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Re: Our animal cruelty laws need to catch up in 2018
Opinion Piece, February 23

The editor:

Why does a lobby group with an extreme worldview get to set the agenda on animal welfare legislation?

In her opinion piece, Camille Labchuk of Animal Justice suggests that laws surrounding animal welfare need to shift toward changing societal attitudes. For her, of course, that means changes in-line with her specific value systems – one which believes all species should have the all same rights as people.

Farmers, pet owners and others who work with animals assume a legal responsibility for the proper care and wellbeing of the animals in their care. Neglect and abuse of animals is against the law and it is unacceptable. Farmers and ranchers, like all animal owners, are responsible for caring for their animals humanely, and for following laws and regulations in the federal Criminal Code and other animal care legislation. The national Codes of Practice, too, also give both requirements and recommendations on how farmers can raise animals.

Our existing laws represent the collective expertise of farmers, trappers, veterinarians, researchers, and many, many others. They also represent societal expectations that animals raised for food will be raised humanely and treated with respect. Farmers are always working to improve farm animal care based on new and verified science, and investing in research to better understand what livestock and poultry need and want.

Animal welfare laws in Canada represent a balanced approach to the values of all Canadians and the many situations where people and animals interact; that can be within food production, companionship, recreation, or our varied cultural relationships with animals, and not just the desire of one lobby group – or one worldview – to shape and define our collective relationship with other species.

For more information on farming in Canada, visit www.RealDirtonFarming.ca

Sincerely,

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