

FW: SPCA - BCAC - AFF Meeting

From: Danielle Synotte <dsynotte@bcac.ca>
To: McGuire, Jennifer AFF:EX <Jennifer.Mcguire@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Norton, Chris AFF:EX <Chris.Norton@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: September 21, 2021 12:45:19 PM PDT
Attachments: 2021-09-03 Letter to MAFF from Industry - SPCA Inspections Process Update.pdf

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Note on "Items Outstanding" request:

Specifically:

1. A written process – what is the update on this?
2. The report – would like an update. Farmers are left with nothing after an inspection. Not even any possibility of receiving a copy after ____ days/weeks. We really would like something that can be provided to the farmer moving forward.
 - a. Why can WorkSafe provide copies of inspections or audits right on the spot but they cannot?
 - b. Organics BC shared that they have inspections automatically shared with them 2 weeks after inspections. We're ok with this too – at least there is an expectation that is managed in respect to what they will get and when.

This is bringing up the points from the letter BCAC sent to you (attached). Not sure if you want to broach the subject but I am willing to if you'd like me to.

Danielle

From: Marcie Moriarty <mmoriarty@spca.bc.ca>
Sent: September 21, 2021 11:36 AM
To: Danielle Synotte <dsynotte@bcac.ca>; McGuire, Jennifer AFF:EX <Jennifer.Mcguire@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Norton, Chris AFF:EX <Chris.Norton@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Re: SPCA - BCAC - AFF Meeting

Hi Jennifer and Danielle,
The agenda looks good to me. Just waiting on hopefully having some dates for next farm inspections by tomorrow's meeting.
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

Animal Cruelty and Wildlife Hotline: 1.855.622.7722

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From: Danielle Synotte <dsynotte@bcac.ca>
Sent: September 21, 2021 9:37 AM
To: McGuire, Jennifer AFF:EX <Jennifer.Mcguire@gov.bc.ca>; Marcie Moriarty <mmoriarty@spca.bc.ca>
Cc: Norton, Chris AFF:EX <Chris.Norton@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: SPCA - BCAC - AFF Meeting

Thank you!

We are meeting as a group this morning and will follow-up if we have any requests to add anything.

Danielle

From: McGuire, Jennifer AFF:EX <Jennifer.Mcguire@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: September 21, 2021 8:48 AM
To: Danielle Synotte <dsynotte@bcac.ca>; Marcie Moriarty <mmoriarty@spca.bc.ca>
Cc: Norton, Chris AFF:EX <Chris.Norton@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: SPCA - BCAC - AFF Meeting

Good morning,

How about the following as a rough agenda for tomorrow's meeting? Pls revise or suggest alternative topics

1. Introductions
2. Status update by SPCA on inspections - general comments about process. (10 min)
3. BCAC - comments and what was heard (10 min)
4. AFF - comments and observation feedback (10 min)
5. Discussion, Lessons learned and next steps (20 min)
6. Closing.

Looking forward to the check in meeting tomorrow.

Thank you

*Jennifer McGuire, P.Ag.
Assistant Deputy Minister
Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries*

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September 3, 2021

Jennifer McGuire, Assistant Deputy Minister

BC Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries
PO Box 9409 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9V1
Sent via email: jennifer.mcguire@gov.bc.ca

Dear Ms. McGuire:

Subject: BC SPCA Unannounced Inspections Process

Thank you for maintaining an important role in the discussions between our livestock industry groups and the BC SPCA as we continue to seek clear information about the pilot project of unannounced proactive inspections by the BC SPCA.

Animal care remains the highest priority for British Columbia's farmers and ranchers. They work to continuously improve animal care programs, while also recognizing how important it is to have the support of our communities. Further, we accept that the BC SPCA has a critical role to play with respect to enforcement of the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act (PCA Act)*.

Following our first meeting of all three parties on August 4, 2021, we shared some follow-up questions with the BC SPCA and we subsequently (August 13) received from the BC SPCA a response document outlining some answers to these, and two "sample" inspection checklists: one for dairy and one for eggs. Although this information is helpful, industry feels that it is very important to point out to the ministry two critical gaps in the information received from the BC SPCA:

- 1) A written process document remains outstanding. This is critical - it would provide transparency for our members and our farmers and ranchers regarding how the BC SPCA intends to carry out its inspections. It is still unclear what the inspection reports will look like and how procedural fairness with respect to the producer(s) will be ensured. As a first instance regulator, the BC SPCA should be required to provide the same degree of accountability and transparency as BC Marketing Boards.
- 2) The two "sample" inspection checklists that were shared with us were marked as *partial* in nature, and only pertained to two of the seven commodities involved. They were also marked "Confidential," so presumably we are not supposed to share these with producers. However, the more problematic aspect of these two sample checklists is that the questions contained in the checklists clearly show that the BC SPCA is looking to evaluate general farm practices, rather than simply focus on ensuring that there are no animals in distress on farm. During our call on August 4th, and confirmation of the notes circulated post-meeting, we understood that the BC SPCA was inspecting farms for animals in distress, as outlined in the *PCA Act*. We agree that this is their role; inspection of general farming practices is not. For example (using dairy), the following questions are included:
 - i. What are the number of heifers (including replacements)?
 - ii. Total acreage of land owned?
 - iii. Number of cows shipped to slaughter annually.

In addition, the sample checklist includes several evaluative measures, some taken from the Code of Practice which we were advised would not be part of the inspections. Again, using dairy as an example, there were questions asked specifically in relation to the *Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Dairy Cattle*. This has given us the impression that the BC SPCA is, in fact, planning to evaluate regular farming practices, not just seeking to ensure that there are no animals in distress.

While we understand that inspections have recently commenced (two that we are aware of), industry members still respectfully request that the ministry use its authority to press the BC SPCA for the following, to achieve better transparency and accountability of the process, which we believe is important if we are all looking to achieve informed and useful outcomes in the future:

- 1) A document that clearly outlines the full planned pilot inspection process for each of the commodities they are planning to inspect; this would include the draft template inspection report(s) and clarity about how/when the report will be shared with the producer(s). The two inspections and their processes to date were inconsistent from each other, further validating our desire to see a consistent process established that can be used for all livestock.
- 2) Ask the BC SPCA to confirm that they are limiting their inspections to ensure that farms are adhering to the *PCA Act*, as per their legislated authority.

If it was the intention of the ministry to extend to the BC SPCA authority to evaluate regular farming practices, please clarify that for industry so that we may consider how best to communicate that to our producers; and we would certainly look to create a collaborative process, to ensure standard evaluative measures in which we could all feel confident.

Lastly, following up from the last joint meeting between all parties, there was a general agreement to meet again once the first few inspections had occurred to discuss how things went and see if there are any opportunities to further support the process. We would like to request for the ministry to call a meeting between all parties (industry, the BC SPCA and Ministry) for the ministry to mediate and provide the necessary leadership to ensure the independent inspection process follows the Act accordingly.

We welcome input from both the BC SPCA and the Ministry and sincerely look to cooperate with any project as proposed by the agency, but we are concerned that the speed of launching this pilot project has perhaps taken priority for the BC SPCA over ensuring a transparent and useful process for all involved. Please reach out if you have any questions, we look forward to your response.

Yours Truly,



BC Agriculture Council



BC Cattlemen's Association



BC Dairy Association



BC Pork Producers Association



Horse Council BC



BC Chicken Marketing Board



BC Egg Marketing Board



BC Broiler Hatching Egg Commission



BC Turkey Marketing Board



BC Poultry Association

cc: Tom Ethier, Deputy Minister, BC Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries
Byron Jonson, Executive Director, BRMB, BC Ministry of Agriculture Food and Fisheries

Fw: SPCA - BCAC - AFF Meeting Follow up

From: Marcie Moriarty <mmoriarty@spca.bc.ca>
To: Danielle Synotte <dsynotte@bcac.ca>, Jennifer.Mcguire@gov.bc.ca, McGuire, Jennifer AFF:EX <Jennifer.Mcguire@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: September 27, 2021 10:37:53 AM PDT
Attachments: Broiler Chickens Assessment.pdf, Laying Hens Assessment.pdf, Turkey Assessment.pdf, Pig Assessment.pdf, BC SPCA Farm Inspections - procedure overview for farmers.docx, Beef Cattle Assessment.pdf, Dairy Cattle Assessment.pdf

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

Good Morning,

I am following up on some action items as a result of our last meeting. Please find attached a copy of our on farm assessment tools that we will be/are using to guide our s.15.1 inspections. I have also provided a brief overview of "what to expect" for farmers/industry. Please note that the above tools are guidance and that in most cases, the intent of the inspection is not to go through each and every item word for word. This is not meant to be a full audit and this is expressed in the overview document. However, we felt it was appropriate to have a comprehensive tool that can be used as a reference. As mentioned, we used the PCA Act, the NFACC and any industry assessment tools that were available to us to help inform these documents. We did not have access though to a number of industry supported audit/care assessment tools, but would greatly appreciate it if these could be provided as could assist in any future inspections and training for our teams.

Regards,

Marcie

Marcie Moriarty

(She/Her)

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

BC SPCA

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Vancouver BC V5T 1R1

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BC SPCA Farm Inspections 2021 – Procedural Overview

The BC SPCA is conducting unannounced inspections of a small number of commercial livestock operations around BC. We will visit two farms in each of the dairy, beef, hog, broiler, layer and turkey sectors. The following document provides a basic outline of what an inspection may look like.

The BC SPCA has the authority to conduct unannounced inspections of regulated activities during business hours as per section 15.1 of the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act* (PCA Act).

What to expect

- A small team will arrive on the premise, including an independent veterinarian, a Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries (MAFF) observer, a BC SPCA Special Provincial Constable, and our Regional Manager of Cruelty Investigations who has an Animal Science background
- Whenever possible, the BC SPCA will use unmarked vehicles, and minimize the number of vehicles entering the property
- The team will make contact with an owner, manager or staff person, and will introduce themselves and the purpose of the visit
 - ID can be produced if requested, and contact information will be exchanged
- Requests to wait for others such as owners, managers, veterinarians or commodity group representatives to arrive will be respected as much as possible
- The team will have extensive PPE, and will follow all biosecurity instructions from the producer
 - we will also ensure that we are leaving appropriate intervals between farms of the same type
- The producer will be asked to show the team around the operation
 - we would like to see all animals, but at least all aspects of the operation
 - The inspections should take approximately one to two hours, depending on the size and complexity of the operation
- The producer will be asked questions in relation to animal care, feed and water, veterinary care, husbandry procedures, monitoring, back up alarms, staff training, euthanasia procedures etc.
 - All members of the team will take notes. The producer may be asked questions by members of the team (typically the veterinarian and regional manager.)
- Observations will include things like animal body condition and cleanliness, feed and water availability, environmental conditions (shelter, air quality, light, bedding condition, temperature), illness, injury, lameness etc
- The elements of distress under the PCA Act will be considered, and the NFACC Codes of Practice will be used as the official reference material for generally accepted practices
 - This is not intended to be a full audit of Code compliance, nor is it a replacement for any commodity specific on farm programs
 - Inspection teams will have a comprehensive assessment document available, but inspections will be less formal than an audit
- Some records related to relieving distress or duty of care may be requested and reviewed, such as veterinary protocols, flock or herd data sheets, euthanasia protocols and training records, etc
- *If there are any concerns, those will be discussed immediately with the producer during the inspection, and a Notice of Distress may be issued if concerns are significant*

- If a Notice is issued, an Animal Protection Officer will follow up according to regular BC SPCA processes
- If there are no concerns, that will be communicated to the producer during the inspection
- Once the inspection is complete, the teams will remove their PPE and take it with them for appropriate disposal, and will leave the premise

How are farms selected for inspection?

- The farm selection process is mostly random, although somewhat informed by travel logistics
- We do have some farms that are known to us (eg. we have previously received a complaint) and they may receive an inspection

When will the producer receive their report?

- We will endeavor to have the report to the producer within two weeks of the inspection whenever possible. As a reminder, if there are any major concerns, these will be discussed with the farm representative(s) before the team leaves the premises.

Who gets to see the report?

- The report containing identifying information is confidential, and will be shared only with the senior team in our Prevention and Enforcement department and with the producer. The report with identifying information removed may be reviewed by additional staff.
 - Identifying information collected by BC SPCA Special Provincial Constables during inspections is protected by the *Personal Information Protection Act*
 - If the producer chooses to share their report more widely, they are welcome to do so. Please note that this report does not indicate whether the BC SPCA endorses a farm and is not to be used for marketing purposes.
- The BC SPCA will be providing a general report to the MAFF upon conclusion of the program, with findings such as the number of notices issued, broad state of compliance with the PCA Act and relevant Codes, any concerns about refusal of inspections and other comments that are not attributable to any specific operation.

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s.15

Re: upcoming inspections?

From: Marcie Moriarty <mmoriarty@spca.bc.ca>
To: McGuire, Jennifer AFF:EX <Jennifer.Mcguire@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: October 1, 2021 4:06:47 PM PDT
Attachments: Outlook-jxrqelwg.png

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Hi Jennifer,
I have an email in to Shawn to see. I don't believe so but will respond as soon as I get information.
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>
Sent: October 1, 2021 2:05 PM
To: Marcie Moriarty <mmoriarty@spca.bc.ca>
Subject: upcoming inspections?

Hi,
Thought I would touch base to ensure there were no planned inspections for the following week? I do need time to ensure we have staff lined up.

Thank you

*Jennifer McGuire, P.Ag.
Assistant Deputy Minister
Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries*

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RE: Update Re: Farm Inspection Plan, Sept. 16th & 17th

From: Shawn Eccles <seccles@spca.bc.ca>
To: McGuire, Jennifer AFF:EX <Jennifer.Mcguire@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Kaley Pugh <kpugh@spca.bc.ca>, Last, Gavin AFF:EX <Gavin.Last@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: September 16, 2021 10:29:36 AM PDT

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Good morning Jennifer,

Again my apologies for the exceptionally late notice and thank you for accommodating us. Kaley can be reached on her cell at s.22

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 • 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: September 16, 2021 10:15 AM
To: Shawn Eccles <seccles@spca.bc.ca>
Cc: Kaley Pugh <kpugh@spca.bc.ca>; Last, Gavin AFF:EX <Gavin.Last@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: Update Re: Farm Inspection Plan, Sept. 16th & 17th

Hi Shawn and Kaley,

Our inspector will be able attend the inspection today. Confirming that the following numbers are Kaley's contact information: s.22

Norah Sandager is enroute.

Thank you

Jennifer

From: Shawn Eccles <seccles@spca.bc.ca>
Sent: September 16, 2021 9:40 AM
To: McGuire, Jennifer AFF:EX <Jennifer.Mcguire@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Kaley Pugh <kpugh@spca.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: Update Re: Farm Inspection Plan, Sept. 16th & 17th

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Hi Jennifer,

Yes we could, do you have an idea as to the time? (just so I can let Kaley and her team know). The individual attending can contact Kaley directly,

Cheers!

Shawn

Shawn Eccles
(He/Him)

Senior Manager, Cruelty Investigations
BC SPCA
1245 East 7th Avenue
Vancouver BC V5T 1R1
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From: McGuire, Jennifer AFF:EX <Jennifer.Mcguire@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: September 16, 2021 9:33 AM
To: Shawn Eccles <seccles@spca.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: Update Re: Farm Inspection Plan, Sept. 16th & 17th

Hi,
Can the inspection occur later this afternoon?
Thanks
Jennifer

From: Shawn Eccles <seccles@spca.bc.ca>
Sent: September 16, 2021 8:41 AM
To: McGuire, Jennifer AFF:EX <Jennifer.Mcguire@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: FW: Update Re: Farm Inspection Plan, Sept. 16th & 17th

Good morning Jennifer,

My apologies, I neglected to forward you the correspondence below, we are planning on conducting inspections today and tomorrow. If you have someone available for these in short notice we can push today's inspection to this afternoon.

Again my apologies,

Regards

Shawn

Sent from my Galaxy

----- Original message -----

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

Date: 2021-09-15 9:27 a.m. (GMT-08:00)

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

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

Subject: Update Re: Farm Inspection Plan, Sept. 16th & 17th

Good morning,

I have an update to the plan for Friday the 17th. To get Teresa onto a flight home at a reasonable time of day, we'll plan to have our s.15

s.15

Please let me know asap if we need to make any further changes!

Thanks,

Kaley Pugh

(she/her)

Regional Manager, Cruelty Investigations

BC SPCA

s.22

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Page 239 of 266

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s.15

Please let me know if you have any questions!

Kaley Pugh

(she/her)

Regional Manager, Cruelty Investigations

BC SPCA

s.22

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 nuučaan̓uul̓ʔaṭḥ nism̓a (Nuu-chah-nulth) First Nations, specifically the Hupačasath and c̓išaaʔaṭḥ (Tseshah) whose historical relationships to the land continues today.

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From: Norton, Chris AFF:EX <Chris.Norton@gov.bc.ca>
To: Danielle Synotte <dsynotte@bcac.ca>, Marcie Moriarty <mmoriarty@spca.bc.ca>, McGuire, Jennifer AFF:EX <Jennifer.Mcguire@gov.bc.ca>, Jonson, Byron AFF:EX <Byron.Jonson@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: September 21, 2021 2:19:26 PM PDT
Attachments: 20210922_AFF_BCSPCA_BCAC_Agenda_DRAFT.docx
Please see attached draft agenda in advance of tomorrow's meeting and let me know if you wish to make any additional revisions.

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

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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: Danielle Synotte <dsynotte@bcac.ca>
Sent: September 21, 2021 12:38 PM
To: Marcie Moriarty <mmoriarty@spca.bc.ca>; McGuire, Jennifer AFF:EX <Jennifer.Mcguire@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Norton, Chris AFF:EX <Chris.Norton@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: SPCA - BCAC - AFF Meeting

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Hi again Jennifer and Marcie,

That would be excellent to share Marcie! Hopefully you hear back on those.

Just wondering if #3 and #4 could be swapped and if we could add a point for "Items Outstanding" to touch on a couple of previously discussed items that have been left floating somewhat - nothing time consuming, five minutes should be enough.

Let me know if there are any questions.

Danielle

From: Marcie Moriarty <mmoriarty@spca.bc.ca>
Sent: September 21, 2021 11:36 AM
To: Danielle Synotte <dsynotte@bcac.ca>; McGuire, Jennifer AFF:EX <Jennifer.Mcguire@gov.bc.ca>
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Subject: Re: SPCA - BCAC - AFF Meeting

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The agenda looks good to me. Just waiting on hopefully having some dates for next farm inspections by tomorrow's meeting.

Regards,

Marcie

Marcie Moriarty

(She/Her)

Chief Prevention and Enforcement Officer

and guardian to Pip and Zorro

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Respectfully acknowledging that I work on, and this email was sent from, the unceded traditional territory of the downriver hən̓q̓əmin̓əm̓ speaking peoples - ,x̣ẉməθḳẉəỵəṃ (Musqueam), and səl̓ilwətaʔl̓ (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations, and the Skwxwú7mesh-ulh Snichim 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: Danielle Synotte <dsynotte@bcac.ca>

Sent: September 21, 2021 9:37 AM

To: McGuire, Jennifer AFF:EX <Jennifer.Mcguire@gov.bc.ca>; Marcie Moriarty <mmoriarty@spca.bc.ca>

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

Subject: RE: SPCA - BCAC - AFF Meeting

Thank you!

We are meeting as a group this morning and will follow-up if we have any requests to add anything.

Danielle

From: McGuire, Jennifer AFF:EX <Jennifer.Mcguire@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: September 21, 2021 8:48 AM
To: Danielle Synotte <dsynotte@bcac.ca>; Marcie Moriarty <mmoriarty@spca.bc.ca>
Cc: Norton, Chris AFF:EX <Chris.Norton@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: SPCA - BCAC - AFF Meeting

Good morning,

How about the following as a rough agenda for tomorrow's meeting? Pls revise or suggest alternative topics

1. Introductions
2. Status update by SPCA on inspections - general comments about process. (10 min)
3. BCAC - comments and what was heard (10 min)
4. AFF - comments and observation feedback (10 min)
5. Discussion, Lessons learned and next steps (20 min)
6. Closing.

Looking forward to the check in meeting tomorrow.

Thank you

*Jennifer McGuire, P.Ag.
Assistant Deputy Minister
Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries*

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AGENDA

AFF/BCSPCA/BCAC - Follow-up check-in meeting re: SPCA farm inspections

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

September 22, 2021 | 9:00am-10:00am

Participants: Jennifer McGuire, Byron Jonson, Danielle Synotte, Marcie Moriarty

Regrets:

Guests:

Topic	Lead	Time
For Discussion:		
Introductions	Jennifer	9:00am
Status update by SPCA on inspections - general comments about process	Marcie	9:05am
AFF - Comments and observation feedback	Jennifer	9:15am
BCAC - Comments and what was heard	Danielle	9:25am
Discussion, Lessons learned and next steps	ALL	9:35am
Items Outstanding:	ALL	9:50
ACTION ITEMS:		

RE: upcoming inspections?

From: McGuire, Jennifer AFF:EX <Jennifer.Mcguire@gov.bc.ca>
To: Marcie Moriarty <mmoriarty@spca.bc.ca>
Cc: Shawn Eccles <seccles@spca.bc.ca>
Sent: October 5, 2021 12:28:38 PM PDT
Attachments: image001.png
Thanks Marcie,

Appreciate the advance notice on the schedule for the inspections!

Jennifer

From: Marcie Moriarty <mmoriarty@spca.bc.ca>
Sent: October 5, 2021 12:27 PM
To: McGuire, Jennifer AFF:EX <Jennifer.Mcguire@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Shawn Eccles <seccles@spca.bc.ca>
Subject: Re: upcoming 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 just wanted to let you know that we do not have any inspections scheduled for the next two weeks due to vacations and challenges finding vets. We will be in touch once next ones are scheduled.
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

Animal Cruelty and Wildlife Hotline: 1.855.622.7722

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

Sent: October 1, 2021 2:05 PM

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

Subject: upcoming inspections?

Hi,

Thought I would touch base to ensure there were no planned inspections for the following week? I do need time to ensure we have staff lined up.

Thank you

Jennifer McGuire, P.Ag.

Assistant Deputy Minister

Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries

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

FW: SPCA Inspections Process Update

From: McGuire, Jennifer AFF:EX <Jennifer.Mcguire@gov.bc.ca>
To: Todosichuk, Ardice AFF:EX <Ardice.Todosichuk@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Norton, Chris AFF:EX <Chris.Norton@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: September 7, 2021 10:46:25 AM PDT
Attachments: image001.png, 2021-09-03 Letter to MAFF from Industry - SPCA Inspections Process Update.pdf

Hi,
Can staff prepare a draft response for my signature...thanks
Jennifer

From: BCAC Communications <communications@bcac.ca>
Sent: September 3, 2021 1:28 PM
To: McGuire, Jennifer AFF:EX <Jennifer.Mcguire@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Ethier, Tom AFF:EX <Tom.Ethier@gov.bc.ca>; Jonson, Byron AFF:EX <Byron.Jonson@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: SPCA Inspections Process Update

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

Dear Jennifer,
Please find attached a letter from BC Agriculture Council regarding the SPCA inspections process.

Warm regards,

Cassy James

COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER

P: 604 854 4483 | TF: 1 866 522 3447

www.bcac.ca



September 3, 2021

Jennifer McGuire, Assistant Deputy Minister

BC Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries

PO Box 9409 Stn Prov Govt

Victoria, BC V8W 9V1

Sent via email: jennifer.mcguire@gov.bc.ca

Dear Ms. McGuire:

Subject: BC SPCA Unannounced Inspections Process

Thank you for maintaining an important role in the discussions between our livestock industry groups and the BC SPCA as we continue to seek clear information about the pilot project of unannounced proactive inspections by the BC SPCA.

Animal care remains the highest priority for British Columbia's farmers and ranchers. They work to continuously improve animal care programs, while also recognizing how important it is to have the support of our communities. Further, we accept that the BC SPCA has a critical role to play with respect to enforcement of the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act (PCA Act)*.

Following our first meeting of all three parties on August 4, 2021, we shared some follow-up questions with the BC SPCA and we subsequently (August 13) received from the BC SPCA a response document outlining some answers to these, and two "sample" inspection checklists: one for dairy and one for eggs. Although this information is helpful, industry feels that it is very important to point out to the ministry two critical gaps in the information received from the BC SPCA:

- 1) A written process document remains outstanding. This is critical - it would provide transparency for our members and our farmers and ranchers regarding how the BC SPCA intends to carry out its inspections. It is still unclear what the inspection reports will look like and how procedural fairness with respect to the producer(s) will be ensured. As a first instance regulator, the BC SPCA should be required to provide the same degree of accountability and transparency as BC Marketing Boards.
- 2) The two "sample" inspection checklists that were shared with us were marked as *partial* in nature, and only pertained to two of the seven commodities involved. They were also marked "Confidential," so presumably we are not supposed to share these with producers. However, the more problematic aspect of these two sample checklists is that the questions contained in the checklists clearly show that the BC SPCA is looking to evaluate general farm practices, rather than simply focus on ensuring that there are no animals in distress on farm. During our call on August 4th, and confirmation of the notes circulated post-meeting, we understood that the BC SPCA was inspecting farms for animals in distress, as outlined in the *PCA Act*. We agree that this is their role; inspection of general farming practices is not. For example (using dairy), the following questions are included:
 - i. What are the number of heifers (including replacements)?
 - ii. Total acreage of land owned?
 - iii. Number of cows shipped to slaughter annually.

In addition, the sample checklist includes several evaluative measures, some taken from the Code of Practice which we were advised would not be part of the inspections. Again, using dairy as an example, there were questions asked specifically in relation to the *Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Dairy Cattle*. This has given us the impression that the BC SPCA is, in fact, planning to evaluate regular farming practices, not just seeking to ensure that there are no animals in distress.

While we understand that inspections have recently commenced (two that we are aware of), industry members still respectfully request that the ministry use its authority to press the BC SPCA for the following, to achieve better transparency and accountability of the process, which we believe is important if we are all looking to achieve informed and useful outcomes in the future:

- 1) A document that clearly outlines the full planned pilot inspection process for each of the commodities they are planning to inspect; this would include the draft template inspection report(s) and clarity about how/when the report will be shared with the producer(s). The two inspections and their processes to date were inconsistent from each other, further validating our desire to see a consistent process established that can be used for all livestock.
- 2) Ask the BC SPCA to confirm that they are limiting their inspections to ensure that farms are adhering to the *PCA Act*, as per their legislated authority.

If it was the intention of the ministry to extend to the BC SPCA authority to evaluate regular farming practices, please clarify that for industry so that we may consider how best to communicate that to our producers; and we would certainly look to create a collaborative process, to ensure standard evaluative measures in which we could all feel confident.

Lastly, following up from the last joint meeting between all parties, there was a general agreement to meet again once the first few inspections had occurred to discuss how things went and see if there are any opportunities to further support the process. We would like to request for the ministry to call a meeting between all parties (industry, the BC SPCA and Ministry) for the ministry to mediate and provide the necessary leadership to ensure the independent inspection process follows the Act accordingly.

We welcome input from both the BC SPCA and the Ministry and sincerely look to cooperate with any project as proposed by the agency, but we are concerned that the speed of launching this pilot project has perhaps taken priority for the BC SPCA over ensuring a transparent and useful process for all involved. Please reach out if you have any questions, we look forward to your response.

Yours Truly,



BC Agriculture Council



BC Cattlemen's Association



BC Dairy Association



BC Pork Producers Association



Horse Council BC



BC Chicken Marketing Board



BC Egg Marketing Board



BC Broiler Hatching Egg Commission



BC Turkey Marketing Board



BC Poultry Association

cc: Tom Ethier, Deputy Minister, BC Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries
Byron Jonson, Executive Director, BRMB, BC Ministry of Agriculture Food and Fisheries

SPCA Random Audits

From: Lindy Gilson <bearvaly@quesnelbc.com>
To: agr.minister@gov.bc.ca, Minister, AFF AFF:EX <AFF.Minister@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: premier@gov.bc.ca, Bob Miller <bobmiller@ownershipid.ca>, Forbes,
Christina D AFF:EX <Christina.Forbes@gov.bc.ca>, Schmidt, Kevin AGRI:EX
<Kevin.X.Schmidt@gov.bc.ca>, bccattle@cattlemen.bc.ca, BCACF Info
<info@bcacf.ca>, info@bcac.ca, OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX
<Premier@gov.bc.ca>, Schmidt, Kevin AFF:EX
<Kevin.X.Schmidt@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: September 8, 2021 12:36:20 PM PDT
Attachments: Minister Popham letter Sept 2021.pdf

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

Dear Minister Popham!

Please find attached a letter from BCBFA regarding the SPCA and random audits. We would like to set up a meeting with you as soon as possible.

Thank you.

Lindy Gilson

Administrator

BCBFA BC Breeder & Feeder Association.



B.C. Breeder and Feeder Association
308 St Laurent Avenue Quesnel BC V2J 5A3
Phone: 992-8483 Fax: 992-8489

September 7 2021

Minister of Agriculture
Honourable Lana Popham
PO Box 9042 STN Prov Govt
Victoria BC V8W 9E2

Dear Minister Popham:

Re: SPCA Random Inspections

We have been notified of the BC SPCA's intention to begin "unannounced proactive inspections" of farms and ranches.

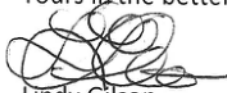
It appears that they have the authority under Section 15.1 of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animal Act. As you are well aware, there have been numerous issues that industry has brought to your attention regarding actions of the SPCA. At the industry meeting when "enshrining the beef code of practice" into the regulations was presented there was discussion that meetings would be set up between the SPCA and industry. This latest "unannounced proactive inspections" was not something that was ever discussed with industry.

The SPCA conducting random audits on a livestock operation when they have no experience or expertise with the industry is simply wrong. As we have seen in the past these "inspectors" have made judgement calls and recommendations, and in some cases criminal charges were laid. They have not worked with industry representatives and certainly have not been open to discussion and learning.

We are requesting a meeting be set up with yourself and all of the different commodity representatives to discuss this matter further.

Can you please get back to us as soon as possible.

Yours in the betterment of the cattle industry,


Lindy Gilson,
Administrator

/lg

cc Honourable John Horgan, Premier premier@gov.bc.ca
Bob Miller, Manager, Ownership Identification Inc. bobmiller@ownershipid.ca
Christina Forbes, Beef & Livestock Industry Specialist christina.forbes@gov.bc.ca
Kevin Schmidt, Provincial Supervisor kevin.schmidt.x@gov.bc.ca
Kevin Boon, Executive Director, BC Cattlemen's Association bccattle@cattlemen.bc.ca
Andrea van Iterson, Executive Director, BC Association of Cattle Feeders info@bcacf.ca
BC Ag Council info@bcac.ca

Letter regarding SPCA inspections from Comox Valley Farmers Institute

From: CVF Institute <cvfinstitute@gmail.com>
To: AGR.Minister@gov.bc.ca, Minister, AFF AFF:EX <AFF.Minister@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: September 9, 2021 10:11:56 AM PDT
Attachments: CVFI SPCA letter - Sept 2021.pdf

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

Dear Honourable Minister Popham and other applicable Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Staff,

Please find the attached letter regarding our displeasure with the recently announced SPCA Pilot Program. Thankyou for your time and we look forward to a timely response in this issue.

Best Regards,

The Comox Valley Farmers Institute

--

Visit our web page for more information or join our facebook to be part of the conversation!

Web: <https://cvfarmersinstitute.com>

FB Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/844463606369457>

FB Page: <https://www.facebook.com/ComoxValleyFarmersInstitute>

Email: cvfinstitute@gmail.com

Address: P.O. Box 3493, Courtenay, B.C., V9N6Z8



September 9, 2021

Dear Honourable Minister Popham and all those concerned within the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries,

We are writing this letter on behalf of the membership of the Comox Valley Farmers Institute, many of whom are livestock producers. We would like to voice our loud displeasure and serious concerns at the recently announced SPCA Pilot Program beginning with unannounced inspections of farms and ranches on Vancouver Island and with plans to continue with the rest of BC.

We are extremely concerned at the complete and utter tone deafness of the program and the poor and damaging optics that the SPCA has created and that the Ministry of Agriculture Food and Fisheries (MAFF) is perpetuating in its silence. Overall, we are very disappointed at the roll-out of this program, the seeming lack of transparency and the extremely poor communication surrounding it. News sources have written that the inspections "respond to stakeholder concerns regarding commercial farming practices..." We are very curious to know what stakeholders specifically that they are talking about and what specifically are the concerns? To the best of our knowledge, there were no prior discussions with those stakeholders under the scrutiny of the program.

As this pilot affects many of the very people and operations that the MAFF represents, we are shocked and disappointed at the Ministry's relative silence on the issue and would have fully expected the Ministry to have been out in front of this at the very least with an official announcement as well as with details and specifics of the program and how best to approach it. As this has not been the case and details are still vague, it has left producers with many questions and seeking clarification on many points.

Some our concerns include:

- SPCA letters to commodity groups compelling them to provide member lists and contact information. This is a spectacular breach of privacy and will degrade the relationship between farmers and their commodity groups.
- That on farm biosecurity will be compromised.
- That we are headed down a very slippery slope with serious invasion of privacy for farmers and producers. Not even the RCMP are allowed to enter private property without justification and a warrant.
- That strife is being caused within the farming community itself - producers are potentially being pitted against each other and producers and their commodity groups are potentially being pitted against each other.
- The degradation of the relationship and loss of trust between SPCA, Ministry of Agriculture and farmers/producers. There is a feeling amongst producers that the SPCA is anti-livestock farming and that they are being treated like criminals or that they are doing something wrong with no rationale or justification behind it.
- The poor optics and tone deafness of all of this. Many producers are already stretched to the limits - We have been in a stage 4 drought and the province has been burning, severely affecting many of our province's farms. Unwarranted livestock inspections do not seem like they should be the priority at this time.
- COVID concerns - Many government services and other businesses are not even operating normally yet due to COVID and/or are still making people jump through serious hoops, yet SPCA and others can just walk onto someone's farm unannounced? Again, this appears extremely tone deaf.

- Many producers already comply with many industry standards, marketing boards and verification programs; do all of these mean nothing?

Though not an exhaustive list of questions, some of our many questions include:

- It is our understanding that the SPCA will conduct inspections on two farms for each livestock commodity this year. How is the SPCA picking the farms/producers for its visits and where is that contact information coming from?
- What is the nature of the Ministry's involvement in this project? Was the Ministry aware of this project? Why has there been no communication at all from the Ministry advising producers of the details? When specifically was the Ministry first notified by the SPCA of their intent to proceed with this pilot program? Does the Ministry of Agriculture provide funding to the SPCA?
- SPCA visits have traditionally been complaint driven. What is the impetus and rationale behind these targeted and unannounced inspections and why are they occurring?
- What is the protocol if the SPCA arrives and nobody is on the premises? Further to this, who specifically will the SPCA deal with - anyone home/on the property or does it need to be the owner operator?
- It is our understanding that the SPCA is looking for animals in distress and will be assessing for distress during the inspections. What are the qualifications/credentials of the SPCA staff/vet/others coming on site with regards to knowledge and experience with the specific livestock being inspected?
- Farms can require their vet to be present. How long will the SPCA wait for the vet to arrive and accompany the inspection?
- What COVID protocols will SPCA and MAFF staff be following?
- Barring a producer having a specific bio-security plan in place, what are the biosecurity protocols that SPCA and MAFF staff will be following?
- What rights do producers hold? Do they have the right to film, do they have the right to ask for a warrant, do they have a right to demand proof of COVID vaccine, do they have a right to demand specific biosecurity measures be followed etc...?
- What kind of liability coverage will all visitors on site hold in the event that an accident happens on a farm?
- Some news sources have reported that producers who do not comply with the inspections will be publicly named? Is this true?

Finally, we have several requests that we hope the MAFF will advocate for:

- That the MAFF advocate for the SPCA program to be stopped immediately.
- Use of unmarked vehicles for all SPCA and Ministry staff to avoid public speculation and slander of producer farms.
- A minimum 24-hour notice given to all producer farms.
- That only producer owner/operators be dealt with (e.g.: not the hired person, not the children, not the babysitter, etc...)

Thankyou for your time and we look forward to a timely response in this issue.

Sincerely,

The Comox Valley Farmers Institute

Visit our web page for more information or join our facebook to be part of the conversation!

Web: <https://cvfarmersinstitute.com>

FB Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/844463606369457>

FB Page: <https://www.facebook.com/ComoxValleyFarmersInstitute>

Email: cvfinstitute@gmail.com

Address: P.O. Box 3493, Courtenay, B.C., V9N6Z8

Letter from the BC Poultry Association

From: Christine Koch <koch.c@telus.net>
To: AGR.Minister@gov.bc.ca, Minister, AFF AFF:EX <AFF.Minister@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Heppell, EOC Steve <steve@sheppell.ca>, Danielle Synotte <dsynotte@bcac.ca>
Sent: September 21, 2021 3:22:22 PM PDT
Attachments: Letter to Ag Minister Sept 2021 re SPCA final.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 the BC Poultry Association.
Regards,
Christine Koch, Manager
BC Poultry Association
Cell: 604 866-7600
E-mail: koch.c@telus.net



September 21, 2021

Minister of Agriculture
PO BOX 9043, STN PROV GOVT.
Victoria BC
V8W 9E2

Sent via electronic mail to: AGR.Minister@gov.bc.ca

Dear Minister:

The BC Poultry Association is writing to you to raise our extreme concerns regarding the SPCA's intention to conduct unannounced inspections of livestock and poultry farms in BC to check for animals in distress. We have been working in cooperation with the BC Agriculture Council and the other livestock sectors, but we thought it was time to bring our concerns to you directly.

We believe that these unnecessary inspections will jeopardize the health of our flocks. Already this year we've had multiple farms that suffered a 100% flock loss due to disease. All our members operate under strict, mandatory biosecurity programs where all non-essential entry into barns is kept to an absolute minimum. The 2014/2015 avian influenza (AI) outbreak clearly showed that AI is brought to BC by migratory birds, and it persists in the wetlands and farms throughout BC. All it takes is one person to bring AI into a barn and the BC poultry sector is shut down. We do not want a repeat of 2004 where the entire Fraser Valley was depopulated.

In addition to being a biosecurity threat to all poultry farms in BC, the unnecessary inspections will stress our flocks and may lead to increased distress of our flocks. All our farms are working farms that use a wide variety of machinery such as belts, tractors, and forklifts that could be hazardous to untrained visitors.

Every producer in all four poultry sectors is already audited under their national animal welfare programs. All producers must pass these audits or face punitive action by their respective marketing board or commission. These auditors are fully trained in the national program mandatory and recommended practices. The SPCA inspectors are not familiar with our national codes of animal care practice or normal farm practices. This lack of training may result in them deeming an animal in distress when it is not.

If the SPCA insists upon conducting these unnecessary investigations, at the very least we insist upon a one day's notice, that the owners must accompany the SPCA, that if the owner wishes,

that the farm's vet accompany the SPCA, and that the Chief Veterinary Officer who is also the animal welfare vet accompany the SPCA on all farm inspections. We also request that the Ministry ask the SPCA to provide us with their inspection procedures and protocols so that our farmers may better prepare for the unnecessary inspection. This is an issue of transparency and due diligence, and this material should have been provided by the SPCA before the unnecessary inspections were announced.

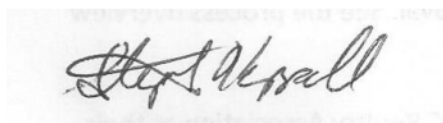
We would like to take this opportunity to remind you of the promise that was made at the 2019 Ag Day by you and British Columbia's Attorney General and the Solicitor General:

"So, let me be clear, this government is working hard to deter those who are illegally harassing and intimidating farmers and ranchers. We are working hard to deter people who trespass on your property and damage your farm equipment and endanger the animals in your care. We understand the current rules are not stopping illegal protesting activity and we have already taken a number of steps to address this problem."

The poultry sector realizes that there will always be some people that are opposed to animal agriculture, and we realize that they have a right to peaceful protests. We are asking for stronger legislation from the province for those activists that come onto our farms that are our family homes, they come armed with tools to break into our barns, cause malicious damage, steal our animals, endanger the physical and mental health of our family and workers, and jeopardize our very way of living and raising food for British Columbia. Three other provinces have enacted strong legislation to protect farmers.

We feel that these are such important issues facing our sector that we are requesting an in-person meeting to discuss our concerns over the SPCA and activists in more detail.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Heppell", is centered within a rectangular box. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Steve Heppell, President, BC Poultry Association

Cc: BC Agriculture Council

RE: SPCA Inspections Process Update

From: Norton, Chris AFF:EX <Chris.Norton@gov.bc.ca>
To: communications@bcac.ca
Sent: September 28, 2021 5:20:33 PM PDT
Attachments: 195990_BCAC_ADM Response.pdf, image001.png

Please see attached response from ADM McGuire.

Kind regards,

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

🌐 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.

This e-mail may contain privileged and confidential material and its transmission is not a waiver of that privilege. It is intended for the sole use of the person to whom it is addressed. Any other distribution, copying or disclosure is strictly prohibited

From: BCAC Communications <communications@bcac.ca>

Sent: September 3, 2021 1:28 PM

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

Cc: Ethier, Tom AFF:EX <Tom.Ethier@gov.bc.ca>; Jonson, Byron AFF:EX <Byron.Jonson@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: SPCA Inspections Process Update

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

Dear Jennifer,

Please find attached a letter from BC Agriculture Council regarding the SPCA inspections process.

Warm regards,

Cassy James

COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER

P: 604 854 4483 | TF: 1 866 522 3447

www.bcac.ca





September 26, 2021

File: 0280-30

Ref: 195990

Cassy James, Communications Manager
BC Agriculture Council
Unit 1 – 2650 Progressive Way
Abbotsford, BC V2T 6H9
Email: communications@bcac.ca

Dear Cassy James:

Thank you for your letter of September 3, 2021, sent on behalf of the BC Agriculture Council (BCAC), seeking additional information about the proactive farm animal welfare inspections being undertaken by the B.C. Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (BC SPCA).

As previously discussed, the scope of these inspections should be limited to identifying whether any animals in a particular operation may be in distress or at risk of distress. The Codes of Practice are not legally enforceable standards, and there is no positive obligation on operators to implement them. Further, it is not an offence under the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act* (PCAA) for an operator not to be in compliance with the Codes, so long as no animals are in distress. However, inquiring about general farm management practices may assist inspectors in determining whether any animals are in distress, or may be exposed to circumstances that are likely to cause an animal to be in distress as per s. 9.1 (1) of the PCAA.

.../2

Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries

Science, Policy and Inspection Division

Office of the
Assistant Deputy Minister

Mailing Address:
PO Box 9120 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria BC V8W 9B4

Telephone: 236 478-1998
Facsimile: 250 356-7279

Location:
5th Floor, 545 Superior Street
Victoria BC V8V 1T7

Web Address:
<http://www.gov.bc.ca/agri/>

The Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries remains in contact with the BC SPCA, and all parties involved are committed to ensuring these inspections are carried out appropriately, in accordance with the scope of authority set out in the PCAA, for the benefit of all involved, including operators and their animals. Transparency and accountability are important goals of the ministry, and I will continue to stress this in future discussions with the BC SPCA.

On September 22, a meeting was held with industry, the BC SPCA and the Ministry to discuss how the first few inspections have gone and what may be needed to support and improve the process for subsequent inspections. There was an opportunity for the BC SPCA, AFF and commodity representatives to share their observations about the 4 inspections conducted to date. A few action items were identified and commitment to hold another meeting in October to reconnect to discuss any inspections which have taken place to that point.

Thank you for taking the time to write and express your concerns and those of your members, and for your willingness to work with both the BC SPCA and the Ministry on this initiative.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jennifer McGuire', with a stylized, cursive script.

Jennifer McGuire
Assistant Deputy Minister

FW: BC SPCA Update

From: Cuthbert, Erin AFF:EX <Erin.Cuthbert@gov.bc.ca>
To: Hughes, Marie Julie AFF:EX <MarieJulie.Hughes@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: October 18, 2021 9:38:07 AM PDT

From: Vicki Crites <vcrites@bcdairy.ca>
Sent: June 30, 2021 5:12 PM
To: Cuthbert, Erin AFF:EX <Erin.Cuthbert@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Fwd: BC SPCA Update

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

fyi
Vicki Crites, M.A.
Director of Policy & Sustainability
BC Dairy Association
P. 604.294.3775 | C. 778.245.8266 | Toll Free in BC 1.800.242.6455
vcrites@bcdairy.ca
bcdairy.ca

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Christine Terpsma** <cterpsma@mx1.bcdairy.ca>
Date: Wed, 30 Jun 2021 at 16:34
Subject: BC SPCA Update
To: <vcrites@bcdairy.ca>

Dear BC Dairy Producers:

I wanted to reach out, as the BC SPCA notified livestock organizations, including BC Dairy Association, late last week that they will begin a proactive inspection initiative on a subset of farms this summer. It is our understanding that these inspections may begin in July.

BC Dairy has been working over the past number of days with the BC Agriculture Council (BCAC) to understand the details of this initiative so that we may provide accurate information to assist and prepare our members.

The BC SPCA has the authority to conduct proactive inspections under Section 15.1 of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act.

We recognize that you may have questions, and we are working actively with BCAC to receive additional information, which will be shared with you. In the meantime, **if a BC SPCA inspector makes a proactive visit to your farm, please phone either Vicki Crites or Christine Terpsma as soon as the inspector arrives.**

Vicki Crites: 778-245-8266

Christine Terpsma: 604-603-7872

We commit to providing updates on the BC SPCA's initiative as soon as they are received, in order to equip all members with the best possible information in advance of a potential inspection. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to give me or Vicki a call.

Kind regards,

Christine Terpsma, P.Ag
Director of Producer and Public Affairs

BC Dairy Association

P. 604.294.3775 | C. 604.603.7872 | Toll Free in BC 1.800.242.6455

bcdairy.ca

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3236 Beta Ave, Burnaby, British Columbia, V5G 4K4

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FW: SPCA Audit Updates

From: Cuthbert, Erin AFF:EX <Erin.Cuthbert@gov.bc.ca>
To: Hughes, Marie Julie AFF:EX <MarieJulie.Hughes@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: October 18, 2021 9:38:21 AM PDT

From: Gunvaldsen, Rayna AFF:EX <Rayna.Gunvaldsen@gov.bc.ca>

Sent: September 13, 2021 12:16 PM

To: Cuthbert, Erin AFF:EX <Erin.Cuthbert@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: RE: SPCA Audit Updates

Sounds like that's probably the dairy Clayton was talking about. Let me know if you hear any feedback in your travels on this.

From: Cuthbert, Erin AFF:EX <Erin.Cuthbert@gov.bc.ca>

Sent: September 9, 2021 3:44 PM

To: Gunvaldsen, Rayna AFF:EX <Rayna.Gunvaldsen@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: Re: SPCA Audit Updates

Hi,

Yep! The BCDA sent a letter to all dairy producers informing them a few months ago.

Chilliwack Cattle Co, the largest dairy farm in BC, had an SPCA visit two weeks ago if I remember correctly.

Erin

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From: Gunvaldsen, Rayna AFF:EX <Rayna.Gunvaldsen@gov.bc.ca>

Sent: Thursday, September 9, 2021 3:41:09 PM

To: Cuthbert, Erin AFF:EX <Erin.Cuthbert@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: FW: SPCA Audit Updates

FYI. Not sure if you were aware of the unannounced inspections on farms the BCSPCA had been planning. Looks like they've started the process.

Rayna

From: Botkin, Clayton AFF:EX <Clayton.Botkin@gov.bc.ca>

Sent: September 8, 2021 2:50 PM

To: Giacomazzi, Terri AFF:EX <Terri.Giacomazzi@gov.bc.ca>; Droppo, Tom AFF:EX <Tom.Droppo@gov.bc.ca>; Galliazzo, Katie AFF:EX <Katie.Galliazzo@gov.bc.ca>; Forbes, Christina D AFF:EX <Christina.Forbes@gov.bc.ca>;

Beyers, Georgina AFF:EX <Georgina.Beyers@gov.bc.ca>; Dasanjh, Rajiv AFF:EX <Rajiv.Dasanjh@gov.bc.ca>

Cc: Redford, Tony AFF:EX <Tony.Redford@gov.bc.ca>; Bowes, Victoria AFF:EX <Victoria.Bowes@gov.bc.ca>;

Gunvaldsen, Rayna AFF:EX <Rayna.Gunvaldsen@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: SPCA Audit Updates

Hi all, sharing so you are aware, but the SPCA has performed 2 on-farm audits as of last week. This is the first information I have heard on this from anyone since early August.

What I heard is:

- They visited a large broiler farm and a large dairy farm, both in the Fraser Valley so far
- There was no apparent checklist in use by the inspectors on both farms
- The same 4 staff were present at both farms, the producers both requested their farm vet be present, and a board staff person
- The visit was paused until the additional people arrived
- Biosecurity protocols were adhered to
- They visited the flocks on the broiler farm, but only a portion of the animal space on the dairy farm
- Producers reported the inspectors were quite amicable, and the poultry farm reported that the questions were of a much more personal nature and general interest
- Brent Smith was present on behalf of MAFF
- The producers offered records to the inspectors which were not reviewed at the poultry site, apparently some were viewed at the dairy site
- Each visit is being compiled into a report within a few days of occurrence
- The visit reports may be requested by the producer, who may share them, but the SPCA has indicated the reports will remain confidential to them

Thanks,

Clayton Botkin PAg

Industry Specialist – Poultry & Regulated Markets

BC Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries

Call for Records AGR-2021-14419 - Due October 21, 2021

From: Hughes, Marie Julie AFF:EX <MarieJulie.Hughes@gov.bc.ca>
To: Skogstad, Holly AFF:EX <Holly.Skogstad@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: October 20, 2021 9:53:34 AM PDT
Attachments: image001.jpg

Good morning Holly,

Here is Rayna's one email related to this request.

Julie

(Marie) Julie Hughes
Compliance, Operations and Data Officer
British Columbia Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries
1767 Angus Campbell Road, Abbotsford, BC V3G 2M3
Tel: 778-666-0560
Mariejulie.hughes@gov.bc.ca
www.gov.bc.ca/animalhealthcentre



Where ideas work



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Sent: October 20, 2021 9:50 AM
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Subject: FOIP FW: SPCA Audit Updates

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Cc: Redford, Tony AFF:EX <Tony.Redford@gov.bc.ca>; Bowes, Victoria AFF:EX <Victoria.Bowes@gov.bc.ca>; Gunvaldsen, Rayna AFF:EX <Rayna.Gunvaldsen@gov.bc.ca>
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Industry Specialist – Poultry & Regulated Markets
BC Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries