks

Gavin Last

778 974-3819

---

**From:** Todosichuk, Ardice AFF:EX <[Ardice.Todosichuk@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Ardice.Todosichuk@gov.bc.ca)>

**Sent:** June 24, 2021 5:09 PM

**To:** Last, Gavin AFF:EX <[Gavin.Last@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Gavin.Last@gov.bc.ca)>

**Subject:** FW: BC SPCA | Farm Compliance Inspections  
fyi

---

**From:** Beyers, Georgina AFF:EX <[Georgina.Beyers@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Georgina.Beyers@gov.bc.ca)>

**Sent:** June 24, 2021 3:58 PM

**To:** Todosichuk, Ardice AFF:EX <[Ardice.Todosichuk@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Ardice.Todosichuk@gov.bc.ca)>

**Cc:** Anderson, Arlene AFF:EX <[Arlene.Anderson@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Arlene.Anderson@gov.bc.ca)>; Raymond, Mark AFF:EX <[Mark.Raymond@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Mark.Raymond@gov.bc.ca)>

**Subject:** FW: BC SPCA | Farm Compliance Inspections

Hi Ardice,

We've received notification (and concern) from BC Chicken marketing board that the SPCA is undertaking proactive inspections. Our team has expressed concern that this is out of line with the intent of the Animal Care Codes of Practice regulation – see analysis below.

Does the Ministry have a perspective on this?

Thank you,

Georgina

Georgina Beyers

Director, Industry Development

BC Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries

250-896-6221

---

**From:** "Giacomazzi, Terri AFF:EX" <[Terri.Giacomazzi@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Terri.Giacomazzi@gov.bc.ca)>

**Date:** Thursday, June 24, 2021 at 2:03 PM

**To:** "Botkin, Clayton AFF:EX" <[Clayton.Botkin@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Clayton.Botkin@gov.bc.ca)>, "Beyers, Georgina AFF:EX" <[Georgina.Beyers@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Georgina.Beyers@gov.bc.ca)>

**Cc:** "Droppo, Tom AFF:EX" <[Tom.Droppo@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Tom.Droppo@gov.bc.ca)>, "Forbes, Christina D AFF:EX" <[Christina.Forbes@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Christina.Forbes@gov.bc.ca)>, "Galliazzo, Katie AFF:EX" <[Katie.Galliazzo@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Katie.Galliazzo@gov.bc.ca)>

**Subject:** RE: BC SPCA | Farm Compliance Inspections

Hello all,

s.13



---

**From:** Botkin, Clayton AFF:EX <[Clayton.Botkin@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Clayton.Botkin@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 24, 2021 1:30 PM  
**To:** Beyers, Georgina AFF:EX <[Georgina.Beyers@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Georgina.Beyers@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Cc:** Droppo, Tom AFF:EX <[Tom.Droppo@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Tom.Droppo@gov.bc.ca)>; Forbes, Christina D AFF:EX <[Christina.Forbes@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Christina.Forbes@gov.bc.ca)>; Giacomazzi, Terri AFF:EX <[Terri.Giacomazzi@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Terri.Giacomazzi@gov.bc.ca)>; Galliazzo, Katie AFF:EX <[Katie.Galliazzo@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Katie.Galliazzo@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Subject:** FW: BC SPCA | Farm Compliance Inspections

Hi Georgina,

I have no idea what to respond to this, or who this should land with. BC Chicken just sent it to me. Do you have any clarification or direction on this? It is very unexpected. I am cc'ing the other livestock specialists in case any of their commodities have received similar notices.

Clayton

---

**From:** Bill Vanderspek <[billvanderspek@BCChicken.ca](mailto:billvanderspek@BCChicken.ca)>  
**Sent:** June 24, 2021 1:15 PM  
**To:** Botkin, Clayton AFF:EX <[Clayton.Botkin@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Clayton.Botkin@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Subject:** FW: BC SPCA | Farm Compliance Inspections

**[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.**

**From:** Shawn Eccles <[seccles@spca.bc.ca](mailto:seccles@spca.bc.ca)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 24, 2021 12:26 PM  
**To:** Bill Vanderspek <[billvanderspek@BCChicken.ca](mailto:billvanderspek@BCChicken.ca)>  
**Subject:** BC SPCA | Farm Compliance Inspections

Good afternoon Mr. Vanderspek,

Please find attached a letter outlining proactive farm compliance inspections to be undertaken by the BC SPCA,  
Regards

Shawn

Shawn Eccles

(He/Him)

Senior Manager, Cruelty Investigations

BC SPCA

1245 East 7th Avenue

Vancouver BC V5T 1R1

604.575.2249

1.800.665.1868 • [seccles@spca.bc.ca](mailto:seccles@spca.bc.ca) • [spca.bc.ca](http://spca.bc.ca)

Animal Cruelty and Wildlife Hotline 1-855-622-7722

*Respectfully acknowledging that I work on, and this email was sent from, the unceded traditional territory of the Kwantlen, Semiahmoo, sc̓əwəθən məsteyəxʷ (Tsawwassen), Katzie, Kwantlen, Kwikwetlem, and Qayqayt First Nations, as well as numerous Stó:lō First Nations whose historical relationships to the land continues today.*

**OUR MISSION:** To protect and enhance the quality of life for domestic, farm and wild animals in British Columbia.

*The BC SPCA is a not-for-profit organization reliant on donations from the public. Charitable Tax # BN 11881 9036 RR0001*

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**Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries**  
**BRIEFING NOTE FOR MINISTER FOR INFORMATION**

Ref: 194860

Date: May 21, 2021

**Title: Meeting scheduled with the British Columbia Society for the Prevention of Animal Cruelty (BCSPCA) on Tuesday, May 25, 2021**

**Issue:** Vancouver property project, farm inspections, financial contributions and information sharing

**Background:**

The BCSPCA is a not-for-profit charitable organization, funded primarily by public donations, with a mission to protect and enhance the quality of life for domestic, farm, and wild animals in British Columbia (B.C.). The role of the BCSPCA includes enforcement and community outreach. The BCSPCA was created in 1895, and it has authority under the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act (PCA Act)*. The *PCA Act* creates a legislative framework to prevent cruelty to animals in B.C., including family pets (companion animals), livestock, and working animals, but excluding wildlife. The BCSPCA is empowered under the *PCA Act* to ensure animal welfare through inspection and enforcement of the regulations under this *Act*.

Updates on the following item have been requested for the May 25, 2021, meeting:

1. BCSPCA updates regarding the Vancouver property project and plans to inspect a small sub-set of farms.
2. Analysis of the financial contributions made by the provincial government to the BCSPCA
3. Sharing information with the BCSPCA on significant incidents of non-regular animal death or injury incidents.

**Discussion:**

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ADM   JLM  
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DM   TE  
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**Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries**  
**BRIEFING NOTE FOR MINISTER FOR INFORMATION**

Ref: 193499

Date: January 28, 2021

**Title:** Minister Popham and BC SPCA meeting, February 2, 2021

**Issue:** Minister Popham is meeting with representatives from the British Columbia Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (BC SPCA) on February 2, 2021 to discuss:

- Ongoing collaboration;
- Enforcement on commercial farms; and
- The BC SPCA's 2021 Budget Submission.

**Background:**

The BC SPCA

The BC SPCA is a not-for-profit charitable organization, funded primarily by public donations, with a mission to protect and enhance the quality of life for domestic, farm, and wild animals in British Columbia (B.C.). The BC SPCA was created in 1895, and it has authority under the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act* (PCA Act). The PCA Act creates legislative force to prevent cruelty to animals in B.C., including family pets (companion animals), livestock, and working animals, but excluding wildlife. The BC SPCA is the only animal organization in B.C. with the authority to enforce laws under the PCA Act. The BC SPCA operates in 44 locations and employs 645 staff members and approximately 5,500 volunteers throughout B.C.

There are two distinct functions of the BC SPCA in B.C.: a regulatory function and a community outreach function. The BC SPCA is mandated under the PCA Act to respond to animals in distress. BC SPCA enforcement actions are performed by Special Provincial Constables. Currently, the BC SPCA has 34 full time Special Provincial Constables who are authorized to investigate complaints of animal abuse and neglect. BC SPCA constables investigate approximately 8,500 complaints of animal cruelty each year, at a cost of approximately \$3.5 million annually. The BC SPCA does not receive annual, dedicated funding from the Province for their enforcement actions.

Enforcement on commercial farms

The Animal Care Codes of Practice Regulation (the Regulation) came into force on June 1, 2019, under the PCA Act, to provide further protection for farm animals by establishing reasonable and generally accepted practices of animal management. The Regulation applies to all farming and ranching operations in B.C. where the animals listed in section 2 of the Regulation are kept for the purposes of breeding, boarding, grazing, selling, training, and for the production of certain farm and ranch products and by-products. While failure to abide by the Codes of Practice is not necessarily an offence, following the Codes is a defense from conviction of animal distress. Referencing the Codes of Practice in regulation therefore provides an incentive to farmers and ranchers to follow these practices.

Approximately 20 percent of complaints received by the BC SPCA involve farm animals. Most of these complaints relate to either hobby farmers or equines. A very small percentage relate to enforcement on commercial farms (approximately 10 to 20 complaints per annum).

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s.13

## Re: BC SPCA | Farm Compliance Inspections

From: Gunta V <GuntaV@bcegg.com>  
To: Tom Ethier <tom.ethier@gov.bc.ca>, Ethier, Tom AFF:EX <Tom.Ethier@gov.bc.ca>  
Cc: McGuire, Jennifer AFF:EX <Jennifer.Mcguire@gov.bc.ca>, Lalani, Arif AGRI:EX <Arif.Lalani@gov.bc.ca>, Lalani, Arif AFF:EX <Arif.Lalani@gov.bc.ca>  
Sent: June 25, 2021 3:58:23 PM PDT  
Attachments: BCSPCA letter to NFACC\_2021-05-19.pdf

**[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.**

Hi Tom

I'm sharing a letter that BCSPCA (et al) sent to the National Farm Animal Care Council in April 2021 which clarifies their expectations and intentions going forward in the NFACC/Codes process. You may find this letter helpful as background information.

Best

Gunta

Gunta Vitins BSc (agr), BEd, MBA

Chair, BC Egg Marketing Board

E: [guntav@bcegg.com](mailto:guntav@bcegg.com)

C: 778-772-5996

**From:** Gunta V <GuntaV@bcegg.com>

**Sent:** Friday, June 25, 2021 1:21 PM

**To:** Ethier, Tom AFF:EX <Tom.Ethier@gov.bc.ca>

**Cc:** Lalani, Arif AFF:EX <Arif.Lalani@gov.bc.ca>; McGuire, Jennifer AFF:EX <Jennifer.Mcguire@gov.bc.ca>

**Subject:** Re: BC SPCA | Farm Compliance Inspections

Thank you Tom.

I look forward to the meeting.

Have a good weekend.

Gunta

Gunta Vitins BSc (agr), BEd, MBA

Chair, BC Egg Marketing Board

E: [guntav@bcegg.com](mailto:guntav@bcegg.com)

C: 778-772-5996

**From:** Ethier, Tom AFF:EX <Tom.Ethier@gov.bc.ca>

**Sent:** Friday, June 25, 2021 1:17 PM

**To:** Gunta V <GuntaV@bcegg.com>

**Cc:** Lalani, Arif AFF:EX <Arif.Lalani@gov.bc.ca>; McGuire, Jennifer AFF:EX <Jennifer.Mcguire@gov.bc.ca>

**Subject:** RE: BC SPCA | Farm Compliance Inspections

Hi Gunta

Yes we can set something up. We are doing a bit of our own intel gathering so it would be in to next week before we can arrange a zoom call. Thanks for reaching out.

**From:** Gunta V <GuntaV@bcegg.com>

**Sent:** June 25, 2021 1:01 PM

**To:** Ethier, Tom AFF:EX <Tom.Ethier@gov.bc.ca>

**Subject:** BC SPCA | Farm Compliance Inspections

**[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.**

Good afternoon Tom

I trust this email finds you well. I'm reaching out to you regarding the unannounced inspections of BC egg farms that the BCSPCA is stating will begin shortly (see attached letter). I understand that all animal agriculture boards/commissions have received a similar letter yesterday.

I have several questions and am hoping that a ZOOM call with board/commission chairs and AGRI can be arranged as soon as possible so that we can discuss this issue collectively.

In the interim, The BCEMB will not be notifying egg producers about BCSPCA's new program until more information and clarification from BCMAFF is provided.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Best regards

Gunta

Gunta Vitins BSc (agr), BEd, MBA

Chair, BC Egg Marketing Board

E: [guntav@bcegg.com](mailto:guntav@bcegg.com)

C: 778-772-5996





May 19, 2021

To our colleagues at fellow NFACC member organizations:

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Sincerely,

Craig Daniell, CEO  
BC SPCA

Barbara Cartwright, CEO  
Humane Canada

Colin Saravanamuttoo, ED  
World Animal Protection

## FW: SPCA IN for review please

---

**From:** Boelens, Robert GCPE:EX <Robert.Boelens@gov.bc.ca>  
**To:** Lalani, Arif AFF:EX <Arif.Lalani@gov.bc.ca>, Ethier, Tom AFF:EX <Tom.Ethier@gov.bc.ca>  
**Cc:** McGuire, Jennifer AFF:EX <Jennifer.Mcguire@gov.bc.ca>, Lyttle, Shawna AFF:EX <Shawna.Lyttle@gov.bc.ca>, Norton, Chris AFF:EX <Chris.Norton@gov.bc.ca>, Last, Gavin AFF:EX <Gavin.Last@gov.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** June 25, 2021 4:13:19 PM PDT  
**Attachments:** IN\_SPCA letter to BCCA June 21 DRAFT (GGM).docx

Hi – we've put together the attached IN re: the SPCA correspondence with farming orgs. It's fairly high level but please let me know your thoughts and comments. I understand there may be a meeting set for early next week and the contents could be updated, but would like to offer HQ and MO something for the weekend.

---

**From:** Anderson, Arlene AFF:EX <Arlene.Anderson@gov.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** June 25, 2021 4:03 PM  
**To:** Boelens, Robert GCPE:EX <Robert.Boelens@gov.bc.ca>; Todosichuk, Ardice AFF:EX <Ardice.Todosichuk@gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** RE: SPCA IN for review please - early pm please

Hi Rob,

Our solicitor made the attached edits.

A

---

**From:** Boelens, Robert GCPE:EX <Robert.Boelens@gov.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** June 25, 2021 11:53 AM  
**To:** Anderson, Arlene AFF:EX <Arlene.Anderson@gov.bc.ca>; Todosichuk, Ardice AFF:EX <Ardice.Todosichuk@gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** RE: SPCA IN for review please - early pm please

Okay, thanks for the update, let me know what you hear

---

**From:** Anderson, Arlene AFF:EX <Arlene.Anderson@gov.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** June 25, 2021 11:52 AM  
**To:** Boelens, Robert GCPE:EX <Robert.Boelens@gov.bc.ca>; Todosichuk, Ardice AFF:EX <Ardice.Todosichuk@gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** RE: SPCA IN for review please - early pm please

Hi Robert,

I have concerns with BCSPCA's unannounced inspections, which are not usually permitted. Inspections are usually pre-arranged and done during normal business hours. I would like to check with legal counsel to inform our response.

---

**From:** Boelens, Robert GCPE:EX <Robert.Boelens@gov.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** June 25, 2021 11:49 AM  
**To:** Anderson, Arlene AFF:EX <Arlene.Anderson@gov.bc.ca>; Todosichuk, Ardice AFF:EX <Ardice.Todosichuk@gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** SPCA IN for review please - early pm please

Hi! Hoping you can look over the attached IN relatively quickly please.

Robert Boelens

Government Communications and Public Engagement  
Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries  
250 356-1674  
[Robert.Boelens@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Robert.Boelens@gov.bc.ca)

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s.13

## FW: BC SPCA | Farm Compliance Inspections

From: Ethier, Tom AFF:EX <Tom.Ethier@gov.bc.ca>  
To: McGuire, Jennifer AFF:EX <Jennifer.Mcguire@gov.bc.ca>, Lalani, Arif AFF:EX <Arif.Lalani@gov.bc.ca>  
Sent: June 28, 2021 8:49:11 AM PDT  
Attachments: 2021 06 23 - BC SPCA Section 15.1.pdf, 2021 06 22 Letter to BC Dairy association.pdf

---

**From:** Alison Cuffley <acuffley@spca.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** June 23, 2021 11:22 AM  
**To:** Minister, AFF AFF:EX <AFF.Minister@gov.bc.ca>  
**Cc:** Ethier, Tom AFF:EX <Tom.Ethier@gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** BC SPCA | Farm Compliance Inspections

**[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.**

Good afternoon,

Please find attached a letter from Marcie Moriarity, Chief Prevention and Enforcement Officer, regarding upcoming farm compliance inspections as well as an example letter to the B.C. Dairy Association.

Kind regards, Alison

---

**Alison Cuffley**

*She/her/they/them*

**Officer, Government Relations**

**BC SPCA**

1245 E 7th Ave

Vancouver, BC

V5T 1R1

604-647-1321

[acuffley@spca.bc.ca](mailto:acuffley@spca.bc.ca) • [spca.bc.ca](http://spca.bc.ca)

Animal Cruelty and Wildlife Hotline: 1.855.622.7722

*Respectfully acknowledging that I work on, and this email was sent from, the unceded traditional territory of the downriver hən̓q̓əmin̓əm̓ speaking peoples - ,xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), and səlilwətaʔ (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations, and the Skwxwú7mesh-ulh Sníchim speaking peoples - Skwxwú7mesh Uxwumixw (Squamish) Nation whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day.*

*OUR MISSION: To protect and enhance the quality of life for domestic, farm and wild animals in British Columbia.*

***The BC SPCA is a not-for-profit organization reliant on donations from the public. Charitable Tax # BN 11881 9036 RR0001***

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## FW: BC SPCA | Farm Compliance Inspections 2

From: Ethier, Tom AFF:EX <Tom.Ethier@gov.bc.ca>  
To: Lalani, Arif AFF:EX <Arif.Lalani@gov.bc.ca>, McGuire, Jennifer AFF:EX <Jennifer.Mcguire@gov.bc.ca>  
Sent: June 28, 2021 8:49:11 AM PDT  
Attachments: 2021 06 23 - BC SPCA Section 15.1.pdf, 2021 06 22 Letter to BC Dairy association.pdf

**From:** Alison Cuffley <acuffley@spca.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** June 23, 2021 11:22 AM  
**To:** Minister, AFF AFF:EX <AFF.Minister@gov.bc.ca>  
**Cc:** Ethier, Tom AFF:EX <Tom.Ethier@gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** BC SPCA | Farm Compliance Inspections

**[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.**

Good afternoon,  
Please find attached a letter from Marcie Moriarity, Chief Prevention and Enforcement Officer, regarding upcoming farm compliance inspections as well as an example letter to the B.C. Dairy Association.  
Kind regards, Alison

---

**Alison Cuffley**

*She/her/they/them*

**Officer, Government Relations**

**BC SPCA**

1245 E 7th Ave

Vancouver, BC

V5T 1R1

604-647-1321

[acuffley@spca.bc.ca](mailto:acuffley@spca.bc.ca) • [spca.bc.ca](http://spca.bc.ca)

Animal Cruelty and Wildlife Hotline: 1.855.622.7722

*Respectfully acknowledging that I work on, and this email was sent from, the unceded traditional territory of the downriver hañqamiñam speaking peoples - ,xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), and səliłwətaʔt (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations, and the Skwxwú7mesh-ulh Sníchim speaking peoples - Skwxwú7mesh Uxwumixw (Squamish) Nation whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day.*

*OUR MISSION: To protect and enhance the quality of life for domestic, farm and wild animals in British Columbia.*

***The BC SPCA is a not-for-profit organization reliant on donations from the public. Charitable Tax # BN 11881 9036 RR0001***

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s.13 ; s.14

Page 044 of 178

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.14

## Fwd: SPCA Letter of Response

---

From: Lalani, Arif AFF:EX <Arif.Lalani@gov.bc.ca>  
To: Ethier, Tom AFF:EX <Tom.Ethier@gov.bc.ca>, McGuire, Jennifer AFF:EX <Jennifer.Mcguire@gov.bc.ca>  
Sent: June 30, 2021 5:36:35 PM PDT  
Attachments: 2021-06-30 Letter to Shawn Eccles - BC SPCA.pdf

**Arif Lalani** | ADM | Agriculture Resource Division | Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Jeremy Dunn <jdunn@bcdairy.ca>  
**Date:** June 30, 2021 at 5:34:56 PM PDT  
**To:** "Lalani, Arif AFF:EX" <Arif.Lalani@gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject: Fwd: SPCA Letter of Response**

**[EXTERNAL]** This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.

June 30, 2021

**Shawn Eccles, Senior Manager, Cruelty Investigations**

British Columbia Society for the Prevention  
of Cruelty to Animals (BC SPCA)  
PO Box 8000 – 280  
Abbotsford, B.C. V2S 6H1  
Sent via email: [seccles@spca.bc.ca](mailto:seccles@spca.bc.ca)

Dear Mr. Eccles:

**Subject: The BC SPCA's intention to begin unannounced on-farm inspections**

---

Within the last week, some of BC Agriculture Council's livestock association members and affiliated industry organizations received letters sent by your organization notifying them of the BC SPCA's intention to begin unannounced proactive inspections of regulated activities. Animal care is a priority for our livestock members, who seek to continuously refine and advance on-farm standards. As such, our members welcome the opportunity to engage with the BC SPCA on their pilot proactive inspection initiative.

To support the success of this initiative, BC Agriculture Council (BCAC) is reaching out on behalf of the undersigned organizations to better understand the BC SPCA's plans for implementation. Farmers recognize their responsibility to be transparent and accountable in the way they operate and to respond to community expectations around important issues.

To demonstrate our shared commitment to standards of care, we would like to offer our collective time and resources to assist with your efforts to ensure an informed, robust, and useful outcome. In that regard, we would like to organize a meeting with the undersigned organizations, the BC SPCA, and the BC Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries to ensure that all parties have a clear understanding of the inspection process **prior to any inspections occurring**. Industry representatives are willing to meet as soon as next week if needed.

We are reviewing the request from the BC SPCA for farm information with legal counsel to ensure that we are following the appropriate privacy legislation and will respond as appropriate as soon as this has been confirmed.

Thank you in advance for your engagement to ensure successful outcomes for this pilot initiative. Our members fully support the need for an accountable regulatory process to ensure animals are cared for appropriately.

Yours Truly,

Copyright

cc: Honourable Lana Popham, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries

***Who We Are:** BC Agriculture Council provides leadership in representing, promoting, and advocating the collective interests of B.C. farmers and ranchers. The Council fosters cooperation and a collective response to matters affecting the future of agriculture in the province and facilitates programs and service delivery that benefit the industry.*

## follow up meeting with the BC SPCA

---

From : McGuire, Jennifer AFF:EX <Jennifer.Mcguire@gov.bc.ca>  
To: Norton, Chris AFF:EX <Chris.Norton@gov.bc.ca>  
Cc: Lalani, Arif AFF:EX <Arif.Lalani@gov.bc.ca>, Zachary, Dawnae AFF:EX <Dawnae.Zachary@gov.bc.ca>  
Sent: July 2, 2021 10:25:25 AM PDT

Hi,  
Can you pls reach out to the BC SPCA and schedule a call with Craig Daniells and Marcie Moriarty – for Arif and I...late Tuesday or Wed would be good. 30 min.  
Topic: follow-up discussion re: commercial farm compliance inspections  
thanks

*Jennifer McGuire, P.Ag.*  
Assistant Deputy Minister, Science Policy and Inspections Division  
Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries  
Ph: 778-698-8521 Cell: 250-361-5944

## FW: Meeting Request - Follow-up discussion Re: Commercial farm compliance inspections.

---

From: Norton, Chris AFF:EX <Chris.Norton@gov.bc.ca>  
To: McGuire, Jennifer AFF:EX <Jennifer.Mcguire@gov.bc.ca>  
Cc: Jonson, Byron AFF:EX <Byron.Jonson@gov.bc.ca>  
Sent: July 5, 2021 9:46:36 AM PDT

Good morning,

This meeting with Craig Daniell and Marcie Moriarty is now confirmed for Wednesday at 9:30am.

Just confirming that there is no agenda or list of questions for this meeting and just a follow-up discussion only?

**Chris Norton**

**Executive Administrative Assistant**

Science, Policy and Inspection Division | Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries

☎ (c) (236) 478-1998 | ✉ [chris.norton@gov.bc.ca](mailto:chris.norton@gov.bc.ca)

🌐 Please consider the environment before printing

*I respectfully acknowledge that I work in the traditional territory of the Lekwungen people.*

*This includes the Songhees & Esquimalt First Nations whose historical relationship with the land continues to this day.*

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---

**From:** Amanda Frith <[afirth@spca.bc.ca](mailto:afirth@spca.bc.ca)>

**Sent:** July 5, 2021 9:12 AM

**To:** Norton, Chris AFF:EX <Chris.Norton@gov.bc.ca>

**Subject:** RE: Meeting Request - Follow-up discussion Re: Commercial farm compliance inspections.

**[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.**

Good morning,

I have highlighted the times that work for their schedules below.

Could you please provide me with an agenda and/or a list of questions in preparation for the meeting?

Many thanks,

Amanda Frith

Executive Assistant to Craig Daniell, CEO

**BC SPCA**

---

**From:** Norton, Chris AFF:EX [<mailto:Chris.Norton@gov.bc.ca>]

**Sent:** July 2, 2021 10:58 AM

**To:** Amanda Frith <[afirth@spca.bc.ca](mailto:afirth@spca.bc.ca)>

**Subject:** Meeting Request - Follow-up discussion Re: Commercial farm compliance inspections.

Dear Amanda,

Jennifer McGuire, and A/ADM, Byron Jonson are hoping to speak with Craig Daniell and Marcie Moriarty sometime late Tuesday or early Wednesday.



Topic: Follow-up discussion Re: Commercial farm compliance inspections.

They are currently available to meet for 30 minutes during the following times:

July 6:

- 4:00pm-5:00pm

July 7:

- 8:30am-9:00am
- 9:30am-10:00am
- 11:00am-12:00pm

Please highlight all of the above times that might be suitable for their schedules and I will issue a meeting invite accordingly.

If none of the above times are suitable, please advise and I will seek to provide some additional options.

I look forward to hearing from you and assisting to schedule this meeting.

Thank you.

**Chris Norton**

**Executive Administrative Assistant**

Science, Policy and Inspection Division | Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries

☎ (c) (236) 478-1998 | ✉ [chris.norton@gov.bc.ca](mailto:chris.norton@gov.bc.ca)

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*This includes the Songhees & Esquimalt First Nations whose historical relationship with the land continues to this day.*

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## RE: BC SPCA's intention to begin unannounced on-farm inspections

From: Shawn Eccles <seccles@spca.bc.ca>  
To: Reg Ens <rens@bcac.ca>  
Cc: agr.minister@gov.bc.ca, Minister, AFF AFF:EX <AFF.Minister@gov.bc.ca>  
Sent: July 6, 2021 9:13:44 AM PDT  
Attachments: image002.jpg, BCAC Response July 6, 2021.docx

**[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.**

Good day Mr. Ens,  
Please find attached our letter of response to your request for a meeting, I look forward to your response,  
Regards  
Shawn

**Shawn Eccles**

(He/Him)

**Senior Manager, Cruelty Investigations**

**BC SPCA**

1245 East 7th Avenue

Vancouver BC V5T 1R1

604.575.2249

1.800.665.1868 • [seccles@spca.bc.ca](mailto:seccles@spca.bc.ca) • [spca.bc.ca](http://spca.bc.ca)

Animal Cruelty and Wildlife Hotline 1-855-622-7722

*Respectfully acknowledging that I work on, and this email was sent from, the unceded traditional territory of the Kwantlen, Semiahmoo, s̓c̓awaθ̓an məsteyəxʷ (Tsawwassen), Katzie, Kwantlen, Kwikwetlem, and Qayqayt First Nations, as well as numerous Stó:lō First Nations whose historical relationships to the land continues today.  
OUR MISSION: To protect and enhance the quality of life for domestic, farm and wild animals in British Columbia.*

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---

**From:** Reg Ens <rens@bcac.ca>

**Sent:** June 30, 2021 3:42 PM

**To:** Shawn Eccles <seccles@spca.bc.ca>

**Cc:** AGR.Minister@gov.bc.ca

**Subject:** BC SPCA's intention to begin unannounced on-farm inspections

Good afternoon Mr. Eccles

Please find attached a letter from the BC Agriculture Council's livestock association members and affiliated industry organizations in response to the letter sent to them last week by your organization. We look forward to meeting with your team to work through the details in this process.

Please contact me to schedule a suitable time to meet.

Reg Ens, P. Ag.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

P: 604 854 4454 | TF: 1 866 522 3447

[www.bcac.ca](http://www.bcac.ca)



**Caution:** This email originated from outside of the BC SPCA. Do not click links or attachments unless you recognize the sender.

Reg Ens, P. Ag.  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

P: 604 854 4454 | TF: 1 866 522 3447

[www.bcac.ca](http://www.bcac.ca)



**WALI**  
Western Agriculture  
Labour Initiative

July 6, 2021

Reg Ens, Executive Director  
BC Agriculture Council (BCAC)  
Unit 1 – 2650 Progressive Way  
Abbotsford, BC V2T 6H9  
Sent via email: [rens@bcac.ca](mailto:rens@bcac.ca)

We are in receipt of your letter regarding the BC SPCA's intention to conduct unannounced inspections in accordance with the Prevention of Cruelty to Animal Act.

The BC SPCA welcomes the opportunity to meet with BCAC member representatives in a collegial manner in order to ensure an informed, robust and useful outcome of this initiative, to that end the BC SPCA respectfully requests:

- The name of each member representative and their respective association
- A proposed agenda of items to be discussed, and
- In order to properly prepare responses a list of specific questions or concerns

Sincerely



Shawn Eccles  
Senior Manager, Cruelty Investigations  
BCSPCA

## meeting to schedule

---

From: McGuire, Jennifer AFF:EX <Jennifer.Mcguire@gov.bc.ca>  
To: Norton, Chris AFF:EX <Chris.Norton@gov.bc.ca>  
Cc: Evers, Charlene AFF:EX <Charlene.Evers@gov.bc.ca>  
Sent: July 8, 2021 2:08:29 PM PDT

Hi,  
Can you pls contact Reg Ens at BCAC to set up a meeting as requested with commodity board chairs for a few commodity groups. Topic is BCAC wishes to speak with AFF re: SPCA proposed commercial inspections.  
45 min

If Tom is back – ideally he is available to attend – if not – it is me and Arif/Byron.  
thanks

*Jennifer McGuire, P.Ag.*  
Assistant Deputy Minister, Science Policy and Inspections Division  
Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries  
Ph: 778-698-8521 Cell: 250-361-5944

## RE: Info for MO needed - SPCA letters to associations

---

From: McGuire, Jennifer AFF:EX <Jennifer.Mcguire@gov.bc.ca>  
To: Cotton, Brian GCPE:EX <Brian.Cotton@gov.bc.ca>  
Cc: Lalani, Arif AFF:EX <Arif.Lalani@gov.bc.ca>, Jonson, Byron AFF:EX <Byron.Jonson@gov.bc.ca>, Townsend, Dave H GCPE:EX <Dave.H.Townsend@gov.bc.ca>  
Sent: July 12, 2021 2:08:47 PM PDT  
Attachments: IN\_SPCA letter to BCCA June 21 DRAFTrev.docx  
Updated with recent info

We are aware that as of July 7 – all but two (turkey and broilers groups) have replied to the SPCA.

---

**From:** Cotton, Brian GCPE:EX <Brian.Cotton@gov.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** July 12, 2021 1:31 PM  
**To:** McGuire, Jennifer AFF:EX <Jennifer.Mcguire@gov.bc.ca>; Lalani, Arif AFF:EX <Arif.Lalani@gov.bc.ca>  
**Cc:** Townsend, Dave H GCPE:EX <Dave.H.Townsend@gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** Info for MO needed - SPCA letters to associations

Hi Jenn/Arif,

Forgive me as I'm not sure who this issue resides but Sam is looking for an update to the attached issues note in terms of both KMs and background. Have associations responded to the SPCA yet? Do we have anything additional to add to this note? MLA Dykeman is looking for some info asap today.

Thank you,  
Brian Cotton  
Communications Director  
Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries  
Phone: (250) 387-9618  
Cell: (250) 818-4233

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s.13

## meeting with SPCA - Marcie Moriarty and Craig Daniell

---

From: McGuire, Jennifer AFF:EX <Jennifer.Mcguire@gov.bc.ca>  
To: Evers, Charlene AFF:EX <Charlene.Evers@gov.bc.ca>  
Cc: Norton, Chris AFF:EX <Chris.Norton@gov.bc.ca>  
Sent: July 12, 2021 2:11:11 PM PDT

Hi,

Hoping you could reach out to Marcie and Craig to see if they are available for a follow-up meeting re: commercial farm inspections?

Pls include Byron Jonson and myself...ideally end of the week – 30 min.  
thanks

*Jennifer McGuire, P.Ag.*

Assistant Deputy Minister, Science Policy and Inspections Division  
Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries  
Ph: 778-698-8521 Cell: 250-361-5944



## **RE: Info for MO needed - SPCA letters to associations**

---

From: McGuire, Jennifer AFF:EX <Jennifer.Mcguire@gov.bc.ca>  
To: Jonson, Byron AFF:EX <Byron.Jonson@gov.bc.ca>  
Sent: July 12, 2021 3:02:38 PM PDT  
Ok thanks

---

**From:** Jonson, Byron AFF:EX <Byron.Jonson@gov.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** July 12, 2021 2:28 PM  
**To:** McGuire, Jennifer AFF:EX <Jennifer.Mcguire@gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** RE: Info for MO needed - SPCA letters to associations

Harvey said they ( poultry and turkeys) had understood that BCCA was responding on behalf all so a direct reply was not made

---

**From:** McGuire, Jennifer AFF:EX <Jennifer.Mcguire@gov.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** July 12, 2021 2:09 PM  
**To:** Cotton, Brian GCPE:EX <Brian.Cotton@gov.bc.ca>  
**Cc:** Townsend, Dave H GCPE:EX <Dave.H.Townsend@gov.bc.ca>; Lalani, Arif AFF:EX <Arif.Lalani@gov.bc.ca>; Jonson, Byron AFF:EX <Byron.Jonson@gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** RE: Info for MO needed - SPCA letters to associations

Updated with recent info

We are aware that as of July 7 – all but two (turkey and broilers groups) have replied to the SPCA.

---

**From:** Cotton, Brian GCPE:EX <Brian.Cotton@gov.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** July 12, 2021 1:31 PM  
**To:** McGuire, Jennifer AFF:EX <Jennifer.Mcguire@gov.bc.ca>; Lalani, Arif AFF:EX <Arif.Lalani@gov.bc.ca>  
**Cc:** Townsend, Dave H GCPE:EX <Dave.H.Townsend@gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** Info for MO needed - SPCA letters to associations

Hi Jenn/Arif,

Forgive me as I'm not sure who this issue resides but Sam is looking for an update to the attached issues note in terms of both KMs and background. Have associations responded to the SPCA yet? Do we have anything additional to add to this note? MLA Dykeman is looking for some info asap today.

Thank you,  
Brian Cotton  
Communications Director  
Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries  
Phone: (250) 387-9618  
Cell: (250) 818-4233

## FW: Response to meeting inquiry

---

From: McGuire, Jennifer AFF:EX <Jennifer.Mcguire@gov.bc.ca>  
To: Jonson, Byron AFF:EX <Byron.Jonson@gov.bc.ca>  
Sent: July 19, 2021 10:08:31 AM PDT  
Attachments: image001.png, 2021-07-16 Letter to Shawn Eccles BC SPCA.pdf  
FYI

---

**From:** Reg Ens <rens@bcac.ca>  
**Sent:** July 16, 2021 5:31 PM  
**To:** Shawn Eccles <seccles@spca.bc.ca>; mmoriarty@spca.bc.ca  
**Cc:** McGuire, Jennifer AFF:EX <Jennifer.Mcguire@gov.bc.ca>; Danielle Synotte <dsynotte@bcac.ca>  
**Subject:** Response to meeting inquiry

**[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.**

Afternoon Shawn & Marcie

Thank you for being patient with our response.<sup>s.22</sup>  
Danielle Synotte during my absence.

Please contact

Reg Ens, P. Ag.  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

P: 604 854 4454 | TF: 1 866 522 3447  
[www.bcac.ca](http://www.bcac.ca)



Reg Ens, P. Ag.  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

P: 604 854 4454 | TF: 1 866 522 3447

[www.bcac.ca](http://www.bcac.ca)



**WALI**  
Western Agriculture  
Labour Initiative

July 16, 2021

**Shawn Eccles, Senior Manager, Cruelty Investigations**

British Columbia Society for the Prevention  
of Cruelty to Animals (BC SPCA)  
PO Box 8000 – 280  
Abbotsford, B.C. V2S 6H1  
Sent via email: [seccles@spca.bc.ca](mailto:seccles@spca.bc.ca)

Dear Mr. Eccles:

**Subject: Response to meeting inquiry**

Thank you for your letter confirming that the BC SPCA welcomes a meeting with the BC Agriculture Council (BCAC) and BCAC livestock member representatives. Like the BC SPCA, we have been in contact with the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries and suggest that we open our discussions to include ministry staff as well.

We seek to better understand the objectives and process of the inspections initiative you propose and how we can best communicate these to our producers to ensure that we achieve informed and useful outcomes. Because producers place a high priority on animal care and on ensuring the public also has confidence in on-farm animal care, we are committed to our animal care programs and the processes that are in place to continuously improve these standards.

Our sectors are very interested in working towards a shared understanding of the purpose of the proposed BC SPCA inspections process and a mutual set of desired outcomes that are fair, accountable, and effective.

**Proposed meeting agenda:**

1. Rationale for the change in approach and desired outcomes
2. Proposed approach to the inspection process (scope and protocols)
3. Understanding of the oversight, accountability, and transparency of the inspection process
4. Funding mechanism – what is the source of funding to support the inspections?

**Meeting participants:**

Names of actual participants in the meeting may vary depending on availability when the meeting is scheduled. The following list are possible participants:

<b>Organization</b>	<b>Likely Participant(s)</b>
BC Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries	TBC
BC Chicken Marketing Board	Harvey Sasaki (Chair) Bill Vanderspek (GM)
BC Broiler Hatching Egg Commission	Jim Collins (Chair)

	Stephanie Nelson (GM)
BC Turkey Marketing Board	Michel Benoit (GM)
BC Egg Marketing Board	Gunta Vitins (Chair) Katie Lowe (GM)
BC Poultry Association	Steve Heppell (Chair) Christine Koch (GM)
BC Dairy Association	Jeremy Dunn (GM) Vicky Crites
Horse Council BC	Kelly Coughlin (GM)
BC Pork Producers Association	Jack Dewitt (Chair)
BC Hog Marketing Commission	Derek Sturko (Chair) Christine Koch (GM)
BC Cattlemen's Association	Kevin Boon (GM) Elain Stovin (AGM)
BC Farm Industry Review Board	Kirsten Pedersen (ED) Wanda Gorsuch
BC Agriculture Council	Reg Ens (ED) Danielle Synotte (ED)

Thank you again for the BC SPCA's engagement on these agenda items. Please let us know if you have additional items that could be included. Context and clarity offered by the BC SPCA regarding the above items will enable our livestock and poultry members to equip their farmer members with the necessary information to ensure successful inspections. We look forward to meeting with you at your earliest convenience.

Yours Truly,

Copyright

cc: Marcie Moriarty, Chief Prevention and Enforcement Officer, BC SPCA  
Jennifer McGuire, Assistant Deputy Minister, BC Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries

## **DRAFT - AFF & SPCA agreement for AFF observer during inspections**

---

From: McGuire, Jennifer AFF:EX <Jennifer.Mcguire@gov.bc.ca>  
To: mmoriarty@spca.bc.ca  
Cc: Jonson, Byron AFF:EX <Byron.Jonson@gov.bc.ca>, Norton, Chris AFF:EX <Chris.Norton@gov.bc.ca>  
Sent: July 22, 2021 9:07:55 AM PDT  
Attachments: 2021-07-21 draft SPCA agreement for observer status.docx

Hi Marcie,

Following our call last week, please find attached a draft agreement for AFF staff to participate in the inspections as Observers.

I am also curious about the timing of the inspections – given the state of emergency due to wildfires – AFF and the province are shifting resources to support communities during these very difficult times. Wondering if the SPCA is considering a rescheduling of inspections due to the wildfire situation.

Looking forward to your comments.

Thank you

*Jennifer McGuire, P.Ag.*

Assistant Deputy Minister, Science Policy and Inspections Division

Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries

Ph: 778-698-8521 Cell: 250-361-5944

Page 065 of 178

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s.13

## Re: DRAFT - AFF & SPCA agreement for AFF observer during inspections

From: Marcie Moriarty <mmoriarty@spca.bc.ca>  
To: McGuire, Jennifer AFF:EX <Jennifer.Mcguire@gov.bc.ca>  
Cc: Norton, Chris AFF:EX <Chris.Norton@gov.bc.ca>, Jonson, Byron AFF:EX <Byron.Jonson@gov.bc.ca>, Shawn Eccles <seccles@spca.bc.ca>  
Sent: July 23, 2021 11:47:46 AM PDT

**[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.**

Hi Jennifer,

I am having a meeting with the team on Monday and will be able to get back to you after that with any updates or any comments on the proposed agreement. Definitely rest assured that fire response will take priority and we likely will have to push back our timelines for any inspections that were planned for the interior/central region. It is likely that we would proceed with inspections on farms located on Vancouver Island and the lower mainland as long as the fire situation in those areas remains low.

Have a nice weekend,

Marcie

**Marcie Moriarty**

(She/Her)

**Chief Prevention and Enforcement Officer**

**and guardian to Pip and Zorro**

**BC SPCA**

1245 East 7th Avenue

Vancouver BC V5T 1R1

604-647-1318

1-855-622-7722 • mmoriarty@spca.bc.ca • [spca.bc.ca](http://spca.bc.ca)

Animal Cruelty and Wildlife Hotline: 1.855.622.7722

*Respectfully acknowledging that I work on, and this email was sent from, the unceded traditional territory of the downriver hən̓q̓əmin̓əm̓ speaking peoples - ,xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), and səliłwətaʔt̓ (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations, and the Skwxwú7mesh-ulh Sníchim speaking peoples - Skwxwú7mesh Uxwumixw (Squamish) Nation whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day.*

OUR MISSION: To protect and enhance the quality of life for domestic, farm and wild animals in British Columbia.

The BC SPCA is a not-for-profit organization reliant on donations from the public. Charitable Tax # BN 11881 9036 RR0001

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**From:** McGuire, Jennifer AFF:EX <Jennifer.Mcguire@gov.bc.ca>

**Sent:** July 22, 2021 9:07 AM

**To:** Marcie Moriarty <mmoriarty@spca.bc.ca>

**Cc:** Norton, Chris AFF:EX <Chris.Norton@gov.bc.ca>; Jonson, Byron AFF:EX <Byron.Jonson@gov.bc.ca>

**Subject:** DRAFT - AFF & SPCA agreement for AFF observer during inspections

Hi Marcie,

Following our call last week, please find attached a draft agreement for AFF staff to participate in the inspections as Observers.

I am also curious about the timing of the inspections – given the state of emergency due to wildfires – AFF and the province are shifting resources to support communities during these very difficult times. Wondering if the SPCA is considering a rescheduling of inspections due to the wildfire situation.

Looking forward to your comments.

Thank you



*Jennifer McGuire, P.Ag.*

Assistant Deputy Minister, Science Policy and Inspections Division

Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries

Ph: 778-698-8521 Cell: 250-361-5944

**Caution:** This email originated from outside of the BC SPCA. Do not click links or attachments unless you recognize the sender.

## Re: DRAFT - AFF & SPCA agreement for AFF observer during inspections

From: Marcie Moriarty <mmoriarty@spca.bc.ca>  
To: McGuire, Jennifer AFF:EX <Jennifer.Mcguire@gov.bc.ca>  
Cc: Norton, Chris AFF:EX <Chris.Norton@gov.bc.ca>, Jonson, Byron AFF:EX <Byron.Jonson@gov.bc.ca>, Shawn Eccles <seccles@spca.bc.ca>, Kaley Pugh <kpugh@spca.bc.ca>  
Sent: July 26, 2021 4:02:48 PM PDT  
Attachments: draft SPCA agreement for observer status (BC SPCA comments).docx

**[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.**

Hi Jennifer,

I have now had a chance to review the document and please find attached suggested edits. We are hoping to have a meeting with BCAC within the next two weeks and it would be our intention to start inspections the week of August 9th in areas of the province that are in no way affected by the wildfire situation. Please let me know if you have any questions about the recommended edits.

Regards,

Marcie

**Marcie Moriarty**

(She/Her)

**Chief Prevention and Enforcement Officer**

**and guardian to Pip and Zorro**

**BC SPCA**

1245 East 7th Avenue

Vancouver BC V5T 1R1

604-647-1318

1-855-622-7722 • mmoriarty@spca.bc.ca • [spca.bc.ca](http://spca.bc.ca)

Animal Cruelty and Wildlife Hotline: 1.855.622.7722

*Respectfully acknowledging that I work on, and this email was sent from, the unceded traditional territory of the downriver hən̓q̓əmin̓əm̓ speaking peoples - ,xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), and səliłwətaʔt (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations, and the Skwxwú7mesh-ulh Sníchim speaking peoples - Skwxwú7mesh Uxwumixw (Squamish) Nation whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day.*

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**From:** McGuire, Jennifer AFF:EX <Jennifer.Mcguire@gov.bc.ca>

**Sent:** July 22, 2021 9:07 AM

**To:** Marcie Moriarty <mmoriarty@spca.bc.ca>

**Cc:** Norton, Chris AFF:EX <Chris.Norton@gov.bc.ca>; Jonson, Byron AFF:EX <Byron.Jonson@gov.bc.ca>

**Subject:** DRAFT - AFF & SPCA agreement for AFF observer during inspections

Hi Marcie,

Following our call last week, please find attached a draft agreement for AFF staff to participate in the inspections as Observers.

I am also curious about the timing of the inspections – given the state of emergency due to wildfires – AFF and the province are shifting resources to support communities during these very difficult times. Wondering if the SPCA is considering a rescheduling of inspections due to the wildfire situation.

Looking forward to your comments.

Thank you

*Jennifer McGuire, P.Ag.*

Assistant Deputy Minister, Science Policy and Inspections Division

Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries

Ph: 778-698-8521 Cell: 250-361-5944

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Page 070 of 178 to/à Page 071 of 178

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.13

## RE: Response to meeting inquiry

---

From: Danielle Synotte <dsynotte@bcac.ca>  
To: Shawn Eccles <seccles@spca.bc.ca>, Marcie Moriarty <mmoriarty@spca.bc.ca>  
Cc: McGuire, Jennifer ENV:EX <jennifer.mcguire@gov.bc.ca>, Reg Ens <rens@bcac.ca>, McGuire, Jennifer AFF:EX <Jennifer.Mcguire@gov.bc.ca>  
Sent: July 27, 2021 11:14:35 AM PDT  
Attachments: image001.png

**[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.**

Hello Shawn,

Danielle here from BCAC and filling in for Reg at the moment.

Update on the proposed meeting. Looking like **8:30am -10am on Wednesday, August 4<sup>th</sup>** is our new best time. Hoping that working for your group.

If we can plan for that at this point we would greatly appreciate it.

Thank you,

Danielle

---

**From:** Reg Ens <rens@bcac.ca>  
**Sent:** July 27, 2021 7:42 AM  
**To:** Shawn Eccles <seccles@spca.bc.ca>; Marcie Moriarty <mmoriarty@spca.bc.ca>  
**Cc:** McGuire, Jennifer ENV:EX <jennifer.mcguire@gov.bc.ca>; Danielle Synotte <dsynotte@bcac.ca>  
**Subject:** RE: Response to meeting inquiry

Morning Shawn

I'm still waiting for a few more responses, but Tuesday afternoon is looking like the best time so far. I'll confirm later in the week, but let's start planning for that.  
Reg

---

**From:** Shawn Eccles <seccles@spca.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** July 26, 2021 1:06 PM  
**To:** Reg Ens <rens@bcac.ca>; Marcie Moriarty <mmoriarty@spca.bc.ca>  
**Cc:** McGuire, Jennifer ENV:EX <jennifer.mcguire@gov.bc.ca>; Danielle Synotte <dsynotte@bcac.ca>  
**Subject:** RE: Response to meeting inquiry

Good afternoon Reg,

Thank you for your response, we have reviewed and are satisfied with the proposed agenda. We too are in a time crunch with respect to scheduling this meeting and can provide you with the following dates for a meeting:

- Thursday July 29<sup>th</sup> all day
- Friday July 30<sup>th</sup> all day,
- Tuesday Aug 3<sup>rd</sup> after 11:00 AM
- Wednesday August 4<sup>th</sup> all day

For our part we will have 5 participants, myself, Marcie Moriarty Chief Prevention and Enforcement Officer, Melissa Spears Manager Farm Animal Welfare, Kaley Pugh Regional Manager Cruelty Investigations and Alison Cuffley Government Relations Officer,

Hopefully we will be able to schedule something and look forward to our meeting,

Cheers!

Shawn

**Shawn Eccles**  
(He/Him)  
**Senior Manager, Cruelty Investigations**  
**BC SPCA**  
1245 East 7th Avenue  
Vancouver BC V5T 1R1  
604.575.2249  
1.800.665.1868 • [seccles@spca.bc.ca](mailto:seccles@spca.bc.ca) • [spca.bc.ca](http://spca.bc.ca)  
Animal Cruelty and Wildlife Hotline 1-855-622-7722

*Respectfully acknowledging that I work on, and this email was sent from, the unceded traditional territory of the Kwantlen, Semiahmoo, sc̓awaθən məsteyəxʷ (Tsawwassen), Katzie, Kwantlen, Kwikwetlem, and Qayqayt First Nations, as well as numerous Stó:lō First Nations whose historical relationships to the land continues today.*

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---

**From:** Reg Ens <[rens@bcac.ca](mailto:rens@bcac.ca)>  
**Sent:** July 16, 2021 5:31 PM  
**To:** Shawn Eccles <[seccles@spca.bc.ca](mailto:seccles@spca.bc.ca)>; Marcie Moriarty <[mmoriarty@spca.bc.ca](mailto:mmoriarty@spca.bc.ca)>  
**Cc:** McGuire, Jennifer ENV:EX <[jennifer.mcguire@gov.bc.ca](mailto:jennifer.mcguire@gov.bc.ca)>; Danielle Synotte <[dsynotte@bcac.ca](mailto:dsynotte@bcac.ca)>  
**Subject:** Response to meeting inquiry

Afternoon Shawn & Marcie

Thank you for being patient with our response.<sup>s.22</sup>  
Danielle Synotte during my absence.

Please contact

**Reg Ens, P. Ag.**  
**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

P: 604 854 4454 | TF: 1 866 522 3447  
[www.bcac.ca](http://www.bcac.ca)



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## BC Cattlemen's Association letter re BC SPCA

---

From: BC Cattlemen's Association <bccattle@cattlemen.bc.ca>  
To: agr.minister@gov.bc.ca, Minister, AFF AFF:EX <AFF.Minister@gov.bc.ca>  
Cc: Byron.Jonson@gov.bc.ca, Arif Lalani <arif.lalani@gov.bc.ca>, jennifer.mcguire@gov.bc.ca, Renee Ardill <ardillsranch@xplornet.com>, Cattlemen's Association <bccattle@cattlemen.bc.ca>, Lalani, Arif AFF:EX <Arif.Lalani@gov.bc.ca>, McGuire, Jennifer AFF:EX <Jennifer.Mcguire@gov.bc.ca>, Jonson, Byron AFF:EX <Byron.Jonson@gov.bc.ca>  
Sent: August 3, 2021 5:40:59 PM PDT  
Attachments: Ltr to Min Popham\_SPCA inspections & notification to producers\_Aug032021.pdf

**[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.**

Please see the attached letter from BC Cattlemen's Association President, Renee Ardill, regarding BC SPCA's intention to conduct unannounced inspections of farms and ranches.

Sent on behalf of Renee Ardill, BCCA President  
Thanks,  
Elaine

---

Elaine Stovin, Assistant General Manager  
BC Cattlemen's Association  
#4-10145 Dallas Dr., Kamloops, BC V2C 6T4  
Ph: 250-573-3611 / Fx: 250-573-5155  
[elaine@cattlemen.bc.ca](mailto:elaine@cattlemen.bc.ca)

*If you are receiving this email outside of your normal work hours, please feel free to read/respond at a more appropriate time.*



## BRITISH COLUMBIA CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION

*Representing the Beef Cattle Industry of British Columbia*

AGRI CENTRE - #4 - 10145 DALLAS DRIVE, KAMLOOPS, B.C. V2C 6T4 PHONE (250) 573-3611 FAX (250) 573-5155

August 3, 2021

Hon. Lana Popham,  
Minister of Agriculture, Food & Fisheries  
[AGR.Minister@gov.bc.ca](mailto:AGR.Minister@gov.bc.ca)

Our File #: 2021-025

Dear Minister Popham:

**RE: Notification to Producers of BC SPCA Inspections**

---

The BC Cattlemen's Association Board of Directors has received notice from the BC SPCA of their plan to conduct "unannounced proactive inspections of regulated activities."

The BCCA Board of Directors has strong views and concerns on this matter which our staff have conveyed to ADMs in recent meetings with other livestock associations.

In their letter, the BC SPCA has stated *"We respectfully request that you share this information with your members and inform them of their responsibility to allow BC SPCA inspectors access to their farm ..."*.

As Association President, I am writing to clearly state our objection to these inspections and the expectation that we notify ranchers of the BC SPCA's planned activities. It is our view that the responsibility to notify producers rests with the BC SPCA and yourself as Minister for authorizing this activity.

As this is not an industry-led initiative nor do we have the information to adequately answer producers' questions about these planned inspections, we urge the Minister to notify all livestock producers directly and swiftly on this matter. We urge you to be transparent with industry about how this came about, why it is necessary as well as why you support and authorize this activity.

Regards,

Renee Ardill,  
BCCA President

cc by email: Arif Lalani, ADM Business Development  
Jennifer McGuire, ADM Policy and Inspection  
Byron Johnson, Executive Director – Business Risk Management Branch



## **RE: DRAFT - AFF & SPCA agreement for AFF observer during inspections**

From: McGuire, Jennifer AFF:EX <Jennifer.Mcguire@gov.bc.ca>  
To: Shawn Eccles <seccles@spca.bc.ca>  
Cc: Marcie Moriarty <mmoriarty@spca.bc.ca>  
Sent: August 4, 2021 8:06:17 AM PDT  
Attachments: draft SPCA agreement for observer status ver 2.docx

Good Morning Shawn,

The edits to the document look fine. Attached is version 2 – there remain a couple of points to confirm. Then ready to sign the agreement.

Regarding the inspections next week – can you identify if the AFF staff person should be dispatched from Victoria, Nanaimo or elsewhere? Trying to ensure I have the observers in the right communities ready to participate on the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>.

Thank you

*Jennifer McGuire, P.Ag.*

Assistant Deputy Minister, Science Policy and Inspections Division  
Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries

Ph: 778-698-8521 Cell: 250-361-5944

---

**From:** Marcie Moriarty <mmoriarty@spca.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** August 3, 2021 3:55 PM  
**To:** McGuire, Jennifer AFF:EX <Jennifer.Mcguire@gov.bc.ca>  
**Cc:** Shawn Eccles <seccles@spca.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** Fw: DRAFT - AFF & SPCA agreement for AFF observer during inspections

**[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.**

Hi Jennifer,

I hope you had a nice long weekend. I am just following up on the below email<sup>s.22</sup> as of the end of today (I will still be at the meeting with BCAC tomorrow) and wanted to let you know to please send the updated agreement to Shawn Eccles, senior manager cruelty investigations, ([seccles@spca.bc.ca](mailto:seccles@spca.bc.ca)) as he will be your contact for this week. As mentioned, there is some urgency should the Ministry want to send a team member to the first two farms as we intend to begin inspections August 9th and 10th on the island. Shawn will follow up with you once the agreement is signed with the location of the farm and meeting details.

Thank you,  
Marcie

**Marcie Moriarty**

(She/Her)

**Chief Prevention and Enforcement Officer**

**and guardian to Pip and Zorro**

**BC SPCA**

1245 East 7th Avenue

Vancouver BC V5T 1R1

604-647-1318

1-855-622-7722 • [mmoriarty@spca.bc.ca](mailto:mmoriarty@spca.bc.ca) • [spca.bc.ca](http://spca.bc.ca)

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---

**From:** Marcie Moriarty <[mmoriarty@spca.bc.ca](mailto:mmoriarty@spca.bc.ca)>

**Sent:** July 26, 2021 4:02 PM

**To:** McGuire, Jennifer AFF:EX <[Jennifer.Mcguire@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Jennifer.Mcguire@gov.bc.ca)>

**Cc:** Norton, Chris AFF:EX <[Chris.Norton@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Chris.Norton@gov.bc.ca)>; Jonson, Byron AFF:EX <[Byron.Jonson@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Byron.Jonson@gov.bc.ca)>; Shawn Eccles <[seccles@spca.bc.ca](mailto:seccles@spca.bc.ca)>; Kaley Pugh <[kpugh@spca.bc.ca](mailto:kpugh@spca.bc.ca)>

**Subject:** Re: DRAFT - AFF & SPCA agreement for AFF observer during inspections

Hi Jennifer,

I have now had a chance to review the document and please find attached suggested edits. We are hoping to have a meeting with BCAC within the next two weeks and it would be our intention to start inspections the week of August 9th in areas of the province that are in no way affected by the wildfire situation.

Please let me know if you have any questions about the recommended edits.

Regards,

Marcie

**Marcie Moriarty**

(She/Her)

**Chief Prevention and Enforcement Officer**

**and guardian to Pip and Zorro**

## BC SPCA

1245 East 7th Avenue

Vancouver BC V5T 1R1

604-647-1318

1-855-622-7722 • [mmoriarty@spca.bc.ca](mailto:mmoriarty@spca.bc.ca) • [spca.bc.ca](http://spca.bc.ca)

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**From:** McGuire, Jennifer AFF:EX <[Jennifer.Mcguire@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Jennifer.Mcguire@gov.bc.ca)>

**Sent:** July 22, 2021 9:07 AM

**To:** Marcie Moriarty <[mmoriarty@spca.bc.ca](mailto:mmoriarty@spca.bc.ca)>

**Cc:** Norton, Chris AFF:EX <[Chris.Norton@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Chris.Norton@gov.bc.ca)>; Jonson, Byron AFF:EX <[Byron.Jonson@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Byron.Jonson@gov.bc.ca)>

**Subject:** DRAFT - AFF & SPCA agreement for AFF observer during inspections

Hi Marcie,

Following our call last week, please find attached a draft agreement for AFF staff to participate in the inspections as Observers.

I am also curious about the timing of the inspections – given the state of emergency due to wildfires – AFF and the province are shifting resources to support communities during these very difficult times. Wondering if the SPCA is considering a rescheduling of inspections due to the wildfire situation.

Looking forward to your comments.

Thank you

*Jennifer McGuire, P.Ag.*

Assistant Deputy Minister, Science Policy and Inspections Division

Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries

Ph: 778-698-8521 Cell: 250-361-5944

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s.13

## RE: SPCA Site Visits - AFF Observer

---

From: Lalani, Arif AFF:EX <Arif.Lalani@gov.bc.ca>  
To: McGuire, Jennifer AFF:EX <Jennifer.Mcguire@gov.bc.ca>  
Cc: Norton, Chris AFF:EX <Chris.Norton@gov.bc.ca>, Zachary, Dawnae AFF:EX <Dawnae.Zachary@gov.bc.ca>  
Sent: August 4, 2021 12:58:50 PM PDT

Absolutely

Arif Lalani | ADM | Agriculture Resource Division | Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries  
C 250.208.9902 | E [arif.lalani@gov.bc.ca](mailto:arif.lalani@gov.bc.ca)

---

**From:** McGuire, Jennifer AFF:EX <Jennifer.Mcguire@gov.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** August 4, 2021 12:58 PM  
**To:** Lalani, Arif AFF:EX <Arif.Lalani@gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** RE: SPCA Site Visits - AFF Observer

So can I call S.22 ? To confirm details?

---

**From:** Lalani, Arif AFF:EX <Arif.Lalani@gov.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** August 4, 2021 12:19 PM  
**To:** McGuire, Jennifer AFF:EX <Jennifer.Mcguire@gov.bc.ca>  
**Cc:** Norton, Chris AFF:EX <Chris.Norton@gov.bc.ca>; Zachary, Dawnae AFF:EX <Dawnae.Zachary@gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** FW: SPCA Site Visits - AFF Observer

Perfect. Less people. Jason is an LSO4. Mark's kind of right hand person.

Arif Lalani | ADM | Agriculture Resource Division | Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries  
C 250.208.9902 | E [arif.lalani@gov.bc.ca](mailto:arif.lalani@gov.bc.ca)

---

**From:** Raymond, Mark AFF:EX <Mark.Raymond@gov.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** August 4, 2021 12:06 PM  
**To:** Lalani, Arif AFF:EX <Arif.Lalani@gov.bc.ca>; Lussier, Jason AFF:EX <Jason.Lussier@gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** SPCA Site Visits - AFF Observer

Afternoon Arif,

Jason Lussier can attend and support as the AFF Observer for the SPCA site-visits on Monday and Tuesday next week. Jason is on A/L this week, but was planning on being in Victoria for next week – so he can make any Monday/Tuesday Island site visits work.

His work cell number is 604 226-7752

Mark Raymond, P. Ag, CCA  
Executive Director - Extension & Support Services Branch  
Agriculture Resource Division  
1767 Angus Campbell Road, Abbotsford - 778-666-0567

## RE: DRAFT - AFF & SPCA agreement for AFF observer during inspections

---

From: McGuire, Jennifer AFF:EX <Jennifer.Mcguire@gov.bc.ca>  
To: Shawn Eccles <seccles@spca.bc.ca>  
Cc: Marcie Moriarty <mmoriarty@spca.bc.ca>  
Sent: August 5, 2021 12:55:37 PM PDT  
Attachments: 2021-08-05 SPCA AFF Observer status agreement.pdf

Hello Shawn,

Please find attached the revised agreement (with dates) and signed.

Thank you for the general locations. I will ensure our observer is ready to go next week.

Jennifer

---

**From:** Shawn Eccles <seccles@spca.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** August 5, 2021 11:40 AM  
**To:** McGuire, Jennifer AFF:EX <Jennifer.Mcguire@gov.bc.ca>  
**Cc:** Marcie Moriarty <mmoriarty@spca.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** RE: DRAFT - AFF & SPCA agreement for AFF observer during inspections

**[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.**

Good morning Jennifer,

Not sure if Marcie responded to this email yesterday, if not perhaps the end date for the agreement should be November 30, 2021 and we can use today's date.

It looks like the farms we will be visiting next week will be in Chemainus and Duncan, I will provide further details later today or tomorrow once I obtain the addresses from Kaley,

Cheers!

Shawn

**Shawn Eccles**  
(He/Him)  
Senior Manager, Cruelty Investigations  
BC SPCA  
1245 East 7th Avenue  
Vancouver BC V5T 1R1  
604.575.2249  
1.800.665.1868 • [seccles@spca.bc.ca](mailto:seccles@spca.bc.ca) • [spca.bc.ca](http://spca.bc.ca)  
Animal Cruelty and Wildlife Hotline 1-855-622-7722

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**To:** Shawn Eccles <[seccles@spca.bc.ca](mailto:seccles@spca.bc.ca)>  
**Cc:** Marcie Moriarty <[mmoriarty@spca.bc.ca](mailto:mmoriarty@spca.bc.ca)>  
**Subject:** RE: DRAFT - AFF & SPCA agreement for AFF observer during inspections

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Thank you

*Jennifer McGuire, P.Ag.*  
Assistant Deputy Minister, Science Policy and Inspections Division  
Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries  
Ph: 778-698-8521 Cell: 250-361-5944

---

**From:** Marcie Moriarty <[mmoriarty@spca.bc.ca](mailto:mmoriarty@spca.bc.ca)>  
**Sent:** August 3, 2021 3:55 PM  
**To:** McGuire, Jennifer AFF:EX <[Jennifer.Mcguire@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Jennifer.Mcguire@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Cc:** Shawn Eccles <[seccles@spca.bc.ca](mailto:seccles@spca.bc.ca)>  
**Subject:** Fw: DRAFT - AFF & SPCA agreement for AFF observer during inspections

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Thank you,  
Marcie

**Marcie Moriarty**

(She/Her)

**Chief Prevention and Enforcement Officer**

**and guardian to Pip and Zorro**

**BC SPCA**

1245 East 7th Avenue

Vancouver BC V5T 1R1



604-647-1318

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**From:** Marcie Moriarty <[mmoriarty@spca.bc.ca](mailto:mmoriarty@spca.bc.ca)>

**Sent:** July 26, 2021 4:02 PM

**To:** McGuire, Jennifer AFF:EX <[Jennifer.Mcguire@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Jennifer.Mcguire@gov.bc.ca)>

**Cc:** Norton, Chris AFF:EX <[Chris.Norton@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Chris.Norton@gov.bc.ca)>; Jonson, Byron AFF:EX <[Byron.Jonson@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Byron.Jonson@gov.bc.ca)>; Shawn Eccles <[seccles@spca.bc.ca](mailto:seccles@spca.bc.ca)>; Kaley Pugh <[kpugh@spca.bc.ca](mailto:kpugh@spca.bc.ca)>

**Subject:** Re: DRAFT - AFF & SPCA agreement for AFF observer during inspections

Hi Jennifer,

I have now had a chance to review the document and please find attached suggested edits. We are hoping to have a meeting with BCAC within the next two weeks and it would be our intention to start inspections the week of August 9th in areas of the province that are in no way affected by the wildfire situation. Please let me know if you have any questions about the recommended edits.

Regards,

Marcie

**Marcie Moriarty**

(She/Her)

**Chief Prevention and Enforcement Officer**

**and guardian to Pip and Zorro**

**BC SPCA**

1245 East 7th Avenue

Vancouver BC V5T 1R1

604-647-1318

1-855-622-7722 • [mmoriarty@spca.bc.ca](mailto:mmoriarty@spca.bc.ca) • [spca.bc.ca](http://spca.bc.ca)

Animal Cruelty and Wildlife Hotline: 1.855.622.7722

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---

**From:** McGuire, Jennifer AFF:EX <[Jennifer.Mcguire@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Jennifer.Mcguire@gov.bc.ca)>

**Sent:** July 22, 2021 9:07 AM

**To:** Marcie Moriarty <[mmoriarty@spca.bc.ca](mailto:mmoriarty@spca.bc.ca)>

**Cc:** Norton, Chris AFF:EX <[Chris.Norton@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Chris.Norton@gov.bc.ca)>; Jonson, Byron AFF:EX <[Byron.Jonson@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Byron.Jonson@gov.bc.ca)>

**Subject:** DRAFT - AFF & SPCA agreement for AFF observer during inspections

Hi Marcie,

Following our call last week, please find attached a draft agreement for AFF staff to participate in the inspections as Observers.

I am also curious about the timing of the inspections – given the state of emergency due to wildfires – AFF and the province are shifting resources to support communities during these very difficult times. Wondering if the SPCA is considering a rescheduling of inspections due to the wildfire situation.

Looking forward to your comments.

Thank you

*Jennifer McGuire, P.Ag.*

Assistant Deputy Minister, Science Policy and Inspections Division  
Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries

Ph: 778-698-8521 Cell: 250-361-5944

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Page 088 of 178 to/à Page 089 of 178

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## BC SPCA Meeting with Agriculture Industry - On-Farm Inspections

From: Danielle Synotte <dsynotte@bcac.ca>  
To: Shawn Eccles <seccles@spca.bc.ca>, Marcie Moriarty <mmoriarty@spca.bc.ca>, McGuire, Jennifer ENV:EX <jennifer.mcguire@gov.bc.ca>, Kirsten.Pedersen@gov.bc.ca, Wanda.Gorsuch@gov.bc.ca, billvanderspek@bcchicken.ca, Christine Koch s.22 s.22 , Derek Sturko <dereksturko@innerharbourconsulting.com>, elaine@cattlemen.bc.ca, Gunta V <GuntaV@bcegg.com>, s.22 s.22 Jeremy Dunn <jdunn@bcdairy.ca>, jimcollins s.22 katiel@bcegg.com, Kelly Coughlin <industry@hcbc.ca>, Kevin Boon <bccattle@cattlemen.bc.ca>, Michel Benoit <m.benoit@bcturkey.com>, stephanie@bcbhec.com, steve@sheppell.ca, Vicki Crites <vcrites@bcdairy.ca>, Reg Ens <rens@bcac.ca>, Gorsuch, Wanda AFF:EX <Wanda.Gorsuch@gov.bc.ca>, McGuire, Jennifer AFF:EX <Jennifer.Mcguire@gov.bc.ca>, Pedersen, Kirsten AFF:EX <Kirsten.Pedersen@gov.bc.ca>  
Cc: Marcie Moriarty <s.15 .  
\_o=ExchangeLabs\_ou=Exchange+20Administrative+20Group+20+28FYDIBOHF23SPDLT+29\_cn=Recipients\_cn=ab2bf4a1eccc407b91582562a2fe5e5f-mmoriarty@CANPRD01.PROD.OUTLOOK.COM>, Alison Cuffley <acuffley@spca.bc.ca>, Melissa Speirs <mspeirs@spca.bc.ca>, Kaley Pugh <kpugh@spca.bc.ca>, Jonson, Byron AFF:EX <Byron.Jonson@gov.bc.ca>  
Sent: August 5, 2021 4:01:42 PM PDT  
Attachments: Meeting with SPCA\_BCAC NOTES - FINAL DRAFT.docx

**[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.**

Good Afternoon,

As the conversation was pretty open and didn't follow our agenda, the notes follow the conversation of the meeting versus capturing outcomes only.

Your feedback is appreciated.

Thanks everyone,

Danielle

Page 091 of 178 to/à Page 096 of 178

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## Fwd: SPCA Spot Inspections

---

From: Garnier, Jack AFF:EX <Jack.Garnier@gov.bc.ca>  
To: Sundhu, Ellora AFF:EX <Ellora.Sundhu@gov.bc.ca>  
Sent: August 5, 2021 9:03:39 PM PDT

Jack Garnier

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Walker, Adam" .s.17  
**Date:** August 5, 2021 at 9:02:38 PM PDT  
**To:** "Garnier, Jack AFF:EX" <Jack.Garnier@gov.bc.ca>  
**Cc:** "Stechishin, Claire LASS:EX" <Claire.Stechishin@leg.bc.ca>, "Cloutier, Jessica LASS:EX" <Jessica.Cloutier@leg.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** SPCA Spot Inspections

**[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.**

Good evening Jack,

I just spoke with a local ag rep and farmer who has shared with me some concerns regarding upcoming spot inspections with the SPCA and ag staff. The information she has states that 2 random farms for each commodity on the Island will be subject to an inspection by the SPCA along with an MOA staff person this weekend.

I'm hoping you can help me with the following:

- 1) Is this above information correct? And of course assuming the above is correct:
- 2) Is this a government or SPCA led initiative?
- 3) Why are Ag staff attending?
- 4) Who from Ag (titles, not names) would be attending?
- 5) What are the goals of the spot inspections?
- 6) If an inspection takes place in my constituency may I attend?

I appreciate your quick action on this. My cell is 250-947-5115 if preferred, though I will be in meetings for much of tomorrow. Claire or Jessica at the office (250-248-2625) may also be available if desired.

Thanks,  
Adam

## RE: DRAFT - AFF & SPCA agreement for AFF observer during inspections

---

From: McGuire, Jennifer AFF:EX <Jennifer.Mcguire@gov.bc.ca>  
To: Shawn Eccles <seccles@spca.bc.ca>  
Cc: Marcie Moriarty <mmoriarty@spca.bc.ca>, Jonson, Byron AFF:EX <Byron.Jonson@gov.bc.ca>  
Sent: August 6, 2021 7:26:50 AM PDT

Hello,

I raised this with BCAC late Thursday afternoon – I understand they are sending an apology and explanation. Thank you for sharing this.

Jennifer

*Jennifer McGuire, P.Ag.*

Assistant Deputy Minister, Science Policy and Inspections Division  
Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries  
Ph: 778-698-8521 Cell: 250-361-5944

---

**From:**  
**Sent:** August 5, 2021 1:10 PM  
**To:** McGuire, Jennifer AFF:EX <Jennifer.Mcguire@gov.bc.ca>  
**Cc:** Marcie Moriarty <mmoriarty@spca.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** RE: DRAFT - AFF & SPCA agreement for AFF observer during inspections

**[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.**

Thanks Jennifer,

Thought you might like to know that apparently our meeting yesterday has made the news, not sure where this came from but so much for confidentiality,  
<https://www.facebook.com/countrylifeinbc/>

cheers!

Shawn

Shawn Eccles  
(He/Him)  
Senior Manager, Cruelty Investigations  
BC SPCA  
1245 East 7th Avenue  
Vancouver BC V5T 1R1  
604.575.2249  
1.800.665.1868 • [seccles@spca.bc.ca](mailto:seccles@spca.bc.ca) • [spca.bc.ca](http://spca.bc.ca)  
Animal Cruelty and Wildlife Hotline 1-855-622-7722

*Respectfully acknowledging that I work on, and this email was sent from, the unceded traditional territory of the Kwantlen, Semiahmoo, s̓c̓awaθ̓an məsteyəxʷ (Tsawwassen), Katzie, Kwantlen, Kwikwetlem, and Qayqayt First Nations, as well as numerous Stó:lō First Nations whose historical relationships to the land continues today.*



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**From:** McGuire, Jennifer AFF:EX <[Jennifer.Mcguire@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Jennifer.Mcguire@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Sent:** August 5, 2021 12:56 PM  
**To:** Shawn Eccles <[seccles@spca.bc.ca](mailto:seccles@spca.bc.ca)>  
**Cc:** Marcie Moriarty <[mmoriarty@spca.bc.ca](mailto:mmoriarty@spca.bc.ca)>  
**Subject:** RE: DRAFT - AFF & SPCA agreement for AFF observer during inspections

Hello Shawn,  
Please find attached the revised agreement (with dates) and signed.  
Thank you for the general locations. I will ensure our observer is ready to go next week.  
Jennifer

---

**From:** Shawn Eccles <[seccles@spca.bc.ca](mailto:seccles@spca.bc.ca)>  
**Sent:** August 5, 2021 11:40 AM  
**To:** McGuire, Jennifer AFF:EX <[Jennifer.Mcguire@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Jennifer.Mcguire@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Cc:** Marcie Moriarty <[mmoriarty@spca.bc.ca](mailto:mmoriarty@spca.bc.ca)>  
**Subject:** RE: DRAFT - AFF & SPCA agreement for AFF observer during inspections

**[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.**

Good morning Jennifer,

Not sure if Marcie responded to this email yesterday, if not perhaps the end date for the agreement should be November 30, 2021 and we can use today's date.

It looks like the farms we will be visiting next week will be in Chemainus and Duncan, I will provide further details later today or tomorrow once I obtain the addresses from Kaley,

Cheers!

Shawn

Shawn Eccles  
(He/Him)  
Senior Manager, Cruelty Investigations  
BC SPCA  
1245 East 7th Avenue  
Vancouver BC V5T 1R1  
604.575.2249  
1.800.665.1868 • [seccles@spca.bc.ca](mailto:seccles@spca.bc.ca) • [spca.bc.ca](http://spca.bc.ca)  
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---

**From:** McGuire, Jennifer AFF:EX <[Jennifer.Mcguire@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Jennifer.Mcguire@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Sent:** August 4, 2021 8:06 AM  
**To:** Shawn Eccles <[seccles@spca.bc.ca](mailto:seccles@spca.bc.ca)>  
**Cc:** Marcie Moriarty <[mmoriarty@spca.bc.ca](mailto:mmoriarty@spca.bc.ca)>  
**Subject:** RE: DRAFT - AFF & SPCA agreement for AFF observer during inspections

Good Morning Shawn,  
The edits to the document look fine. Attached is version 2 – there remain a couple of points to confirm. Then ready to sign the agreement.  
Regarding the inspections next week – can you identify if the AFF staff person should be dispatched from Victoria, Nanaimo or elsewhere? Trying to ensure I have the observers in the right communities ready to participate on the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>.  
Thank you

*Jennifer McGuire, P.Ag.*  
Assistant Deputy Minister, Science Policy and Inspections Division  
Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries  
Ph: 778-698-8521 Cell: 250-361-5944

---

**From:** Marcie Moriarty <[mmoriarty@spca.bc.ca](mailto:mmoriarty@spca.bc.ca)>  
**Sent:** August 3, 2021 3:55 PM  
**To:** McGuire, Jennifer AFF:EX <[Jennifer.Mcguire@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Jennifer.Mcguire@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Cc:** Shawn Eccles <[seccles@spca.bc.ca](mailto:seccles@spca.bc.ca)>  
**Subject:** Fw: DRAFT - AFF & SPCA agreement for AFF observer during inspections

**[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.**

Hi Jennifer,  
I hope you had a nice long weekend. I am just following up on the below email<sup>s.22</sup> as of the end of today (I will still be at the meeting with BCAC tomorrow) and wanted to let you know to please send the updated agreement to Shawn Eccles, senior manager cruelty investigations, ([seccles@spca.bc.ca](mailto:seccles@spca.bc.ca)) as he will be your contact for this week. As mentioned, there is some urgency should the Ministry want to send a team member to the first two farms as we intend to begin inspections August 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> on the island. Shawn will follow up with you once the agreement is signed with the location of the farm and meeting details.  
Thank you,  
Marcie

**Marcie Moriarty**

(She/Her)

**Chief Prevention and Enforcement Officer**  
**and guardian to Pip and Zorro**

## BC SPCA

1245 East 7th Avenue

Vancouver BC V5T 1R1

604-647-1318

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**Sent:** July 26, 2021 4:02 PM

**To:** McGuire, Jennifer AFF:EX <[Jennifer.Mcguire@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Jennifer.Mcguire@gov.bc.ca)>

**Cc:** Norton, Chris AFF:EX <[Chris.Norton@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Chris.Norton@gov.bc.ca)>; Jonson, Byron AFF:EX <[Byron.Jonson@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Byron.Jonson@gov.bc.ca)>; Shawn Eccles <[seccles@spca.bc.ca](mailto:seccles@spca.bc.ca)>; Kaley Pugh <[kpugh@spca.bc.ca](mailto:kpugh@spca.bc.ca)>

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Regards,

Marcie

**Marcie Moriarty**

(She/Her)

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**and guardian to Pip and Zorro**

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**Cc:** Norton, Chris AFF:EX <[Chris.Norton@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Chris.Norton@gov.bc.ca)>; Jonson, Byron AFF:EX <[Byron.Jonson@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Byron.Jonson@gov.bc.ca)>

**Subject:** DRAFT - AFF & SPCA agreement for AFF observer during inspections

Hi Marcie,

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I am also curious about the timing of the inspections – given the state of emergency due to wildfires – AFF and the province are shifting resources to support communities during these very difficult times. Wondering if the SPCA is considering a rescheduling of inspections due to the wildfire situation.

Looking forward to your comments.

Thank you

*Jennifer McGuire, P.Ag.*

Assistant Deputy Minister, Science Policy and Inspections Division

Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries

Ph: 778-698-8521 Cell: 250-361-5944

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## BC SPCA pilot program

---

From: Raymond, Mark AFF:EX <Mark.Raymond@gov.bc.ca>  
To: McGuire, Jennifer AFF:EX <Jennifer.Mcguire@gov.bc.ca>  
Sent: August 6, 2021 10:16:12 AM PDT  
FYI

---

**From:** CVF Institute <cvfinstitute@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** August 6, 2021 8:55 AM  
**To:** Boss, Angela AFF:EX <Angela.Boss@gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** Re: BC SPCA pilot program

Hi Angela,

It is seemingly some pretty invasive slippery slope stuff. People are crazy upset and looking for answers and an official MOA response. Best number iss.22

So many questions...Who are these stakeholders that are cited in the article and what are their concerns? What is the definition of a commercial livestock/poultry operation and who exactly is the target of these inspections? What are they looking for and what criteria do you supposedly have to meet if they come on site? Why in God's green earth is the MOA involved in any of this? Why is the MOA seemingly aligning itself with a certain brand of stakeholders? Why has there been no official announcement from the MOA at least trying to explain what is going on? Why come out of the gate threatening and shaming? Why are producers being treated like criminals or like they are doing something wrong with no rationale or justification behind it? What are the qualifications and credentials of anyone potentially coming on site to access livestock? What biosecurity and proof of where they have been measures will they be taking?

Regards,  
s.22

---

**From:** CVF Institute <cvfinstitute@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** August 5, 2021 6:37 PM  
**To:** Boss, Angela AFF:EX <Angela.Boss@gov.bc.ca>  
**Cc:** s.79  
**Subject:**

Hi Angela,

Just wondering if you might be able to shed any light on the recent Facebook post by Country Life in BC (see below). Is this correct? Are there any official announcements about this by the MOA? Who are the stakeholders and what are their concerns as cited in the article?

Regards,  
s.22

"Vancouver Island may be the first stop for a BC SPCA pilot program to ensure commercial livestock and poultry operations are maintaining a high level of animal welfare. BC SPCA compliance and enforcement staff met with producer groups and representatives from the BC Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, and the BC Farm Industry Review Board yesterday to clarify the scope of the program, which responds to stakeholder concerns regarding commercial farming practices. Two operations from each commodity group will be subject to unannounced inspections beginning next week, led by BC SPCA's cruelty investigations manager for Vancouver Island, Kaley Pugh. Agriculture ministry staff will attend each inspection, but producer groups urge members to contact them for support when investigators arrive. While inspection reports will be confidential, farms that deny access will be named publicly. Producer groups are urging cooperation with investigators."

## FW: draft messaging for AFF staff

---

**From:** McGuire, Jennifer AFF:EX <Jennifer.Mcguire@gov.bc.ca>  
**To:** Jonson, Byron AFF:EX <Byron.Jonson@gov.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** August 6, 2021 1:41:32 PM PDT  
**Attachments:** IN\_SPCA letter to BCCA \_August 6.docx

Any comments on the bullets below? For staff use. And we can use them with BCAC.

---

**From:** Cotton, Brian GCPE:EX <Brian.Cotton@gov.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** August 6, 2021 1:29 PM  
**To:** McGuire, Jennifer AFF:EX <Jennifer.Mcguire@gov.bc.ca>  
**Cc:** Boelens, Robert GCPE:EX <Robert.Boelens@gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** RE: draft messaging for AFF staff

We already have an issues note – updated it with latest here. Work for you? My only question is what are the 6 commodity groups?

As for the staff bullets how about this?

- Ministry of Agriculture Food and Fisheries is aware of the BCSPCA's intention to proceed with animal welfare inspections on commercial farm sites.
- The ministry understands the focus of the inspections will be to assess animal distress. Ensuring animals are not in distress is of interest to all parties.
- The BC SPCA is an independent organization and has legislated authority under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act (PCAA) to conduct these inspections.
- The ministry has been in recent discussions with the BCSPCA to understand the inspection methodology, process and communications surrounding these proposed inspections.
- Ministry staff will be attending as neutral observers for the inspections as the SPCA has not exercised this authority in the past on commercial farms.
- The SPCA is leading the inspection process, selecting the farms to be inspected, and setting the scope of the inspections.
- Any questions about the inspection activities conducted by the SPCA should be directed to the SPCA.

---

**From:** McGuire, Jennifer AFF:EX <Jennifer.Mcguire@gov.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** August 6, 2021 1:10 PM  
**To:** Cotton, Brian GCPE:EX <Brian.Cotton@gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** RE: draft messaging for AFF staff

Hi – I had a chat with Sam – he is interested in having a GCPE Info Note on the SPCA inspections. Happy to provide additional details.

Ministry has met with the SPCA, BCAC and industry boards to discuss the proposed inspections. SPCA has identified 6 commodity groups where the inspections will focus. It is anticipated a small number of inspections will be conducted.

JLM

---

**From:** McGuire, Jennifer AFF:EX  
**Sent:** August 6, 2021 12:13 PM  
**To:** Cotton, Brian GCPE:EX <Brian.Cotton@gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** draft messaging for AFF staff

Hi,

I need to prep some bullets for staff and for potential media in response to the BC SPCA commercial farm inspections. Can you help polish these?

- Ministry of Agriculture Food and Fisheries is aware of the BCSPCA's intention to proceed with inspections on commercial farm sites.
- Ensuring that animals are not in distress is of interest to all parties.
- The BC SPCA is an independent organization with the responsibility to ensure the ???
- The ministry has been in recent discussions with the BCSPCA to understand the inspection methodology, process and communications surrounding these proposed inspections.
- The ministry understands that the focus of the inspections will be to assess animal distress and that the SPCA will be conducting these inspections under authorities of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act (PCAA).
- The ministry will be attending as an observer for the inspections.
- As the SPCA has not exercised this authority in the past on commercial farms.
- The SPCA is leading the inspection process, selecting the farms to be inspected, and setting the scope of the inspections.
- Any questions about the inspection activities conducted by the SPCA should be directed to the SPCA.
- 

*Jennifer McGuire, P.Ag.*

Assistant Deputy Minister, Science Policy and Inspections Division

Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries

Ph: 778-698-8521 Cell: 250-361-5944



Page 107 of 178 to/à Page 108 of 178

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## SPCA inspections issues note

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From: Cotton, Brian GCPE:EX <Brian.Cotton@gov.bc.ca>  
To: Godfrey, Sam AFF:EX <Sam.Godfrey@gov.bc.ca>, Sundhu, Ellora AFF:EX <Ellora.Sundhu@gov.bc.ca>  
Cc: Boelens, Robert GCPE:EX <Robert.Boelens@gov.bc.ca>  
Sent: August 6, 2021 2:08:56 PM PDT  
Attachments: IN\_SPCA letter to BCCA \_August 6.docx

Hi – heard you were looking to have the attached issues note on the SPCA inspections updated. Latest is attached and approved by Jennifer.

Page 110 of 178 to/à Page 111 of 178

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.13

## RE: Country Life Facebook Post

From: Shawn Eccles <seccles@spca.bc.ca>  
To: Danielle Synotte <dsynotte@bcac.ca>, Marcie Moriarty <mmoriarty@spca.bc.ca>  
Cc: McGuire, Jennifer AFF:EX <Jennifer.Mcguire@gov.bc.ca>, Jonson, Byron AFF:EX <Byron.Jonson@gov.bc.ca>  
Sent: August 6, 2021 2:11:31 PM PDT  
Attachments: image001.png

**[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.**

Good morning Danielle,

Thank you for your response we are however somewhat concerned with the misinformation that was published with regard to the publicly naming of farmers who refuse entry for duly authorized inspections.

Our concern is not only for the success of this initiative but for the day to day operations and safety of our Officers. 18% of the calls received by the BC SPCA involve farm animals and the anger directed at the BC SPCA as a result of this misinformed story put our people at significant risk of harm.

It has been brought to my attention that some negative posts to this story are individuals currently involved with files investigated by the BC SPCA and as you may be aware one of our officers was recently involved in a firearm incident on Vancouver Island

The overwhelming majority of our officers have attended the BC FACC facilitated large animal welfare training paid for through the Grow It Forward Grants obtained and initiated by the Ministry of Agriculture and officers further rely on the support of experts, specialist and those knowledgeable with farm animals including those within industry itself.

We are respectfully requesting that BCAC respond to the story and correct the published errors.

Regards

Shawn

**Shawn Eccles**  
(He/Him)  
Senior Manager, Cruelty Investigations  
BC SPCA  
1245 East 7th Avenue  
Vancouver BC V5T 1R1  
604.575.2249  
1.800.665.1868 • [seccles@spca.bc.ca](mailto:seccles@spca.bc.ca) • [spca.bc.ca](http://spca.bc.ca)  
Animal Cruelty and Wildlife Hotline 1-855-622-7722

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---

**From:** Danielle Synotte <dsynotte@bcac.ca>  
**Sent:** August 5, 2021 4:51 PM  
**To:** Marcie Moriarty <mmoriarty@spca.bc.ca>; Shawn Eccles <seccles@spca.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** Country Life Facebook Post

Hello Marcie and Shawn,

I'd like to first take the opportunity to say thank you for meeting with BC Agriculture Council and representatives from the livestock industries.

We wanted to send a note to you about this Country Life Facebook Post...Following our meeting, one of the representatives happened to have an industry (virtual) meeting in the evening where he provided communication to producers about the BC SPCA's upcoming inspections – a good thing! As the meeting was virtual, he was completely unaware of the fact that there was a Country Life representative on the call.

When we saw the post we immediately consulted with our group because we all understand how that would have been perceived on your end. I assure you there was no intent on our part to pull the media into this.

On another note, I recently circulated our notes from the meeting. If you feel there is anything you would like to add, please feel free to connect with me directly.

Thanks again and Marcie I hope you enjoy the rest of your holiday.

Danielle

**Danielle Synotte**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

P: 604 854 4454 x 204 | TF: 866 522 3447

[www.bcac.ca](http://www.bcac.ca)



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## Re: Farm Inspection plan, Aug 9 & 10th

---

From: McGuire, Jennifer AFF:EX <Jennifer.Mcguire@gov.bc.ca>  
To: Shawn Eccles <seccles@spca.bc.ca>  
Sent: August 6, 2021 5:56:48 PM PDT

Thank you.

Our observer - will be at the designation meeting locations.

Jennifer

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 6, 2021, at 5:50 PM, Shawn Eccles <seccles@spca.bc.ca> wrote:

**[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.**

Good evening Jennifer,

My apologies for the late notice, its been one of those days, below is the itinerary as set out by Kaley Pugh with respect to the names and locations of the sites to be visited next week,

Cheers!

Shawn

**Shawn Eccles**

*(He/Him)*

**Senior Manager, Cruelty Investigations**

**BC SPCA**

1245 East 7th Avenue

Vancouver BC V5T 1R1

604.575.2249

1.800.665.1868 • [seccles@spca.bc.ca](mailto:seccles@spca.bc.ca) • [spca.bc.ca](http://spca.bc.ca)

Animal Cruelty and Wildlife Hotline 1-855-622-7722

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---

**From:** Kaley Pugh <kpugh@spca.bc.ca>

**Sent:** August 5, 2021 3:30 PM

**To:** Jacklyn Orza <jorza@spca.bc.ca>; Cook, Teresa <tdc493@mail.usask.ca>

**Cc:** Shawn Eccles <seccles@spca.bc.ca>

**Subject:** Farm Inspection plan, Aug 9 & 10th

Hello team!

Here's a rough plan for the upcoming farm inspections on Vancouver Island. Please let me know asap if these times aren't going to work!

s.79

**Confidentiality** is assured in this process, like with any other inspection or investigation, with our reports and notices being used internally and for the producer only. We will also be providing a generalized summary of findings at the end of the program. Producers may choose to contact their commodity groups to discuss the inspections once we arrive. These are unannounced inspections, however the commodity groups have all been asked to communicate to their members about the program, and that cooperation is appreciated. There has already been some discussion of the program by one Ag group on Facebook, so I would not be surprised if this ends up with more media attention. Please refrain from commenting on social media or responding to any direct requests.

Please let me know if you have any questions!

**Kaley Pugh**

(she/her)

**Regional Manager, Cruelty Investigations**

**BC SPCA**

604.829.9163 or 250.730.0171

Animal Cruelty and Wildlife Hotline: 1.855.622.7722

Respectfully acknowledging that I work on, and this email was sent from, the unceded traditional territory of the nuučaanuufʔath nism̓a (Nuu-chah-nulth) First Nations, specifically the Hupačasath and c̓išaaʔath (Tseshah) whose historical relationships to the land continues today.

## AFF messaging re: SPCA inspections

---

From: McGuire, Jennifer AFF:EX <Jennifer.Mcguire@gov.bc.ca>  
To: Reg Ens <reg@bcac.bc.ca>, Danielle Synotte <dsynotte@bcac.ca>  
Cc: Jonson, Byron AFF:EX <Byron.Jonson@gov.bc.ca>  
Sent: August 6, 2021 6:00:44 PM PDT

Hi

Here are a few bullets as requested:

- Ministry of Agriculture Food and Fisheries is aware of the BC SPCA's intention to proceed with animal welfare inspections on commercial farm sites.
- The ministry understands the focus of the inspections will be to assess animal distress. Ensuring animals are not in distress is of interest to the Ministry, the SPCA, farmers and the public across British Columbia.
- The BC SPCA is an independent organization and has legislated authority under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act (PCAA) to conduct these inspections. The purpose of the inspections are to determine whether the PCAA and the regulations made under it are being complied with.
- The ministry has been in recent discussions with the BC SPCA to understand the inspection methodology, process and communications surrounding these proposed inspections.
- Ministry staff will be attending as neutral observers for the inspections as the SPCA has not exercised this authority in the past on commercial farms.
- The SPCA is leading the inspection process, selecting the farms to be inspected, and setting the scope of the inspections.
- Any questions about the inspection activities conducted by the SPCA should be directed to the SPCA.

Thank you

*Jennifer McGuire, P.Ag.*

Assistant Deputy Minister, Science Policy and Inspections Division

Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries

Ph: 778-698-8521 Cell: 250-361-5944



## BCFIRB comments Aug 4 BCAC-BCSPCA meeting

---

From: Gorsuch, Wanda AFF:EX <Wanda.Gorsuch@gov.bc.ca>  
To: Rob Delage <RDelage@bcmilk.com>, Bill Vanderspek <billvanderspek@BCChicken.ca>, Stephanie Nelson <stephanie@bcbhec.com>, Katie Lowe <KatieL@bcegg.com>, XT:MarketingBoard, BCPork AFF:IN <info@bcpork.ca>, Michel Benoit (m.benoit@bcturkey.com) <m.benoit@bcturkey.com>, Marcie Moriarty <mmoriarty@spca.bc.ca>, Shawn Eccles <seccles@spca.bc.ca>  
Cc: McGuire, Jennifer AFF:EX <Jennifer.Mcguire@gov.bc.ca>, Reg Ens <rens@bcac.ca>, s.22  
Sent: August 7, 2021 8:48:03 AM PDT

Hello all,

I am following up on the August 4, 2021 meeting between the BCSPCA, livestock commodity boards, producer associations and the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries.

First, thank you for including BCFIRB staff in the meeting.

BCFIRB supports recommendations for a collaborative, transparent and accountable approach to animal welfare under the respective jurisdictions of the BCSPCA (*PCAA*) and the commodity boards (*NPMA*).

We heard at the meeting that ensuring animal welfare in the public interest through transparent and accountable processes is a shared goal.

In BCFIRB's view, a collaborative/cooperative approach to proactive inspections and issues resolution would help achieve this goal in a timely and resource effective way.

Animal welfare and public accountability are important components of sound marketing policy and orderly marketing in BC's regulated marketing livestock sectors.

BCFIRB (supervisor) and the commodity boards (regulatory boards with legislated authorities) are responsible for sound marketing policy and orderly marketing under the *NPMA*. Boards have the authority to establish mandatory animal welfare programs, and to enforce such programs through a series of graduated penalties, including production penalties, administrative monetary penalties, licence suspension or cancellation.

In BCFIRB's view, the ability of the commodity boards to work successfully with regulated marketing producers and the BCSPCA to ensure animal welfare and public accountability depends on-going and open communication. It was apparent in the meeting that there are still outstanding questions regarding BCSPCA's proactive inspection pilot project, including defining what success would look like. BCFIRB is hopeful the BCSPCA will fully address any commodity board questions as appropriate, and in turn, expects commodity boards will work to address any BCSPCA questions and issues.

BCFIRB understands the proactive inspections are to start as early as this week. According to the BCSPCA a written report for the producer will only be made available after an internal writing process. In the interest of animal welfare, BCFIRB encourages the BCSPCA to contact the respective commodity board immediately should animals be identified as being in distress at the time of inspection.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me.

Best regards,  
Wanda

Wanda Gorsuch, BSc, MA,  
Manager, Issues and Planning

BC Farm Industry Review Board (BCFIRB)

**Cell:** 250-920-8012

**\*\*NEW Tel:** 778.974.5790

**Email:** [Wanda.Gorsuch@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Wanda.Gorsuch@gov.bc.ca)

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## RE: Country Life Facebook Post

---

From: Danielle Synotte <dsynotte@bcac.ca>  
To: Shawn Eccles <seccles@spca.bc.ca>, Marcie Moriarty <mmoriarty@spca.bc.ca>  
Cc: McGuire, Jennifer AFF:EX <Jennifer.Mcguire@gov.bc.ca>, Jonson, Byron AFF:EX <Byron.Jonson@gov.bc.ca>  
Sent: August 9, 2021 6:35:22 AM PDT  
Attachments: image001.png

**[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.**

Hello Shawn,

We have shared your message to the commodity group that hosed the meeting where the message was communicated. They will follow-up on your request once they are able to confirm the specific details you are concerned about.

The last thing we want is anyone harmed during this and I am truly sorry if any of your staff feel that they are in significant risk of harm – not our intent what-so-ever.

It was however our understanding from the meeting that if entrance was denied, the fact of which, would not be confidential. Simply put – outside of the farm gate not confidential vs. inside of the farm gate is confidential. Please let me know if that is incorrect and I will most definitely pass along.

Thank you,

Danielle

---

**From:** Shawn Eccles <seccles@spca.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** August 6, 2021 2:12 PM  
**To:** Danielle Synotte <dsynotte@bcac.ca>; Marcie Moriarty <mmoriarty@spca.bc.ca>  
**Cc:** McGuire, Jennifer AFF:EX <Jennifer.Mcguire@gov.bc.ca>; Jonson, Byron AFF:EX <Byron.Jonson@gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** RE: Country Life Facebook Post

Good morning Danielle,

Thank you for your response we are however somewhat concerned with the misinformation that was published with regard to the publicly naming of farmers who refuse entry for duly authorized inspections.

Our concern is not only for the success of this initiative but for the day to day operations and safety of our Officers. 18% of the calls received by the BC SPCA involve farm animals and the anger directed at the BC SPCA as a result of this misinformed story put our people at significant risk of harm.

It has been brought to my attention that some negative posts to this story are individuals currently involved with files investigated by the BC SPCA and as you may be aware one of our officers was recently involved in a firearm incident on Vancouver Island

The overwhelming majority of our officers have attended the BC FACC facilitated large animal welfare training paid for through the Grow It Forward Grants obtained and initiated by the Ministry of Agriculture and officers further rely on the support of experts, specialist and those knowledgeable with farm animals including those within industry itself.

We are respectfully requesting that BCAC respond to the story and correct the published errors.

Regards

Shawn

**Shawn Eccles**  
(He/Him)  
**Senior Manager, Cruelty Investigations**  
**BC SPCA**  
1245 East 7th Avenue  
Vancouver BC V5T 1R1  
604.575.2249  
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Animal Cruelty and Wildlife Hotline 1-855-622-7722

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---

**From:** Danielle Synotte <[dsynotte@bcac.ca](mailto:dsynotte@bcac.ca)>  
**Sent:** August 5, 2021 4:51 PM  
**To:** Marcie Moriarty <[mmoriarty@spca.bc.ca](mailto:mmoriarty@spca.bc.ca)>; Shawn Eccles <[seccles@spca.bc.ca](mailto:seccles@spca.bc.ca)>  
**Subject:** Country Life Facebook Post

Hello Marcie and Shawn,

I'd like to first take the opportunity to say thank you for meeting with BC Agriculture Council and representatives from the livestock industries.

We wanted to send a note to you about this Country Life Facebook Post...Following our meeting, one of the representatives happened to have an industry (virtual) meeting in the evening where he provided communication to producers about the BC SPCA's upcoming inspections – a good thing! As the meeting was virtual, he was completely unaware of the fact that there was a Country Life representative on the call.

When we saw the post we immediately consulted with our group because we all understand how that would have been perceived on your end. I assure you there was no intent on our part to pull the media into this.

On another note, I recently circulated our notes from the meeting. If you feel there is anything you would like to add, please feel free to connect with me directly.

Thanks again and Marcie I hope you enjoy the rest of your holiday.

Danielle

Danielle Synotte  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

P: 604 854 4454 x 204 | TF: 866 522 3447

[www.bcac.ca](http://www.bcac.ca)



**WALI**  
Western Agriculture  
Labour Initiative

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Danielle Synotte  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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[www.bcac.ca](http://www.bcac.ca)



**WALI**  
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## RE: Country Life Facebook Post

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From: Danielle Synotte <dsynotte@bcac.ca>  
To: Marcie Moriarty <mmoriarty@spca.bc.ca>, Shawn Eccles <seccles@spca.bc.ca>  
Cc: McGuire, Jennifer AFF:EX <Jennifer.Mcguire@gov.bc.ca>, Jonson, Byron AFF:EX <Byron.Jonson@gov.bc.ca>  
Sent: August 9, 2021 1:47:36 PM PDT  
Attachments: image001.png

**[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.**

Hello Marcie,

Welcome back!

Thank you for clarifying that farmers would not be named publicly if they refused to permit your inspectors onto the farm. Unfortunately, it didn't come off that black and white to many of them - perhaps stating that "general references" would be made was enough to still cause for some red flags. I am not disagreeing that you addressed it, I am only sharing what was heard so I appreciate you following up. I will pass that along and BCAC has left the issue with our commodity group to be in touch with Country Life in B.C.

In regards to how you will use the contact lists we are providing, I hear you saying that you will not contact the commodity group at any point if you have been denied access, rather, you will have those names/numbers available for the farmer if they wish to contact them. Is that correct?

If there are any other areas in the notes that we shared where you believe we misheard you, please let me know.

Our groups are also eagerly awaiting the sample checklist that you had committed to providing them.

Thank you,

Danielle

---

**From:** Marcie Moriarty <mmoriarty@spca.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** August 9, 2021 12:46 PM  
**To:** Danielle Synotte <dsynotte@bcac.ca>; Shawn Eccles <seccles@spca.bc.ca>  
**Cc:** McGuire, Jennifer AFF:EX <Jennifer.Mcguire@gov.bc.ca>; Jonson, Byron AFF:EX <Byron.Jonson@gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** Re: Country Life Facebook Post

Hello Danielle,

I am now back and can respond to the below. The specific piece of misinformation that we are concerned about is the communication that we would be publicly naming farmers who refuse entry.

At no time did we ever say that farmers would be named publicly if they refused to permit us onto the farm. In fact, I specifically addressed this question a few times where we stated that only general references may be made in any report to government/industry should that issue arise (eg. we attended 14 farms and were granted access to 10 of them.)

Additionally, I addressed the issue of concerns regarding privacy and any ability of the BC SPCA to release information to a commodity group regarding the identity of a farmer in the event that they do refuse us access (some commodity groups had expressed desire to receive that information.) I confirmed that I did

not believe that we could release that information but if the farmer agreed, they could call a contact provided to them to discuss (hence, why contact numbers were provided to us.)

I look forward to the timely correction of the error.

Regards,  
Marcie

**Marcie Moriarty**

(She/Her)

**Chief Prevention and Enforcement Officer**

**and guardian to Pip and Zorro**

**BC SPCA**

1245 East 7th Avenue

Vancouver BC V5T 1R1

604-647-1318

1-855-622-7722 • [mmoriarty@spca.bc.ca](mailto:mmoriarty@spca.bc.ca) • [spca.bc.ca](http://spca.bc.ca)

Animal Cruelty and Wildlife Hotline: 1.855.622.7722

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---

**From:** Danielle Synotte <[dsynotte@bcac.ca](mailto:dsynotte@bcac.ca)>

**Sent:** August 9, 2021 6:35 AM

**To:** Shawn Eccles <[seccles@spca.bc.ca](mailto:seccles@spca.bc.ca)>; Marcie Moriarty <[mmoriarty@spca.bc.ca](mailto:mmoriarty@spca.bc.ca)>



**Cc:** McGuire, Jennifer AFF:EX <Jennifer.Mcguire@gov.bc.ca>; Jonson, Byron AFF:EX <Byron.Jonson@gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** RE: Country Life Facebook Post

Hello Shawn,

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Thank you,

Danielle

---

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**Sent:** August 6, 2021 2:12 PM

**To:** Danielle Synotte <[dsynotte@bcac.ca](mailto:dsynotte@bcac.ca)>; Marcie Moriarty <[mmoriarty@spca.bc.ca](mailto:mmoriarty@spca.bc.ca)>

**Cc:** McGuire, Jennifer AFF:EX <Jennifer.Mcguire@gov.bc.ca>; Jonson, Byron AFF:EX <Byron.Jonson@gov.bc.ca>

**Subject:** RE: Country Life Facebook Post

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Regards

Shawn

**Shawn Eccles**

*(He/Him)*

**Senior Manager, Cruelty Investigations**

**BC SPCA**

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## Animal Cruelty and Wildlife Hotline 1-855-622-7722

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**Sent:** August 5, 2021 4:51 PM

**To:** Marcie Moriarty <[mmoriarty@spca.bc.ca](mailto:mmoriarty@spca.bc.ca)>; Shawn Eccles <[seccles@spca.bc.ca](mailto:seccles@spca.bc.ca)>

**Subject:** Country Life Facebook Post

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On another note, I recently circulated our notes from the meeting. If you feel there is anything you would like to add, please feel free to connect with me directly.

Thanks again and Marcie I hope you enjoy the rest of your holiday.

Danielle

**Danielle Synotte**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

P: 604 854 4454 x 204 | TF: 866 522 3447

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## Re: draft AFF messaging

From: Marcie Moriarty <mmoriarty@spca.bc.ca>  
To: McGuire, Jennifer AFF:EX <Jennifer.Mcguire@gov.bc.ca>  
Cc: Jonson, Byron AFF:EX <Byron.Jonson@gov.bc.ca>, Alison Cuffley <acuffley@spca.bc.ca>  
Sent: August 9, 2021 1:54:31 PM PDT

**[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.**

Hello Jennifer,

I am just catching up on emails and I am not sure if this was responded to. We would very much appreciate if the correct information can be provided regarding the inspections. Unfortunately, information, such as the post put out by Country Life magazine contained erroneous information as you know and this has created a serious concern for our officer safety (I am told subsequent posts have threatened to turn dogs on our officers, violence etc.) We feel that the letter we provided both industry and government goes into details around the scope of the program and should adequately address the questions that are being raised. The below points are correct.

If you have not received a signed agreement back, I am happy to do so.

Regards,

Marcie

**Marcie Moriarty**

(She/Her)

**Chief Prevention and Enforcement Officer**

**and guardian to Pip and Zorro**

**BC SPCA**

1245 East 7th Avenue

Vancouver BC V5T 1R1

604-647-1318

1-855-622-7722 • mmoriarty@spca.bc.ca • [spca.bc.ca](http://spca.bc.ca)

Animal Cruelty and Wildlife Hotline: 1.855.622.7722

*Respectfully acknowledging that I work on, and this email was sent from, the unceded traditional territory of the downriver hənq̓əmiṇəm speaking peoples - xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), and səliłwətaʔt (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations, and the Skwxwú7mesh-ulh Sníchim speaking peoples - Skwxwú7mesh Uxwumixw (Squamish) Nation whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day.*

OUR MISSION: To protect and enhance the quality of life for domestic, farm and wild animals in British Columbia.

**The BC SPCA is a not-for-profit organization reliant on donations from the public. Charitable Tax # BN 11881 9036 RR0001**

This message and any attachments or links are for the sole use of the intended recipient(s) and may contain privileged and confidential information. Any unauthorized review, use, disclosure or distribution is prohibited. If you are not the intended recipient, please notify us immediately and destroy the original message. Thank you.

**From:** McGuire, Jennifer AFF:EX <Jennifer.Mcguire@gov.bc.ca>

**Sent:** August 6, 2021 3:17 PM

**To:** Shawn Eccles <seccles@spca.bc.ca>

**Cc:** Jonson, Byron AFF:EX <Byron.Jonson@gov.bc.ca>; Marcie Moriarty <mmoriarty@spca.bc.ca>

**Subject:** draft AFF messaging

Hi Shawn,

AFF is preparing to share these bullets with staff and BCAC – in response to questions which the ministry is receiving regarding the inspections. Any comments? We do need to get these out by end of day to address the concerns coming to the ministry. Also hoping to receive a signed copy of the agreement.

- Ministry of Agriculture Food and Fisheries is aware of the BCSPCA's intention to proceed with animal welfare inspections on commercial farm sites.
- The ministry understands the focus of the inspections will be to assess animal distress. Ensuring animals are not in distress is of interest to the Ministry, the SPCA, farmers and the public across British Columbia.
- The BC SPCA is an independent organization and has legislated authority under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act (PCAA) to conduct these inspections. The purpose of the inspections are to determine whether the PCAA and the regulations made under it are being complied with.
- The ministry has been in recent discussions with the BC SPCA to understand the inspection methodology, process and communications surrounding these proposed inspections.
- Ministry staff will be attending as neutral observers for the inspections as the SPCA has not exercised this authority in the past on commercial farms.
- The SPCA is leading the inspection process, selecting the farms to be inspected, and setting the scope of the inspections.
- Any questions about the inspection activities conducted by the SPCA should be directed to the SPCA.

Thank you

*Jennifer McGuire, P.Ag.*

Assistant Deputy Minister, Science Policy and Inspections Division

Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries

Ph: 778-698-8521 Cell: 250-361-5944

**Caution:** This email originated from outside of the BC SPCA. Do not click links or attachments unless you recognize the sender.

## For info: BC SPCA Inspections Issue

---

From: Beyers, Georgina AFF:EX <Georgina.Beyers@gov.bc.ca>  
To: McGuire, Jennifer AFF:EX <Jennifer.Mcguire@gov.bc.ca>  
Cc: Jonson, Byron AFF:EX <Byron.Jonson@gov.bc.ca>  
Sent: August 9, 2021 3:26:20 PM PDT  
Attachments: Qs and As for Codes of Practice Outreach - August 2018 - Final.pdf

Good afternoon Jenn,

I am raising this for your awareness, further to my earlier conversations with Byron.

Regarding the upcoming BC SPCA animal welfare inspections on commercial farm sites; staff have raised concern that AFF presence during inspections, and written support of inspections, is contradictory to AFF communication to industry stakeholder groups between 2018 and 2019.

Please find attached the Q&A document (prepared in August, 2018). This document was shared with industry members (responses also shared verbally) in response to industry inquiries, post-August 2018.

Confirmation is needed to assure industry that the guidance offered in the Q&A document still stands. And additional clarification is needed on a few points:

See in attached:

- #15: *"...the BC Farm Industry Review Board may hear appeals in relation to certain BCSPCA decisions"*
  - **Is this process in addition to, or concurrent to standard legal proceedings, should a producer be charged under the PCAA? Or, is this process in lieu of standard legal proceedings?**
- #22: *"...How can the Ministry support BCSPCA and industry collaboration and shared understanding?"*
  - **Did additional training or collaborative education opportunities take place?**
  - **Were MOU's established?**

In addition to the questions and responses contained in the Q&A document, industry has new inquiries that are not covered:

- **What third party organization monitors the *BC SPCA compliance and enforcement staff* to ensure they have the appropriate welfare education and training in livestock behaviour?**
- **How is BCSPCA determining which farms to target?**
  - **Is BCSPCA using Premises ID Data?**
- **Can producers refuse inspections?**
  - **Is there a penalty for refusal?**

I will add, anecdotally, that the point of contention seems to be the perception that enforcement is at the 'discretion' of inspectors who may have a principle-based objection (agenda) against animal agriculture.

I would be happy to discuss potential next steps in providing communication and clarity to industry, in terms of informing what would be helpful. In the meantime, I have pulled back regional and specialist staff from in-person meetings/Q&A sessions with producers until such point they are prepared to respond.

Thank you,  
Georgina

Georgina Beyers  
Director, Industry Development  
BC Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries  
250-896-6221

---

**From:** "Lussier, Jason AFF:EX" <Jason.Lussier@gov.bc.ca>  
**Date:** Monday, August 9, 2021 at 12:48 PM  
**To:** "Dasanjh, Rajiv AFF:EX" <Rajiv.Dasanjh@gov.bc.ca>, "Beyers, Georgina AFF:EX" <Georgina.Beyers@gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** RE: Re: BCSPCA Inspections issue

Thanks for sharing this Rajiv, those are consistent with concerns that my staff have heard as well.

Georgina- I've included the high level bullets that were provide to staff below but have a few questions that we may want to figure out before the meeting this evening.

1. Can executive provide additional bullets to address the questions below that RDU and IDU have raised?
2. Can more information be provided about AFF role within this process (there seems to be some misperceptions around AFF role in this process)?
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Thanks for setting up the meeting this afternoon Rajiv and looking forward to chatting more then.

-Jason

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**From:** Dasanjh, Rajiv AFF:EX <Rajiv.Dasanjh@gov.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** August 9, 2021 11:55 AM  
**To:** Beyers, Georgina AFF:EX <Georgina.Beyers@gov.bc.ca>  
**Cc:** Lussier, Jason AFF:EX <Jason.Lussier@gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** Re: BCSPCA Inspections issue

Hi Georgina,

Please find below a list of items that were raised from the Industry Development Unit's (IDU) Livestock Team regarding BCSPCA's Farm Compliance Inspections.

Members from the IDU are predominately concerned that Ministry presence during these inspections, and written support of BCSPCA's Farm Compliance Inspections is contradicting of direction that was given to industry stakeholder groups between 2018 and 2019 by AFF. This point is summarized in the first bullet below, and is the most important piece that staff, and industry are seeking more information on.

- Will the BCSPCA be requiring compliance with the NFACC Codes of Practice as part of these on-farm inspections?
  - AFF specifically stated in our 2018-2019 consultations with industry that the enforcement of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act (PCAA) is related to animals in distress; the NFACC cannot be used for purposes of enforcing the PCAA and the BCSPCA “cannot require compliance with the Codes”. These new inspections appear to contradict recent BCSPCA written communication with industry groups in which they indicated they would be ‘inspecting against the Codes’.
  - Industry is concerned that the BCSPCA will use this new pilot-program of inspections to set precedent to enforce the above codes, to where industry was previously told in past years that this would not be the case.
- What third party organization monitors the *BC SPCA compliance and enforcement staff* to ensure they have the appropriate welfare education and training in livestock behaviour?
- How is BCSPCA determining which farms to target?
  - Are they using Premises ID Data?
- Can producers refuse inspections?
  - Is there a penalty to refuse?

Thanks, Rajiv

**Rajiv Dasanjh, BSc, P. Ag,**  
 Emerging Markets Specialist  
 Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Fisheries, British Columbia  
 Phone: 1-778-201-6599  
 Email: [Rajiv.Dasanjh@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Rajiv.Dasanjh@gov.bc.ca)

This email was sent from the Naut'sa mawt Council and Sto:lo Nation's territories

## Questions and Answers

### BC Ministry of Agriculture Outreach to Industry

### Enshrining the NFACC Codes of Practice for Care and Handling of Farm Animals in Regulation

#### Background

The Ministry intends to enshrine, in regulation, the National Farm Animal Care Council (NFACC) Codes of Practice (Codes) for the care and handling of farm animals.

#### Questions and Answers

##### 1. Why is the Ministry of Agriculture reaching out to industry on this issue?

Farm animal welfare is important in BC, to government, industry, and citizens. Strong expectations exist but there are few identified BC standards. Issues can arise where animal care and handling is misunderstood. Enshrining the Codes of Practice in regulation will ensure better understanding of reasonable and generally accepted practices of animal management and support industry where these practices are misperceived or challenged.

There is a need to hear from industry on how to best implement this work. The Ministry worked closely with the dairy industry to enshrine the dairy code in regulation. The Ministry will seek input from industry associations on how to best share information and address issues their members may have. Through outreach the Ministry will:

- Understand industry needs
- Ensure greater clarity and consistency of understanding across all stakeholders
- Develop a plan for effective implementation including partnering with industry on education/communication

##### 2. What is the National Farm Animal Care Council (NFACC)?

The NFACC is a collaborative partnership of a diverse range of Canadian agriculture stakeholders including industry associations, the federal government, enforcement agencies, animal care and welfare bodies, and provincial ministries across the country. NFACC's primary focus is responsible farm animal care and welfare. NFACC coordinates and leads the Code development process.

##### 3. What are "the Codes"?

The Codes are developed by the NFACC to serve as a national understanding of animal care requirements and recommended practices. NFACC intends the Codes to be used to promote sound management and animal welfare for animal housing, care, transportation, and other animal husbandry practices. The NFACC process for developing and revising codes includes extensive consultation with all parties involved in farm animal care and welfare.

For more information on the NFACC Codes of Practice: <http://www.nfacc.ca/codes-of-practice>



#### 4. How are the Codes Developed?

A Scientific Committee and Code Development Committee work together to develop a Code based on both science and consensus. Industry stakeholders are active participants during each Code development process, which typically takes approximately 3 years to complete. The Codes, therefore, include up-to-date research and have multi-stakeholder involvement.

For more information on the NFACC Codes of Practice development process:

*Process for Codes of Practice for the Care and Handling of Farm Animals*

<http://www.nfacc.ca/code-development-process>

#### 5. What specific Codes would be included in regulation?

The Ministry intends to include all Codes for the care and handling of farm animals developed and released through the NFACC process. The Ministry does not intend to include Codes that were not developed through the NFACC process, even if they are currently available on the NFACC website. This includes the current Codes for Farmed Deer, Goats and Transportation.

The Ministry intends to include the 12 Codes developed and released through the process:

- Beef (2013)
- Bison (2017)
- Hatching Eggs, Breeders, Chickens, and Turkeys (2016)
- Dairy Cattle\* (2009) (BC regulation 2015)
- Equines (2013)
- Farmed Fox (2013)
- Farmed Mink (2013)
- Pigs (2014)
- Pullets and Laying Hens (2017)
- Rabbits (2018)
- Sheep (2013)
- Veal Cattle (2017)

\*The Code for dairy cattle was included in regulation in BC in 2015. The intent of the Ministry is to focus on enshrining the other 11 Codes listed above.

#### 6. What about older Codes?

It is not clear to what extent a judge may consider the age of a Code, or determine whether or not the specific information contained in a Code is still relevant. In this situation it may be necessary for a farmer or rancher to provide supporting information to demonstrate how current reasonable and generally accepted practices of animal management have evolved.

#### 7. Why does the Ministry want to enshrine the Codes in regulation?

Identifying reasonable and generally accepted practices of animal management would provide an incentive to follow these practices. While failure to abide by the Codes would not necessarily be

an offence, following the Codes would be a defence from prosecution of animal distress. The Codes are also industry supported standards that promote animal care. The Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Dairy Cattle was enshrined in regulation in 2015. This was a successful collaboration between the BC Dairy Association, Ministry of Agriculture, and the BCSPCA. The BC Dairy Association requested the NFACC Code be referenced in regulation to support industry practice. The Ministry intends to take this approach to other Codes that were developed under the fulsome NFACC process.

#### **8. How would the Ministry enshrine the Codes? How could they assist industry?**

The Ministry would build the Codes into one regulation under BC's *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act* (PCAA) to serve as reasonable and generally accepted practices of animal management. Under the PCAA, a person must not be convicted of causing distress to an animal if it can be proved they followed reasonable and generally accepted practices of animal management (see the Defence section 24.02 (c)).

#### **9. What is the difference between “requirements” and “recommended practices” in the Codes?**

Requirements refer to a minimum expectation, while recommended practices refer to a higher standard of care. As the Codes will be utilized as a defence, if an operator meets the requirements, they likely should not be convicted of causing distress. If they are also able to provide evidence showing they have followed the recommended practices, it should further bolster their defence.

**Requirements:** These refer to either a regulatory requirement or an industry imposed expectation outlining acceptable and unacceptable practices and are fundamental obligations relating to the care of animals. Requirements represent a consensus position that these measures, at minimum, are to be implemented by all persons responsible for farm animal care. When included as part of an assessment program, those who fail to implement Requirements may be compelled by industry associations to undertake corrective measures or risk a loss of market options. Requirements also may be enforceable under federal and provincial regulation.

**Recommended Practices:** Code Recommended Practices may complement a Code's Requirements, promote producer education, and can encourage adoption of practices for continual improvement in animal welfare outcomes. Recommended Practices are those that are generally expected to enhance animal welfare outcomes, but failure to implement them does not imply that acceptable standards of animal care are not met.

#### **10. Will this approach change how the PCAA is enforced?**

No. The enforcement of the PCAA is related to animals in distress; the Codes cannot be used for purposes of enforcing the PCAA. There may, however, be links between the two, such as overlap of reasonable and generally accepted practices of animal management with preventing “distress” under the PCAA (e.g. providing potable water). In these cases, the Codes would serve as an educational tool and not an enforcement mechanism.

### **11. Would a farmer or rancher who does not meet a Code be charged under the PCAA?**

The trigger for charges under the PCAA is whether or not an animal is in distress, not whether the Code is met. Under the PCAA, an animal is considered to be in distress if it is:

- deprived of adequate food, water, shelter, ventilation, light, space, exercise, care or veterinary treatment;
- kept in conditions that are unsanitary;
- not protected from excessive heat or cold;
- injured, sick, in pain or suffering; or
- abused or neglected.

If a farmer or rancher causes an animal distress but the specific practice or activity in question is considered a reasonable and generally accepted practice of animal management under the Code, the farmer or rancher must not be convicted under the PCAA. Conversely, if a practice or activity causes distress and it is not supported by the Code that may lead to a farmer or rancher being charged as already the case with the PCAA.

### **12. Is it possible a farmer or rancher undertaking a common practice might still be convicted under the PCAA for animal distress as a result of a Code being ambiguous or outdated on certain animal husbandry practices?**

The Codes would be adopted in full, and the PCAA is clear that a person must not be convicted of causing distress if an activity is carried out in accordance with the requirements and recommendations contained in the Codes. If a Code contains ambiguous provisions, a judge would have discretion as to how it is to be interpreted and applied to the evidence presented.

### **13. What are the current penalties under the PCAA?**

The maximum penalties that can be levied under the PCAA against a person who is convicted of causing distress to an animal are a fine of up to \$75,000, up to 24 months imprisonment, or both. A judge may also make an order that limits or bans an individual from having animals for a certain period of time.

### **14. What is the enforcement role of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (BC SPCA) in BC?**

The BC SPCA is mandated by government under the PCAA to respond to animals in distress. However, the SPCA independently establishes policy and procedures in executing cruelty investigations. BC SPCA enforcement actions are performed by special provincial constables appointed under the *Police Act*. With respect to the Codes, the BC SPCA can use the Codes as reference material when conducting investigations; however, they cannot require compliance with the Codes. There may, however, be cases of overlap if a certain requirement under the Code would also be a requirement for relieving an animal from distress (e.g. providing sufficient and potable water).

### **15. What happens if I disagree with an SPCA decision?**

Under the PCAA, the BC Farm Industry Review Board may hear appeals in relation to certain BCSPCA decisions, including:

- A decision to take custody of an animal;
- A decision to affirm notice that the animal will be destroyed, sold or otherwise disposed of;
- The costs for which an owner is liable; and/or,
- The costs that an owner must pay before the animal is returned to the owner.

This external appeal mechanism provides an opportunity for farmers, ranchers, and other animal owners to have decisions of the BCSPCA independently reviewed, while keeping this kind of dispute out of the court system.

### **16. Do other provinces include the NFACC Codes in regulation?**

Yes, several provinces include the NFACC Codes of Practice in regulation, although there is variation among provinces in how this is done. For example, some provinces create a regulation that makes the requirements contained in a particular Code legally enforceable standards. Other provinces take an approach similar to BC's, with the Codes functioning as a defence for those accused of causing distress. Referencing the Codes as reasonable and generally accepted practices of animal management is considered a less invasive approach than enshrining the Codes as enforceable standards, because the specific practices referenced in the Codes are not for purpose of inspection/compliance.

### **17. If each province has a different approach to the Codes, what would a farmer, rancher or transporter do in the case of animals being transported across provincial borders where the Code is not enforceable in one province but in the adjoining one it is?**

In this type of situation, farmers, ranchers or transporters must be knowledgeable of the specific legal requirements in each province. Once the animals are transported across a provincial border, different laws apply. In addition to provincial requirements, federal transportation requirements apply. For the most part, provincial transportation requirements support and/or supplement federal transportation requirements.

It is important to note the Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Farm Animals – Transportation was released in 2001, prior to NFACC's Code development process. Therefore, the current transportation Code would not be included in regulation in BC. Note: federal legislation establishes overarching rules for transporting animals under the *Health of Animals Act* and Part XII (Transportation of Animals) of the federal Health of Animals Regulations. These Regulations are currently being reviewed.

### **18. How will the Codes apply on and off farm (i.e. will they apply at fairs, at auction, etc. or only on farm)?**

The Codes will apply in any situation contemplated in the Codes themselves. For example:

- The dairy code reads: “This Code applies to dairy cattle (including bull calves and bulls) on dairy farms. It does not apply to associated industries (e.g. veal, beef, or bull artificial insemination units)”.
- The farmed mink code reads: “This Code applies to all mink on farms in Canada”.

**19. Will I have to change any of my existing farming or ranching practices as a result of the Codes being regulated?**

While the requirements in the Codes would not become enforceable standards in and of themselves, the Ministry would recommend farmers and ranchers comply with the Codes. The Codes represent reasonable and generally accepted practices of animal management. In addition, a farmer or rancher who chooses not to comply with the Codes would put themselves in a position where, if charged with causing distress to an animal, they would not be able to use adherence to the Codes as a defence against conviction. Therefore, farmers and ranchers should take the necessary steps to become compliant with the Codes.

**20. How will this approach affect third party assurance programs (Verified beef plus, Verified sheep etc.)?**

While most, if not all, third party assurance programs for farm animals are based at least in part on the Codes, these programs are developed and implemented by industry. Therefore, they serve a distinctly different purpose and function than the regulation of Codes as generally accepted animal management practices under the PCAA. Because it is recommended farmers and ranchers comply with the Codes, industry may choose to modify their third party assurance programs to become consistent with the Codes.

**21. What on-going forms of support or training will BCSPCA constables receive around the specific requirements and recommendations in the Codes?**

Through GF2 funding, BCSPCA special constables received farm animal welfare training administered through the BC Agriculture Council in 2014, 2015, and 2016. Future training needs are still to be determined and the Ministry wants to engage with industry stakeholders through this consultation process to determine what the level and scope of training should be. An important part of the training process with BCSPCA special constables would be to articulate how the Codes can and cannot be used as part of a new regulatory approach (i.e. the specific activities required in the Codes could not be inspected for compliance).

**22. Some BC farmers have expressed concern about the dual role of BCSPCA as an enforcement body of provincial regulation and a charitable organization accepting donations. How can the Ministry support BCSPCA and industry collaboration and shared understanding?**

The Ministry encourages the use of farm animal expertise and collaboration between stakeholders in farm animal cases. Through this industry outreach process, the Ministry hopes to explore ways in which this could happen. Some examples might include:

- Additional training for BC SPCA, or collaborative education opportunities between industry associations and the BC SPCA

- Development of MOUs – or revised existing MOUs – between industry sectors, the BCSPCA and the provincial government on recommended ways to proceed in farm animal cases.

### **23. What input process is the Ministry undertaking with industry?**

The Province recognizes the value of industry input and is seeking collaboration on this important project. The Ministry is contacting all BC-based industry associations to share the Questions and Answers, ask related questions, and seek feedback on best approaches to engaging industry. In addition, the Ministry will arrange opportunities for discussion between the BCSPCA and industry associations to address any questions or issues to support clarity of information and understanding.

For further information on this initiative and outreach, please contact the Ministry of Agriculture's contacts:

Geneve Jasper, Livestock Team Lead: [Geneve.Jasper@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Geneve.Jasper@gov.bc.ca); 250-398-4341

Kevin Sage, Policy Analyst: [Kevin.Sage@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Kevin.Sage@gov.bc.ca); 778-974-3845

## RE: For info: BC SPCA Inspections Issue

---

From: Jonson, Byron AFF:EX <Byron.Jonson@gov.bc.ca>  
To: McGuire, Jennifer AFF:EX <Jennifer.Mcguire@gov.bc.ca>  
Cc: Beyers, Georgina AFF:EX <Georgina.Beyers@gov.bc.ca>  
Sent: August 9, 2021 3:38:32 PM PDT

Hi

This is this is the old policy Q&A doc that I relayed to you this AM that industry is using to claim AFF mislead them re the regulations. Georgina and i reviewed the Q&A's and there are some unfortunate phrasing, but not incorrect in its alignment with how we and the SPCA are interpreting the use of the Codes of Practice. Thinking you policy crew was the best ones to review the doc.

---

**From:** Beyers, Georgina AFF:EX <Georgina.Beyers@gov.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** August 9, 2021 3:26 PM  
**To:** McGuire, Jennifer AFF:EX <Jennifer.Mcguire@gov.bc.ca>  
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Georgina Beyers  
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**Sent:** August 9, 2021 11:55 AM  
**To:** Beyers, Georgina AFF:EX <[Georgina.Beyers@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Georgina.Beyers@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Cc:** Lussier, Jason AFF:EX <[Jason.Lussier@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Jason.Lussier@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Subject:** Re: BCSPCA Inspections issue



Hi Georgina,

Please find below a list of items that were raised from the Industry Development Unit's (IDU) Livestock Team regarding BCSPCA's Farm Compliance Inspections.

Members from the IDU are predominately concerned that Ministry presence during these inspections, and written support of BCSPCA's Farm Compliance Inspections is contradicting of direction that was given to industry stakeholder groups between 2018 and 2019 by AFF. This point is summarized in the first bullet below, and is the most important piece that staff, and industry are seeking more information on.

- Will the BCSPCA be requiring compliance with the NFACC Codes of Practice as part of these on-farm inspections?
  - AFF specifically stated in our 2018-2019 consultations with industry that the enforcement of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act (PCAA) is related to animals in distress; the NFACC cannot be used for purposes of enforcing the PCAA and the BCSPCA "cannot require compliance with the Codes". These new inspections appear to contradict recent BCSPCA written communication with industry groups in which they indicated they would be 'inspecting against the Codes'.
  - Industry is concerned that the BCSPCA will use this new pilot-program of inspections to set precedent to enforce the above codes, to where industry was previously told in past years that this would not be the case.
- What third party organization monitors the *BC SPCA compliance and enforcement staff* to ensure they have the appropriate welfare education and training in livestock behaviour?
- How is BCSPCA determining which farms to target?
  - Are they using Premises ID Data?
- Can producers refuse inspections?
  - Is there a penalty to refuse?

Thanks, Rajiv

**Rajiv Dasanjh, BSc, P. Ag,**  
Emerging Markets Specialist  
Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Fisheries, British Columbia  
Phone: 1-778-201-6599  
Email: [Rajiv.Dasanjh@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Rajiv.Dasanjh@gov.bc.ca)

This email was sent from the Naut'sa mawt Council and Sto:lo Nation's territories

## Re: For info: BC SPCA Inspections Issue

---

From: Beyers, Georgina AFF:EX <Georgina.Beyers@gov.bc.ca>  
To: McGuire, Jennifer AFF:EX <Jennifer.Mcguire@gov.bc.ca>  
Cc: Jonson, Byron AFF:EX <Byron.Jonson@gov.bc.ca>, Lalani, Arif AFF:EX <Arif.Lalani@gov.bc.ca>  
Sent: August 9, 2021 3:47:15 PM PDT

Hi Jennifer,

Thank you, we will redirect as you've suggested.

Thanks,  
Georgina

---

**From:** "McGuire, Jennifer AFF:EX" <Jennifer.Mcguire@gov.bc.ca>  
**Date:** Monday, August 9, 2021 at 3:41 PM  
**To:** "Beyers, Georgina AFF:EX" <Georgina.Beyers@gov.bc.ca>  
**Cc:** "Jonson, Byron AFF:EX" <Byron.Jonson@gov.bc.ca>, Arif Lalani <Arif.Lalani@gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** RE: For info: BC SPCA Inspections Issue

Hi Georgina,  
Thanks for the 2018 Q&A document.

The current situation is that the SPCA is initiating inspections. The bullets provided on Friday to Angela are the extent of AFF's current response to this inspection project by the SPCA. Producers with concerns are encouraged to contact the SPCA as they are the lead, and BCAC as the Ag council is helping to coordinate industry concerns.

AFF staff should be redirecting all enquiries to the SPCA; we should not be providing commentary or opinion on this activity.

Thank you  
Jennifer

---

**From:** Beyers, Georgina AFF:EX <Georgina.Beyers@gov.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** August 9, 2021 3:26 PM  
**To:** McGuire, Jennifer AFF:EX <Jennifer.Mcguire@gov.bc.ca>  
**Cc:** Jonson, Byron AFF:EX <Byron.Jonson@gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** For info: BC SPCA Inspections Issue

Good afternoon Jenn,

I am raising this for your awareness, further to my earlier conversations with Byron.

Regarding the upcoming BC SPCA animal welfare inspections on commercial farm sites; staff have raised concern that AFF presence during inspections, and written support of inspections, is contradictory to AFF communication to industry stakeholder groups between 2018 and 2019.

Please find attached the Q&A document (prepared in August, 2018). This document was shared with industry members (responses also shared verbally) in response to industry inquiries, post-August 2018.

Confirmation is needed to assure industry that the guidance offered in the Q&A document still stands. And additional clarification is needed on a few points:

See in attached:

- #15: “...the BC Farm Industry Review Board may hear appeals in relation to certain BCSPCA decisions”
  - Is this process in addition to, or concurrent to standard legal proceedings, should a producer be charged under the PCAA? Or, is this process in lieu of standard legal proceedings?
- #22: “...How can the Ministry support BCSPCA and industry collaboration and shared understanding?”
  - Did additional training or collaborative education opportunities take place?
  - Were MOU’s established?

In addition to the questions and responses contained in the Q&A document, industry has new inquiries that are not covered:

- What third party organization monitors the *BC SPCA compliance and enforcement staff* to ensure they have the appropriate welfare education and training in livestock behaviour?
- How is BCSPCA determining which farms to target?
  - Is BCSPCA using Premises ID Data?
- Can producers refuse inspections?
  - Is there a penalty for refusal?

I will add, anecdotally, that the point of contention seems to be the perception that enforcement is at the ‘discretion’ of inspectors who may have a principle-based objection (agenda) against animal agriculture.

I would be happy to discuss potential next steps in providing communication and clarity to industry, in terms of informing what would be helpful. In the meantime, I have pulled back regional and specialist staff from in-person meetings/Q&A sessions with producers until such point they are prepared to respond.

Thank you,  
Georgina

Georgina Beyers  
Director, Industry Development  
BC Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries  
250-896-6221

---

**From:** "Lussier, Jason AFF:EX" <[Jason.Lussier@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Jason.Lussier@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Date:** Monday, August 9, 2021 at 12:48 PM  
**To:** "Dasanjh, Rajiv AFF:EX" <[Rajiv.Dasanjh@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Rajiv.Dasanjh@gov.bc.ca)>, "Beyers, Georgina AFF:EX" <[Georgina.Beyers@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Georgina.Beyers@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Subject:** RE: Re: BCSPCA Inspections issue

Thanks for sharing this Rajiv, those are consistent with concerns that my staff have heard as well.

Georgina- I’ve included the high level bullets that were provide to staff below but have a few questions that we may want to figure out before the meeting this evening.

1. Can executive provide additional bullets to address the questions below that RDU and IDU have raised?
2. Can more information be provided about AFF role within this process (there seems to be some misperceptions around AFF role in this process)?
3. Can Ministry staff share the attached Q & A document with industry groups to clarify the code and SPCA role?

Thanks for setting up the meeting this afternoon Rajiv and looking forward to chatting more then.

-Jason

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- *Ministry of Agriculture Food and Fisheries is aware of the BC SPCA's intention to proceed with animal welfare inspections on commercial farm sites.*
- *The ministry understands the focus of the inspections will be to assess animal distress. Ensuring animals are not in distress is of interest to the Ministry, the SPCA, farmers and the public across British Columbia.*
- *The BC SPCA is an independent organization and has legislated authority under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act (PCAA) to conduct these inspections. The purpose of the inspections are to determine whether the PCAA and the regulations made under it are being complied with.*
- *The ministry has been in recent discussions with the BC SPCA to understand the inspection methodology, process and communications surrounding these proposed inspections.*
- *Ministry staff will be attending as neutral observers for the inspections as the SPCA has not exercised this authority in the past on commercial farms.*
- *The SPCA is leading the inspection process, selecting the farms to be inspected, and setting the scope of the inspections.*
- *Any questions about the inspection activities conducted by the SPCA should be directed to the SPCA.*

---

**From:** Dasanjh, Rajiv AFF:EX <[Rajiv.Dasanjh@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Rajiv.Dasanjh@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Sent:** August 9, 2021 11:55 AM  
**To:** Beyers, Georgina AFF:EX <[Georgina.Beyers@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Georgina.Beyers@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Cc:** Lussier, Jason AFF:EX <[Jason.Lussier@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Jason.Lussier@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Subject:** Re: BCSPCA Inspections issue

Hi Georgina,

Please find below a list of items that were raised from the Industry Development Unit's (IDU) Livestock Team regarding BCSPCA's Farm Compliance Inspections.

Members from the IDU are predominately concerned that Ministry presence during these inspections, and written support of BCSPCA's Farm Compliance Inspections is contradicting of direction that was given to industry stakeholder groups between 2018 and 2019 by AFF. This point is summarized in the first bullet below, and is the most important piece that staff, and industry are seeking more information on.

- Will the BCSPCA be requiring compliance with the NFACC Codes of Practice as part of these on-farm inspections?
  - AFF specifically stated in our 2018-2019 consultations with industry that the enforcement of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act (PCAA) is related to animals in distress; the NFACC cannot be used for purposes of enforcing the PCAA and the BCSPCA "cannot require compliance with the Codes". These new inspections appear to contradict recent BCSPCA written communication with industry groups in which they indicated they would be 'inspecting against the Codes'.
  - Industry is concerned that the BCSPCA will use this new pilot-program of inspections to set precedent to enforce the above codes, to where industry was previously told in past years that this would not be the case.
- What third party organization monitors the *BC SPCA compliance and enforcement staff* to ensure they have the appropriate welfare education and training in livestock behaviour?
- How is BCSPCA determining which farms to target?
  - Are they using Premises ID Data?
- Can producers refuse inspections?
  - Is there a penalty to refuse?

Thanks, Rajiv

Rajiv Dasanjh, BSc, P. Ag,

Emerging Markets Specialist  
Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Fisheries, British Columbia  
Phone: 1-778-201-6599  
Email: [Rajiv.Dasanjh@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Rajiv.Dasanjh@gov.bc.ca)

This email was sent from the Naut'sa mawt Council and Sto:lo Nation's territories

## Re: DRAFT - AFF & SPCA agreement for AFF observer during inspections

From: Marcie Moriarty <mmoriarty@spca.bc.ca>  
To: McGuire, Jennifer AFF:EX <Jennifer.Mcguire@gov.bc.ca>  
Cc: Shawn Eccles <seccles@spca.bc.ca>  
Sent: August 10, 2021 8:00:59 AM PDT  
Attachments: Agreement BC SPCA AFF August 10, 2021.pdf

**[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.**

Good Morning Jennifer,  
Please see the attached signed agreement. I apologize for not being able to phone you back yesterday but my day was packed with back to back meetings. I will try you sometime this morning.

Regards,

Marcie

**Marcie Moriarty**

(She/Her)

**Chief Prevention and Enforcement Officer  
and guardian to Pip and Zorro**

**BC SPCA**

1245 East 7th Avenue

Vancouver BC V5T 1R1

604-647-1318

1-855-622-7722 • mmoriarty@spca.bc.ca • [spca.bc.ca](http://spca.bc.ca)

Animal Cruelty and Wildlife Hotline: 1.855.622.7722

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**From:** McGuire, Jennifer AFF:EX <Jennifer.Mcguire@gov.bc.ca>

**Sent:** August 5, 2021 12:55 PM

**To:** Shawn Eccles <seccles@spca.bc.ca>

**Cc:** Marcie Moriarty <mmoriarty@spca.bc.ca>

**Subject:** RE: DRAFT - AFF & SPCA agreement for AFF observer during inspections

Hello Shawn,

Please find attached the revised agreement (with dates) and signed.

Thank you for the general locations. I will ensure our observer is ready to go next week.

Jennifer

---

**From:** Shawn Eccles <seccles@spca.bc.ca>

**Sent:** August 5, 2021 11:40 AM

**To:** McGuire, Jennifer AFF:EX <Jennifer.Mcguire@gov.bc.ca>

**Cc:** Marcie Moriarty <mmoriarty@spca.bc.ca>

**Subject:** RE: DRAFT - AFF & SPCA agreement for AFF observer during inspections

**[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.**

Good morning Jennifer,

Not sure if Marcie responded to this email yesterday, if not perhaps the end date for the agreement should be November 30, 2021 and we can use today's date.

It looks like the farms we will be visiting next week will be in Chemainus and Duncan, I will provide further details later today or tomorrow once I obtain the addresses from Kaley,

Cheers!

Shawn

**Shawn Eccles**  
(He/Him)  
Senior Manager, Cruelty Investigations  
BC SPCA  
1245 East 7th Avenue  
Vancouver BC V5T 1R1  
604.575.2249  
1.800.665.1868 • [seccles@spca.bc.ca](mailto:seccles@spca.bc.ca) • [spca.bc.ca](http://spca.bc.ca)  
Animal Cruelty and Wildlife Hotline 1-855-622-7722

*Respectfully acknowledging that I work on, and this email was sent from, the unceded traditional territory of the Kwantlen, Semiahmoo, sc̓əwəθ̓ən məsteyəxʷ (Tsawwassen), Katzie, Kwantlen, Kwikwetlem, and Qayqayt First Nations, as well as numerous Stó:lō First Nations whose historical relationships to the land continues today.*

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---

**From:** McGuire, Jennifer AFF:EX <[Jennifer.Mcguire@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Jennifer.Mcguire@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Sent:** August 4, 2021 8:06 AM  
**To:** Shawn Eccles <[seccles@spca.bc.ca](mailto:seccles@spca.bc.ca)>  
**Cc:** Marcie Moriarty <[mmoriarty@spca.bc.ca](mailto:mmoriarty@spca.bc.ca)>  
**Subject:** RE: DRAFT - AFF & SPCA agreement for AFF observer during inspections

Good Morning Shawn,

The edits to the document look fine. Attached is version 2 – there remain a couple of points to confirm. Then ready to sign the agreement.

Regarding the inspections next week – can you identify if the AFF staff person should be dispatched from Victoria, Nanaimo or elsewhere? Trying to ensure I have the observers in the right communities ready to participate on the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>.

Thank you

**Jennifer McGuire, P.Ag.**  
Assistant Deputy Minister, Science Policy and Inspections Division  
Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries  
Ph: 778-698-8521 Cell: 250-361-5944

---

**From:** Marcie Moriarty <mmoriarty@spca.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** August 3, 2021 3:55 PM  
**To:** McGuire, Jennifer AFF:EX <Jennifer.Mcguire@gov.bc.ca>  
**Cc:** Shawn Eccles <seccles@spca.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** Fw: DRAFT - AFF & SPCA agreement for AFF observer during inspections

**[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.**

Hi Jennifer,  
I hope you had a nice long weekend. I am just following up on the below email. s.22 as of the end of today (I will still be at the meeting with BCAC tomorrow) and wanted to let you know to please send the updated agreement to Shawn Eccles, senior manager cruelty investigations, (seccles@spca.bc.ca) as he will be your contact for this week. As mentioned, there is some urgency should the Ministry want to send a team member to the first two farms as we intend to begin inspections August 9th and 10th on the island. Shawn will follow up with you once the agreement is signed with the location of the farm and meeting details.  
Thank you,  
Marcie

**Marcie Moriarty**  
(She/Her)  
**Chief Prevention and Enforcement Officer**  
**and guardian to Pip and Zorro**  
**BC SPCA**  
1245 East 7th Avenue  
Vancouver BC V5T 1R1  
604-647-1318  
1-855-622-7722 • mmoriarty@spca.bc.ca • spca.bc.ca  
Animal Cruelty and Wildlife Hotline: 1.855.622.7722

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---

**From:** Marcie Moriarty <mmoriarty@spca.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** July 26, 2021 4:02 PM  
**To:** McGuire, Jennifer AFF:EX <Jennifer.Mcguire@gov.bc.ca>  
**Cc:** Norton, Chris AFF:EX <Chris.Norton@gov.bc.ca>; Jonson, Byron AFF:EX <Byron.Jonson@gov.bc.ca>; Shawn Eccles <seccles@spca.bc.ca>; Kaley Pugh <kpugh@spca.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** Re: DRAFT - AFF & SPCA agreement for AFF observer during inspections



Hi Jennifer,

I have now had a chance to review the document and please find attached suggested edits. We are hoping to have a meeting with BCAC within the next two weeks and it would be our intention to start inspections the week of August 9th in areas of the province that are in no way affected by the wildfire situation.

Please let me know if you have any questions about the recommended edits.

Regards,

Marcie

**Marcie Moriarty**

(She/Her)

**Chief Prevention and Enforcement Officer**

**and guardian to Pip and Zorro**

**BC SPCA**

1245 East 7th Avenue

Vancouver BC V5T 1R1

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---

**From:** McGuire, Jennifer AFF:EX <[Jennifer.Mcguire@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Jennifer.Mcguire@gov.bc.ca)>

**Sent:** July 22, 2021 9:07 AM

**To:** Marcie Moriarty <[mmoriarty@spca.bc.ca](mailto:mmoriarty@spca.bc.ca)>

**Cc:** Norton, Chris AFF:EX <[Chris.Norton@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Chris.Norton@gov.bc.ca)>; Jonson, Byron AFF:EX <[Byron.Jonson@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Byron.Jonson@gov.bc.ca)>

**Subject:** DRAFT - AFF & SPCA agreement for AFF observer during inspections

Hi Marcie,

Following our call last week, please find attached a draft agreement for AFF staff to participate in the inspections as Observers.

I am also curious about the timing of the inspections – given the state of emergency due to wildfires – AFF and the province are shifting resources to support communities during these very difficult times. Wondering if the SPCA is considering a rescheduling of inspections due to the wildfire situation.

Looking forward to your comments.

Thank you

*Jennifer McGuire, P.Ag.*

Assistant Deputy Minister, Science Policy and Inspections Division

Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries

Ph: 778-698-8521 Cell: 250-361-5944

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### BC SPCA compliance inspection – AFF Observer participation

The Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries (AFF) is seeking agreement with the British Columbia Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (BCSPCA) to confirm an observer role for one ministry staff person to attend on site for each commercial farm inspection.

The purpose of the AFF observer is to gain an understanding of on farm SPCA compliance inspections and verify that inspections are done in accordance with BC SPCA policies and operational procedures of the society for administering the enforcement of the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act*.

We agree to:


- The BC SPCA is recognized as the lead agent responsible for all inspection related activities.
- The BC SPCA will provide to the AFF contact - 24 hours notice (during weekdays) or 72 hours if a farm inspection takes place on a Monday – the community location for the planned inspection, the address and time for a pre-meeting with the BC SPCA inspection team prior to the planned inspection. This information is necessary to deploy AFF staff to the general community on the day of the inspection. Ideally the community location is within 1 hour drive time of the farm location.
- If an AFF staff member is not available to attend the inspection on the date and location provided, the inspection will proceed without AFF in attendance.
- The AFF contact will provide the BC SPCA with confirmation of attendance and name of AFF staff person as soon as possible after receiving notice.
- All information will be maintained as confidential in accordance with the BC Public Service Standards of Conduct:
  - *Confidential information, in any form, that employees receive through their employment must not be disclosed, released, or transmitted to anyone other than persons who are authorized to receive the information.*
- Specifically, no information provided by the BC SPCA regarding the farm name, location or date for inspection will be shared with industry.
- Upon arrival at the property, the AFF representative will confirm approval from the farm owner to observe the inspection.
- The AFF representative will follow all on farm biosecurity, health and safety protocols.
- The AFF representative may make records during the inspection for ministry use.
- The AFF representative will remain a neutral observer during all inspection related activities.
- AFF will strive to maintain a consistent AFF representative for all inspections; however the representative may change depending upon government operation needs (e.g. fire response) and staff scheduling.
- This agreement ends November 30, 2021.

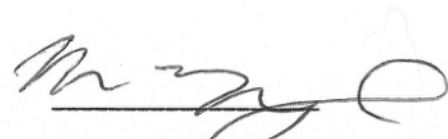
For implementing this agreement, the following are the contacts:

- AFF contact is Jennifer McGuire – reached at [jennifer.mcguire@gov.bc.ca](mailto:jennifer.mcguire@gov.bc.ca) or 250-361-5944
- BC SPCA contact is Marcie Moriarty – reached at [mmoriarty@spca.bc.ca](mailto:mmoriarty@spca.bc.ca) or 604-647-1318.

This agreement was reached on August <sup>10 mem</sup>~~8~~, 2021.

Confirmed by:

  
Jennifer McGuire, AFF

  
Marcie Moriarty, BC SPCA

## RE: SPCA Spot Inspections

---

From: MacLellan, Alyssa AFF:EX <Alyssa.MacLellan@gov.bc.ca>  
To: Sundhu, Ellora AFF:EX <Ellora.Sundhu@gov.bc.ca>  
Sent: August 10, 2021 9:00:51 AM PDT  
Attachments: image001.jpg

Hi Ellora,  
Would this be a min reply or a reply direct?  
Thank you,



Alyssa MacLellan  
Administrative Assistant to the  
**Honourable Lana Popham**  
Minister of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries  
t 250.387.1023 f 250.387.1522

---

**From:** Sundhu, Ellora AFF:EX <Ellora.Sundhu@gov.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** August 9, 2021 4:41 PM  
**To:** MacLellan, Alyssa AFF:EX <Alyssa.MacLellan@gov.bc.ca>  
**Cc:** Rhodes, Angie AFF:EX <Angie.Rhodes@gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** FW: SPCA Spot Inspections

Hi Alyssa,  
Can we please cliff for response? Please see email below.  
Thanks,  
Ellora

---

**From:** Walker, Adam .S.17  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 5, 2021 9:05 PM  
**To:** Sundhu, Ellora AFF:EX <Ellora.Sundhu@gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** Fw: SPCA Spot Inspections

**[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.**

Good evening,  
I am forwarding this request below:

---

**From:** Walker, Adam  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 5, 2021 9:02 PM  
**To:** Garnier, Jack AFF:EX <Jack.Garnier@gov.bc.ca>  
**Cc:** Stechishin, Claire <Claire.Stechishin@leg.bc.ca>; Cloutier, Jessica <Jessica.Cloutier@leg.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** SPCA Spot Inspections

Good evening Jack,

I just spoke with a local ag rep and farmer who has shared with me some concerns regarding upcoming spot inspections with the SPCA and ag staff. The information she has states that 2 random farms for each commodity on the Island will be subject to an inspection by the SPCA along with an MOA staff person this weekend.

I'm hoping you can help me with the following:

- 1) Is this above information correct? And of course assuming the above is correct:
- 2) Is this a government or SPCA led initiative?
- 3) Why are Ag staff attending?
- 4) Who from Ag (titles, not names) would be attending?
- 5) What are the goals of the spot inspections?
- 6) If an inspection takes place in my constituency may I attend?

I appreciate your quick action on this. My cell is 250-947-5115 if preferred, though I will be in meetings for much of tomorrow. Claire or Jessica at the office (250-248-2625) may also be available if desired.

Thanks,  
Adam

## Following up - SPCA Spot Inspections

From: Stechishin, Claire <Claire.Stechishin@leg.bc.ca>, Stechishin, Claire LASS:EX <Claire.Stechishin@leg.bc.ca>  
To: Sundhu, Ellora AFF:EX <Ellora.Sundhu@gov.bc.ca>  
Sent: August 11, 2021 5:13:47 PM PDT  
Attachments: Outlook-joktkkw4.png

**[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.**

Good afternoon Ellora,

I am emailing to follow up on this email Adam sent to Jack last Thursday evening. Adam's original email is below, with a list of 6 questions related to SPCA spot inspections. If you could get me some information on this, I would appreciate it, thanks!!

Cheers,



**Claire Stechishin** (she/her) | Constituency Assistant | Office of Adam Walker, MLA

T: 250-248-2687 | E: [Claire.Stechishin@leg.bc.ca](mailto:Claire.Stechishin@leg.bc.ca) | Parksville - Qualicum

We acknowledge that we are living and working on the traditional lands of the Qualicum, Snaw'naw'as, and Snuneymuxw First Nations.

**From:** Walker, Adam <S.17

**Sent:** Thursday, August 5, 2021 9:02 PM

**To:** Garnier, Jack AFF:EX <Jack.Garnier@gov.bc.ca>

**Cc:** Stechishin, Claire <Claire.Stechishin@leg.bc.ca>; Cloutier, Jessica <Jessica.Cloutier@leg.bc.ca>

**Subject:** SPCA Spot Inspections

Good evening Jack,

I just spoke with a local ag rep and farmer who has shared with me some concerns regarding upcoming spot inspections with the SPCA and ag staff. The information she has states that 2 random farms for each commodity on the Island will be subject to an inspection by the SPCA along with an MOA staff person this weekend.

I'm hoping you can help me with the following:

- 1) Is this above information correct? And of course assuming the above is correct:
- 2) Is this a government or SPCA led initiative?
- 3) Why are Ag staff attending?
- 4) Who from Ag (titles, not names) would be attending?
- 5) What are the goals of the spot inspections?
- 6) If an inspection takes place in my constituency may I attend?

I appreciate your quick action on this. My cell is 250-947-5115 if preferred, though I will be in meetings for much of tomorrow. Claire or Jessica at the office (250-248-2625) may also be available if desired.

Thanks,

Adam

## FW: Letter from BC SPCA re s.15.1 inspections

From: McGuire, Jennifer AFF:EX <Jennifer.Mcguire@gov.bc.ca>  
To: Jonson, Byron AFF:EX <Byron.Jonson@gov.bc.ca>  
Sent: August 13, 2021 2:34:51 PM PDT  
Attachments: 2021 08 04 BCAC Meeting.docx, Letter to BCAC August 12, 2021 .pdf, Letter to Deputy Minister Ethier August 12, 2021.pdf

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**From:** Marcie Moriarty <mmoriarty@spca.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** August 12, 2021 3:58 PM  
**To:** Ethier, Tom AFF:EX <Tom.Ethier@gov.bc.ca>  
**Cc:** McGuire, Jennifer AFF:EX <Jennifer.Mcguire@gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** Letter from BC SPCA re s.15.1 inspections

**[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.**

Good Afternoon Mr. Ethier,  
Please find attached our letter along with enclosures.  
Regards,  
Marcie

**Marcie Moriarty**

(She/Her)

**Chief Prevention and Enforcement Officer**

**and guardian to Pip and Zorro**

**BC SPCA**

1245 East 7th Avenue

Vancouver BC V5T 1R1

604-647-1318

1-855-622-7722 • [mmoriarty@spca.bc.ca](mailto:mmoriarty@spca.bc.ca) • [spca.bc.ca](http://spca.bc.ca)

Animal Cruelty and Wildlife Hotline: 1.855.622.7722

*Respectfully acknowledging that I work on, and this email was sent from, the unceded traditional territory of the downriver hənq̓əminəm' speaking peoples - ,xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), and səlilwətaʔl (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations, and the Skwxwú7mesh-ulh Sníchim speaking peoples - Skwxwú7mesh Uxwumixw (Squamish) Nation whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day.*



OUR MISSION: To protect and enhance the quality of life for domestic, farm and wild animals in British Columbia.

**The BC SPCA is a not-for-profit organization reliant on donations from the public. Charitable Tax # BN 11881 9036 RR0001**

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August 4, 2021 – BC Agricultural Council

Danielle Synotte <[dsynotte@bcac.ca](mailto:dsynotte@bcac.ca)>

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<[rens@bcac.ca](mailto:rens@bcac.ca)>

Wanda Gorsuch (FIRB)  
Kristen Pederson (FIRB)

**Reg Ens:** We want to start with an agreement that animals are treated appropriately and we can help farmers refine and enhance care. As we outlined in our letters to you is to better understand BC SPCA objectives, how this will unfold and how we can work together. Lets jump into the 4 questions we had. Brief comment to each question. Any ministry comments?

**Jennifer McGuire:** No lets get to the questions

**RE:** understanding change in approach. Group wants to know what's changed, and what outcomes they'd like to see. And what success looks like to the spca.

**MM:** Intro. It's helpful to look at PCA act that in the past it always had a sec 15 inspection power (built in) it was confined to sits where animals are kept for sale, hire, exhibit. In the past we've used proactive function. We're complaint based. Example: Sled dog case, there was major change of legislation at that time. Concept of a 'regulated activity'. Not in our scope at the time to be that 3<sup>rd</sup> party inspection role, even though there was a big push. More recently of course, by way of regulation codes of practice incorporated into the act. Being as a defense to causing distress. As codes started to be incorporated those industries became regulated activities therefore sec 15.1 scheme applies. We now have this ability as the enforcement agency to take on inspection capacity.

Why now? 1) we still have limited resources, which impacts our ability to be conducting significant proactive inspections. For discussion, we've talked to govt, about is this our role? 3<sup>rd</sup> party? 2) public shift on variety of different levels. People wanting assurance and transparency around good welfare. Number of stakeholders came forward with concerns, govt was receiving concerns. Typically reassurance we have strongest PCA act in Canada. That in turn comes back to us to say "we have legislation, so what are bc spca doing to ensure good welfare". We decided this was an opportunity to do small sampling of some commodities to utilize this power under the act to determine if this is something we're prepared to do. We want to see animals are being well cared for and codes of practice are being upheld. I'm aware codes are a defense, so our job is "are animals meeting definition of distress, if so, is it considered generally accepted practice?" Then we bring in the codes

**JM:** I will add that spca did come in a few times over the past 2 years for briefing w/Minister and staff about the spca's stakeholders raising concerns around authorities spca has and inspections or some type of assessment like function should be done to confirm animal welfare and the broad level of compliance that exists. SPCA has briefed minister and staff about their intention to move forward.

**Derek Sturko:** Curious, what's the intended use or application of the results? How will they be utilized?

**MM:** Just as we would with any inspection or complaint our duty is to work with the farm and animal owner. As we always do, we give the owner a reasonable opportunity to relieve the distress (given a notice) and then work w/individual to ensure compliance is met. As we do with any other inspection. Obviously if owner wants to share the report with their own industry or with gov't, and from our perspective the document is between us and the individual. General overview of findings for gov't meetings after inspections.

**Jack DeWitt:** can you give me an example of the stakeholders asking you to do these inspections?

**MM:** After excelsior there was a huge response. IN terms of other agencies who have written to govt about transparency in farming there are a bunch of advocacy groups (VHS, furbearers etc)

**RE:** Second question: Let's not get into commodity specific questions, but in general. More around process, how will this happen, how are farms selected and notified. Often small farms where owner/operators are involved in day to day activities. If someone shows up it can throw a wrench into the day's operations.

**Kaley Pugh:** Intro. Intention is not to pre-announce any inspection at any particular facility. But I hear concern about it being disruptive to the operation. So we'll have to have some understanding that if we show up in the middle of milking that obviously can't stop. So we will be flexible and minimize disruptions. General process: have a look around farm, see various aspects of animal care and potentially record keeping. Verifying compliance with PCA act and using NFACC codes and industry's own standards, making sure we're verifying all relevant areas of the farm. Minute by minute logistics of each inspection I don't think it's necessary to get into that. But I want everyone to know we'll comply with any and all biosecurity measures for each farm.

**JM:** One thing I'll make everyone aware of, the SPCA and MoA have an agreement where there will be one MoA staff person accompanying the BC SPCA inspection team. The MoA person will be there in an observer capacity and when the agri staff person arrives they will be asking all farmers for permission to be on site (for inspection purpose), and follow all biosecurity protocols too.

**Byron Johnson:** Industry might need to know who is attending like a veterinarian etc.

**MM:** We'll have a veterinarian attend, who is well versed in the species/commodity we're inspecting.

**Elaine Stoben (cattleman):** Are you able to give us a better idea of the records you will be reviewing?

**KP(SPCA):** For groups that have publically available animal care assessment models we'd look at requirements or critical aspects of those records. Eg I was involved in turkey care models, and there are stringent record keeping requirements and in our supply management program I know there's a lot of paperwork required too. We'll have a peek at those too, I don't think we'll be taking photocopies of giant binders for example if a regulation is to have a written emergency plan, then we'd ask to see that.

**Jeremy Dunn:** Clarification in terms of: Are you assessing the farmer's practices/performances to the code or is the code used as guidance around understanding and quantifying any animal that might be in distress.

**KP(SPCA):** Yes. We're looking from perspective of PCA Act, and then using the codes of practice and the industry's own guides to determine generally accepted processes.

**JD:** Your example w/emergency management plan. If you find out they didn't have one (which doesn't impact animal welfare), what would you do with that finding.

**MM:** under the act 9.2 is a positive duty to ensure animals are free from distress. So that's a learning opportunity to talk w/the farmer. It won't go to issue of 'does the animal meet definition of 'distress'' but in context of duty to protect.

**KP(SPCA):** Maybe not best example, emergency preparedness is top of mind right now.

**Vicki Crites:** Follow up to Jeremy, could you elaborate a little bit about the diff roles of the inspector/constable versus the vet that's on farm, and how you plan to report that out. You mentioned animal care assessments, and we have a lot of training and it's very subjective, so I'd be interested in hearing more about both those.

**KP:** SPC who attends is there as a special constable which is requirement of PCA Act. Primary assessment of the intensive livestock operation will be between myself and the vet b/c of our intensive agriculture background. We won't be writing the report on site, we're going to observe on site and then collaborate after the fact about our observations in a report that is essentially internal. Marcie can jump in to the exact format of the report. Intention is not to do full compliance inspection, I don't have certifications, but to do broad observations about adherence to codes when PCA Act is not applicable.

**MM:** We can get a sample to you if industry like, basically a column chart, and all tied to the distress of an animal. Although we do have the authority to. But we're happy to share a sample, e.g. definition of distress, here's what's relevant to your own assessment practice. We aren't enforcing codes of practice; it isn't a requirement but it does

define when distress is there if it's 'a generally acceptable practice'. If you have your own industry assessment available, we don't have it so please send it over

**VC:** I would be interested in seeing the report template.

**Jim Collins:** The issue is between the farmer and the SPCA. Here we have the right hand (our auditing program) and you're the left hand. How do we work together to strengthen each other?

**MM:** As Jennifer mentioned we've met w/MoA multiple times and raising the fact that there's an opportunity to look at the best way for British Columbians to have that transparency. To get a 3<sup>rd</sup> party auditing system that gets reports to the public so that can happen. I don't see SPCA in the role of compliance agency, but I think an opportunity to look at what that looks like in the future. Because this is done under PCA Act privacy is big concern which is why only between us and farmers. If we see something way off the charts THEN that's when inspection /enforcement comes in, but not what we want to be doing.

**Kristen Pedersen (FIRB):** Wondering how the privacy of producers will be protected by the BC SPCA in terms of the results of these inspections. Curious if you can indicate internal to whom, and to what degree are you ensuring these reports won't become public or that the privacy of producers will be protected.

**MM:** Just like any of our other 8 thousand complaints we receive each year, it's always private unless it becomes public in the sense of a warrant or through the FIRB procedure. Any notices, documents, anything given to the individual would be between SPCA and farmer. What that farmer decides to do with that, whether they want to make it available to anyone else that's up to them, we do not.

**KP(FIRB):** So inspection reports won't be made public by the SPCA?

**MM:** Definitely not

**Shawn Eccles:** With respect to Kristen's concern w/privacy. BC SPCA falls under PIPPA but not FOIs because not a public institute. So industry doesn't need to be worried about that. Legislation we are subject to is PIPPA.

**Katie Lowe (BC Egg):** Going back to records, you mentioned codes are defense. So first we must find distress. I understand sec. 9.2 and duty to prevent distress, but how would reviewing records help you determine if there's distress and therefore a further inspection.

**SE:** Certainly I was going to address this over the transparency and accountability of inspection process. Our ability to access those records is permitted under the act. Regardless of who is causing distress (farmer or not) we have to have some type of communication telling them the distress and if they have records a vet has been attending then those are the records we want. Also going back to Kaley's comments for emergency management. There is a duty for owners to prevent animals from situations likely to cause distress. Concerns w/wildfires is that if you don't have those plans, Sec 11 under the act, we're required to inform the owner of the distress and give them chance to relieve distress. So for this case, if you don't have vet records or indication of emergency plan then we'd make recommendations that you may wish to change or develop those.

**KL:** I'm concerned you were going to look over records, then find animals in distress.

**SE:** Authorized agent is required to be on site to do inspection, required by act, and they have ability under act to bring in experts (specialized knowledge). So Kaley and Veterinarian have that expertise.

**Wanda Gorsuch:** Following up on Katie's question on definition of distress. Has there been any consideration of if there's a dispute? E.g. SPCA determines animals are in distress, where farmer disagrees w/SPCA's definition of distress or commodity disagrees.

**MM:** As with all of our inspections/investigations. We rely heavily on veterinarians and we find that courts too, on what vet's opinion/definition of distress. Obviously that individual would have the ability to provide expert evidence that demonstrates animal doesn't meet definition. If we're provided of counter evidence especially vet, that pretty much ends the case. We wouldn't be granted a warrant, which I hope it never escalates to, but in that situation it would be up to the courts to determine what's sufficient. I hope we don't get to that stage.

**Derek Sturko:** Is there a place where these documents will be so everyone has a written copy of expectations etc?

**MM:** We're taking notes during this meeting, and we've sent out those letters. I know this is novel, for an enforcement agency to sit down and go into great detail about an unexpected inspection we want to be transparent.

**RE:** Danielle is taking notes and writing action items. Includes next steps.

**Jack DeWitt:** Some of this driven by dissatisfied stakeholders, understanding confidentiality of your reporting will this satisfy them?

**MM:** We're not here to satisfy stakeholders. We're here to uphold a piece of legislation that is there to protect animal welfare. So that's our only goal of an inspection or investigation is to ensure animals free of distress. Kept very separate. As for stakeholders asking why we won't use our sec 15.1 powers, we may say we've started a limited inspection program (can't give details). Hopefully this won't happen, but should we attend and we are denied our ability to enforce legislation then that's a discussion we'd have to bring back to the group again.

**JC:** What producer boards need to do with their commodities is if we can have some confidence between BC SPCA on how to properly communicate this it would be helpful. When we get into codes and animals in distress, is that boards should be able to clarify what codes mean in each circumstance. Working together to answer these questions so when issues arise we know how to deal with them.

**Harvey Sasaki (chicken marketing):** Marcie mentioned and the purpose of us getting together is to avoid situation of being denied. As Jim said we want to provide our members with enough info so they have confidence in the system to achieve desired outcomes. You said if we got to that situation if SPCs denied you'd bring it back to the group. What group would you bring it back to? I hope you'd bring it to commodity group or this larger group.

**MM:** Absolutely, I think a discussion would also happen at the govt level. We've said it a few times, we feel that a 3<sup>rd</sup> party auditing system should be happening. So if for example, we were denied at 50% of farms. I could see a statement in supporting our 3<sup>rd</sup> party auditing system referencing that the response to "we have strong legislation" but we aren't being allowed to enforce it. So what I can say, is it may be referenced in a broad statement but individual specifics we would bring to individual commodity while respecting farmer's privacy. We aren't able to give specific details to anyone outside of that farmer. I want to be honest. Intent is not to target anyone but to enforce legislation.

**RE:** Following up on that, is that an action item? A mechanism for the SPCA that enables them to notify associations or boards if a commodity or farm wasn't providing access? Would that be helpful from industry perspective?

**HS:** As we said at the outset, our desire is transparency and to ensure we can legitimately say we have robust animal welfare system in BC. I guess I would like from my perspective if SPCA team was having a problem w/broiler industry in terms of getting access that we would like to hear about that. And be able to help you resolve that.

**MM:** Our intent is to proceed immediately with this, in the context of wildfires so obviously not doing the interior or anywhere where there's a fire threat. That letter that was sent out in the beginning, feel free to send that out to your

members. And let's say we have that situation, we could ask permission from that farmer to give that info to the commodity.

**KP:** Curious if you have any sense at this time the number of inspections that your organization is contemplating. My understanding is the SPCA is shifting from a complaint driven model to a proactive en masse inspection model. Please correct me. With that in mind, given the number of livestock related operations in province, how many inspections are you envisioning even on an annual basis.

**MM:** At beginning I mentioned our intent is not to be compliance agency. Our plan is to do 2 per commodity. This is a pilot to see. We don't have the resources nor desire to do this ongoing. We are asking for a 3<sup>rd</sup> party

**JC:** I think it's important for communication going back, farmer to SPCA and SPCA to board. He should know everyone is in the loops (farmer can go to board and board to SPCA).

**Michel Benoit:** Concern w/denying of access. So many times where I try to get ahold of my farmers and they're doing errands or on the road. Or the wrong person might be at the house (not farm operator) so there are circumstances where access is denied or should be. Is that going to be some ammunition or repercussions if the farmer can't accommodate? The unannounced part is going to cause most angst to farmers.

**MM:** An announced visit comes with its own challenges. So that's something the act provides for, just like for other inspection based programs (which I won't compare to). By and large, unannounced is how this happens for total transparency. If an individual has to drop off their kids, we can wait; We're able to accommodate that. We hope there will compliance and respect to the fact that a constable is requesting access under a piece of legislation. We will be reasonable.

**MB:** I know for a fact that will be the biggest hurdle to alleviate the concerns of the farmer. We need to figure out how to deal with that.

**MM:** Yes, and I think as long as it's the exception not the rule. There's validity to ensuring transparency in inspection process.

**KL:** If producer wants to deny access, SPC should have list of contact numbers. E.g. layer farm could call me directly and I could speak to producer. It's nerve wracking for them.

**MM:** That's a good one, and if there are any privacy lawyers on this call, I think it would be a good idea. Let's say we go to complaint; you don't want to be telling mom & dad about kid being in trouble at school. But I think we can make that call to you if that's OK. If industry can please send us that list, sooner than later, send it to Shawn by the end of the week.

**ES:** 1) going back to communications, not all industries are regulated. Ours for example has volunteer membership. While we want to ensure our members are well aware of inspection process, we have concerns taking on responsibility of taking this on to our membership. Have you given thought to not all commodities are regulated and we don't have contact info for everyone. We might need to rethink how beef producers get this info.

2) You mention 3<sup>rd</sup> party, can you tell me who you think is appropriate for this. Most industries already have auditing systems in place.



**MM:** 1) I can't really answer that. That's an industry discussion around contact. We are just enforcement arm under PCA Act. We can speak to anyone about that.

2) Again, a discussion to explore with govt and industry. I don't have that answer for you, maybe Kaley or Shawn? Absolutely each commodity has diff assessment programs, some of them have 3<sup>rd</sup> party, but some don't have a true 3<sup>rd</sup> party element to it.

**JD:** Biosecurity in hog sector is #1 concern. Would inspection team be totally able to shower in and out, and all PPE? A family farm wouldn't have proper clothing requirements for biosecurity for group of 5+ people. How is that managed?

2) Mentioned several times your resources are stretched, and people are thinking this, who is picking up the tab for this?

**SE:** Respect to biosecurity, absolutely our people can shower in/out as necessary. Our officers bring in boots, Tyvek suits, we can clean all PPE. Intent is not to contaminate any farms, and in the event we do 2 inspections a week we wouldn't do 2 of the same species.

**JM:** BC SPCA is aware of BSF alert in Canada? SO that's why twitchy nature in pork industry.

**KP:** I am well aware of biosecurity requirements for high held herds. Top of mind issues and we'd be doing anything required of us. As Shawn alluded to we will maintain a chronological space between inspections as well.

**MM:** to #2, the BC SPCA doesn't receive any govt funding to enforce PCA act. So like all cruelty investigations this is funded by donors. And this is from our general cruelty investigations budget. This project was not specifically funded by anyone.

**RE:** No intention of billing or charging the farmer?

**MM:** No, we're happy to receive govt money for it

**JD:** you intend to start soon?

**MM:** Yes, we sent the letter out a while ago. We will be commencing soon.

**JD:** What do you hope to learn from this pilot project?

**MM:** It's a small sample. And this meeting is learning. This whole thing is a dialogue and learning process, so again it's a very small sampling and I think our ability to be effective as an agency enforcing PCA Act is something we want to see whether that's possible. If it's not possible, and if industry and govt don't say it's possible, it leaves us in a precarious position as enforcement agency.

**HS:** Again, in terms of setting this up for success. I don't think anyone wants to see this initiative, and that we received this notification end of June, but it took us time to get to this step and exchange of info. I guess in terms of you mentioning the novel approach, to go into detail on unannounced inspections. I think in terms of trying to get to success of what we're trying to achieve. The last thing we want to do is have your inspection team show up and being denied access. What is the urgency in terms of the need to conduct these immediately (or within next week) if buying a bit of time to ensure we can get the communications out to as many as we can to ensure it goes smoothly.

**MM:** I appreciate that; I'm looking at the letter. That was 5 weeks ago, and I appreciate it's through the MoA, but we had brought up our intention to do these inspections many months ago. When we went that letter, that was putting industry on notice, and that was the opportunity over the last 5 weeks to speak to your members about this. We again, we have scheduling on our side, making sure right veterinarian comes to each farm etc. What I can say, I guess, I feel that we were very genuine in giving these 5 weeks. This letter to me constitutes notice.

**HS:** I appreciate that, but at the same time if we sent out notification to our members that it raised more questions than it answered. That's the intention of us working as an industry and coming to you get this clarity and understanding so we can relay that to our producers. We aren't challenging your authority to do this, but to me it's Important we can convey that content to our members so ensure success.

**MM:** I appreciate that. It isn't to catch out any industry, but I can say being mindful of the vet's schedule that we did believe that we gave enough notice.

**BJ:** Observing discussion and feeling my roots to how I'd feel about an SPCA truck rolling down the road. You notice who is coming and going from neighbor's house and there's an unspoken stigma here, and you're not out for broken taillights. Is there a way you can make it discrete as you do these inspections? In a rural area, SPCA truck = animal cruelty complaint. Trying to make you aware of it, not sure if you can make it discrete. You have to be cognizant of that. You are a 3<sup>rd</sup> party, but your name is still SPCA and it carries that stigma.

**MM:** We can take this offline, we might have unmarked vehicles but we certainly won't be renting one specifically. With COVID we have to be mindful of human safety so we need to bring multiple vehicles etc. We are mindful and cognizant of this.

**RE:** Action items during discussion:

Sharing of sample report from SPCA (per commodity) → Industry contacts Kaley CC Shawn

How to integrate existing commodity compliance checks

How to boards help farmers prepare for audit?

Commitment from industry: Shortlist of contacts for when access denied

Do we want to meet again, 5 weeks?

**HS:** I think if we could come back after inspections are done to have a session to talk about what the experience was and findings are. If you're planning future inspections, then what lessons can we learn from this?

**MM:** We're open to a meeting; we're looking at months long process with the fires etc. We'd like to have it completed in Nov but with the wildfires our timeline is off. If we have a better idea I can get back to Reg, but I don't think we'll have a better idea until fire season ends.

**PROVINCIAL OFFICE**

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Charitable Registration # BN 11881 9036 RR0001

August 12, 2021

BC Agriculture Council  
Unit 1 2650 Progressive Way  
Abbotsford, BC V2T 6H0

(via email)

Dear Danielle Synotte,

I am writing further to the meeting that took place between the BC Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (BC SPCA), BC Agriculture Council (BCAC), Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries (MAFF) staff and various commodity groups on August 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021. A number of action items were identified for follow up during that meeting and some questions or clarifications were sought by the BCAC. A response to those questions can be found attached to this letter. In addition, you asked to confirm that we would not be contacting the commodity group at any point if we have been denied access, rather, we would have the names/numbers available for the farmer if they wish to contact them. This is correct as we need to respect a farmer's privacy. As requested, I have also included a draft sample of the inspection forms to be used by the constable during the farm visit.

Matters have subsequently been complicated by the fact that there was a public Facebook posting by a Country Life reporter, who had obtained details of the meeting from one of the commodity groups, that contained erroneous and misleading information. This has resulted in, amongst other things, serious threats, including violence, against our special provincial constables. When this issue was raised with the BCAC by way of email on August 6<sup>th</sup> and a request was made that the BCAC follow up with Country Life to correct the error, BCAC indicated that they would pass on this request for action to the commodity group who held the meeting. The BC SPCA has since received on August 10<sup>th</sup> a response from the BC Chicken Marketing Board in which they decline to take any action, even though they are directly responsible for the release of this erroneous information. As a result of that communication, I feel it necessary to provide the below comments.

The BC SPCA proactively notified industry of our intent to utilize our inspection powers pursuant to s 15.1 of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act (the "PCA Act") on June 24, 2021 (the "Letter.") The intent of that Letter was to help B.C.'s livestock farmers to understand the section 15.1 inspection process as it applies to regulated industries and the BC SPCA's intention to, on a small scale, begin to exercise these powers granted by government.

Upon hearing from the Ministry of Agriculture that industry groups had concerns and additional questions about the program, we agreed in good faith and without any obligation to a meeting with industry groups and government to further clarify details of the program. This meeting was not scheduled until August 6<sup>th</sup>, however, it is important to note that the Letter sent June 24, 2021 had invited each industry to reach out to the BC SPCA at any time to ask questions. With one exception, no industry group took us up on that offer. I point this out as I feel it goes to the allegation by some industry groups that they feel rushed and blame the BC SPCA for not further delaying the inspections. There was at least five week time period available for any questions to have been clarified.

As noted above, the meeting was held virtually on August 6<sup>th</sup>, 2021. During the course of the meeting it became apparent that some of the industry groups had not shared the Letter with their members, despite the fact that the anticipated start date was included in the original letter. As such, the BC SPCA expected farmers to be notified well in advance.

The decision by some industry groups to apparently not distribute the Letter or otherwise disseminate the information led to rushed communications in some cases to their members. In one instance, the communication took place over a virtual meeting where a member of the media (reporter for Country Life) was also present. As a result, communication regarding the pilot program that the BC SPCA believed was a matter between industry, their members and government, became public. As referenced above, an outcome was an inaccurate Facebook post regarding the program that left B.C.'s farmers with questions and more concerning, threats of violence towards BC SPCA constables, who are sworn peace officers under the Police Act. Many of these questions were addressed in the BC SPCA's Letter, so clear and early communication from industry groups to their members could have prevented the confusion and animosity generated by this misinformation.

During the meeting with BC SPCA, industry groups, and MAFF, there was extensive discussion regarding privacy of farms that are subject to inspection, and how the BC SPCA must follow the *Personal Information Protection Act*, which would prevent the BC SPCA from telling industry groups the details of a farm that denied access to inspectors. The BC SPCA expressed there was the possibility that anonymized information such as "X percentage of farms denied inspectors access," could be shared but that specific farms would not. It is disappointing that from this discussion, media received the impression that the BC SPCA would publically name a farm who denied inspection access, as this was never our intention nor is it permitted as per PIPA.

To add insult to injury, the industry group that held the meeting where the media allegedly inadvertently gained access, in subsequent correspondence with the BC SPCA blamed us for their hurried communication that resulted in this error and stated they had no control over what the media printed. While the latter may be true, the former as explained above is simply false as the BC SPCA had provided plenty of notice to industry. They have indicated they will not be providing a correction to Country Life and feel that it should be up to the BC SPCA to provide this correction. As such, the BC SPCA will be taking further action to attempt to see that this misinformation is corrected.

Needless to say, the events that have transpired over the course of the past number of weeks has led the BC SPCA to the unfortunate conclusion that good faith efforts on our part have not been valued and reciprocated by some in industry. Given that the misleading information now circulating in the public is directly the result of industry actions/inaction, we believe the onus now firmly rests on industry's shoulders to clearly demonstrate its good faith intentions going forward. It is our expectation that if misinformation is circulating that all parties make reasonable attempts to correct so that instead of

allowing fear and mistrust to thrive, there is a joint message demonstrating a desire to see good animal welfare for farm animals in BC.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Marcie Moriarty', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Marcie Moriarty  
Chief Prevention and Enforcement Officer, BC SPCA

cc. Tom Ethier, Deputy Minister

**PROVINCIAL OFFICE**

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August 12, 2021

Mr. Tom Ethier  
Deputy Minister of Agriculture  
PO Box 9120, Stn Prov Govt  
Victoria, BC V8W 9B4

Dear Deputy Minister Ethier,

I am writing further to the meeting that took place between the BC Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (BC SPCA), BC Agriculture Council (BCAC), Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries (MAFF) staff and various commodity groups on August 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021. This meeting was attended by the BC SPCA in good faith and in keeping with our desire to work cooperatively with both industry and the MAFF in ensuring the welfare of animals as required under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act (PCAA). While it was the BCAC that expressed the desire to meet, it is our understanding that they first approached the MAFF with concerns about the section 15.1 inspection program that had been outlined in a letter sent to industry and government on June 24, 2021. As a result of BCAC's concerns, the MAFF acted as an intermediary between industry and the BC SPCA, and we participated in a pre-meeting with government to address any concerns or questions.

At the August 4<sup>th</sup> meeting, the BC SPCA provided an overview of the farm compliance program and responded to the industries' and government agencies' questions as identified on the agenda as well as others that arose during the course of the meeting. A detailed copy of the notes is attached to this letter for reference.

We understood this meeting was to be for the purpose of sharing information and maintaining working relationships. Therefore, we were surprised and extremely disappointed when false and inaccurate information related to the inspection scheme was made public by an industry representative via the media (Country Life Facebook post.)

As a result of the erroneous and misleading information that was printed, there have been public posts threatening violence against our officers, who are sworn peace officers under the Police Act and as such agents of government, as well as comments critical of the BC SPCA and its enforcement role. Given the Ministry's direct knowledge of very recent gun violence perpetrated against a BC SPCA special constable in the execution of her duties under the PCAA, we believe it is incumbent on the Ministry to understand and be pro-active in demonstrating its commitment to the safety of our officers.

When we asked the BCAC, the organizers of the meeting, to provide a correction to Country Life, they chose to decline to do so and instead passed on the ask to the commodity group that was responsible for this "leak" to rectify the situation. The BC SPCA has subsequently received a letter from BC Chicken Marketing Board in which they refuse to correct the misinformation and go as far as suggesting that the

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**THE BRITISH COLUMBIA SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS**

BC SPCA was to blame for any confusion/misinformation that Country Life posted. This failure to take action is extremely disappointing and we are left with no other choice then to respond to Country Life and provide a balance to the story publicly. We have since written to BCAC to express our concerns over the lack of action and to demonstrate publicly their commitment to building dialogue and good faith with the BC SPCA going forward. A copy of this letter is attached.

Over the years, Minister Popham has asked us repeatedly to try to work with industry as good partners with a goal of good animal welfare in mind. We heeded this call by participating in good faith discussions with industry, even though there was no obligation on our part to do so. In addition, as you are aware, the BC SPCA has been attempting for the better part of a year to engage the Ministry in a discussion around the future of farm animal enforcement. With that in mind, we would appreciate receiving the Ministry's position on what actions, if any, the Ministry will take to ensure these unfortunate circumstances be avoided in the future, as we believe we have demonstrated good faith throughout this process. Ultimately, the events that have transpired in the past few weeks have led us to the conclusion that the BC SPCA has been left in the untenable position of having to unilaterally defend itself for simply trying to enforce legislation that government has enacted and entrusted to us and which has been undertaken at no cost to government and without major incident for more than a century.

We believe the Ministry's agriculture responsibilities extend beyond promotion and include compliance and regulation beyond that of neutral observer and in that regard, we request that moving forward, the Ministry extend to the BC SPCA the same courtesies that have been provided to commodity groups in regard to stakeholder relations.

Currently, our priority is the safety concerns of our officers and we look forward to receiving feedback on the public role that the Ministry will play in safeguarding the interests of its enforcement agency moving forward.

Sincerely,



Marcie Moriarty  
Chief Prevention and Enforcement Officer, BC SPCA

cc. Jennifer McGuire, ADM MAFF

Encls. Notes of August 4<sup>th</sup> meeting  
Letter to BCAC dated August 12, 2021

## **RE: BC MAFF key bullet points re; SPCA - ok to share in BCCMB e-newsletter?**

From: Cheryl Davie <cheryldavie@BCChicken.ca>  
To: McGuire, Jennifer AFF:EX <Jennifer.Mcguire@gov.bc.ca>  
Sent: August 13, 2021 4:32:52 PM PDT  
Attachments: image001.png

**[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.**

Jennifer,

Thank you for your prompt response. Have a great weekend!  
Cheryl

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**From:** McGuire, Jennifer AFF:EX <Jennifer.Mcguire@gov.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** August 13, 2021 12:49 PM  
**To:** Cheryl Davie <cheryldavie@BCChicken.ca>; Danielle Synotte <dsynotte@bcac.ca>  
**Cc:** Bill Vanderspek <billvanderspek@BCChicken.ca>  
**Subject:** RE: BC MAFF key bullet points re; SPCA - ok to share in BCCMB e-newsletter?

Hello Cheryl,  
Yes the bullets are intended to provide additional information re: the proposed SPCA inspections.  
Jennifer

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**From:** Cheryl Davie <cheryldavie@BCChicken.ca>  
**Sent:** August 13, 2021 10:34 AM  
**To:** McGuire, Jennifer AFF:EX <Jennifer.Mcguire@gov.bc.ca>; Danielle Synotte <dsynotte@bcac.ca>  
**Cc:** Bill Vanderspek <billvanderspek@BCChicken.ca>  
**Subject:** BC MAFF key bullet points re; SPCA - ok to share in BCCMB e-newsletter?

**[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.**

Hi Jennifer

Thank you for the key bullet points from BC Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries. Do I have your permission to share these points in our BCCMB bi-weekly e-newsletter ?

Cheryl

Here are a few bullets as requested:

- \* Ministry of Agriculture Food and Fisheries is aware of the BC SPCA's intention to proceed with animal welfare inspections on commercial farm sites.
- \* The ministry understands the focus of the inspections will be to assess animal distress. Ensuring animals are not in distress is of interest to the Ministry, the SPCA, farmers and the public across British Columbia.
- \* The BC SPCA is an independent organization and has legislated authority under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act (PCAA) to conduct these inspections. The purpose of the inspections are to determine whether the PCAA and the regulations made under it are being complied with.
- \* The ministry has been in recent discussions with the BC SPCA to understand the inspection methodology, process and communications surrounding these proposed inspections.



- \* Ministry staff will be attending as neutral observers for the inspections as the SPCA has not exercised this authority in the past on commercial farms.
- \* The SPCA is leading the inspection process, selecting the farms to be inspected, and setting the scope of the inspections.
- \* Any questions about the inspection activities conducted by the SPCA should be directed to the SPCA.

Thank you

Jennifer McGuire, P.Ag.

Assistant Deputy Minister, Science Policy and Inspections Division, Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries

Ph: 778-698-8521 Cell: 250-361-5944

**Cheryl Davie P.Ag. MBA**

*Manager of Strategic Initiatives and Analysis*

**Phone** (604) 308-5775

**Email** [cheryldavie@bcchicken.ca](mailto:cheryldavie@bcchicken.ca)

*"Everyone you meet is fighting a battle you know nothing about. Be kind. Always."*

- Robin Williams



## FW: Letter from BC SPCA re s.15.1 inspections

From: Ethier, Tom AFF:EX <Tom.Ethier@gov.bc.ca>  
To: McGuire, Jennifer AFF:EX <Jennifer.Mcguire@gov.bc.ca>  
Sent: August 16, 2021 6:27:55 AM PDT  
Attachments: 2021 08 04 BCAC Meeting.docx, Letter to Deputy Minister Ethier August 12, 2021.pdf, Letter to BCAC August 12, 2021 .pdf

Maybe we can discuss today? Is there a draft response being developed?

**From:** Marcie Moriarty <mmoriarty@spca.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** August 12, 2021 3:58 PM  
**To:** Ethier, Tom AFF:EX <Tom.Ethier@gov.bc.ca>  
**Cc:** McGuire, Jennifer AFF:EX <Jennifer.Mcguire@gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** Letter from BC SPCA re s.15.1 inspections

**[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.**

Good Afternoon Mr. Ethier,  
Please find attached our letter along with enclosures.  
Regards,  
Marcie

**Marcie Moriarty**

(She/Her)

**Chief Prevention and Enforcement Officer**

**and guardian to Pip and Zorro**

**BC SPCA**

1245 East 7th Avenue

Vancouver BC V5T 1R1

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1-855-622-7722 • [mmoriarty@spca.bc.ca](mailto:mmoriarty@spca.bc.ca) • [spca.bc.ca](http://spca.bc.ca)

Animal Cruelty and Wildlife Hotline: 1.855.622.7722

*Respectfully acknowledging that I work on, and this email was sent from, the unceded traditional territory of the downriver hənq̓əminəm' speaking peoples - ,xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), and səlilwətaʔl (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations, and the Skwxwú7mesh-ulh Sníchim speaking peoples - Skwxwú7mesh Uxwumixw (Squamish) Nation whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day.*

OUR MISSION: To protect and enhance the quality of life for domestic, farm and wild animals in British Columbia.

The BC SPCA is a not-for-profit organization reliant on donations from the public. Charitable Tax # BN 11881 9036 RR0001

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**Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries**  
**BRIEFING NOTE FOR MINISTER FOR INFORMATION**

Ref: 193499

Date: January 28, 2021

**Title:** Minister Popham and BC SPCA meeting, February 2, 2021

**Issue:** Minister Popham is meeting with representatives from the British Columbia Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (BC SPCA) on February 2, 2021 to discuss:

- Ongoing collaboration;
- Enforcement on commercial farms; and
- The BC SPCA's 2021 Budget Submission.

**Background:**

The BC SPCA

The BC SPCA is a not-for-profit charitable organization, funded primarily by public donations, with a mission to protect and enhance the quality of life for domestic, farm, and wild animals in British Columbia (B.C.). The BC SPCA was created in 1895, and it has authority under the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act* (PCA Act). The PCA Act creates legislative force to prevent cruelty to animals in B.C., including family pets (companion animals), livestock, and working animals, but excluding wildlife. The BC SPCA is the only animal organization in B.C. with the authority to enforce laws under the PCA Act. The BC SPCA operates in 44 locations and employs 645 staff members and approximately 5,500 volunteers throughout B.C.

There are two distinct functions of the BC SPCA in B.C.: a regulatory function and a community outreach function. The BC SPCA is mandated under the PCA Act to respond to animals in distress. BC SPCA enforcement actions are performed by Special Provincial Constables. Currently, the BC SPCA has 34 full time Special Provincial Constables who are authorized to investigate complaints of animal abuse and neglect. BC SPCA constables investigate approximately 8,500 complaints of animal cruelty each year, at a cost of approximately \$3.5 million annually. The BC SPCA does not receive annual, dedicated funding from the Province for their enforcement actions.

Enforcement on commercial farms

The Animal Care Codes of Practice Regulation (the Regulation) came into force on June 1, 2019, under the PCA Act, to provide further protection for farm animals by establishing reasonable and generally accepted practices of animal management. The Regulation applies to all farming and ranching operations in B.C. where the animals listed in section 2 of the Regulation are kept for the purposes of breeding, boarding, grazing, selling, training, and for the production of certain farm and ranch products and by-products. While failure to abide by the Codes of Practice is not necessarily an offence, following the Codes is a defense from conviction of animal distress. Referencing the Codes of Practice in regulation therefore provides an incentive to farmers and ranchers to follow these practices.

Approximately 20 percent of complaints received by the BC SPCA involve farm animals. Most of these complaints relate to either hobby farmers or equines. A very small percentage relate to enforcement on commercial farms (approximately 10 to 20 complaints per annum).

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Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.13