



Canadian Animal Law Study Group
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Attention: V. Victoria Shroff, Chair
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September 30, 2022

Canadian Food Inspection Agency Office 59 Camelot Dr.,
59-1W-334 Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0Y9
Via Email info@agr.gc.ca

To Whom It May Concern:

Re: CFIA Dog Import Ban of September 2022

The recently announced Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) policy to ban entry of dogs from over 100 countries into Canada which came into effect on September 28, 2022, and applies to dogs rescued abroad and brought to Canada for adoption and fostering will have negative consequences for animal welfare.

We understand that you have already heard from legal experts at Animal Justice, rescue groups and veterinarians on this issue urging a reversal of the ban. As a national group of legal professionals known as the Canadian Animal Law Study Group (CALSG), concerned about global animal welfare, we respectfully request that the CFIA reconsider their position on this ban. The ban will have a negative impact on bona fide dog rescue groups aiming to give abused and abandoned dogs a new life in Canada. The ban could have dangerous, and possibly even deadly, consequences for countless dogs who could be left to suffer or die, become part of the dog meat trade, or be housed in overcrowded high-kill shelters in countries subject to the ban. Banning dogs may also result in horrific and illegal “puppy mill” operators churning out even more dogs.

There are ways to keep our domestic animal population safe without putting up insurmountable barriers for some of the most desperate dogs in the world. Strengthening current dog importation regulations could achieve the desired outcome of preventing imported dogs from bringing significant infectious disease into Canada. The CFIA could ensure that rescue dogs could be brought into the country for adoption and/or fostering providing the rescue groups involved take steps necessary to verify the rabies-free status of the dog being imported. We suggest that the CFIA please consider introducing exemptions for qualified dog-rescue organizations that can provide reliable rabies vaccination documents, serology testing, and can comply with waiting period timeframes, if required.

Please do not hesitate to get in contact with us via our chair V. Shroff for discussion or clarification.

Thank you for your attention,

Canadian Animal Law Study Group

CC: Hon. Jean-Yves Duclos – Minister of Health jean-yves.duclos@parl.gc.ca, MP Don Davies, don.davies@parl.gc.ca Hon. Marie-Claude Bibeau – Minister of Agriculture Marie-Claude.Bibeau@parl.gc.ca