

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Queen Waldorf Fights Back!

In St. Catharines, Ontario, July 25th at 0900hrs. at 59 Church Street (in front of the courthouse), Queen Waldorf, the elderly dog found beside the Chippawa River with dumbbells tied around her neck will spearhead "The Queen Waldorf Petition for Bill C-373".

Queen will be joined by Spokespersons for the Niagara Falls Humane Society ,and many of her supporters from the community. Queen will welcome all volunteers and petitioners to be a "Voice for the Voiceless!" for the countless number of abused animals in Canada.

On April 7, 2007 , at the King Waldorf Campground on Stanley Avenue , the dog dubbed "Queen Waldorf" was rescued cowering at the waters edge on a boat ramp. Weights were tied to her neck in what is assumed at this point due to the location, someone had attempted to dispose of the dog by drowning. The dog showed several signs of long term neglect such as numerous infections of the skin, eyes, ears, gastrointestinal tract and urinary tract which was manifested by severe hematuria (blood in the urine). She was underweight, had overgrown nails and had bald patches on her coat. Her collar was tied so tight the fur beneath had worn away.

On May 2nd, 2007 Joseph Cote (51) of Fort Erie was charged criminally by the Niagara Falls Humane Society for: (1) Failing to provide suitable and adequate care for a dog
(2) Permit unnecessary suffering to a dog by failing to provide veterinary treatment
(3) Abandon a dog in distress

JOSEPH COTE, if convicted, WILL LEGALLY BE ABLE TO OWN ANOTHER DOG IN TWO YEARS according to current Canadian laws.

Queen Waldorf's petition for Bill C-373 will:

.allow for a LIFETIME PROHIBITION ON FUTURE ANIMAL OWNERSHIP (up from the current maximum of two years) and a minimum of five-year prohibition for second or subsequent offences;

and

. allow judges to order anyone convicted of cruelty to animals to pay restitution (such as veterinary bills and shelter costs) to the animal welfare organization that subsequently cared for the animal(s)

.Allow crimes of killing, harming or neglecting any species of animal to be charged as an indictable offence or punished by summary conviction. In the current Criminal Code, only crimes against cattle are considered an indictable offence carrying a maximum prison term of five years. Crimes against all other animals are currently punishable by summary conviction, which carries a maximum prison term of six months

.Make it illegal to brutally or viciously kill animals;

.Raise the penalty for intentional cruelty to a maximum of five years' imprisonment up from the current six month penalty

.Move animals out of the property part of the criminal code and into a new part created just for animal cruelty offences.

Brian Masse MP for Windsor West states "I do not support Bill S-213, I do support the proposed legislation Bill C-373. Rather than treating crimes committed against another's property, this bill would give animals their own status as creatures that can feel pain." Recently in the Windsor area, AK, a six month old puppy was rescued after his ears were intentionally severed close to the skull.

Queen Waldorf will also launch her petition to block Bill S-213 which "lacks teeth" and provides little change to the current 100 year old legislation. This bill is before the Senate Committee and is dangerously close to being passed this fall. Bill S-213 is not supported by the Canadian Federation of Humane Societies nor the SPCA . This bill will be viewed as a major setback to the responsible members of various groups such as farmers, hunters, animal use industries, fur industry, animal welfare groups and medical researchers that negotiated issues raised . Bill C-373 offers the same protection to strays and wildlife as it does to owned animals while effectively safeguarding heritage activities such as hunting, fishing, farming and trapping.

A public opinion poll conducted by SES Research showed that 85% of Canadians would support changes that would make it easier to convict cases of cruelty toward strays and wildlife. Despite this overwhelming support, Canada's New Government is ignoring millions of caring Canadian voters by failing to address animal cruelty as a serious form of crime in this country.

Queen Waldorf needs more than the support of the Canadian Federation of Humane Societies and the SPCA.....she needs the signatures of Canadian citizens on the "Queen Waldorf Petition for Bill C-373

Please visit the website for the CFHS (Animals and the Law) <http://cfhs.ca/law/what-can-you-do>