



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MPs vote in favour of toothless animal cruelty law

OTTAWA — The Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA) firmly believes that animal cruelty Bill S-203, adopted yesterday in the House of Commons, does not go far enough to protect animals from abuse in today's society.

"Bill S-203 increases penalties, but it does nothing to increase the odds of prosecuting those who commit acts of animal cruelty," explains Dr. John Drake, president of the CVMA. "Currently, less than one per cent of animal cruelty complaints actually lead to a conviction. S-203 will not do anything to improve this appallingly low conviction rate."

Effective and up to date legislation is desperately needed and would help all those who deal with the abuse of animals, including veterinarians, humane societies and law enforcement agencies. CVMA will continue to support legislation such as MP Mark Holland's private member Bill C-373 which would provide an excellent balance between protection of animals from neglect and vicious forms of animal abuse, while maintaining protection of lawful practices such as fishing, hunting, trapping, farming and scientific research.

Canadians are encouraged to write to their MP and express their extreme disappointment regarding the acceptance of Bill S-203.

The Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA) is the national body representing and serving the interests of the veterinary profession in Canada. Animal welfare advocacy is a top priority for the CVMA. To learn more visit www.canadianveterinarians.net.

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Contact: Kristin Wood, Communications Officer
Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA)
613-236-1162 ext. 128 or kwood@cvma-acmv.org