

Proposed cruelty law would give humane societies more bite: MPP: [Final Edition]

Lundy, Andrew . Lundy, Andrew.

[ProQuest document link](#)

ABSTRACT (ABSTRACT)

The Niagara South Conservative MPP kicked off a petition campaign yesterday in St. Catharines to support a private member's bill now before the legislature that aims to reduce incidents of negligence and cruelty to animals by stiffening penalties and strengthening the powers of local humane societies.

The private member's bill was introduced last month by Tory MPP Isabel Bassett, and calls for hefty fines for people who prevent humane society inspectors from doing their jobs, strengthens the power of the society to take animals away from suspected abusers and significantly lengthens the prohibition against owning animals for those found guilty.

Color Photo: Staff Photo by Bob Tymczyszyn / MPP [Tim Hudak], right, signs petition under scrutiny of humane society mascot Stuby and officials [Frank Hampson], left, and Jack Slibar of Toronto. ;

FULL TEXT

It's more than a bad pun when Tim Hudak says the cause he's now championing will put some teeth into laws against cruelty to animals.

The Niagara South Conservative MPP kicked off a petition campaign yesterday in St. Catharines to support a private member's bill now before the legislature that aims to reduce incidents of negligence and cruelty to animals by stiffening penalties and strengthening the powers of local humane societies.

"The provincial backing for enforcement has been lacking," Hudak said at a news conference held at the Lincoln County Humane Society, which helped shape the bill.

The private member's bill was introduced last month by Tory MPP Isabel Bassett, and calls for hefty fines for people who prevent humane society inspectors from doing their jobs, strengthens the power of the society to take animals away from suspected abusers and significantly lengthens the prohibition against owning animals for those found guilty.

"I think it has very broad support," said Hudak, noting all parties in the legislature appear poised to back the bill. But because the changes are packaged in a private member's bill, he said it's important to keep the public behind the effort. Such bills, he said, often get lost in the legislative shuffle: "Sometimes they stall and die on the order papers."

Hudak said he became interested in bolstering anti-cruelty measures last year, after horrific reports from a community north of Toronto that a woman had dragged a dog behind her car as a punishment.

"It was one of the issues that generated the most response" from his constituents when it happened, he said.

The possible advent of such legislation is good news for Frank Hampson and his inspectors at the Lincoln County Human Society.

"It would certainly give us some added leverage," said Hampson, the society's manager, who noted plenty of incidents where inspectors have been prevented from doing their job partly because people knew there would be few repercussions. Petitions are now being distributed throughout Niagara, in veterinarians' offices, pet supply stores and other humane societies, to provide added public pressure at Queen's Park.

The bill will be debated Thursday. If it passes, a legislative committee will examine it and could then refer it back to MPPs for a third reading. Hudak said passing that third reading and getting the assent of Ontario's lieutenant-governor might be possible before the new year.

"The more we keep the momentum going, the quicker we can get this through."

Illustration

Color Photo: Staff Photo by Bob Tymczyszyn / MPP Tim Hudak, right, signs petition under scrutiny of humane society mascot Stuby and officials Frank Hampson, left, and Jack Slibar of Toronto. ;

DETAILS

People:	Hudak, Tim; Hampson, Frank
Publication title:	The Standard; St. Catharines, Ont.
Pages:	B1 / FRONT
Number of pages:	0
Publication year:	1997
Publication date:	Sep 9, 1997
Section:	Local News
Publisher:	Torstar Syndication Services, a Division of Toronto Star Newspapers Limited
Place of publication:	St. Catharines, Ont.
Country of publication:	Canada
Publication subject:	General Interest Periodicals--Canada
ISSN:	08373434
Source type:	Newspaper
Language of publication:	English
Document type:	News
ProQuest document ID:	349128125
Document URL:	https://www.proquest.com/pq1academicnew/newspapers/proposed-cruelty-law-would-give-humane-societies/docview/349128125/sem-2?accountid=35812
Copyright:	(Copyright The Standard (St. Catharines) 1997)
Last updated:	2012-02-13
Database:	ProQuest One Academic

Database copyright © 2026 ProQuest LLC. All rights reserved.

[Terms and Conditions](#) [Contact ProQuest](#)