

Date _____

Dr. Mandy K. Cohen, MD, MPH
Director for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Administrator of the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR)
(sent by email to: MandyKCohen@cdc.gov)

Dear Director Cohen,

As a member of the Canadian Kennel Club (CKC) and responsible **owner and/or breeder** of CKC-registered purebred dogs, I am contacting the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) regarding the impact of the upcoming new CDC dog importation rule. **[Please feel free to insert what you do in the purebred dog world such as being a CKC Member breeder, exhibitor, judge, etc.]**

I support the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for preventing the re-introduction of Dog-Maintained Rabies Virus Variant (DMRVV) into the U.S. and protecting the health and safety of people (and animals). **While I support the recent change, the new rule will [Please feel free to include any impacts this will have on you].**

Personally-owned purebred dogs registered with CKC represent a low risk for the introduction or transmission of DMRVV and do not present the serious public health threats posed by the irresponsible importation of unhealthy dogs for resale that CDC cited in its justification announcing the finalized new rule. All purebred dogs in Canada must be registered by law and only dogs whose parents are registered with CKC are eligible to be registered with CKC. It is mandatory for all dogs eligible for CKC registration to be uniquely identified (e.g. an ISO compliant microchip), therefore all CKC-registered dogs that enter the U.S. are already permanently identifiable and must be healthy to be part of breeding programs and to travel to compete in dog events.

While I support the intent of CDC's new dog importation rule, effective August 1, 2024, I am concerned about the 6-month minimum age requirement and the impact it will have on myself and other responsible CKC member breeders and purebred enthusiasts who work with U.S. counterparts to diversify breeding programs—particularly for rare breeds, utilize emergency veterinary services, and provide puppies to U.S. citizens. **I therefore urge CDC to review the new 6-month minimum age requirement and consider creating an exception, similar to the current U.S. import requirements, that allows import of dogs at 4 months of age, for CKC registered dogs that are healthy, vaccinated for rabies, ISO microchipped, and a permanent residence in the U.S.**

Due to the low-risk profile of personally-owned dogs registered by CKC, I respectfully urge **a minimum six-month delay in enforcement of the rule to allow CDC and responsible importers time to address the concerns outlined in my letter and by other stakeholders.**

Finally, I urge you to **consider providing an exception for personally-owned dogs less than 6 months of age requiring emergency care at a licensed veterinary care facility.**

Thank you for considering my requests given the low-risk profile of my CKC registered purebred dogs and those of other CKC members. With your support, I look forward to being able to continue cross the border to improve canine health, diversify breeding programs, utilize veterinary services, and participate in sporting and goodwill events. **[Please feel free to personalize the closing of your letter]**

Sincerely,

CKC member name

Cc: Secretary Xavier Becerra, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
(secretary@hhs.gov)

Mark Holland, Minister of Health, Government of Canada
(hcmminister.ministresc@hc-sc.gc.ca)

Paul MacKinnon, President, Canadian Food Inspection Agency
(Paul.MacKinnon@inspection.gc.ca)