

Nova Scotia SPCA Provincial Office  
7 Scarfe Court  
Dartmouth, Nova Scotia  
B3B 1W4



Date: Monday, March 25th, 2024  
For Immediate Release

## Man Sentenced For Causing Dog to be in Distress

**Halifax, Nova Scotia** – Xiong Zhou, 56, from Bedford, has been sentenced after causing an animal to be in distress, contrary to Section 26 (1) of the *Animal Protection Act* of Nova Scotia.

On August 31, 2023, Nova Scotia SPCA Enforcement Officers received a report about a dog owner who was refusing to have their animal receive veterinary medical treatment. When officers arrived at the residence the dog was emaciated, dehydrated, and unable to bear weight on its back end, a large mass had formed and was untreated. The animal was seized by officers.

Zhou is not allowed to own, have custody of, or be in care or control of any animal. As well, he is not to reside in any residence or on any property in which animals are housed or kept for three years. Zhou must surrender any animals currently in their care or custody to the Nova Scotia SPCA within 72 hours of the ruling.

“As dogs age they must continue to receive appropriate veterinary care,” says Chief Inspector Jo-Anne Landsburg. “To prevent any suffering of your animal, you should follow through with the professional advice of your veterinary medicine team.”

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### About the Nova Scotia SPCA Enforcement Team

The Nova Scotia SPCA Enforcement Team is a province-wide agency vested with the authority from the Nova Scotia Department of Justice, to provide enforcement under the *Animal Protection Act* and sections of the Criminal Code, to investigate, and where necessary, lay charges, conduct animal seizures, or issue orders to persons suspected of animal cruelty and neglect. The Nova Scotia SPCA Enforcement Team employs Special Constables appointed under the *Police Act* of Nova Scotia.

## About the Nova Scotia SPCA

Proudly following no-kill principles, the Nova Scotia SPCA is a registered charity that helps companion animals in need. Every year, approximately 15,000 pets are helped through animal rescue, progressive programs, and rehoming opportunities. They do not receive any government funding for their shelters, so the SPCA relies on community support to help care for local pets in need. To learn more visit [www.novascotiaspca.ca](http://www.novascotiaspca.ca).

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### Available for Interviews:

Jo-Anne Landsburg, Chief Inspector, Nova Scotia SPCA