



ANIMAL LAW

Animal law is a specialized area of legal practice involving animals and the people who interact with them. At McCague Borlack LLP, we have a group of lawyers with unique skills providing expertise in this rapidly evolving area of the law.

Chairs

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Services

Our firm's Animal Law Practice Group provides expertise and experience in a broad range of risk management, litigation, and dispute resolution services, including:

Liability Issues

- Death or injury caused by or to pets, horses, or livestock
- Mortality, morbidity, surgical intervention, and euthanasia issues
- Occupiers' liability
- kennel liability
- Product liability
- Feed, drug, and toxicology liability
- Pet adoption and foster care issues
- Fisheries and fish farm exposures

Professional Liability Issues

- Malpractice claims involving veterinarians, animal health technicians, and veterinary clinics
- Equestrian coaches
- Racehorse trainers
- Pet groomers

Regulatory Matters

- College of Veterinarians of Ontario
- Ontario Society for the Prevention of Cruelty of Animals
- Animal Care Review Board
- Ontario Racing Commission
- Animals for Research Act
- Canadian Council on Animal Care
- Municipal by-law issues

Riding and Boarding Stable Exposures

- Injuries to riders or horses
- Riding lesson agreements, including waivers and

releases

- Horse purchase and sale agreements
- Boarding stable agreements, including liens Riding Horse Safety Act issues

Insurance Coverage

- Liability and professional services coverage
- Policy, endorsement, exclusion, and competing wordings interpretation and dispute resolution

Horse Racing

- Racing, purchase and sale, and breeding agreements
- Ontario Racing Commission matters, including licensing issues
- Death or injury claims
- Syndication disputes

Farming and Animal Husbandry Issues

- Livestock liability and property claims
- Farm business claims
- Bloodstock issues
- Equipment failures
- Feed contamination
- Environmental liability, including noise, air, soil, and water contamination
- Artificial fertilizer and pesticide issues
- Fire safety and compliance

Transportation

- Claims involving transportation of horses or livestock by

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road, air, and water

- International transportation of animals, including regulatory and import/export requirements

Animal Research

- Animal research facility and Animals for Research Act issues
- Animal welfare and ethical concerns
- Media training
- Liaison with regulators, including provincial inspectors and Canadian Council on Animal Care
- Policy development
- Import/export of research animals
- Employment issues

Media relations and crisis planning

- Provide training and assistance to persons or institutions facing emotionally charged issues involving animals
- Dealing with the media
- Preparation of press releases

Workplace Safety

- Workplace Safety and Insurance Board claims

Publications

- *Pet Problems: Avenues for Landlords to Deal with Problem Pets*
- *Ontario Court of Appeal releases decision in expert evidence case*

- Occupational Health and Safety Act issues

Family law

- Custody and ownership disputes involving pets
- Visitation rights involving pets

Employment

- Employment contracts for employees of veterinary clinics, riding and boarding stables, racing operations, and farms
- Employment Standards Act, wrongful dismissal, and constructive dismissal issues for employers
- Human rights issues, including hiring, duty to accommodate, harassment, and termination for employers