



## RESPONSE TO PETITION

Prepare in English and French marking 'Original Text' or 'Translation'

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PETITION No.: **421-00139**

BY: **MR. STEWART (BURNABY SOUTH)**

DATE: **APRIL 11, 2016**

PRINT NAME OF SIGNATORY: **THE HONOURABLE JODY WILSON-RAYBOULD**

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Response by the Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada

SIGNATURE  
Minister or Parliamentary Secretary

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SUBJECT

**Cruelty to Animals**

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**ORIGINAL TEXT**

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**REPLY**

The Government agrees that animal cruelty laws should send a strong and clear message that animal cruelty is totally unacceptable in our society.

The Parliament of Canada is responsible for enacting the criminal law. The *Criminal Code* provisions on animal cruelty set a minimum standard of treatment required for all animals in all circumstances. For example, it is an offence to cause unnecessary pain, suffering or injury to an animal. The law also prohibits any conduct that causes an animal pain, suffering or injury for an illegitimate purpose, or that causes pain, suffering or injury for a legitimate purpose but where other means were reasonably available that could have achieved that purpose with less, or no, pain, suffering or injury to the animals. The investigation and prosecution of whether conduct, such as the use of shock collars, is the responsibility of the provinces and territories. They can also make laws that protect and promote animal welfare.