

XII. LEGISLATIVE POLICY STATEMENTS

LEGISLATIVE POLICY STATEMENTS

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Legislative Policy Statements.....	12:1
Breed Specific Legislation (Dangerous and/or Vicious Dogs).....	12:3
Responsible Ownership of Dogs (Dog Legislation).....	12:5
Wolf-Dog Hybrid.....	12:7
Service Dogs.....	12:9
Spay - Neuter and Overpopulation.....	12:11
Animal Welfare - Animal Rights.....	12:13
Purebred vs Non Purebred Dogs.....	12:15
Identification.....	12:17
Making the Right Choice.....	12:19
Sporting and Competition.....	12:21
Purchaser Protection.....	12:23
Rescue Clubs.....	12:25
Puppy Mill.....	12:27
Ear Cropping.....	12:29
Tail Docking and Dew Claw Removal.....	12:29
Cruelty.....	12:31
 Deleted Legislative Policy Statements	
The American Pit Bull Terrier (Deleted March 2005)	

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) Breed Specific Legislation / Dangerous and/or Vicious Dogs
 - 2) Responsible Ownership of Dogs / Dog Legislation
 - 3) Wolf-Dog Hybrid Policy
 - 4) Service Dogs
 - 5) Spay - Neuter and Overpopulation
 - 6) Animal Welfare - Animal Rights
 - 7) Purebred vs. Non Purebred Dogs
 - 8) Identification
 - 9) Making the Right Choice
 - 10) Sporting and Competition
 - 11) Purchaser Protection
 - 12) Rescue Clubs
 - 13) Definition of a Puppy Mill
 - 14) Ear Cropping/Tail Docking and Dew Claw Removal

The Canadian Kennel Club

**Policy Statement -- Breed Specific Legislation (Dangerous and/or Vicious Dogs)
(Effective December 1992)**

The Canadian Kennel Club supports dangerous and/or vicious dog legislation, which would serve to protect the public from dangerous dogs. The Canadian Kennel Club does not support breed-specific legislation. The Canadian Kennel Club's opposition to breed-specific legislation is based on the fact that a dangerous temperament is a product of many factors, and not by breed alone. Thus, breed-specific legislation may include dogs which are not dangerous, while excluding those which are.

The Canadian Kennel Club considers banning a particular type of dog as a reactionary measure with little effect, and one that will only serve to push the indiscriminate breeders and/or owners underground, or to another breed not included in the legislation.

The label of "vicious" and/or "dangerous" should be determined by an individual dog's behaviour, and not by its breed or appearance.

The Canadian Kennel Club believes that dog owners should be responsible for the actions of their dogs, and that laws should:

- Impose stern penalties on irresponsible owners;
- Establish a well defined procedure for dealing with dogs proven to be dangerous, which includes, if necessary, the destruction of such animals;
- The Canadian Kennel Club endorses and encourages the enforcement of:
 - Leash laws;
 - "Running at large" laws;
 - Confinement on private property - childproof from the outside and dog-proof from the inside.

The Canadian Kennel Club will continue to support and assist those who share our concern for the protection and advancement of all breeds.

The Canadian Kennel Club

**Policy Statement -- The Responsible Ownership of Dogs (Dog Legislation)
(Effective December 1992)**

The Canadian Kennel Club fully supports and encourages the adoption of reasonable, enforceable and non-discriminatory laws governing the ownership of dogs. The Canadian Kennel Club believes that dog owners should be responsible for their dogs and that laws should: impose penalties on irresponsible owners; and, establish a well-defined procedure for dealing with dogs proven to be dangerous, which includes, if necessary, the destruction of such animals;

In addition, The Canadian Kennel Club encourages the adoption and enforcement of, among other things:

- Leash laws;
- "Running at large" laws;
- Laws against dogs fighting;
- Laws governing unsanitary conditions caused by irresponsible dog owners;
- Vaccination and quarantine laws;
- Maintenance and care laws;
- Laws governing the local licensing of dogs;

To advance this position The Canadian Kennel Club is willing to work with committees and individuals across the country to assist in the development of legislation that is reasonable and enforceable. This includes strengthening legislation against irresponsible dog owners as well as pointing out the inadequacies of legislation that is vague or breed discriminatory;

To further support this effort, The Canadian Kennel Club will provide assistance in:

- The legal and educational fights against adverse dog legislation;
- Making available an information packet which includes examples of existing legislation that is reasonable, enforceable and non-discriminatory;
- Developing a program to be used in schools and within communities to educate the general public about responsible dog ownership;
- Supplying local newspapers around the country with camera-ready materials promoting responsible dog ownership;

Finally, The Canadian Kennel Club will continue to assist, however possible, those who share in the concern for the protection and advancement of all dogs.

The Canadian Kennel Club

Policy Statement -- Wolf-Dog Hybrid (Effective June 1994)

The Canadian Kennel Club supports legislation intended to control or inhibit the perpetuation of the Wolf-Dog Hybrid species. This species has special needs which are generally unknown to prospective owners. Lack of commitment to these needs can cause untold suffering to Wolf-Dog Hybrids and presents a risk of serious injury to people and other animals.

The Canadian Kennel Club

Policy Statement -- Service Dogs (Effective December 1994)

The Canadian Kennel Club is proud of the many purebred dogs who provide valuable service to many groups and individuals. While many purebred dogs are appreciated for their beauty and conformation, in fact several breeds of dogs are known and respected for their work with the blind, hearing impaired or otherwise handicapped people. As well as serving as companions to those in need, purebred dogs also provide assistance to law enforcement agencies helping to protect both property and human lives.

The Canadian Kennel Club supports the training and use of purebred dogs to continue to provide these important benefits for the community in which they live and work and the people they serve.

The Canadian Kennel Club

**Policy Statement -- Spay - Neuter and Overpopulation
(Effective December 1994; Revised December 2008)**

The Canadian Kennel Club supports and encourages purebred dog owners to spay or neuter their pet dogs when recommended by their veterinarian. Breeding purebred dogs is a professional activity which requires knowledge and a commitment to a well planned breeding program in order to uphold the integrity of the breed and meet established breed standards.

Spaying and neutering are simple, safe surgical procedures that may provide health and temperament benefits. Consult your veterinarian for advice and avoid accidental and unwanted breeding. Animal shelters are full of unwanted companion animals that were not bred within a planned breeding program.

The Canadian Kennel Club

Policy Statement -- Animal Welfare - Animal Rights (Effective December 1994)

The Canadian Kennel Club would like all dog owners to understand the difference between Animal Welfare groups and Animal Rights groups.

Animal Welfare groups are concerned with the love, care and well being of animals while Animal Rights groups often have more extreme views that disapprove of and seek to eliminate companion animal ownership.

Dog owners are often approached to financially support animal groups. When considering whether to provide support, it is important to understand the type of programs and ideals the particular organization supports.

The Canadian Kennel Club fully supports the goals of the Animal Welfare groups and applaud their tireless efforts towards public education and care and well being of companion animals.

The Canadian Kennel Club

Policy Statement -- Purebred vs Non Purebred Dogs (December 1994)

The Canadian Kennel Club is recognized worldwide for the accuracy and integrity of our registry. Records have been maintained diligently for decades to help verify the integrity of the pedigree (lineage) of each and every purebred dog.

The advantage of purebred dogs is that they are bred to meet specific standards of size and temperament. This allows prospective purchasers to know in advance how big their new puppy will be, what type of coat it will have, how much exercise is required every day and most importantly, the probable temperament of their adult dog.

Many non purebred dogs of indeterminate breeding are capable of providing excellent companionship and even human service and assistance, just as purebred dogs do. However, neither the appearance nor genetic characteristics of non purebred dogs are predictable, nor can they be perpetuated.

A common myth that mixed breed dogs are more vigorous or healthy is just that - a myth. The Canadian Kennel Club fully supports all companion animal ownership by caring and responsible owners and encourages prospective dog buyers to consider the obvious benefits of the purebred dog.

The Canadian Kennel Club

Policy Statement – Identification (Effective December 1994)

The Canadian Kennel Club is justifiably proud of our position regarding identification of purebred dogs. One of the reasons our registry is so well regarded around the world is the fact that CKC requires unique identification in order to register a dog. This is a mandatory requirement that is strictly maintained.

The shelters are full of animals that cannot be identified. Purebred dogs sold in Canada are required to be identified by means of a unique tattoo or microchip numbering system. Breed rescue groups are prevalent across Canada to assist in the safe return of lost purebred dogs to their rightful owner. Proper identification is critical to this process and we encourage all dog owners to maintain a strict policy of identification for all their companion animals.

The Canadian Kennel Club

**Policy Statement – Making the Right Choice
(Effective December 1994 - originally known as Pet Store Puppies)**

The Canadian Kennel Club encourages prospective purchasers to take time in the selection of their new puppy. Owning a dog is a lifetime commitment and as such, understanding the responsibilities of dog ownership is very important.

In our Purebred Puppy Buyer's Guide, we provide a section on "finding a good family companion dog". A key point to consider is to try and meet both of the puppy's parents if possible. Always see the mother of your puppy. If you like the parents, chances are you will like the puppy.

Most puppies sold in pet stores are alone from their litter mates and not with their mother - often for several weeks prior to being sold. We encourage new owners to purchase their puppy from breeders who raise their puppies on their own premises, where they can share the important first few weeks of life with their litter mates and their parents.

The Canadian Kennel Club also discourages the "impulse" purchasing of dogs and as such cannot support the merchandising of live dogs in a retail environment.

The Canadian Kennel Club

Policy Statement -- Sporting and Competition (Effective March 1995)

The Canadian Kennel Club supports and encourages the sport of dogs to hold various types of shows and trials. We encourage all dog owners to participate with their dogs in such activities as hunting and field trials, herding, tracking and competitive events intended to improve the overall understanding and quality of purebred dogs.

We do not support the development of uncontrolled and purposeless aggressive behaviour and equally oppose activities such as dog fighting, which is a criminal code offence.

It is indeed through the sport of dogs that reputable dog breeders continue to improve their individual breeds as well as the species itself, for all.

The Canadian Kennel Club

Policy Statement -- Purchaser Protection (Effective March 1995)

The Canadian Kennel Club feels that a purchaser of a purebred dog in Canada is entitled to expect that they are purchasing a healthy dog, both physically and mentally from a reputable breeder. Canadian Kennel Club members are obligated by the objectives of the Club as contained in the Club By-laws to encourage, guide and advance the interests of purebred dogs and their responsible owners and breeders in Canada.

Purchasers are advised to ask the seller for a written bill of sale indicating that the dog being purchased is indeed purebred, the breed of the dog, the seller's and purchaser's information, that the dog has been officially identified and that registration papers are included in the price. Under the Animal Pedigree Act, a seller must provide registration papers within six (6) months from the date of sale.

Reputable sellers will provide a detailed written guarantee of the present and future genetic health of the dog and will not hesitate to uphold their guarantees.

The Canadian Kennel Club publishes a guide to purchasing a purebred puppy and encourages all prospective owners to understand the information contained in the guide before they purchase a purebred dog.

The Canadian Kennel Club

Policy Statement -- Rescue Clubs (Effective December 1995)

The Canadian Kennel Club applauds the efforts of rescue clubs whose members work so diligently to aid those dogs that have become lost, abandoned or seized by the Humane Society, S.P.C.A. or dog pound.

Should rescue clubs come into possession of dogs that are purebred and dispose of these dogs for a consideration on the understanding that the dogs are purebred, the club must be in possession of the necessary documentation to facilitate Canadian Kennel Club registration and transfer of ownership to the new owner. It is imperative that a dog be identified by either tattoo or microchip so that it can be positively identified as being a dog "belonging" to the certificate of registration.

The integrity of The Canadian Kennel Club's registry must be maintained at all times.

The Canadian Kennel Club

Policy Statement – Definition of a Puppy Mill (Effective March 2002)

The term “Puppy Mill” generally refers to a high-volume, sub-standard dog-breeding operation, which sells purebred or mixed breed dogs, directly or indirectly to unsuspecting buyers. Some of the characteristics common to puppy mills are:

- (a) Sub-standard health and/or environmental issues;
- (b) Sub-standard animal care, treatment and/or socialization;
- (c) Sub-standard breeding practices which lead to genetic defects or hereditary disorders;
- (d) Erroneous or falsified certificates of registration, pedigrees and/or genetic background.

Note: These conditions may also exist in small volume or single breed establishments.

The Canadian Kennel Club

Policy Statement – Cropping/Docking/Dew Claw Removal

[Board Motion #12-03-11]

A. Ear Cropping (Effective December 2010)

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

Today the Canadian Kennel Club supports breeders whose breeds have traditionally been cropped. The Canadian Kennel Club is attentive to changing societal values with respect to purebred dogs and with dogs in general.

The Canadian Kennel Club believes that the breed clubs are best able to manage the standards of their respective breeds. The practice of ear cropping is a significant part of the history of many breeds or purebred dogs. Breeders of purebred dogs continue this practice for not only historical reasons but also to promote safety in performance activities and to promote hygienic animal husbandry.

The Canadian Kennel Club is concerned that the practice of ear cropping be performed under the most humane of circumstances, and that breeders deserve the right to choose to have this practice done; and further, that veterinarians deserve the right to choose to perform the practice. It is noted that the practice of ear cropping continues to be available in other countries, including the United States.

B. Tail Docking and Dew Claw Removal (Effective September 2010)

The Canadian Kennel Club has protected the integrity of purebred dogs since its founding in 1888. It is the steward of Standards and Registration. Today the Canadian Kennel Club supports breeders whose breeds have traditionally been docked. The Canadian Kennel Club is attentive to changing societal values with respect to purebred dogs.

The Canadian Kennel Club affirms that docked tails are a significant part of the history of many breeds of purebred dogs. Breeders of purebred dogs continue this practice for historical, safety and hygienic reasons.

The Canadian Kennel Club is concerned that the practices of tail docking and dewclaw removal are performed under the most humane of circumstances. These practices continue today not for cosmetic reasons but to prevent harm. Tail docking and dewclaw removal are performed for safety in field working breeds and for hygienic reasons in other breeds. They prevent injury and promote hygienic animal husbandry. Tail docking and removal of dewclaws when performed on young puppies is consistent with similar practices in the livestock industry.

The Canadian Kennel Club does not believe that a ban on tail docking and removal of dewclaws will stop the practice because these services continue to be available in other countries including the United States.

The Canadian Kennel Club

Policy Statement – Cruelty (Effective September 2011)

[Board Motion #132-09-11]

The Canadian Kennel Club condemns cruelty in any manner or form whatsoever regarding the treatment of canines and is of the opinion that the decision as to whether or not an event is, in fact, cruelty rests with the courts and should be dealt with through criminal and/or civil action.