



The voice of the Canadian pet industry
La voix de l'industrie des animaux de
compagnie au Canada

PIJAC Canada Presentation

**Standing Policy Committee on Protection and
Community Services**

Responsible Pet Ownership Review

1/14/2013

PIJAC CANADA

INTRODUCTION:

Thank you very much for the opportunity to make a presentation and introduce the Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council of Canada (PIJAC Canada). My name is Tripper; My husband and I own Pet Traders, a retail business operating in Winnipeg. We are members of PIJAC Canada.

Introduction:

The Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council (PIJAC) Canada is a not for profit trade association that represents the different sectors of the Canadian pet industry. Over the last 25 years, our expertise has been recognized in many areas of interest to pet owners and their companion animals. This expertise is regularly sought by municipalities across this country, as well as by agencies from the provincial and federal governments.

PIJAC CANADA

ISSUES OF CONCERN AND PROPOSED DIRECTION

PIJAC Canada respectfully submits comments on the two following sections of the proposed Responsible Pet Ownership Bylaw:

1. The proposal to ban the retail sale of cats and dogs - sections 29 (4) and 30 (1)
 2. The proposal to address the notion of prohibited animals with the use of a permitted list – sections 36 (1d) and 36 (2)
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CONCERN 1

Banning the sale of cats and dogs in pet stores – addressing over population

We believe that every source should have the right to offer pets, provided they do it properly, whether they are a pet store, a shelter, a kennel or an individual. There appears to be a negative perception to obtaining remuneration for an animal. Two things are sure:

- A) All the sources we have just mentioned, whether they sell or adopt, derive some kind of remuneration from the transaction.
- B) None of these sources, (when standards of health & quality are the priority) generate a profit from the sale or adoption of pets, including pet stores. All of these sources do it because they want to offer healthy pets to responsible pet families, fostering a positive experience that result in long term relationships & less surrenders, etc.

The proposed ban on the sale of cats and dogs in pet stores:

Eliminates access to an accountable source; Winnipeg pet stores are answerable to the public, the city of Winnipeg and the province of Manitoba for all the animals they sell. They comply with all the requirements stipulated under existing provincial and federal animal protection legislation.

Fails to address the issue of overpopulation; Cats presently dropped off at a store would just end up in shelters or rescues rather than being re-homed back into the community by the store. Furthermore, pet stores are responsible for a very small amount of dogs and cats entering the Winnipeg community.

Allows the City to eliminate by regulation part of their animal service department's competition (small business)

It works on the misconception that Winnipeg residents will automatically turn to shelters and rescues to obtain their pets. In reality, a large number of residents have already turned to other less regulated sources to obtain their pets. ie kijiji, craigs list etc.

PROPOSED DIRECTION

- Sections 29 (4) and 30 (1) should be deleted from the proposed Responsible Pet Ownership By-law.
- The citizens of Winnipeg have the right to access as many sources as possible. Consumer information is an important factor when making purchasing decisions. To achieve this objective we recommend an approach that includes the establishment of a uniform message to be promoted in partnership with the city and all of Winnipeg's pet establishments involved in the sale/adoption of pets.

To move forward by effectively addressing the issue of unwanted and/or abandoned pets it is key to do the following two things:

- 1) Examine the data available and determine the reasons why animals end up in shelters such as; health/ temperament issues, change in the family status or lack of time, energy or interest, etc. (see attachment - "Why pets end up in shelters")
- 2) Work together by pooling our resources, (the municipality, business owner, community animal shelter, veterinarians, breeders), etc. to deliver solutions which collectively address the specific issues and media to support educating the public.

A good example of such an effort is a pamphlet entitled: ***New Addition to the Family:*** Developed by the National Companion Animal Coalition, made up of representatives from the Canadian Federation of Humane Societies, the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association, the Canadian Kennel Club, and PIJAC Canada, it addresses substandard kennels, (commonly known as puppy mills), impulse buying and offers a handy checklist of questions that consumers can and should ask when pursuing any source they may be considering to purchase a dog. (New Addition to the Family checklist attached)

Banning does not solve the problem nor does it address the issue. The key players working together to educate the public does. Empowering the residents of Winnipeg to make good

decisions will help cut down on unwanted and abandoned pets, weed out poor sources and save the city money in the long run with a decreased number of animals entering the shelter.

CONCERN 2

Creation of a Permitted list of Exotic Species vs a Prohibited List – simplifying the process

The keeping of exotic animals in captivity has been the subject of debate at the municipal and provincial levels across the country. PIJAC Canada has been taking part in these discussions. Our association was the first to recommend a list of animals that should not be kept as pets.

PIJAC Canada does not support Schedule A as it appears in the proposed bylaw; The issue of prohibited animals is best addressed by the use of a prohibited species list.

Reasons for supporting a prohibited species list

Easier to apply: The number of pet species is much smaller than the list of those that do. If one were to succeed in compiling such a list of all permitted species, would be extensive. A permitted list would prove to be an enforcement nightmare. For animal control officers to be well versed on each species would be practically impossible.

Modifications to a permitted list would prove lengthy, often outdated by the time it would finally be put in place. Prohibited species lists are much shorter, easier to maintain and administer. References to the list can be accessed more quickly and can be controlled by more people. The size of the list by itself makes it easier to be cross referenced by common and scientific name.

Respects of what is already available: Opting for a permitted species list restricts the introduction of new species, readily available in other markets. Omitting to list «established» species creates frustration for reptile enthusiasts and Winnipeg businesses that see their clientele going to neighbouring cities to acquire the species they want. This could drive the hobby underground. Such situations are less likely to occur when using a prohibited species list.

PROPOSED DIRECTION

PIJAC Canada recommends replacing the proposed permitted list (Schedule A) with a list of prohibited species. This approach has been used successfully by the government of British Columbia and numerous municipalities across the country.

PIJAC Canada asks Committee members to adopt our association's recommended prohibited species list.

Pet Traders

We only sell small breed dogs. Animal Services and the Humane society rarely have more than a couple of small breed dogs at any time. When they are full, it is with larger breeds, like German Shepherds, not Chihuahuas and bichons.

We spay and neuter all of our dogs young, generally before they go home, and long before they are of breeding age. They never have the chance to contribute to overpopulation.

We have a take-back policy written right into our puppy guarantee. If the new owner, at any time, cannot care for the dog, they can bring it back to us and will re-home it. This way, none of our dogs ever need to end up in local shelters.

Regarding overpopulation, I have done my best to research this situation. The only two articles I could find pertaining to Manitoba animals, and specifically statistics on dog euthanasia, were from the Winnipeg Humane Society and Animal Services (aka The Pound).

Statistics in the WHS article show that, in 2010 (the most recent year available), of the 1800 dogs that went through the shelter, 11% (or 191 in actual numbers) were euthanized. According to a source at the WHS, for the most part, only dogs who are considered too ill or aggressive to be adopted out are put down. The rest of the dogs were reunited with their owners (414) adopted out (1151) or transferred to other locations (49).

Compare that to the almost 6100 cats that ended up there and the staggering 2549 cats that were euthanized.

Animal services had even better news. In an article that begins with the statement, *“Animal Services Agency officials are pleased to report that adoptions were up over 100% since 2008, making 2011 one of the best years in its history”*, they go on to say that *“of the 1,538 dogs impounded in 2011, only 92 were euthanized. 25 of these dogs had bitten someone.”* and *“Euthanizations primarily include terminally ill, biters, and very aggressive dogs. In 2011, 94% of the dogs that entered Animal Services were either reunited with their owner, adopted out, or sent to a rescue or animal shelter.”*

Aside from these two articles, we have been unable to find any other statistics regarding adoption or euthanasia numbers in Manitoba. We have asked local rescues to supply us with numbers to back up their claims, but they have yet to respond. We do know that a few of the rescues bring in dogs from the United States, which seems contradictory to the claims that we are already overpopulated here.

Northern communities have a continuing problem with unfixed dogs running wild and breeding, and it is often these dogs who fill up the WHS and WS. We don't think that we

will be contributing to this problem, since the small breeds that we sell are not typically the ones running around unchecked, and all of the dogs from our store will be fixed.

We are not trying to say that there aren't hundreds of dogs each year that wait to be adopted. The WHS, A.S. and local rescues do very good work, and we have always supported them, but a small handful radicals want to take away the public's right to choose where they get a puppy.

WHS article source:

http://www.winnipeghumanesociety.ca/files/pdf_files/WH SAR2010Final-corrected.pdf

Animal Services article source:

http://www.winnipeg.ca/cao/media/news/nr_2012/nr_20120301.stm



EXOTIC ANIMAL POLICY

PART 1: **Introduction**

The issue of exotic animals in captivity has been the subject of strong debate for a long time. This issue is now being debated at the municipal and provincial levels across the country. Such an issue contributed to the creation of PIJAC Canada in 1988, when a group of pet industry players joined together to address concerns over exotic animals in the Toronto area. Their work would lead to the first prohibitive species list ever produced by PIJAC Canada. Since 1988, this list has gone through numerous modifications that reflect the changes experienced in areas such as animal husbandry, captive breeding techniques, public awareness and consumer demand.

No other association in Canada possesses within its ranks the information, experience and knowledge of exotic pets like PIJAC Canada.

For further information on PIJAC Canada and its Exotic Animal Policy, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Louis McCann, PIJAC's Executive Director, at (800) 667-7452.

PART 2: **Criteria used to establish the list**

Sale of native wildlife

PIJAC Canada shares the concern for the potential threat to indigenous wildlife. PIJAC Canada does not support the sale of indigenous wildlife as pets in Canada. A basic understanding of what constitutes a « pet » is sufficient explanation for that stance.

Danger to the public

The «danger to the public» criteria is best addressed through the use of a prohibited species list. We feel the prohibited species list submitted by PIJAC Canada takes into account all the concerns found under this criteria.

Captive Bred

Our organization encourages and promotes the sale of captive bred animals. It is common knowledge that through this approach, pet retailers are able to provide their customers with animals that are healthier, easier to handle and a lot friendlier towards their prospective owners. This helps maximize the chances of a successful pet-pet owner relationship. This benefits everybody: the animal, the pet owner and the retailer.

Although every one realizes the benefits of captive bred versus wild caught, we must not forget that captive breeding techniques have to be developed and refined. To accomplish this task, wild specimens had, and in some cases still have, to be part of the equation. Today, pet retailers enjoy an increasing variety of captive bred animals to offer to their clients. Pet birds and small mammals available to pet retailers mostly come from captive breeding facilities and this number is increasing every year.

International conventions such as CITES, and closer to home, federal regulations such as WAPPRIITA, recognize the importance of well established, well structured captive breeding programs. Breakthroughs in captive breeding programs often appear through small, devoted hobbyists. Requiring that all animals sold be of captive breeding origin would most certainly hinder the development of captive breeding techniques not yet available for certain species. One can assume that putting in the requirement that only captive bred animals be offered for sale would go against the present trend, encourage black market operations, etc...

Non-threatening to wildlife populations in native habitats

PIJAC Canada has to be concerned with the effects of the possible introduction of exotic species on native wildlife populations. These concerns are best addressed through an exercise which includes a list of prohibited species and the implementation of an educational structure that covers the source and the end user.

Acceptance of what is being traded

Most species available through pet retailers enjoy proven track records as pets. As mentioned previously, more and more of these species are becoming available through the efforts of established captive breeding facilities. Continuing support through information handouts will help to maintain the status of these animals as established «pets».

Veterinary care

Exotic animal medicine is enjoying steady growth as an increasing number of pet owners come to realize the appeal of less conventional pets. With this increased interest comes increasing demand for related services such as veterinary care. Experience has demonstrated that if the demand is created, veterinarians will recognize this opportunity for new business and meet the demand.

Knowledge of pet store owners, transfer of knowledge to buyer, appropriate facilities, national guidelines.

Educating pet industry members remains a top priority for PIJAC Canada. Numerous pet retailers have come to realize that the survival of their businesses rests on their ability to offer their customers high standards of quality and professionalism in areas like animal husbandry and customer satisfaction. PIJAC Canada supports their efforts by providing resource manuals and information on different species which they can in turn pass on to their clientele.

Since September of 1996, PIJAC Canada, with the help of PIJAC USA and the Canadian Wildlife Service, has been offering pet store owners and their employees a Canadian version of the Certified Companion Animal Specialist Certification Program. Unique in Canada, this program is attracting the attention of law enforcement officers from various provincial and federal wildlife agencies.

Compliance with existing regulations, CITES, WAPPRIITA, Agriculture Canada

PIJAC Canada enjoys a proactive working relationship with all the federal agencies responsible for the administration of the above mentioned laws, regulations and international agreements. PIJAC Canada is a strong supporter of actions that favour cooperation rather than confrontation.

PART 3: A prohibited versus a permitted species list ?

The following parameters should be considered when asking this question.

- a) List of criteria that would have to be respected.**
- b) Difficulty in application**
- c) Restriction on trade**

List of criteria

Comments as to a proposed list of criteria are covered in the previous section. These criteria represent those most frequently brought up when dealing with the issue of exotic animals in captivity.

Difficulty in application

If it is assumed that there is agreement on the list of criteria (as previously enumerated) that need to be met, it is safe to say that the number of proposed pet species not meeting the list of criteria is by far much smaller than the list of those that do. If one were to succeed in compiling a list of all permitted species, i.e. those that meet the criteria and are available to the pet trade, it would be a very long list.

It is our opinion that such a list would prove to be an administrative nightmare for those mandated to administer and enforce it. For these individuals to be well versed on each species would be impossible. Another important factor to consider is that, although a large part of the list would be comprised of «established» species, some would vary constantly as a result of changes in consumer demand, market trends, availability of new species, etc..

Updating this list would prove to be a logistical nightmare. A good example is the list used in Newfoundland where only a small number of permitted finch species are listed, when in reality the number of finch species available to the pet trade is much higher.

Modifications to the list would be lengthy, often outdated by the time they would finally be put in place. This situation creates frustration for retailers who see their clientele going to a neighbouring province to legally acquire the species they want (ex.: Ontario-Québec-hedgehogs) and can lead to trends and tendencies which favour black market operations.

Prohibited species lists are much shorter, easier to maintain and to administer. References to the list can be accessed more quickly and can be controlled by more people. The size of the list by itself makes it easier to be cross referenced by common and scientific name.

Restriction on trade

As mentioned previously, opting for a permitted species list makes the introduction of new permitted species difficult to the local pet trade. One has only to mention the domestic ferret (not found in the Newfoundland list), the African pigmy hedgehog and the degu as examples. All three meet the list of criteria (captive bred, easily kept in captivity, etc...). These species, although relatively new to our pet markets, have been available to the pet trade for years.

Omitting to list «permitted» species would put unfair and unjust trade restrictions on pet wholesalers and retailers. This action would be in direct contradiction to the acceptance of the “what is already being traded” criteria. Such situations would not occur with the use of a prohibited species list.

PIJAC CANADA's EXOTIC ANIMAL POLICY SUGGESTED LIST OF PROHIBITED SPECIES

ALL ARTIODACTYLOUS UNGULATES, EXCEPT DOMESTIC GOATS, SHEEP, PIGS AND CATTLE
ALL CANIDAE, EXCEPT THE DOMESTIC DOG
ALL CROCODILIANS (SUCH AS ALLIGATORS AND CROCODILES)
ALL EDENTATES (SUCH AS ANTEATERS, SLOTHS AND ARMADILLOS)
ALL ELEPHANTIDAE (ELEPHANTS)
ALL ERINACIDAE (EXCEPT THE AFRICAN PIGMY HEDGEHOG)
ALL FELIDAE, EXCEPT THE DOMESTIC CAT
ALL HYAENIDAE (HYENAS)
ALL MARSUPIALS (EXCEPT SUGAR GLIDERS)
ALL MUSTELIDAE (SUCH AS SKUNKS, OTTERS AND WEASELS) EXCEPT THE DOMESTIC FERRET
ALL NON-HUMAN PRIMATES (SUCH AS GORILLAS AND MONKEYS)
ALL PINNIPEDS (SUCH AS SEALS, FUR SEALS AND WALRUSES)
ALL PERISSODACTYLOUS UNGULATES, EXCEPT THE DOMESTIC HORSE AND ASS
ALL PROCYONIDAE (SUCH AS RACCOONS, COATIS AND CACOMISTLES)
ALL PTEROPODIDAE (BATS)
ALL RAPTORS, DIURNAL AND NOCTURNAL (SUCH AS EAGLES, HAWKS AND OWLS)
ALL RATITES (SUCH AS OSTRICHES, RHEAS AND CASSOWARIES)
ALL URSIDAE (BEARS)
ALL VENOMOUS REPTILES
ALL VIVERRIDAE (SUCH AS MONGOUSES, CIVETS AND GENETS)

*Examples of animals of a particular prohibited group are given in parentheses.
They are examples only and shall not be construed as limiting the generality of
the group.*

This list is subject to review according to the accepted criteria.

Revised January 2005

PIJAC Canada's Three meter /two meter rule

When looking at reptiles, PIJAC Canada recommends the three meter/ two meter rule, defined as follows: " **An adult snake's length cannot exceed three meters and an adult lizard's length cannot exceed two meters (snout to the tip of the tail).**"

PIJAC Canada favours this rule because it is easy to apply. You only require a measuring tape to be able to enforce it. As previously stated, PIJAC Canada favours a prohibited species list instead of a permitted one. However, regardless of the approach used, the more species that are added to a list, the greater the training required by the officers to properly identify them.

Based on past experience, relying on identification can be problematic. With age, the species colour patterns may change. There are also a growing number of colours available to herpetoculturists (albinos, hypomenalistic, granite, calico, etc.). Some of the species are crossbred or inbred, resulting in new sub-species. The three-meter rule takes into account all of these situations.

The rationale can be found in our Exotic Animal Policy, a copy of which is enclosed for your consideration.

As a complement to this approach, PIJAC Canada identifies six different species and one sub-specie of snakes that should be prohibited as pets. All of them exceed three meters and are recognized for their nasty disposition. They are all members of the Family *Boidae*, and we recommend their inclusion on a prohibited species list, under a statement such as: « These six species and this one sub-specie, members of the *Boidae* Family »

<u>Species</u>	<u>English common Name</u>	<u>*Length</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Eunectes murinus</i>	Green anaconda	6 to 8 m
<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Eunectes notaeus</i>	Yellow anaconda	5 to 6 m
<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Python reticulatus</i>	Reticulated python	6 to 10 m
<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Python sebae</i>	African rock python	6 to 9 m
<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Python molurus bivittatus</i>	Burmese python	5 to 8 m
<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Python molurus molurus</i>	Indian python	5 to 6 m
<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Morelia amethystina</i>	Amethyst python	6 to 8 m

<p>*Length suggested in literature. Snakes grow during their entire life and the total length they may reach is greatly influenced by the captive conditions in which they are kept.</p>

As mentioned previously, they are all covered in the three-meter/ two-meter rule. As for the two-meter rule in lizards, it basically eliminates all the nasty specimens, as well as those that are of real threat to pet owners.



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Why Do Pets End Up in Shelters?

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Every day in communities across the US a bond is broken. It's the bond between people and their pets, resulting in millions of pets being surrendered to shelters each year. And little has been known about the reasons why until now.

In a study conducted by the National Council on Pet Population Study and Policy (NCPSP) and published in the *Journal of Applied Animal Welfare Science (JAAWS)*, researchers went into 12 selected animal shelters in the United States for one year to find out why.

The results of the study show that the top seven reasons for relinquishment for both dogs and cats are the same. "These commonalities suggest that there may be similar ways to address relinquishment in dogs and cats," says Pam Burney, NCPSP president. "For people who work in a shelter all day, there isn't always time to look at these issues. We have impressions of what's happening, but now we have objective data that will help us develop specific programs to address the issues that have been identified."

Top 10 Reasons for Relinquishment

Dogs

- Moving
- Landlord not allowing pet
- Too many animals in household
- Cost of pet maintenance
- Owner having personal problems
- Inadequate facilities
- No homes available for litter mates
- Having no time for pet
- Pet illness(es)
- Biting

Cats

- Moving
- Landlord not allowing pet
- Too many animals in household
- Cost of pet maintenance
- Owner having personal problems
- Inadequate facilities
- No homes available for litter mates
- Allergies in family
- House soiling
- Incompatibility with other pets

Specially trained researchers completed confidential individual interviews with pet owners who were relinquishing their dogs or cats to animal shelters. Pet owners were allowed to give up to five reasons for relinquishment. Interviewers did not, however, prioritize the responses. They simply recorded them in the order stated.

Characteristics of Pets Being Relinquished

In addition to the reasons for relinquishment, the study collected data on pets being relinquished.

According to the study:

- The majority of the surrendered dogs (47.7%) and cats (40.3%) were between 5 months and 3 years of age.
- The majority of dogs (37.1%) and cats (30.2) had been owned from 7 months to 1 year.
- Approximately half of the pets (42.8% of dogs; 50.8% of cats) surrendered were not neutered.
- Many of the pets relinquished (33% of dogs; 46.9% of cats) had not been to a veterinarian.
- Animals acquired from friends were relinquished in higher numbers (31.4% of dogs; 33.2% of cats) than from any other source.

- Close to equal numbers of male and female dogs and cats were surrendered.
- Most dogs (96%) had not received any obedience training.

Characteristics of Pet Owners Surrendering Pets

During the confidential interviews, researchers also gathered data on the people surrendering the pets. "Owners represented a broad range of age, ethnicity, education, and income level, indicating continued efforts will need to reach wide and far into communities across the country," say Dr. Mo Salman, the article's senior author.

The NCPPSP Regional Shelter Survey was designed, implemented, and analyzed by six members of the NCPPSP Scientific Advisory Committee. Regional investigators were encouraged to select shelters that were likely to be representative of those in their locations. The selection was also based on a shelter's ability to dedicate time and resources to the project.

The publication of this article represents the first such scientific and public release of relinquishment data from the NCPPSP's ongoing research into pet population issues. "The council has undertaken several important studies to better understand the issue of unwanted companion animals. This problem cannot be solved unless we truly understand it," says Burney. "Without this new data, individuals and organizations can have a clear idea of how to approach these issues most effectively."

As with all research, there are limitations. According to the authors, "the study was designed to describe the animals submitted to shelters. Thus, this set of data has no comparison data from the general pet-owning population. Many factors undoubtedly influence pet relinquishment, and some critical factors may have been omitted. This study represents a beginning of systematic data collection to examine this complex problem. The study is not designed to deal with animals other than those entering shelters, and influences cannot be drawn beyond this population."

The National Council on Pet Population Study and Policy (NCPPSP) is a coalition of 11 of America's foremost animal organizations concerned with the issue of unwanted pets in the United States. It was established to gather and analyze reliable data that further characterize the number, origin and disposition of companion animals (dogs and cats) in the United States; to promote responsible stewardship of these companion animals; and to then recommend programs to reduce the number of surplus/unwanted pets in the United States.

The NCPPSP is composed of the following organizations: American Animal Hospital Association; American Humane Association; American Kennel Club; American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals; American Veterinary Medical Association; Association of Teachers of Veterinary Public Health and Preventive Medicine; Cat Fanciers' Association; The Humane Society of the United States; Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals; National Animal Control Association; Society of Animal Welfare Administrators.

Note: All content provided on HealthyPet.com, is meant for educational purposes only on health care and medical issues that may affect pets and should never be used to replace professional veterinary care from a licensed veterinarian. This site and its services do not constitute the practice of any veterinary medical health care advice, diagnosis or treatment.



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New Addition To The Family?



Congratulations!

You are thinking of inviting a dog into your home as part of your family. A dog can bring much happiness and companionship for many years, and the choice of a dog is an important one. We urge you to consider the following before making this decision:

What Type Of Dog Suits Your Lifestyle?

- Different breeds, sizes, and temperaments of dogs will influence the type of care and amount of exercise required. Be honest about your ability to provide an appropriate environment for the type of dog that you are considering.
- Where do you wish to obtain your dog, and is it a reputable source?
- Before deciding on a dog, have you obtained information regarding health, genetic, and behavioural problems that may impact its well-being?

Do not be tempted to purchase a dog impulsively. Take your time, and do your homework.

The NCAC developed this document to address the issue of puppy mills. You may also want to consult the member organizations* for additional information:

Avoid Purchasing a Dog from a Puppy Mill

A puppy mill is defined by the NCAC as a high-volume, sub-standard dog breeding operation, which sells purebred or mixed breed dogs, to unsuspecting buyers. Some of the characteristics common to puppy mills are:

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

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

About the NCAC and this document

This document reflects expertise from the *Canadian Federation of Humane Societies www.cfhs.ca, the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association www.canadianveterinarians.net, the Canadian Kennel Club www.ckc.ca and the Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council of Canada (PIJAC Canada) www.pijaccanada.com. Together they constitute the National Companion Animal Coalition (NCAC), which was created in 1996 to promote socially responsible pet ownership and enhance the health and well being of companion animals.

Additional input was provided by the following agencies on this particular project: Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency and Dogs in Canada magazine.

When you are ready to welcome your dog into your home, use this check list to assist you in your decision.

You should be able to check 'yes' to all boxes!

Assessment of the Facility/Environment:

A clean and sanitary environment fosters healthy dogs.

- ☐ Have you been allowed access to the facilities where the dogs are housed?
- ☐ Is the facility clean?
- ☐ Are food and water available in the dogs' environment?
- ☐ Are references supplied upon request?
- ☐ Have you been asked pertinent questions to ensure the compatibility of you (the buyer) and the dog?
- ☐ In the case of a breeding establishment, is the mother (dam) on the premises and available for you to see?

Health Issues and Physical Appearance of the Dog:

Healthy well-socialized puppies have an active, open and friendly disposition. Avoid puppies that are overly shy and fearful.

- ☐ Do the dogs have good dispositions?
- ☐ Do the dogs appear to be in good health? Below are some of the symptoms that may be of concern:
 - Thin body condition
 - Pot-belly
 - Lethargy
 - Diarrhea or stained hair around the anus
 - Cough
 - Discharge from the eyes or nose
- ☐ Are copies of health, vaccination certificates and documentation of the dog's last visit to the veterinarian available for you to see?
- ☐ In addition to the above, when dealing with a breeder, is documentation available confirming formal health clearances for both parents? (Such information is required to reduce the likelihood of transmissible diseases and genetic disorders)

Issues at the Time of Sale:

Buyer beware! Proper documentation protects you and your dog.

Will you be provided with a bill of sale, listing;

- ☐ Date of purchase?
- ☐ Names of the buyer and seller?
- ☐ Description of the dog?
- ☐ Purchase price?

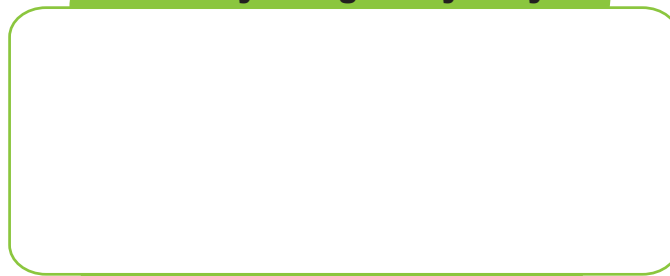
In the case of a purebred dog, will you receive:

- ☐ A bill of sale stating that the dog is a pure bred and naming the breed?
- ☐ Confirmation the dog has been uniquely identified by microchip or tattoo?
- ☐ Confirmation of a valid certificate of registration* of the parents, litter (when applicable) and dog that you are acquiring?
- ☐ The total purchase price of the dog?

Will you be provided with a written guarantee that lists:

- ☐ Specific details of pet return or compensation arrangements in the event of a health problem/illness and any time frames that apply?
- ☐ What is expected of the buyer (i.e. exam by a veterinarian within a certain time frames)?

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*In Canada, a valid registration certificate may be issued by a breed association recognized under the Animal Pedigree Act, including the Canadian Kennel Club, Canadian Border Collie Association, Canine Federation of Canada, Working Canine Association of Canada and the Canadian Livestock Records Corporation.