



XII. LEGISLATIVE POLICY STATEMENTS

LEGISLATIVE POLICY STATEMENTS

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Legislative Policy Statements	12:1
Spaying and Neutering.....	12:2
Importation of Dogs into Canada	12:3
Traditional Colours	12:4
Cropping, Docking and Dewclaw Removal.....	12:5
Dangerous Dogs Legislation	12:6
Responsible Dog Ownership	12:7
Brachycephalic Breeds	12:8
Responsible Breeding	12:9
Development and Revision of CKC Policy Statements	12:10

XII. LEGISLATIVE POLICY STATEMENTS

A. Legislative Policy Statements

- (1) The Canadian Kennel Club does not provide financial assistance in any way, related to the matters contained in its legislative policy statements.
- (2) Legislative policy statements contained herein are:
 - (1) Spaying and Neutering
 - (2) Importation of Dogs into Canada
 - (3) Traditional Colours
 - (4) Cropping, Docking and Dewclaw Removal
 - (5) Dangerous Dogs Legislation
 - (6) Responsible Dog Ownership
 - (7) Brachycephalic Breeds
 - (8) Responsible Breeding
 - (9) PROCEDURE LG001 – Development and Revision of CKC Policy Statements

POLICY STATEMENT – Spaying and Neutering

(Effective December 1994, Revised December 2008, Revised September 2020)
[Board Motion #47-09-20]

The CKC supports well-crafted legislation that aligns with scientific evidence of the health benefits in allowing the proper development of the animal to maturity before spaying and neutering.

The Canadian Kennel Club supports a breeder's choice to decide the appropriate timing to spay or neuter their puppies and dogs, in consultation with a veterinary medical professional.

POLICY STATEMENT – Importation of Dogs into Canada (Effective December 2018)

[Board Motion #59-12-18]

The CKC recognizes the need to import purebred dogs into Canada for the purposes of breeding, events and competition, as well as the need for people to travel with their service dogs, pets for vacations and to relocate pets with their owners immigrating to Canada – subject to the necessary safeguards.

The CKC supports a fair and straightforward scheme for monitoring and regulating the importation of dogs into Canada that will minimize the risks of disease to humans, domestic animals, the food chain and wildlife. CKC is particularly concerned with the mass importation of dogs into Canada – which has resulted in documented reports of dogs that have entered Canada with both infectious diseases known in Canada and exotic diseases not common in this country. CKC also acknowledges the human and animal health risks associated with the interregional movement of dogs of questionable health status within Canada and encourages the placement of local pets within local boundaries.

CKC supports improved efforts to ensure animals imported into Canada are fully immunized, free of infectious diseases and parasites, and have been individually examined and certified by a licensed veterinarian before travel—including full contact information for the shipper and the party in Canada responsible for that animal upon its arrival into the country. CKC maintains that pets imported into Canada should also have unique and trackable identification, such as a microchip or a tattoo, which should be connected to the contact information for the party in Canada responsible for the animal upon its arrival.

CKC supports and encourages national education initiatives that drive awareness of the risks associated with the mass importation of dogs into Canada and transboundary movement of unhealthy dogs within Canada. We encourage like-minded organizations to work together to build on shared values and common goals, in support of the health and welfare of pets and the public.

POLICY STATEMENT – Traditional Colours (Effective date September 2020)

[Board Motion #50-09-20]

The Canadian Kennel Club has protected the integrity of purebred dogs since its founding in 1888. It is the steward of Standards and Registration for the purebred dog in Canada.

The Canadian Kennel Club is attentive to changing societal values with respect to purebred dogs and with dogs in general. The Canadian Kennel Club encourages and supports those breeders who strive to produce specimens of their breeds within the traditional, accepted colours and colour patterns.

The Canadian Kennel Club recognizes that the breed clubs are best qualified to manage the standards of their respective breeds. Colour is a significant part of the history of many breeds, having evolved from the landscape in which the breed was originally developed, together with the dog's intended purpose. Breeders of purebred dogs continue this choice of colour and colour patterns for not only historical reasons but also to promote safety in breed related performance activities and to protect and promote genetic strength in health issues by not introducing, nor fostering, colour related weaknesses.

POLICY STATEMENT – Cropping, Docking and Dewclaw Removal

[Board Motion #27-12-20, #20-12-25]

The Canadian Kennel Club (CKC) supports freedom of choice for CKC members who may have breeds that are cropped, docked and/ or have dewclaws removed based on the function of the dog and with respect for the welfare of the animal and in accordance with local laws and regulations, to promote safety in performance activities and support responsible hygienic animal husbandry.

POLICY STATEMENT – Dangerous Dogs Legislation

[Board Motion #28-12-20]

The Canadian Kennel Club supports well-crafted legislation governing dogs that is reasonable, enforceable, and non-discriminatory. As such, CKC supports laws that establish a fair process for identifying dogs as dangerous based on specific, measurable actions and a well-defined process for dealing with dogs proven to be dangerous.

The Canadian Kennel Club believes that public awareness and education, stronger enforcement of existing bylaws and strong penalties for irresponsible owners, are more effective at protecting the public than laws that define a dog as dangerous based on visual appearance or breed. The Canadian Kennel Club continues to work with all levels of government in their efforts to strengthen legislation and protect citizens, in support of responsible dog ownership.

POLICY STATEMENT – Responsible Dog Ownership

[Board Motion #29-12-20]

The Canadian Kennel Club believes that dog ownership, while rewarding, is a privilege with many responsibilities and requires a long-term emotional and financial commitment. CKC encourages all potential owners to be diligent in their research in order to choose a breed that best suits their needs and lifestyle. The Canadian Kennel Club also urges puppy buyers to seek accountable purebred dog breeders using resources found on the CKC website at ckc.ca. CKC further encourages owners to provide proper care, training and socialization to ensure that dogs are viewed as respected members of society.

The Canadian Kennel Club believes that dog owners should be responsible for the actions of their dogs and supports laws that promote responsible dog ownership, including strong penalties for those who are irresponsible in the ownership of dangerous dogs; mandatory licensing and the enforcement of leash laws. The CKC also supports well-crafted legislation that aligns with scientific evidence of the health benefits in allowing the proper development of the animal to maturity before spaying and neutering. CKC further supports public education focused on dog awareness and responsible dog ownership. The Canadian Kennel Club also advocates for the increased regulation of the selling and transfer of dogs and the universal identification of dogs either by tattoo or microchip.

POLICY STATEMENT – Brachycephalic Breeds

[Board Motion #22-09-21, #53-12-25]

The Canadian Kennel Club (CKC) supports a 'health-in-all-breeds' position whereby healthy dogs are the goal in every purebred dog breed in Canada. The long-term health and well-being of all purebred breeds will continue through strategies and practices that promote health in CKC members' breeding programs. In turn, CKC asserts that registered purebred brachycephalic breeds include healthy dogs that can perform their function and make a great addition to any family.

CKC supports the responsible breeding of brachycephalic breeds by its members by providing education and resources that promote brachycephalic breed health. CKC supports its member breeders to use recommended health testing with their dogs to proactively identify and track potential health issues and make informed decisions about their breeding programs.

CKC supports the health of brachycephalic breeds through its regularly updated breed standards, policies, and Code of Practice for member breeders. Furthermore, CKC supports consistent practices in its events where judges, when evaluating breeding stock, place emphasis on dogs that exhibit desired breed characteristics without observable unhealthy physical exaggerations or other health issues.

CKC supports ongoing research regarding the health of brachycephalic breeds. CKC also supports the ongoing education of its member breeders, judges, veterinarians and the public regarding brachycephalic breed health and the importance of acquiring dogs from responsible preservation breeders.

POLICY STATEMENT – Responsible Breeding

[Board Motion #21-12-25]

The Canadian Kennel Club (CKC) promotes the health and well-being of dogs across Canada. CKC believes that responsible preservation breeding by a CKC member promotes the health and well-being of dogs. CKC therefore collaborates globally to support its member breeders with science-based breeder education, breed health strategies and best breeding practices. CKC also ensures accountability of its member breeders through their commitment to following CKC bylaws, rules, regulations, policies and procedures, a Code of Ethics, a Code of Practice, and requirements of the Animal Pedigree Act.

CKC is concerned with sub-standard producers of unhealthy dogs and supports reasonable, non-discriminatory, and enforceable policies that address irresponsible puppy producers, without unduly impacting accountable breeders that prioritize dog health and well-being. Furthermore, CKC supports programs and policies that promote responsible preservation breeding practices including health and genetic testing, dog identification and environments that are safe and healthy for all dogs.

CKC supports initiatives and programs that educate the public regarding responsible pet ownership, pet acquisition and the importance of responsible, preservation breeding.

PROCEDURE LG001 – Development and Revision of CKC Policy Statements

[Board Motion #45-09-20]

- (1) CKC policy statements confirm the viewpoint of the organization on a variety of topics and are detailed in the Policy and Procedures Manual, Chapter 12, and on the CKC website.
- (2) Each existing CKC policy statement should be reviewed, at minimum every 3 years, to ensure that it remains accurate and relevant. Last revision date should be included on each policy statement.
- (3) Policy statement review should be led by a committee whose expertise is relevant to the topic of the statement. This may include a standing committee, an independent standing committee, or an ad hoc committee.
- (4) Review of existing policy statements or development of new draft policy statements may be in the course of normal committee work, or by referral of the Board.
- (5) All new or revised policy statements should adhere to the current policy statement template, available from the CKC, and should be a clear and concise statement on the issue. Where possible, it should succinctly describe the CKC viewpoint in positive terms, i.e., the CKC supports X, vs the CKC opposes Y.
- (6) The committee leading the review of an existing policy statement or development of a new statement should solicit feedback from all other relevant committees, plus the National Advocacy and Government Relations Committee to standardize language of all policy statements, before finalizing a draft statement to be presented to the Board.
- (7) The new draft or proposed revision of an existing policy statement should be provided to the Board with the policy statement template questions completed as background to the motion, and should include any other relevant background materials (scientific research, polling of the membership, etc. as applicable) to support the statement and permit the Board to make an informed decision. Only the approved statement will be included in Chapter 12 of the Policy and Procedures Manual.