

Date _____

Dr. Mandy K. Cohen, MD, MPH
Director for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Administrator of the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR)
(sent by email to: MandyKCohen@cdc.gov)

Dear Director Cohen,

As a member of the Canadian Kennel Club (CKC) and responsible **owner and/or breeder** of Canadian born, CKC-registered dogs, I am contacting the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) regarding the impact of the new CDC dog importation rule. **[Please feel free to insert what you do in the purebred dog world such as being a CKC Member breeder, exhibitor, judge, etc.]**

I support the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for preventing the re-introduction of Dog-Maintained Rabies Virus Variant (DMRVV) into the U.S. and protecting the health and safety of people (and animals). While I support the recent change, the new rule will **[Please feel free to include any impacts this will have on you]**.

Personally-owned dogs that are Canadian-born, and CKC-registered, managed by breeders and enthusiasts from birth, represent a low risk for the introduction or transmission of DMRVV and do not present the serious public health threats posed by the importers of unhealthy dogs for resale that CDC cited in its justification announcing the new rule. CKC personally-owned, registered dogs are born and raised in Canada – a country where, dog rabies is not currently present, according to the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA). In addition, CKC-registered dogs must already meet rabies vaccination and microchipping mandates by various levels of government in Canada and those required for air travel. These Canadian-born, CKC registered dogs are easily identifiable for border crossing through CKC official documentation (registration certificates available upon request). An official Canadian Kennel Club registration certificate is a record of dog pedigree/parentage with CKC, Canada's primary registry body, incorporated and governed by the Animal Pedigree Act, under the auspices of the federal Ministry of Agriculture since 1888. Therefore, I must reiterate that Canadian born, CKC-registered dogs pose an extremely low risk for the spread of dog rabies.

While I support the intent of CDC's new dog importation rule, effective August 1, 2024, I am concerned about the 6-month minimum age requirement and the impact it will have on myself and other responsible CKC member breeders and purebred enthusiasts who work with U.S.

counterparts to diversify breeding programs—particularly for rare breeds, utilize emergency veterinary services, and provide puppies to U.S. citizens. **I therefore urge CDC to recognize the unique and low-risk profile of Canadian-born, CKC registered dogs and grant an exception to the current U.S. import requirement of a 6-month minimum age for dogs.**

Thank you for considering my request given the unique low-risk profile of my Canadian-born, CKC registered dogs and those of other CKC members. With your support, I look forward to being able to continue cross the border to improve canine health, diversify breeding programs, utilize veterinary services, and participate in sporting and goodwill events. **[Please feel free to personalize the closing of your letter]**

Sincerely,

CKC member name

Cc: Secretary Xavier Becerra, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

(xavier.becerra@hhs.gov)

Mark Holland, Minister of Health, Government of Canada

(hcminister.ministresc@hc-sc.gc.ca)

Paul MacKinnon, President, Canadian Food Inspection Agency

(Paul.MacKinnon@inspection.gc.ca)