Date:

\*Full name of the recipient\*

“Member of Parliament” OR “Candidate”

\*Address of the recipient\*

*Sent by email to \*email address of the recipient\**

Subject: Prioritizing Canine and Human Health in the Upcoming Election

Dear MP or Candidate \*last name\*

I am writing to you as a concerned constituent in your riding and a member of the Canadian Kennel Club (CKC). CKC is Canada’s voice for all dogs and the primary registry body for purebred dogs across the country, incorporated under [***Animal Pedigree Act***](http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/A-11.2/index.html), a federal statute under the auspices of the Ministry of Agriculture and Agri-Food.   
  
While I appreciate that political candidates must address important issues impacting Canadians, such as economic trade and tariffs, I also urge you to prioritize canine and human health in your platform for the upcoming election.   
  
To support the health and well-being of animals and humans, I ask that you commit to the following actions:

1. **Review the dog importation rules and regulations to prevent and address the mass importation of unhealthy dogs into Canada.** 
   * Over the past several years, the mass importation of dogs into Canada has resulted in reports of dogs that have entered Canada with both infectious diseases known in Canada, as well as exotic diseases not common in this country. For example, some veterinarians have expressed concerns about the current outbreak of Parvovirus in Nova Scotia resulting from the large numbers of pets crossing borders with unverified vaccination status.
   * Current dog importation regulations are not sufficient to address the health risks associated with the mass movement of dogs into Canada and require a review of the *Health of Animals Act*.
2. **Prevent tariffs on dogs who are crossing the U.S. border for the purposes of travel, acquiring a personal pet, sport or competitions, and/or responsible breeding.**
   * Responsible CKC member breeders should not be adversely affected for importing their low-risk, Canadian-born, registered dogs into the U.S. to support their accountable breeding practices, diversify breeding programs and utilize veterinary services, to improve canine health and well-being.
3. **Invest in public education initiatives to promote responsible dog ownership and pet acquisition.**
   * To support canine and human health, it is crucial to educate the public regarding responsible pet acquisition and ownership.
   * Government investments in educational initiatives with partners like the Canadian Kennel Club, will help prospective puppy owners make informed choices and help prevent the public from purchasing dogs from unethical producers of unhealthy puppies (e.g., puppy mills, backyard breeders, etc.).
   * Educational initiatives can include awareness campaigns that promote responsible animal sourcing and transparency surrounding unethical dog sellers, producers and brokers. CKC has worked with other organizations and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency on small scale efforts, but larger scale efforts are needed.

I encourage you to commit to the above actions in support of canine and human health, and to ensure that the next government represents the voice of Canadians and their dogs.

Thank you for considering my request and I look forward to voting for canine health and well-being in the upcoming election.

Sincerely,

\*CKC member name\*