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March 7, 2019

Dear Mr. Piccini,

My name is Dr. Albert Wimmers and I have been a veterinarian in Burlington, Ontario for the last 28 years. I wanted to take this opportunity to write to you and share one of my experiences related to the Pit Pull Ban legislation.

In addition to owning and running two small animal clinics in Burlington, I also take care of all the animals that pass through the Burlington Animal Shelter. Recently, there was a litter of 5 Pit Bull puppies which were seized from an owner in the town of Milton. They were approximately 6 months old, and after an initial assessment it was evident that they all had wonderful temperaments and would make good pets in a loving family home.

Due to the nature of the current wording in the *Dog Owners' Liability Act*, the shelter and myself were obligated to either euthanize the litter or seek homes for them out of province. As these puppies were healthy and appeared to be good natured, it was decided to relocate the puppies to give them a chance at a home and good life.

Through the work of the shelter, the puppies were moved to a province out west, but not before significant financial costs were incurred by the shelter community. The total financial commitment for the relocation came to just over \$10,000 which included their stay at the shelter, the hours of care by shelter staff, flights, and driving time to their new homes. This total did not include my time and care provided, which was donated, and the travelling kennels/carriers which were given to us by a friend of mine.

I believe the Breed Specific Language in the Act does not aid in protecting the public or our pets; which has resulted in the unnecessary deaths of innocent dogs, and financial strains on our shelter communities and municipalities.

As President-Elect of the Ontario Veterinary Medical Association (OVMA), I can also state that the OVMA Board supports repealing the breed specific language in the Act.

Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Sincerely,

Dr. Albert Wimmers, DVM