



Animal rights activist: on the streets and as animal lawyer

Rebeka Breder
Breder Law

31ST ANNUAL ANIMAL LAW CONFERENCE



How I Started



GAZETTE, DAVE SIDAWAY

To make her point, Rebeka Breder took a dead duck with her to Pointe Claire council meeting last night.

Girl says Pointe Claire mayor ducking issue

AARON DERFEL
THE GAZETTE

Nothing gets Rebeka Breder angrier than seeing hunters shoot ducks.

So last night, the 13-year-old girl turned up at Pointe Claire city hall with her mother and five friends and presented Mayor Malcolm Knox with a dead duck.

"Duck hunting and of course

have a sport to shoot something that cannot defend itself," she continued.

"We want to have the pleasure and enjoyment of watching ducks rest in peace — alive."

The mayor said he sympathized with Rebeka.

"I certainly share your observations," he said. "I have two daughters who are as adamant as you. I realize that there is a problem and I'll look into it."

been calling for a ban on duck hunting for years.

People living on the lakeshore have complained of the close proximity of some hunters to the shoreline and of gunfire awakening them during early morning hours.

Every fall, mallards, pintails and other species of duck flock to the area and use it as a stopover en route to warmer climes down south.

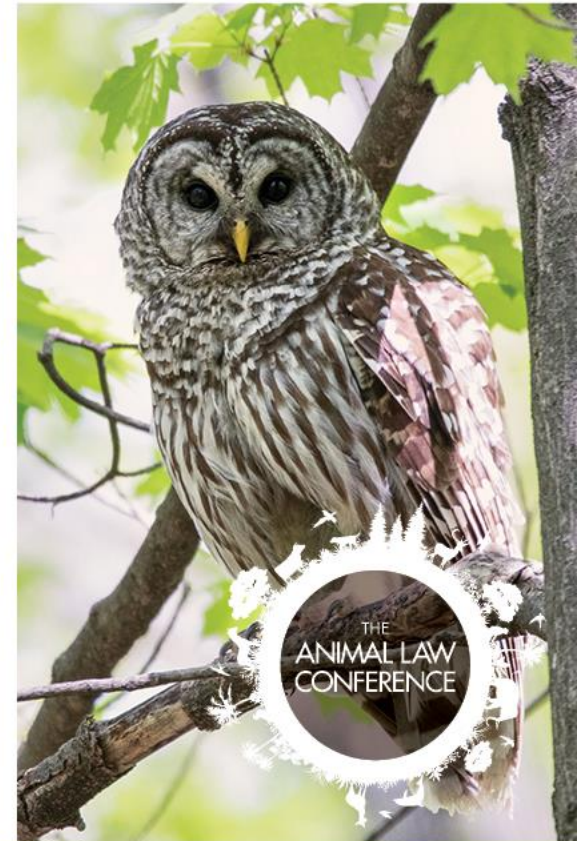
To push for a ban on duck hunt-

How I started (cont'd)



How I started (cont'd)

- Law school – non-profit?
- Reality check! Private Practice
- Founded CBA Animal Law Section
- Various boards



Developing a Practice in Animal Law (cont'd)

- Private practice in “Animal Law”
 - Administrative law (ie: challenging bylaws/ordinances/judicial reviews against governments: live horse export, killing wolves)
 - Quasi-criminal (ie: “dangerous” dogs)
 - Civil (ie: “custody” dispute)
 - Strata Disputes (ie: ESAs)
 - Negligence/Tort (ie: veterinarian malpractice)
 - Contract (ie: veterinarian malpractice, breeder dispute)
 - Criminal (ie: animal cruelty)



Challenges

- Some corporate firms may not be receptive
- A lot of hard work – news areas of law all the time
- Lower rates
- Thick skin needed (hard to win, emotional)



Advantages

- Some positive case law (ie: animals more than just property/best interest)
- Great experience
- Teaching people in corporate world
- Rewarding, regardless of loss
- OK to have companion animal hair on clothes!





Thank you!

Rebeka Breder
Animal Law Lawyer
rbreder@brederlaw.com
www.brederlaw.com

