

The Five Freedoms

If you are in doubt whether an animal is being abused or neglected, the five freedoms listed below will provide some guidelines. The five freedoms originated in the UK and were formulated by the Farm Animal Welfare Council. Originally developed to deal with farm animals, the 'Five Freedoms' are now generally accepted as the guideline for all animals.

1. Freedom from hunger and thirst
2. Freedom from thermal and physical discomfort
3. Freedom from pain, injury or disease
4. Freedom from fear and distress
5. Freedom to express normal behaviour

Reporting Animal Abuse

In Prince Edward Island, there are two relevant provincial Acts that deal with animal welfare. These Acts are the Animal Health and Protection Act, and the Companion Animal Protection Act. The definition of 'distress' is similar in both Acts:

Animal Health and Protection Act:

PART IV

ANIMAL PROTECTION

- 8.** (1) For the purposes of this Part an animal is deemed to be in a state of distress if it
- (a) is in need of food, water, care or treatment;
 - (b) is sick, in pain or suffering or has been injured; or
 - (c) is abused or subjected to cruelty or neglect.

Companion Animal Protection Act:

- 1.(2) For the purposes of this Act, a companion animal is in distress if it
- (a) is in need of food, water, care, shelter or treatment;
 - (b) is sick, in pain or suffering or has been injured; or
 - (c) is abused or subjected to cruelty or neglect.

Both Acts also address the aspect of **liability**. If a veterinarian acts in good faith, no action or other proceedings for damage shall be instituted:

Animal Health and Protection Act:

17. No action lies against an inspector or veterinarian or any person acting as the agent of an inspector or veterinarian for anything done in good faith and purporting to be done under this Act or regulations.
1988,c.11,s.17.

Companion Animal Protection Act:

14. No action or other proceedings for damage shall be instituted against
(a) the Minister;
(b) an inspector, officer, veterinarian;
(c) the appeals officer or Director; or
(d) any person acting as the agent of any person referred to in clauses (a), (b) or (c)
for anything done in good faith in the performance or intended performance of any duty or in the exercise or in the intended exercise of any power under this Act, or for the neglect or default in the performance or exercise in good faith of any such duty or power. 2001,c.4,s.14.

http://www.gov.pe.ca/law/statutes/pdf/a-11_1.pdf Animal Health and Protection Act
http://peilcc.ca/law/statutes/pdf/c-14_1.pdf Companion Animal Protection Act

Where to report Animal Abuse on PEI

Companion Animals, except Pet Stores:	PEI Humane Society	902-892-1190 902-892-1191 info@peihumanesociety.com
Large (Farm) Animals, Pet Stores:	Department of Agriculture Wayne Richards	902-314-0774
Wildlife:	Department of Wildlife	902-368-4683

Canadian Veterinary Oath

As a member of the veterinary medical profession, I solemnly swear that I will use my scientific knowledge and skills for the benefit of society.

I will strive to promote animal health and welfare, relieve animal suffering, protect the health of the public and environment, and advance comparative medical knowledge.

I will practise my profession conscientiously, with dignity, and in keeping with the principles of veterinary medical ethics.

I will strive continuously to improve my professional knowledge and competence and to maintain the highest professional and ethical standards for myself and the profession.