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Mayor Brian Bowman
City of Winnipeg
510 Main St
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R3B 1B9

Dear Mayor Bowman,

Subject: [Proposed Updates to the City of Winnipeg's Responsible Pet Ownership Bylaw](#)

As a citizen and responsible dog owner, I am contacting you today regarding the proposed changes to the City of Winnipeg's Responsible Pet Ownership Bylaw.

I support the City's efforts to improve animal and community safety that promotes responsible dog ownership and responsible breeding practices. I also commend the City for proposing to remove breed specific provisions, in support of well-crafted dangerous dog measures. However, I believe that the following points require significant further review. I urge the council to reconsider these changes as there is the potential for unintended consequences for CKC member breeders and puppy owners:

1. **Mandatory spay/neuter requirement for all dogs over 6 months of age** (exemption for animals with an intact pet license, and specially title dogs i.e. Herding and Agility).
 - The details of these requirements are unclear. There are no provisions for those who would like to keep their dogs intact for all disciplines, breeding purposes, or pet owners who wish to wait until full physical maturity to spay or neuter their dogs.
 - There is misinformation that dogs that are not spayed/neutered can demonstrate aggressive behaviours and an urgency to roam. Many breeders and veterinarians do not advise early spay/neuter as [studies](#) indicate serious health and development implications.
2. Impounded unlicensed dogs would be required to be fixed prior to release. Any licensed dog that has escaped twice is required to be fixed prior to release. This does not take into account any unfortunate and isolated situations where a spooked dog (i.e. car accident or house fire) may accidentally escape.
3. **The implementation of breeding permit requirements for dogs (and cats) that include:**
 - Breeder's history of responsible pet ownership, although the details of these requirements have not yet been identified,
 - Inspection of the breeding property. The proposed changes do not include any details about who will conduct the inspection, qualifications of inspectors, or inspection criteria. Inspectors would have excessive power and rights to enter private properties should they believe a dog is on the premises.
 - Limit of one litter per year, and no more than four litters over the life of the animal. Initial information from the proposal does not distinguish whether it is one litter a year per dog or one litter a year per breeder. The proposal does not identify how these quantities and parameters were determined. Puppy litter sizes differ vastly depending on the breed and

age of a female dog. In addition, volume is not in and of itself a predictor of substandard breeding.

As a CKC member, I appreciate and value the CKC Code of Practice—which includes guidelines for CKC breeders related to food and nutrition, shelter and housing, sales practices, registration, and canine health—in addition to the CKC Code of Ethics, CKC Bylaws and policies, and requirements of the federal Animal Pedigree Act.

I find the proposed changes mentioned above to be detrimental to responsible dog ownership and responsible dog breeding. I urge you to reconsider these changes and to work with local responsible dog owners, local accountable dog breeders, and organizations such as the CKC—*the* canine authority in Canada and representative of 18,000 members and over 700 breed clubs across Canada—to help address serious issues such as backyard breeders and animal safety.

Sincerely,

[<<Insert Name/Signature>>]