

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.

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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.