

From Caroline Cochrane Range Lake Candidate

The NWT is in second last place regarding Animal Protection Laws. Animal abuse and neglect continues throughout the Territory with few charges and even less convictions. How will you promote and work toward better animal rights in the Territory?

I would support a review/revision of the GNWT *Dog Act* within the next assembly. Legislative reviews usually entail a cross-jurisdictional comparison and stakeholder feedback and I would support the continuation of this process.

I would also support the GNWT working closely with the RCMP, municipal governments, and the NWT Association of Communities to ensure that the act is enforced to the best of our ability.

2. Northern Communities are continually asking the NWT SPCA for help regarding animal care, supplying pet food and removal of unwanted or nuisance dogs. It is important to the health and safety of their neighbourhoods. The NWT SPCA helps members and community governments by sending pet food as well as removing dogs from their community. The alternative is starvation and shootings as a means of control. Will you support the NWT SPCA and advocate for Annual Core Funding from the GNWT so the organization can continue its many programs and necessary services to assist NWT Communities?

Because the current act does allow for removal of the animal (dog) if in distress “including taking custody of the dog in accordance with the regulations and taking reasonable measures to arrange for necessary transportation, food, water, shelter and veterinary care” it is a reasonable request that the NWT SPCA seek core funding to provide this service for the communities within the NWT.

3. Most Northern Communities have limited access to vet care. It is a major reason for the over population and the suffering of thousands of dogs in the North. Communities continue to ask the NWT SPCA to visit their community with the mobile spay and neuter clinics. Will you support funding for the NWT SPCA to increase the number of animal health and wellness clinics in the NWT communities? What steps will you take to ensure this Government support?

Recognizing the downturn in our economy as well as the many needs throughout the NWT, I am unable to commit to this cost without knowing what the ask would be. I do feel however that a meeting between the NWT SPCA, GNWT and NWT Association of Communities should be accommodated to discuss the need, define a dollar amount, and identify the various funding sources available to accommodate the request.