



## CANADIAN KENNEL CLUB

PRESENTATION BY  
THE CANADIAN KENNEL CLUB

THE COMMITTEE ON INSTITUTIONS REGARDING BILL 128

*An Act To Promote The Protection Of Persons By Establishing A  
Framework With Regard To Dogs*

March 21, 2018

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

Canadian Kennel Club Presentation ..... 2

Appendix A: About CKC ..... 7

Appendix B: History of CKC ..... 9

Appendix C: Code of Practice for CKC Member Breeders ..... 10

Appendix D: Breeding Dogs ..... 13

Appendix E: Code of Ethics for CKC Members ..... 14

Appendix F: Microchips ..... 15



## CKC Presentation to the Quebec Parliamentary Committee - March 21, 2018

On behalf of the Canadian Kennel Club, thank you for the opportunity to present. Founded in 1888, the Canadian Kennel Club (CKC) is national, member-based non-profit organization, incorporated under the Animal Pedigree Act of Canada, a federal statute under the auspices of the Ministry of Agriculture. It provides registry services for 175 officially recognized breeds of purebred dogs.

The club includes almost 20,000 individual members and over 600 breed clubs across Canada. CKC registers purebred dogs, regulates dog shows and performance events, and speaks out on major issues concerning dog ownership and the health and welfare of dogs across Canada.

The CKC is dedicated to encouraging, guiding, and advancing the interests of purebred dogs and their responsible owners and breeders in Canada and promoting the knowledge and understanding of the benefits which dogs can bring to Canadian society.

The Canadian Kennel Club supports well-crafted legislation that's created to protect the community and its citizens by targeting irresponsible dog owners and *any* dog that displays dangerous behavior. We recognize public safety concerns.

CKC and its members joins Quebec in condemning vicious dog attacks and commends the Quebec government for making this accountability the subject of this legislation.

However, the Canadian Kennel Club does not support the breed-specific provisions of Bill 128.

As you will have heard from many speakers over the past two days, under the wrong circumstances, any dog can bite. Targeting a breed or a family of breeds will not keep our citizens safe. It will not provide a strong legislative framework for law enforcement, nor will it support your municipalities that will, in the end, have to implement and enforce this legislation.

Many countries throughout the world have attempted to enact breed bans in an attempt to manage dog control issues. You're not alone.

No one breed of dog has ever been proven to be inherently aggressive. This has been proven in countless studies. There is no such thing as an aggressive dog. There are aggressive behaviors that are often a consequence of external influence such as lack of socialisation, lack of training, abuse or training. As dog experts at the Canadian Kennel Club, we recognize that any dog can show aggressive tendencies in the wrong set of circumstances. Our events regulation all have provisions for aggressive behaviors, including a permanent disqualification process. CKC takes dog aggression very seriously.

Furthermore, there will be a decrease in safety because the proposed legislation will offer the public the incorrect impression that the dog safety issue has been addressed, thus providing a comfort level that is not justifiable. There will be a sense among Quebec residents who are not dog savvy that those dogs that are not banned will not show aggression, thus reducing citizens' caution in dealing with dogs in general.



The Canadian Kennel Club currently recognizes and is the registry for 175 distinct breeds of purebred dogs. There are many breeds larger and more powerful than those currently targeted by Bill 128. Bill 128 will not protect your citizens by removing the most powerful breeds available to those who want to use dogs for menace or for malicious intent. These individuals will simply be able to move on to larger alternatives.

Under Bill 128, who will be responsible for identifying a dog breed? What system will guarantee the accurate identification of dogs “deemed potentially dangerous”? It is widely known that the visual identification of a breed (especially for mixed breed dogs) is nearly impossible and highly unreliable—unlike the methodical recording and identification of purebred dogs through a registry like Canadian Kennel Club, mandated under the Animal Pedigree Act. Every purebred dog in Canada registered with the Canadian Kennel Club must be uniquely identified by tattoo or microchip.

As the primary registry for purebred dogs in Canada, the CKC maintains records for 175 breeds and “Pit Bull” is not one of them. No country recognizes a pit bull. There is no such breed as “Pit Bull” as it is listed in Bill 128. A “Pit Bull” is not a definable breed of dog. Dogs generically referred to as “pit bulls” by media and the general public are randomly bred mixed breeds and unlike purebred dogs, do not have a predictable genetic background or consistent distinguishing characteristics. These mixed breeds would not be eligible for registration with any breed association in Canada recognized by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada.

What differentiates a purebred dog from a mixed breed dog? The four breeds listed in Bill 128 -- Staffordshire Bull Terrier, the American Staffordshire terrier, the American Pit Bull terrier (not a CKC recognized breed), and the Rottweiler -- are purebred dogs, bred by knowledgeable breeders who are supported and controlled by registries that support ethical breeding practices and they conform to industry norms in supporting their puppy buyers. They advocate spay/neuter contracts. They educate puppy purchasers in puppy development and behaviour modification. They advocate puppy socialization and dog obedience training. They are required to uniquely identify every puppy they produce (see Appendix F). Every purebred dog in Canada registered with the Canadian Kennel Club must be uniquely identified. Every one of those dogs can be proven to be the breed that it is purported to be on its registration papers, and those are the only purebred dogs in the country, except for those that might have been registered by other registries and brought into Canada.

Canadian Kennel Club breeders are bound by a code of practice (See Appendix C) and a code of ethics (See Appendix E). Should breeders not conform to these standards, they are sanctioned by the registries under which they operate as well as by their breed clubs and also by their peers.

Purebred dogs are a controlled and highly managed addition to a home. Breeders carefully screen prospective purchasers. They turn away more buyers than they accept as appropriate homes able to meet stringent requirements for puppy ownership. We recognize that not every person should have a dog. We counsel callers appropriately.

Breeding of dogs is our passion. It is born of years of care, commitment, study, analysis, research and education. As with all things in life, we recognize that not all breeders are created equal. Commercial facilities breed many breeds strictly for profit. They sell to pet stores that are unable to provide breed information support. They aren't able to provide mentorship or detailed advice about the puppies that are being sold, nor do they do any screening of potential purchasers. There are also unknowledgeable, often well-intentioned people who have purchased an unspayed female and have decided to let her have a litter to let their children have the opportunity to see the miracle of birth. The



latter two groups have different motivations from those breeders described earlier. They are less knowledgeable, either because of the volume of puppies they're producing or because of the lack of volume that they're producing, and as a result, they are less able to support those who are going to be the recipients of their puppies. Often this is where problems will occur and where increased controls of animal production would have a positive effect in reducing unwanted dogs.

**Dogs are not born dangerous.** Illness may on occasion render a young dog a threat. This will be noticeable both to the owners and to the veterinarians who are caring for the dogs, and proper counselling will support the decisions that need to be taken. **Dangerous dogs are created by owners.** This may be intentional, in the case of dogs that are trained to fight or that are supported in aggressive behaviours by owners with malicious intentions. Dogs are dangerous if they have bitten, if they have attacked or pursued without provocation a person or a domestic animal, or if they are owned for the purpose of fighting. Municipalities must be in a position to impose appropriate penalties on irresponsible owners of dangerous dogs.

The CKC supports harsh penalties for those who are irresponsible in the ownership of dangerous dogs. We support mandatory licensing and strong enforcement of leash laws. We support public education and education in schools focused on dog awareness. We support spay/neuter requirements for all dogs not considered breeding stock. We support increased regulation of the selling and transfer of dogs. We support universal identification of dogs by either tattoo or microchip. We support maintenance of all dogs in a controlled environment; no dog should be allowed to run at large. We support harsher penalties for violations of all of the foregoing.

CKC promotes **Responsible dog Ownership** via its national outreach and education programs such as CKC Canine Good Neighbour (CGN). The CGN program is a national initiative targeted to the public, including prospective dog owners and enhances community awareness of responsible dog ownership. In addition, close to 20,000 CKC members serve as national ambassadors, educating new and prospective dog owners about health, training and good citizenship.

The CKC has worked with and continues to support, provincial legislatures such as British Columbia and Ontario, in the area of responsible dog ownership and dog breeding. We would like to work with you to enhance the role of dogs in our society. We would like to work with you to create legislation that reflects worldwide experience, to offer Quebec residents legislation that will improve their safety. Let's work together to design a bill that is reasonable, enforceable, affordable and non-discriminatory that will improve the safety of the citizens of Quebec.

**In summary:**

- CKC opposes fear-based breed-specific legislation in favour of well-crafted dangerous dog legislation that is reasonable, enforceable and non-discriminatory.
- CKC believes that public awareness and education, stronger enforcement of existing bylaws and stiffer penalties for irresponsible owners is more effective at protecting the public.
- CKC does not support breed-specific legislation because we believe that a dangerous temperament is a product of many factors, and cannot be determined by breed alone. Therefore, breed-specific legislation may include dogs which are not dangerous, while excluding those which are.



- There is no such breed as “Pit Bull”. Dogs generically referred to as “pit bulls” by media and the general public are randomly bred mixed breed and unlike purebred dogs, do not have a predictable genetic background or consistent distinguishing characteristics.
- CKC supports legislation that promotes responsible dogs ownership:
  - CKC supports harsh penalties for those who are irresponsible in the ownership of dangerous dogs.
  - CKC supports mandatory licensing and strong enforcement of leash laws.
  - CKC supports public education and education in schools focused on dog awareness and responsible dog ownership.
  - CKC supports spay/neuter requirements for all dogs not considered breeding stock.
  - CKC supports increased regulation of the selling and transfer of dogs.
  - CKC supports universal identification of dogs either by tattoo or microchip.
  - CKC promotes Responsible dog Ownership via its national outreach and education program such as CKC Canine Good Neighbour (CGN). The CGN program is a national initiative targeted to the public, including prospective dog owners and enhances community awareness of responsible dog ownership.

Table 1

Registrations for CKC-Registered Breeds							
		2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
ROTTWEILER	QUEBEC	31	46	27	14	18	45
ROTTWEILER	CANADA	613	663	614	581	612	659
AMERICAN STAFFORDSHIRE TERRIER	QUEBEC	0	5	0	0	0	0
AMERICAN STAFFORDSHIRE TERRIER	NATIONAL	32	34	58	37	25	13
STAFFORDSHIRE BULL TERRIER	QUEBEC	7	6	5	6	9	2
STAFFORDSHIRE BULL TERRIER	NATIONAL	129	113	140	112	136	120



## APPENDIX A

### About The Canadian Kennel Club

The Canadian Kennel Club (CKC) is the primary registry body for purebred dogs in Canada and currently recognizes 175 breeds. As a non-profit organization, the CKC is dedicated to encouraging, guiding, and advancing the interests of purebred dogs and their responsible owners and breeders in Canada and promoting the knowledge and understanding of the benefits which dogs can bring to Canadian society.

The CKC is incorporated under **Animal Pedigree Act**, a federal statute under the auspices of the Ministry of Agriculture. The organization includes approximately 20,000 individual members and over 600 breed clubs across Canada. The Club registers purebred dogs, regulates dog shows and performance events, and speaks out on major issues concerning dog ownership and the health & welfare of dogs across Canada.

### CKC Mission Statement

#### Who we are

The Canadian Kennel Club is a national, member-based, non-profit organization, incorporated under the Animal Pedigree Act of Canada. The Club's purpose is to serve its membership and the public by educating, supporting and guiding them in their canine-related endeavours.

#### Mission

The Canadian Kennel Club will service its membership and the community at large by giving support, understanding, help and guidance in all their canine-related endeavors. CKC will work so that members will be proud of their affiliation. The Club will recognize, promote, and publicize the actions of responsible breeders and owners.

#### Vision

The Canadian Kennel Club, with its members will be a dynamic service organization, a recognized authority for purebred dogs, and an advocate for all dogs.

#### Values

A dedication to, and love of, purebred dogs with a commitment to the on-going improvement in the health and well-being of all dogs.

A belief in the value of dogs as an integral part of our lives, our society and the contributions dogs brings to our humanity.

A commitment to promote and advance the sport of purebred dogs and to inform, educate and expand public awareness as to the vast array of activities and opportunities for purebred dog enthusiasts.

A commitment to inform, educate and promote responsible ownership and responsible breeding practices undertaken for the preservation of breed characteristics while producing healthy well-socialized dogs, giving

consideration to health issues and temperament and behaviour.

A commitment to protect and enhance the interests of our breeders, members, associated clubs and organizations and to deal with them with integrity, openness, honesty and compassion.

A dedication to high standards in upholding the integrity of our registry.

A commitment to uphold high standards of governance and management in the administration and operations of the Canadian Kennel Club.



## APPENDIX B

### History of CKC

#### **(1880-1915)**

In the late 1800s, when Canada was in its infancy as a country, a strong interest in purebred dogs and dog shows began to take root. Initially, enthusiasts utilized the American Kennel Club registry and rules for events that took place in parts of Manitoba, Southern Ontario, Montreal and Saint John. However, by 1887 it became obvious to Canadian dog fanciers that a national registry and regulatory body were needed and the following year, in London Ontario, the Canadian Kennel Club was born.

#### **First Steps, Then Off and Running**

The CKC was created with a goal to promote the breeding and exhibiting of “thoroughbred” dogs in Canada. Also to formulate rules for the governing of dog shows, to recommend suitable judges, and to open a registry for purebred dogs. Richard Gibson of Delaware, Ontario was chosen President and C. A. Stone of London was the Secretary. Two of the Vice-Presidents came from Quebec and one from Winnipeg.

In the first year membership quickly rose from just 14 members to 70, and purebred dog registrations reached 350. By 1891, registrations were up to 847, five new breed clubs were formed and successful shows were held in Montreal, Kingston, Ottawa, Toronto, and Hamilton.

In 1889 the first Field Trial utilizing Canadian Kennel Club rules was held near Chatham, Ontario. There were a total of 23 entries, several of which were AKC members from Michigan. Also, in 1889, the CKC created its own official publication, The Kennel Gazette, which later became known as Kennel and Bench and still exists today as an online publication available to members on this website.

#### **Canadian Dogs Thriving**

In 1903, as a testimony to the growing interest in the sport, the first Canadian dog show that counted 1000 entries was held in Toronto. The largest numbers came from the Boston Terrier, Fox Terrier and Irish Terrier breeds, while St. Bernards, Bloodhounds, Great Danes, Russian Wolfhounds, English Pointers, English Setters, Cocker Spaniels, Poodles, Bulldogs, Bull Terriers and Toy Spaniels were also prominently featured.

That same year reorganization of the Club brought it closer to its current form, with a board representative from each province, and a short time later the CKC was incorporated under the Live Stock Pedigree Act (later known as the Animal Pedigree Act), which provides the foundation and structure for the CKC’s registry of purebred dogs in Canada.



---

## APPENDIX C

### Code of Practice for Canadian Kennel Club Member Breeders

#### I. Purpose [Board Motion #23-09-17]

This Code of Practice shall apply to all breeders who are members of The Canadian Kennel Club. Its purpose shall be to provide breeders with a set of mandatory standards and requirements relating to the proper maintenance, breeding, selling and overall protection of their chosen breed(s). It shall be the aim of every breeder to breed dogs that are healthy and sound in both mind and body to ensure that the dogs are true to their heritage. It shall also be the responsibility of every breeder to adhere at all times to proper and ethical business practices when buying, breeding, selling and placing their dogs.

#### II. Breeding Principles

The breeding of dogs is a serious responsibility; therefore, the decision to breed should never be taken lightly. To this end, every breeder, or prospective breeder, must be willing to embrace the following general principles:

- (a) Be prepared to make a serious commitment of both time and financial resources in order to ensure that a proper breeding program can be carried out.
- (b) Be prepared to provide for the well being of the dogs, both while in your care as well as in the ultimate placement of the dogs.
- (c) Be prepared to work hard to preserve and maintain the breed for future generations through the judicious selection of breeding stock.
- (d) Be prepared to share knowledge that is gained through experience with fellow breeders, particularly those who are novices.

#### III. General Responsibilities

The following are a set of general responsibilities that shall be understood and accepted by all CKC member breeders:

- (a) Every breeder shall be conversant with and fully adhere to the By-laws, rules, regulations, policies and procedures of CKC, as well as the requirements of the Animal Pedigree Act (APA).
- (b) All litters and all dogs in each litter shall be registered with the CKC. Litter registrations shall be forwarded to CKC as soon as is reasonably possible after the birth of the dogs. Upon the sale of each dog from any litter, breeders shall transfer ownership and register each dog in the name of the purchaser in accordance with stated requirements.
- (c) At all times the dogs shall be provided with proper housing, nutrition, health care and necessary exercise.
- (d) Every breeder shall make a conscientious effort to learn about structure, movement and behavior, understand and stay current with inherited traits, congenital and hereditary health problems related to their



breed, and to have a basic knowledge of health care and first aid. (e) Breeders are encouraged to regularly test for health and genetic problems and are encouraged to openly share the results of all such testing that is undertaken. They should also follow recommended protocols for the control of genetic disease.

(f) Every breeder shall maintain current and accurate records pertaining to their breeding program, the particulars of all dog registrations and all sales transactions.

(g) No breeder shall sell or donate dogs for the purpose of their being auctioned, raffled or to pet stores. IV.

#### **Breeding Practices [Board Motion #23-09-17]**

In order to attain the goal of producing quality dogs, a breeder must give priority to producing dogs that are healthy and sound in both mind and body, and to selecting breeding stock that conforms to the requirements as defined by the Rules of Eligibility (ROE) for each breed where available.

(a) Use dogs that are known to be of sound health and stable temperament.

(b) Choose both a sire and dam that have reached such maturity that they can produce and raise a healthy litter.

(c) Assure that all breeding documents and registrations are available for inspection and completely in order.

(d) As the owner of a stud dog, ensure that the owner of the dam has the ability and the necessary facilities to successfully whelp, raise and assure the future well being of any resulting litter.

(e) As the owner of the dam, ensure that the owner of the sire has the knowledge and experience to provide a safe and proper mating, including the diligent care of the dam.

#### **V. Selling Practices**

All breeders have a serious responsibility when selling dogs to purchasers, whether they are fellow breeders or members of the general public. In order to fulfill this responsibility and without limiting the specifics of the By-laws, rules, regulations, policies and procedures and the Animal Pedigree Act, all CKC breeders shall adhere to the following general sales practices:

(a) Dogs must never be sold on a "with or without papers" basis. As noted in Section III. (b) above, all dogs must be registered with CKC.

(b) In accordance with The By-laws, the breeder is responsible for the submission of and payment for all registration applications. Such costs may be included in the price of the dog. Under no circumstances shall the buyer be asked to submit or pay for any applications to register or transfer the ownership of a dog.

(c) All dogs must be uniquely and permanently identified with an approved Canadian Standard microchip transponder or a tattoo, prior to leaving the breeder's premises.

(d) Potential purchasers of dogs shall be reasonably screened for their suitability and capability to own and meet the needs of the particular breed. The concept of a dog being a lifetime commitment should always be reinforced with the purchaser.



- (e) Breeders shall represent their dogs to prospective purchasers with honesty and integrity.
- (f) Breeders shall commit themselves to assisting novice dog owners in understanding the breed. They shall also encourage new dog owners to become involved in the activities of the sport of purebred dogs and inform them about the values in becoming a member of CKC.
- (g) Breeders shall provide a written sales agreement containing the name of the purchaser, the date of sale, a statement confirming that the dog is purebred, the name of the breed and the dog's unique identification number. In addition, all terms and conditions of the sale, including a return or replacement policy, shall be clearly defined. The agreement shall be properly dated and signed by all parties.
- (h) Breeders shall provide the purchaser with a reasonable written guarantee that protects the dog, the purchaser and the seller.
- (i) Regardless of age, spaying or neutering of all dogs sold as companions should be actively encouraged.
- (j) Purchasers should be provided with copies of all relevant documentation, including such things as CKC registration documentation, copies of non-breeding agreements, completed sales agreements, guarantees, health and vaccination records, and a set of instructions on the care, training and diet for the dog.



## APPENDIX D

### Breeding Dogs

Virtually all reputable breeders in Canada are members of the Canadian Kennel Club and are obligated to adhere to CKC policies and procedures, our Code of Ethics and Code of Practice. The CKC Code of Practice for Member Breeders insists that they aim to breed dogs that are healthy and sound in both mind and body, to ensure that the dogs are true to their heritage and that they meet the requirements of the CKC Breed Standards.

Every responsible breeder should be devoted to weeding out disorders from bloodlines in order to improve the health and well-being of their lines. This means learning as much as they can about their breeds, including health and genetic concerns, temperament, appearance and type.

In order to produce the best possible offspring, both the sire and dam must be conditioned and well cared-for. Regular veterinary care, screening for genetic problems, pre-breeding health tests, exercise and good nutrition should be standard procedures.

As well, it is the responsibility of every breeder to adhere at all times to proper and ethical business practices when buying, breeding, selling and placing their dogs. Any breeder selling a dog as purebred must register the dog and provide the new owner with the registration certificate within six months of the date of sale – this is the law, as required under the Animal Pedigree Act.



---

## APPENDIX E

### Code of Ethics for Canadian Kennel Club Members

The Canadian Kennel Club is incorporated under the Animal Pedigree Act to be responsible for the registration, preservation and promotion of all CKC recognized breeds of dogs in Canada.

The Canadian Kennel Club is a national membership organization representing purebred dog activities. The Board of Directors of The Canadian Kennel Club is elected from the membership representing their regional zones and is responsible to that membership.

In order to achieve the goals and objectives of The Canadian Kennel Club, its members agree to adhere to the following principles:

- All members of The Canadian Kennel Club will comply with the By-laws, rules and regulations established by the Board of Directors of The Canadian Kennel Club and the requirements of the Animal Pedigree Act; ·
- All members of The Canadian Kennel Club will provide their dogs with appropriate housing, food and health care;
- All members of The Canadian Kennel Club will endeavor to enhance the role of the purebred dog in society as an essential member of its communities where it functions as a companion, a guardian, a healer, a hunter, a herder, a teacher and, above all, man's best friend ;
- In order to preserve and enhance each breed's characteristics, The Canadian Kennel Club supports and encourages participation in shows, trials and other events. All members, whether they are exhibitors, handlers, judges or assistants will participate in such activities with honesty, fairness and integrity, ever mindful of the practice of good sportsmanship ;
- Except as provided in The By-laws of The Canadian Kennel Club, all members as breeders of purebred dogs, will include in their programs, only Canadian Kennel Club registered (or registerable) stock which will strengthen the genetic pool and, thus, guarantee further progression toward the ideals of the standard, keeping authentic records of their activities;
- All members of The Canadian Kennel Club will undertake the task of educating and encouraging all newcomers to the world of purebred dogs no matter their interest: pet-owner, exhibitor, trialer or breeder.



## **APPENDIX F**

### **Microchips**

A review process has been established by the National Companion Animal Coalition (NCAC) to assess the conformity of radio frequency identification (RFID) products and processes with the revised Canadian standard for electronic (microchip) identification of companion animals. The revised Canadian standard came into effect December 1, 2004 and is based on ISO microchips, accompanying databases and compatible readers to promote maximum long-term recovery potential of companion animals. Only those RFID products that have been submitted for review and have been deemed in conformity with the Canadian standard will be recognized as suitable for companion animal identification. Only ISO microchips are acceptable under the Canadian standard. However, the NCAC requests companies to ensure backwards compatibility of readers and database capability to accept the older standard until the year 2020. In addition, the NCAC permits users to apply non-Canadian standard microchips only if required and specially requested for export purposes.

The CKC is selling the PET ID scanner which reads FECAVA and ISO microchips (International reader). The price of the scanner is \$299.00 plus applicable taxes and shipping and handling.