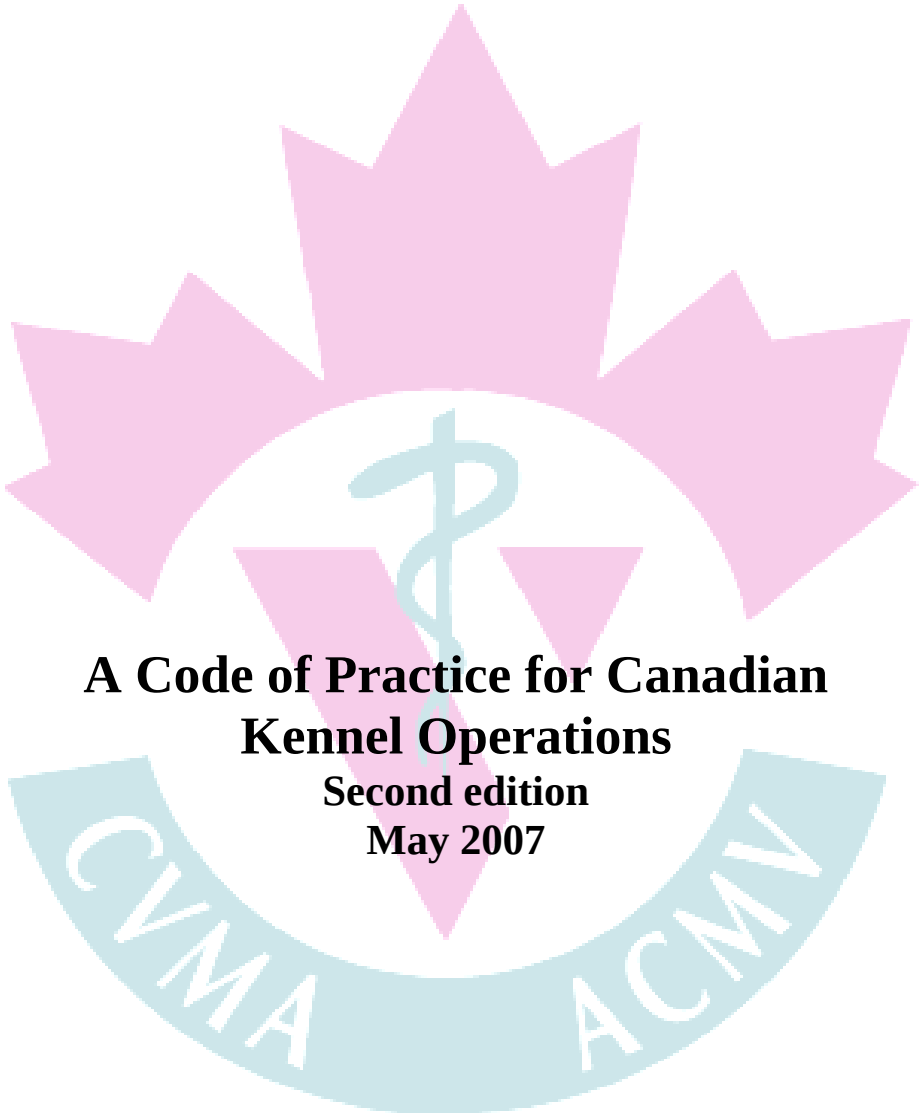

A Code of Practice for Canadian Kennel Operations

Second edition
May 2007

Canadian Veterinary Medical Association

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Acknowledgements

This is the second edition of this Code. It has been modernized and updated to reflect current expectations for the care of dogs.

The Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA) expresses sincere appreciation to **Dr. Janet Lalonde** and **Dr. Harry Rowsell** for their dedication and hard work in preparing the first edition of this Code of Practice (1994). Dr. Lalonde also played a key role in the revisions that appear in this second edition.

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Contents

Preface

Like the Codes of Practice developed by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, the Canadian Federation of Humane Societies (CFHS), the CVMA and those associated with the livestock industry, this Code of Practice for the care, management and breeding of dogs is a voluntary one. It can be used as an educational tool by dog breeders, members of the general public acquiring dogs, animal welfare groups, and as a standard by those interested in the promotion of quality care, management, and welfare practices.

Although there is no system to license kennels in Canada, some provinces or territories have laws or regulations covering certain aspects of the care of dogs and cats in breeding and boarding establishments. Consult the relevant provincial/territorial animal care or SPCA act.

The Canadian Council on Animal Care (CCAC) is the national organization responsible for setting and maintaining standards for the care and use of animals in research, teaching and testing throughout Canada. The CCAC guidelines provide standards for animal facilities and ethical requirements associated with the care, management and use of animals, including dogs. All institutions in which dogs are used in research, studies funded by granting councils, and federal and provincial government laboratories must be holders of a CCAC Certificate of Good Animal Practice® indicating compliance with CCAC guidelines and policies, as assessed by the CCAC Assessment Program.

The recommendations that are contained in this Code of Practice for Canadian Kennel Operations will not be comprehensive for all circumstances. For example, cage and pen size will depend upon the breed and the practices that can be applied to ensure the welfare of the dogs being raised or used. As well, an important aspect of ensuring the well-being of each animal is to pay attention to its uniqueness. Undoubtedly, as additional research information becomes available and management practices and requirements change, these recommendations, too, will undergo change. Therefore, this Code of Practice must be considered as a living document, subject to amendment as new information becomes available, that will provide guidance to all those interested in the humane care and treatment of dogs. For this voluntary code to be fully effective, those involved in the care and handling of dogs and puppies should accept and adopt the recommendations of the Code.

Introduction

History tells us that, almost since the beginning of time, humans and dogs have had a unique relationship. Many of the ancestors of the modern companion dog were working dogs, and some still retain that distinction. There has been an increase in the number of dogs that are used to assist people; for example, those suffering from disabling and incapacitating illnesses. While most of the dogs that are bred today become pets, or companion animals, working dogs still exist, whether as assistance dogs or for herding livestock, sniffing out illegal substances, searching, guarding or protecting. In today's society, there is a greater concern than ever before about the humane treatment and welfare of dogs kept for any purpose. Humane treatment is dependent on the compassion, under-standing, skills, training, and integrity of the dog owner, the dog breeder or the individual involved in any aspect of the care and use of dogs.

It is advantageous to acquire knowledge of the characteristics, physiology, and nutritional and behavioural needs of each dog, whether mixed breed or purebred. Each dog is completely dependent on the individuals who provide daily care. Dog owners are legally and morally responsible not only for the well-being of their dogs, but also toward others in society who may be affected by the animal's behaviour. While this Code of Practice does not attempt to address communities' needs in this regard, it is important for dog owners to realize that dog bites constitute one of the most serious epidemics in North America, causing hundreds of thousands of serious injuries to children and adults annually in Canada and the United States. Similarly, free-running and unattended dogs can foul our streets, parks, and private property. Therefore, dog ownership brings with it the additional responsibility of ensuring that the dog becomes a good citizen.

Those who have accepted responsibility for any dog(s), regardless of their area of involvement, must provide:

1) comfort, shelter and security;
2) readily accessible fresh water and a diet capable of maintaining the dog(s) in full health and vigour;
3) freedom of movement;
4) the company of other animals, which includes the human who is often the only contact that the dog(s) might have with other living creatures;
5) the opportunity to exercise most, if not all, of their normal patterns of behaviour;
6) an environment and housing that neither harms the animal nor causes any undue strain or stress;
7) the ability to recognize and prevent abnormal behavioural patterns, injury, and parasitic infections and disease, including rapid diagnosis and treatment when indicated; and
8) appropriate health care.

Because of the great variation in the physical and behavioural patterns of dogs, which is greater than any other domesticated animal, their needs can be met under a variety of management practices. There is more than one way in which the welfare of the animal can be safeguarded.

Definitions

HUMANE CARE

The term "humane care" will be used commonly in this Code of Practice, for it forms the basis for all animal care, management practices, and procedures. Lack of humane care seriously impairs the health and well-being of the dog, making it susceptible to disease, as well as behavioural problems and anxiety disorders. "Humane care" is an all-inclusive term and does not simply embody the principle that one does not cause pain to an animal deliberately. Instead, one must strive to ensure that all avoidable pain, distress, discomfort and factors causing anxiety and suffering are eliminated from the conditions under which dogs are housed, bred and raised. This includes selecting the proper site for kennels to ensure that optimal conditions are provided for the dogs, particularly breeding dogs or dogs maintained in kennels. The means of kenneling must also satisfy the dog's social and exercise needs. Humane care also implies sanitary conditions and the ability to control environmental conditions such as air pollution, noise, temperature and humidity.

High quality (i.e., meeting a certain standard such as CVMA certification), nutritious, contaminant-free food, adequate potable water, and appropriate accommodation, including shelter from the elements and unnecessary variations in temperature, must be provided. Dogs should be housed at temperatures as close as possible to the comfort zone of the animal, appropriate to its age and condition. It is also necessary to provide adequate, regular supervision and efficient, knowledgeable health care, and to ensure no harm comes through association with incompatible dogs, sick dogs or other adversarial animals or vermin. Sufficient numbers of experienced personnel should be employed as required. Such individuals must have compassion and respect for all living things, particularly for those dogs or puppies for which they are responsible. It is not sufficient that they have knowledge of feeding, watering and removal of excrement; they must be knowledgeable concerning the animals themselves.

OTHER GENERAL TERMS

Bitch: A female dog.

Breed: A group of animals within a species having common ancestors and certain distinguishing characteristics, usually developed by deliberate selection. In Canada, breeds are officially recognized under the authority of the *Animal Pedigree Act*.

Breeder: Generically refers to a person who breeds dogs. More specifically, the breeder of a litter is considered to be the owner of the dam at the time when she is bred. (Note: dogs may be owned outright or leased for these purposes).

Brood bitch: A female used for breeding.

Canine: Any animal of the family Canidae.

Castrate: Surgically remove testicles from a male dog (also "neuter").

Conformation: The form, structure and physical arrangement of body parts in accordance with the breed standards.

Crossbred: A dog whose sire and dam are of two different breeds, i.e., the opposite of purebred.

Dam: The mother of a puppy or litter.

Dog: Technically refers to a male dog, but is commonly used as the generic term to refer to canines of both sexes.

Estrus: The restricted period of time during which the female is sexually receptive; commonly referred to as being "in heat".

Euthanasia: The term is derived from the Greek "eu" for "good" and "thanatos" for "death," or an easy death. The euphemisms for euthanise include destroy, put down, or most commonly, put to sleep.

Heat: Denotes when a bitch is sexually receptive and can be bred. In most bitches the heat cycle lasts for 3 weeks and occurs about every 6 months.

Inbreeding: The mating of very closely related dogs, those within their immediate family. Example: father to daughter.

Intact: A dog that has not been altered by neutering.

Kennel: An enclosure where dogs are kept. A kennel can also refer to a dog breeding and housing operation. This includes enclosures where dogs are boarded and trained.

Line breeding: The mating of dogs of the same breed to relatives, except for those in their immediate family, e.g. the mating of ancestors, such as a dog to his dam's mother.

Mature: A fully grown adult dog, generally considered to be two years or older.

Neonate: A puppy from birth to three weeks of age.

Neuter: Surgically alter a dog or bitch so that it is no longer capable of reproduction (castrate or spay).

Outcross: The mating of unrelated animals within a breed.

Pedigree: A written record of a dog's descent; a family tree that may be registered. For registration purposes the requirement is generally a three-generation pedigree, and up to a five-generation pedigree for a newly recognized breed.

Puppy: A dog under 12 months of age.

Puppy mill: 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.

Purebred: A dog whose sire and dam represent the same breed and are themselves of unmixed descent. For officially recognized breeds, an animal may only be represented for sale as purebred if it conforms to the definition in the bylaws of the authorized breed association.

Sire: The father of a puppy or litter.

Soundness: The physical conformation and temperament that measures the degree of freedom of a purebred dog from flaws and defects, whether related to physical appearance, temperament or genetic problems.

Spay: Also ovariohysterectomize; to surgically remove the uterus and ovaries from a female dog.

Standing heat: The period of time during the bitch's heat cycle that she will willingly stand to be bred by the male. In most bitches this occurs from the 11th to 14th day of the heat cycle, but this may vary.

Stud dog: A male dog used for breeding purposes.

Whelping: The process of giving birth.

BEHAVIOURAL TERMS

Behaviour: The action, reaction, or functioning of an animal in various circumstances.

Defensive aggression: Threatening behaviour displayed by a dog baring its teeth, growling, barking, snapping, raising its hackles or biting in response to a perceived threat from a human or another animal.

Hyperactivity: A behaviour pattern frequently characterized in dogs by pacing, barking and destructive chewing.

Lethargy: Behaviour displayed as excessive quietness, absence of play in puppies, extended sleep periods, lack of interest at feeding. It can be a sign of illness.

Separation anxiety: A behaviour pattern characterized by constant crying, chewing or hyperactivity and which commonly follows separation of the dam and her litter. It can also be displayed by a dog separated from a family habitat, person or companion animal.

Socialization: The process by which an animal is introduced and exposed to human and animal contact, thereby developing behaviour that is friendly and sociable. The puppy learns to accept certain animal species, including its own, in close proximity. The period between 3 and 12 weeks of age is crucial for socialization. After adoption, the new owner should continue exposing the puppy to a variety of people, animals, and circumstances until at least 1 year of age.

Submissive behaviour: Behaviours through which a dog shies from human or animal contact. Submission is characterized by postures that serve mainly to inhibit an attack if flight is not possible, such as cowering and urination. Note that discussion of a dominant or submissive animal must include a description of the two individuals involved in the comparison.

Temperament: A dog's character, disposition, and tendencies; the behavioural characteristics of a dog that are relatively stable over time and across similar situations.

Acronyms

CALAM: Canadian Association for Laboratory Animal Medicine

CCAC: Canadian Council on Animal Care

CFHS: Canadian Federation of Humane Societies

CKC: Canadian Kennel Club

CVMA: Canadian Veterinary Medical Association

PIJAC: Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council of Canada

SPCA: Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

NCAC: National Companion Animal Coalition (CVMA, CKC, CFHS, and PIJAC)

SECTION I
The Selection of a Dog

Dogs, whether purebred or mixed-breed, can be obtained from various sources, including breeders, pet stores, humane societies or SPCAs and rescue groups. When selecting a particular dog from any of these sources it is important to match the characteristics of the dog with the lifestyle of the owner. Prospective dog owners are referred to the Commonsense Guide to Selecting a Dog or a Cat, published by the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association. The selection of dogs for both novice and experienced breeders is an important element, whether in a kennel whose main interest is show or trial dogs, or a kennel mainly producing dogs for pet purposes.

BREEDERS

"Breeder" refers to the individual who is involved in the breeding of dogs. In reference to a specific litter, the breeder is the owner of the dam at the time when she is bred. Breeders are a direct and primary source of puppies.

Individuals are involved as dog breeders for any number of reasons, among them the improvement of the breed and the progeny resulting from their breeding stock; for conformation showing; for working purposes such as herding or assistance dogs; and for the sale of puppies to the dog-buying public.

Breeders rank on a continuum from excellent to very poor. Good breeders adhere generally to high standards in their breeding practices and may be identified by the superior quality of their stock, their well-maintained and managed facilities, and their willingness to display the parents of a litter and other progeny. Good breeders will have well-groomed, clean, healthy, and socially well-adjusted dogs and puppies, and will provide evidence of vaccinations and relevant health clearance(s) showing the breeding stock is free of genetic defects generally associated with the breed. A good breeder is also one who maintains thorough and up-to-date records, i.e., whelping dates, histories, vaccinations and other health records, cleaning routines, etc.

Poor breeders often reflect the opposite, with run-down or crowded facilities; a reluctance to show off parents of a litter and other progeny; dirty, unhealthy, and ill-adjusted (e.g., overly submissive, hyper-active, or aggressive) dogs. These dogs may be sold at an inappropriately young age, often without proper vaccinations; and no certification for genetic defects. Poor breeders have little regard for the frequency of breeding or the age of breeding stock.

Good breeders will have a written contract or agreement with the new owner to take the puppy or dog back for practically any reason, without any particular time limitation, and with financial compensation in the event of genetic disorders that occur commonly in the breed. Poor breeders provide little if any guarantee.

When a dog is selected and purported to be purebred, the word "purebred" or "registered" must, by law, be on the bill of sale or receipt and the dog must be registered with a recognized body under the *Animal Pedigree Act*. The *Animal Pedigree Act* is an essential part of federal law governing the registration of purebred dogs in Canada and any infractions thereof. A statement of breed on the bill of sale (e.g., "Cocker Spaniel", "Golden Retriever", or

"Maltese") is not sufficient. Requirements for purebreds are established by an authorized breed association (e.g., the Canadian Kennel Club).

Potential purchasers of a puppy or dog should spend time screening breeders and the animals sold by them. This is as important for an individual acquiring a pet as for those looking for breeding stock and potential show-quality dogs. All buyers should consider "good temperament" as an essential criterion for selection.

Impulse buying should be strongly discouraged. Breeders selling dogs to the general public must spend time with the consumer to ensure that the dog is compatible with the expectations of the purchaser and that the purchaser can provide a suitable environment for the dog.

NON-BREEDER OR SECONDARY SOURCES OF DOGS

Individuals not directly involved with the breeding of dogs are referred to herein as non-breeders. These individuals may be engaged in the transport or sale of dogs, and can be considered as a secondary source because they are at least one step removed from the kennel of origin.

Individuals involved in the mass transportation of puppies and dogs are usually acting as "brokers" between one or more commercial dog breeding facilities and the retail pet industry. Most commonly, other than breeders, pet stores are also involved in the selling of puppies and dogs.

POPULATION CONTROL

Regardless of the source of the dog, a dog owner who is not interested in the dog for breeding purposes should be strongly encouraged to have it spayed or neutered. There are health benefits to having dogs spayed or neutered and it may also prevent behavioural problems. In addition, it is the responsible thing to do to prevent litters of unwanted puppies from being born. Puppies sold as pets should be sold on a "non-breeding contract," a binding agreement that forbids that the dog be bred. A dog owner, who is not interested in breeding but is involved in showing the dog, may keep it "intact" until its show career has been completed.

CONFORMATION STANDARDS FOR PUREBRED DOGS

The physical standard refers to the general shape and appearance of a dog. The breed standard is a description of the "ideal" appearance and movement particular to a breed. The standard provides a goal for the reputable breeder who strives to reach these elements of perfection. Dog shows generally provide the forum in which a dog is judged against the standard to determine the degree to which the standard has been met. Even with the standard and judging certifications, the notion of ideal appearance is still largely subjective.

Breed standards differ around the world. Most breed standards include general appearance, temperament, balance and size, coat and colour, head, neck, forequarters, body, hindquarters, tail and gait.

The CVMA opposes surgical alteration of any animal for purely cosmetic purposes (Appendix C-1). This includes tail docking and ear cropping in dogs, as is stipulated in breed standards for some breeds.

BEHAVIOUR

The genetic make-up (i.e., genotype) and the environment in which a dog lives will fundamentally determine its behaviour. From there, the individual characteristics of each dog will determine uniqueness.

Certain behavioural characteristics can generally be attributed to a given breed or group of breeds. For instance, hounds tend to be rather aloof; terriers more intense and tenacious; sporting, working and herding dogs outgoing and happy workers; and toy breeds generally quite demanding of affection. The key element is to understand the breed characteristics as a partial means of projecting a dog's behaviour and its behavioural needs.

The breeding program plays a significant role in determining a dog's behaviour. This begins with the choice of sire and dam, and the behaviour exhibited by them. Bad temperament in a dog is generally the result of a poor breeding program and/or improper management (including lack of socialization and/or training) by the dog owner.

The environment into which the puppy is born and raised will also determine the behaviour patterns of an adult dog. Social rearing of puppies is the most effective means of ensuring predictable behaviour as adults. Furthermore, dogs properly handled as puppies show a greater resistance to stress and greater disease tolerance than those which are not socialized[1]. The socialization of a puppy between 3 and 12 weeks of age is critical if that dog is to be a suitable companion animal. Proper guidance at an early age and obedience training and continued socialization later in the puppy's life will all have an impact on the dog's behaviour[1,2]. Consistency in the training approach and ongoing love and attention during the life of the dog will help to develop a well-behaved and well-adjusted dog.

GENETIC DEFECTS

Breeders should be aware, through reading and consultation with their veterinarian, of the genetic defects prevalent in their breed[3]. Breeders must take steps to eliminate genetic defects by establishing suitable breeding programs, including (when possible) testing and certifying all breeding stock clear of genetic disorders that are prevalent in that breed. Breeders should provide written guarantees against such disorders in the puppies they sell. This holds true for both physical and behavioural characteristics.

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[1] *Overall K. Clinical behavioural medicine for small animals. Mosby:Missouri, USA 1997.*
[2] *HumaneTraining Methods for Dogs – CVMA Position Statement (Appendix C-2).*
[3] *Canine Inherited Disorders Database - www.upei.ca/cidd - last accessed May 22, 2007.*

SECTION II
Housing and Accommodation

FACILITY

The facility needs to be suitable to the needs of the kennel operation, and the kennel operation suited to the needs of the breed or of the dogs to be kenneled.

The facility should provide ease of kennel maintenance whether the kennel is one room or floor of the family home, or a completely separate building. In either case, maintenance, repair, and individual care and attention for all kennel dogs are essential.

A separate kennel facility will require sufficient land to accommodate the building and outside exercise runs. For this, proximity to neighbours must be considered, as dogs can be vocal and cause unwelcome disturbances, especially at feeding times.

An investigation of zoning restrictions, by-laws, building codes and standards will provide valuable insight into the requirements for a kennel operation. Early understanding of this information and advance planning will save time and money.

Researching and visiting existing, reputable kennel operations can provide insight into site selection. This would include drainage considerations, waste removal, access to heat and electricity, and so on.

CONSTRUCTION

Interior walls/interior weight-bearing walls and partitions may be constructed of masonry, metal, masonite, cement, plaster or other washable and sanitizable building material. Inside surfaces should be smooth, durable and impervious to water, to facilitate cleaning.

Exterior walls should be fire-resistant and impervious to moisture. Doors, window frames and window sashes may be constructed of wood, provided they are rendered impervious to moisture, and are rodent and vermin resistant (caution: wood treated with some preservatives may be toxic to animals and can cause birth defects).

Combustible materials such as paper, wood chips, etc., should be stored in a fire-resistant area of the building to reduce the risk of accidents leading to fire in the kennel.

Fire extinguishers should be available and accessible within the building. Extinguishers should be checked monthly to ensure they remain functional.

INSULATION

Dogs should be kept in temperatures as close as possible to the comfort zone for the breed, age, and health status. For instance, a Newfoundland or Saint Bernard will have a different comfort zone than an Italian Greyhound or a Toy Poodle. Short-coated breeds require supplemental heat during adverse weather.

Older and infirm dogs will require a warmer and more comfortable environment. Many breeds of dogs tolerate lower temperatures as long as they are dry, away from drafts and have had adequate time to adjust to the temperature. Consideration must be given

to the individual dog, taking into account factors such as age and overall health.

Insulating materials can be toxic to dogs, and should therefore be inaccessible.

Interior conditions should be consistently maintained. Avoid fluctuations that may cause discomfort during extremes in weather.

Insulation in walls and ceilings will assist as a noise barrier.

ROOFS

Roof coverings fastened to sheathing or directly to the roof joists should be laid so as to prevent the entrance of rodents and vermin into the facility, and covered with suitable materials in order to eliminate leakage and exposure of the dogs to adverse weather conditions.

CEILINGS

Ceilings should be constructed of materials similar or equal to those for the walls and partitions, and subject to identical finishing.

Ceilings, walls and partitions should abut tightly, to prevent crevices which can lead to rodent infestation.

Corners of ceilings, walls and partitions should be caulked and painted so as to be completely washable.

FLOORS

Floors should be constructed of densely mixed concrete or other materials which will provide a smooth surface that is impervious to moisture, making it easy to clean and sanitize. As recommended in Volume 1, Edition 2 of the *Guide for the Care and Use of Experimental Animals*, floors should be sloped towards any drain(s) at a minimum recommended pitch of 2.1 cm/m. A raised platform is recommended for the comfort of the dogs.

If an impervious covering is placed on the floor, it should extend at least six to eight inches up the walls. Ensure that such material is molded so that there are no crevices or cracks.

WIRE FLOORING

Housing with wire floors is an unacceptable method of containing dogs. Their feet are subjected to constant trauma from wire cuts, and calluses and bone deformities may develop from inadequate footing. As well, wire flooring results in a lack of definition between eating, drinking, sleeping, and elimination areas, and can result in the breakdown of the dog's natural instinct not to soil its "den". This can result in future house training problems.

VENTILATION AND LIGHT

Proper air circulation is essential to the prevention of respiratory disease. The number of air changes per hour is extremely important and is dependent on the number of dogs being housed and the size of the facility. (See Volume 1, Edition 2 of the *Guide for the Care and Use of Experimental Animals*).

A source of fresh air is critical. Recirculation of inside air circulates contaminants, viruses, bacteria and moulds.

When ambient temperature reaches over 27^{o}C (80^{o}F) additional ventilation, such as exhaust fans and/or air conditioning, should be available. Drafts, chilling, and excessively high humidity are detrimental to

dogs of all ages and promote respiratory disease.

Lighting must be adequate so that all areas of the interior of the kennel can be clearly seen. Emergency lighting should be available. The minimum lighting requirement is 8 hours per day.

HUMIDITY

Humidity should be kept below 70%, preferably maintained at 45—55%. Improved ventilation and mixing of outside air by use of fans will help to reduce excessive humidity.

TEMPERATURE

The minimum allowable temperature for an indoor facility is 10^{o}C (50^{o}F), except for Nordic breeds.

The suggested maximum temperature for an indoor facility is 27^{o}C (80^{o}F).

Temperatures should be suitable to the breed, coat length, age and condition of the dogs housed in the kennel.

CAGES, PENS, AND ENCLOSURES

Housing should facilitate social group formation, human interaction, comfort and sanitation. Exercise for dogs is of prime consideration. If no exercise areas are provided, pen sizes should be adjusted to provide exercise space, and a daily exercise program should be instituted, outdoors wherever weather permits.

INDOOR HOUSING

Cages or pens must be sufficient in size and height and of a design that permits each animal confined therein to:

i) stand normally to its full height;
ii) turn around easily;
iii) move about easily for the purpose of posture adjustments; and
iv) lie down in a fully extended position.

There must also be sufficient space to:

i) enable species-appropriate contact;
ii) provide bitches with nursing puppies an additional 10% space per nursing puppy; and
iii) provide for the social and behavioural needs of the dog.

OUTDOOR HOUSING

Outdoor housing can be provided for selected breeds that are suitable to the out-of-doors, and that are properly acclimatized to seasonal and regional temperatures.

Aged, young or infirm animals should not be housed outdoors.

Shelter and protection from cold and heat must be provided, including protection from direct sunlight, rain, sleet, and snow. A rain break must be provided at the end of each area where clean, dry bedding is located.

Enclosures should consist of four sides, a roof and flooring, with easy access from the inside and out. A separate exercise area should extend from the housing area and must also provide protection from direct sunlight and inclement weather.

Tethering of dogs (i.e., chains or ropes used to tie the animal to an immoveable object such as a stake or building) as a primary method of confinement is not acceptable.

OUTDOOR EXERCISE AREAS

Outdoor exercise runs should be large enough for dogs to break into a trot and should provide protection from adverse weather. The exercise running surface must be safe and not slippery, and free from debris that could cause injury or damage to the dog.

Exercise areas must be fenced with sturdy construction and be in good repair. Concrete runs should be sealed and sloped to allow for drainage within 5 minutes. Excrement must be removed from runs daily.

WHELPING FACILITIES

The whelping area should be separate from the individual and/or group kennel enclosures housing other kennel dogs, thereby providing the whelping bitch with privacy.

Human supervision and immediate access to human assistance is important during the whelping period and the days following the birth of the puppies. Therefore, the whelping area should be located in an area that will facilitate ongoing supervision by the breeder.

The whelping area should consist of a whelping box which is 2 l/2 times the size of the bitch. The box is constructed with four sides and a floor. Within the box, dowelling rails are placed along all 4 sides, 10 cm (4 inches) from the floor, and 10 cm (4 inches) out from the walls - forming a ledge. This will help prevent the bitch from pushing a puppy accidentally into the wall and suffocating it by lying on it. For toy breeds, the dowelling should be lowered by 5 cm (2 inches). Soft bedding should be provided in one half of the puppy area for comfort, and newspaper in the other half to encourage the pups to eliminate on the paper and keep the bedding clean.

Supplemental heat, generally in the form of a heat lamp, should be available. Avoid overheating the whelping area, so that the bitch does not remove herself.

GROUP HOUSING

Group housing can be suitable, provided there is plenty of room for all dogs to move freely and easily. Indoor and outdoor housing guidelines apply to group housing, as well as the following precautions, for group housing to be acceptable:

- Females in heat should not be housed in primary enclosures with males.

- Any animal exhibiting vicious behaviour or dominance aggression should be housed individually.

- Puppies less than 4 months old should not be housed in the same primary enclosure with adults other than their dam. Adolescents may need to be housed separately. Sire management may require independent housing.

- Dogs receiving treatment for a communicable disease or suspected of harbouring a communicable disease must be housed separately in a quarantine area for a time deemed suitable by the attending veterinarian.

- Newly acquired dogs should always be isolated before integration into the kennel.

ENVIRONMENTAL ENRICHMENT

All housing should allow for enrichment strategies. Dogs are pack animals and require social interaction with their own species and with people. They do not do well in isolation. There are many publications concerning suitable enrichment for dogs[4,5].

"Enrichments" should be supplied to dogs to provide an environment that will enhance the dogs' well-being and permit them to live in many social environments in a compatible manner. Such enrichments should include toys, exposure to canine and human companions, and daily exercise in an outdoor area. As stated in Appendix A, dogs confined in cages should be exercised twice daily for at least 20 minutes, either in runs or by walking on a leash.

Where possible, animals should spend time outside the kennel environment, which may include being walked on leash, spending time in a home setting, riding in the car, etc.

[4] *Eighth Report of BVAAWF/FRAME/RSPCA/UFAW Joint Working Group on Refinement. Refining dog husbandry and care. 2004 Laboratory Animals 38 (Suppl 1):42-47.*

[5] *CCAC Guide to the Care and Use of Experimental Animals, V.1; 2nd ed., Canadian Council on Animal Care, 1993:60-64.*

SECTION III
Food and Water

GENERAL

Good nutrition is an essential component in the raising of healthy dogs. Nutrient requirements differ from dog to dog and vary with age, activity level, environmental conditions and physiologic state (e.g., pregnancy, lactation and weaning). Food type, amount, and frequency of feeding should be adjusted accordingly.

Excellent, high-quality, commercially prepared dog foods are widely available that meet the nutritional requirements of puppies, adults and senior dogs. Puppies and growing young dogs (up to 18 months of age in the giant breeds), require the extra protein, calcium, phosphorus and energy provided in a good-quality puppy food. Pregnant and nursing bitches also require appropriate nutritional supplementation.

Dogs should be fed a minimum of once every 24 hours. Some large breed dogs are prone to gastric dilation (bloat) and should be fed smaller meals 2 to 3 times per day. After weaning, puppies should be fed a minimum of three times per day until they approach two thirds of their ideal adult weight and then twice daily through to mature weight.

FOOD

Commercially prepared dog foods are available in dry, semi-moist and moist forms. High-quality, commercially prepared dog foods are available to meet different requirements of the dog. They are available in variations for growth, adult maintenance, adult light (for overweight adults), performance (for active working dogs), and senior diets.

It is important to select a quality dog food that best meets the condition and lifestyle of the dog. Changing foods may cause difficulties, such as diarrhea, vomiting or loss of appetite, and should not be done frequently. When changing foods, mix a small amount of new food in with the old one, and gradually increase the proportion of new food. Introduce the new food over a 4—5 day period.

On the advice of a veterinarian, a dog may be fed a veterinary-prescribed diet. These foods will help to alleviate and prevent conditions associated with infectious and metabolic disorders.

Nutritional supplements such as minerals and vitamins are generally unnecessary, provided that a good-quality, fresh dog food is fed. Adding unnecessary supplements may alter nutritional balance and cause toxicities.

The CVMA has developed a Pet Food Certification Program that provides the Canadian pet food purchaser with independent quality assurance. Participating dog food manufacturers must meet nutritional standards for pet foods that will satisfy the nutritional requirements of a normal pet throughout its life. The Pet Food Certification Seal on the product ensures that a diet has been chosen that conforms to this CVMA standard.

Food storage bins must be covered, vermin-proof and properly marked. Food dishes and utensils should be stored in a clean and protected area.

HOMEMADE DIETS AND RAW FOOD

If an owner chooses to feed a homemade diet, it must be complete and nutritionally balanced. A properly formulated recipe must be used, that is appropriate to the life stage of the dog, and the correct ingredients must be used consistently. Substituted or omitted ingredients can unbalance the ration, especially over time. A veterinarian should be consulted for recipes and advice, and meat must be cooked thoroughly to eliminate bacteria and parasites.

Some dog owners support the feeding of a raw meat-based diet known as BARF (Bones and Raw Food, or Biologically Appropriate Raw Foods). However, a diet high in raw meat and bones is likely to be deficient in essential vitamins and minerals and almost certainly will have an imbalanced calcium to phosphorus ratio, which, over time, can lead to weakened bones and fractures. The fat and protein in these diets is commonly higher than required, which can cause other problems. Feeding raw meat diets has health risks for the owner as well. *E.coli*, *Salmonella* and other bacteria are frequent contaminants of uncooked chicken, a common source of raw meat in BARF diets. Toxoplasma and Trichinella are parasites that can cause serious illness in people and pets, and are carried in the muscle of cattle and/or pigs. (See also Appendix C-3, Raw Food Diets for Pets.)

WATER

Clean, potable drinking water must be available indoors and outdoors at all times in clean containers. These containers should be cleaned and refilled at least once a day, and should be fixed in place to prevent accidental spillage.

MISCELLANEOUS ADDITIONS TO DIET

Dogs, especially puppies, like to chew. Commercially available rawhide bones and strips, nylon bones, or braided rope chews may be provided; they also help to keep the dog's teeth free of plaque. The choice of these items should be appropriate to the breed, age of the dog, etc. The product should be removed if a dog is chewing off large pieces and ingesting them, as this can cause gastrointestinal obstruction or upset.

Do not feed chicken bones or other bones that will splinter and can lead to intestinal perforation or blockage, or cause acute gastroenteritis.

TEETH

The choice of foods and availability of chewing material can affect the health and cleanliness of a dog's teeth. For example, dry food is better for dogs' teeth than soft food.

FOOD AND WATER UTENSILS

Stainless steel food and water dishes allow for the most thorough removal of old food and water film.

If used, automatic watering systems should be checked daily to ensure that they are operating properly and that each animal is receiving its daily water requirement.

Feeding bowls should be washed after each feeding and disinfected before using for another animal.

SECTION IV
Care and Supervision

ATTENDANTS AND SUPERVISORY STAFF

It is the responsibility of kennel owners and operators to ensure that efficient, regular supervision and health care are provided by knowledgeable and experienced staff on an ongoing basis. Association with incompatible dogs, other adversarial animals, or vermin should be prevented.

It is the responsibility of kennel owners and operators to ensure that staff is experienced in and understands the needs of dogs and puppies. Such individuals must have compassion and respect for all living things, particularly the puppies and dogs in their care.

The attendants should understand the breed's characteristics and species variability. The caretakers should provide enrichment for the dogs through regular play and affection.

Socialization of the puppies and dogs to human beings should be a goal of all those caring for the animals. Puppies should be exposed to a variety of human beings (including children) from the age of 4 weeks until sold.

IDENTIFICATION AND RECORDS

Permanent identification can be achieved by means of a tattoo or microchip implant.

Permanent identification of each dog and individual records are essential to good management practices.

Good record-keeping is essential. Records should include breed, sex, date of birth, the sire and dam, tattoo or microchip number, colour and markings. Individual records should be developed by the time the litter is weaned.

Records for all litters should include a daily record of each puppy's progress, i.e., weight gain, etc., as well as numbers and genders. Desirable and non desirable traits should be noted. The records should specify individual birth weights, condition and vigour.

Records should include information concerning the nature of the food provided, and all medications, vaccinations, and examinations for internal and external parasites and the results.

CLEANING, SANITATION AND DISINFECTION

The success of a good management program depends on the nature of the building materials and the various types of equipment available for proper cleaning, sanitation and disinfection.

Cleaning and sanitizing should be carried out daily, including the removal of fecal waste, and hosing or washing urine from soiled areas. Individual circumstances may require that cleaning frequency be increased.

Dogs and puppies must be removed from the area while it is being cleaned and returned only after the area is dry. Also, dogs and puppies must be protected from contact with injurious cleaning substances.

Daily cleaning and disinfecting is necessary to eliminate odours and bacterial build-up, as well as to control parasites.

PARASITE CONTROL

Internal parasites are common in puppies and in kennels housing adult dogs. A control program should be instituted, including fecal examinations and appropriate deworming.

External parasites require immediate treatment, as well as thorough cleaning and sanitization of the kennel to prevent infection of other dogs.

Outside runs, particularly those with crushed stone or dirt floors, are difficult to clean. This can lead to poor control of parasites. Good drainage, daily cleaning of feces and preventing contact with wild and stray animals will facilitate parasite management.

GENERAL HEALTH CARE

All dogs should be under the supervision of a consulting veterinarian(s) responsible for prevention and control of diseases, the provision of adequate veterinary care, and, if the need for euthanasia arises, provision of a humane, rapid death that minimizes fear and anxiety.

If a dog is sick, injured, in pain, or suffering, prompt and adequate veterinary care must be provided.

The key to disease control is early recognition of abnormalities in behaviour, hair condition, skin, etc. by those individuals who see the dogs or puppies on a day-to-day basis.

Regular grooming, appropriate to the breed, must be carried out.

BREEDING

The breeding of dogs is a serious responsibility that requires a commitment of both time and financial resources. Breeders should ensure all breeding dogs are of sound health and temperament. Puppies should be provided with proper housing, nutrition, health care, exercise and socialization.

Bitches should not be bred before 18 months of age, or before their second estrous cycle. In addition, a bitch or sire should not be bred until she/he has received clearances for all hereditary diseases that can be tested for in that breed – the age will vary with the breed and the disorder being tested for.

The age beyond which a bitch should not be bred varies with the breed – from five years in large to giant breeds to about ten years in toy breeds. The breeder should also consider the body condition of the bitch and the presence of any chronic disease conditions.

A veterinarian should be consulted to assist the breeder in developing the best breeding program for a particular kennel and breed.

BEHAVIOURAL NEEDS

A significant proportion of dogs for which owners request euthanasia have exhibited behavioural problems unacceptable to the owner or the community in which they live. It is difficult to identify inherited breed behavioural problems and; therefore, such problems may often be unidentified.

Veterinarians may observe behavioural problems that appear to be directly related to the genetic predispositions of selected breeding animals. Aggressive behaviours, biting, and excessive barking are some of the problem areas. Dog breeders must understand these undesirable behavioural

patterns and should carefully screen their breeding stock and offspring.

Littermate compatibility should be observed. Puppies should demonstrate equal desire for attention when the enclosure is approached by individuals familiar to the pups. Overly dominant animals will try to prevent subordinate individuals from being touched by familiar humans who approach them. Breeders must screen puppy buyers thoroughly to promote good temperament matches.

Behaviour towards people is extremely important. Dogs that bark excessively, hide at the back of the pen, refuse to come to regular attendants, or demonstrate aggressive tendencies when approached are not likely to socialize well with people, and should not be bred.

Unsocialized dogs are fearful of people, may become fear-biters, and are more difficult to handle and control. Early exposure of puppies to people (socialization) greatly influences the future acceptability of the animal in a home setting. Daily socialization must be a regular component of every kennel operation and breeding program.

Puppies that are not sold at 8 weeks of age should receive a minimum of 20 minutes twice a day of individual (i.e., away from both visual and physical contact with littermates and other dogs) socialization with people in order to prevent the puppy from imprinting on other dogs, resulting in an inability to adapt to human owners when eventually sold.

SECTION V
Transportation

Comprehensive regulations with regards to the transportation of dogs are legislated within the *Health of Animals Act* (Canada) at: http://laws.justice.gc.ca./en/H-.3/C.R.C.-c.296/131875.html. This section of the Code of Practice relates to the pre-shipping concerns of transporting dogs. Shipping is stressful for dogs, causing changes in immune function and increased susceptibility to disease.

Within the kennel, all animals should be handled regularly to facilitate restraint and ensure socialization. Dogs or puppies should be conditioned to their shipping container to learn to regard it as a comfort and security zone prior to shipping.

Containers for all sizes of dogs must meet the requirement of the Live Animal Regulations of the International Air Transport Association (IATA). Proper health certificates and vaccination requirements should be in order prior to shipping the dog to the desired destination.

Weather conditions must be assessed prior to shipping to prevent possible harm to the animal from excessive heat or cold.

Puppies must be at least 8 weeks of age before shipping and should be transported by the fastest route possible with a maximum of 36 hour transit time. If a puppy is to be in transit more than 4 to 6 hours, provision must be made for food and water en route.

Every vehicle in which dogs and puppies are transported must be free of mechanical defects and designed in such a fashion as to provide adequate levels of fresh air at a temperature suitable for the health, welfare and comfort of the animals. Containers holding live animals should not be carried in trunks or in the open backs of vehicles. The vehicle should be well maintained and of a proper design to prevent the entrance of exhaust fumes.

Individuals responsible for shipping animals should establish that those who will be handling the animals in transit recognize their responsibilities for the health, welfare and safety of the animals. Qualified individuals with proper training in the care of animals should be selected.

The shipper should notify the consignee when the animals are leaving their origin, the expected transit time and stopovers, and the designated destination and expected time of arrival. The consignee must ensure arrangements are in place to receive the animals and, if customs or health examinations are required to clear the animals, that those individuals are notified and at the destination site when dogs arrive. Arrangements should be in place for any emergency care or treatment or, if quarantine is a requirement, that acceptable facilities are available with qualified personnel.

While most containers and agencies or transporting companies allow only one animal in a container, there are situations where containers are designed to handle more than one animal comfortably. Where more than one dog is transported in a large container or cage, all animals so transported should be compatible and socially adapted to the company of other dogs. Dogs that have dominant traits or behaviour should not be mixed. Females in estrus should not be transported in the same container as males.

Pre-planning is essential to ensure the welfare of dogs and puppies during transportation, making certain that proper examination documentation, containers, fastest, safest routing and notification of arrival are in place before the journey starts.

All personnel in the transport chain should be qualified, with adequate training and experience to maintain and ensure the health and well-being of the dogs before and during transportation as well as at the destination.

Tranquilization or sedation are not generally recommended. Such practices are counter-productive to safe humane transport.

SECTION VI
Euthanasia

The method used for euthanasia must be humane. That is, it must be rapid and painless, minimizing fear and anxiety[6,7].

Euthanasia should be carried out by a trained individual, preferably a veterinarian, so that the animal does not experience panic, pain or distress. The veterinarian should use professional judgment in deciding when dogs or puppies must be euthanized.

It is broadly accepted that the most humane method for euthanizing individual dogs is the intravenous injection of a concentrated bartiburate[6].

The experience, training, sensitivity and compassion of the individual are important issues when considering whether an individual is competent to perform the procedure of euthanasia.

As well as being humane, the method used for euthanasia must:

1) produce minimal undesirable physiologic and psychological effects on the animal;

2) be compatible with the requirements and the conditions under which the procedure must be performed;

3) be safe and produce minimal stress for the operator and any assistants or observers;

4) have minimal ecological impact; and

5) be carried out in a location separate from other dogs.

[6] *Euthanasia – CVMA Position Statement (Appendix C-4).*
[7] *2000 Report of the AVMA Panel on Euthanasia www.avma.org/resources/euthanasia.pdf.*

SECTION VII
Education

An important aspect of kennel ownership is that all those involved must be knowledgeable concerning the needs of the dogs and puppies for whose care and treatment they are responsible. Every effort should be made to discourage impulse breeders or buyers. This may be achieved through education, the responsibility for which rests with breeders, kennel operators, pet shops, animal welfare organizations, the CVMA, the Human Animal Bond Association of Canada (HABAC), the CKC, the NCAC, and responsible pet owners themselves.

Every person who sells puppies/dogs has a responsibility to educate prospective buyers about the characteristics of the breed and the individual dog. Buyers should also be screened to ensure they are a good match for the dog, and have the time, knowledge, facilities, and commitment to provide lifelong care and a responsible home. Breeders/dog sellers should also remain available as a future resource for buyers.

There is no shortage of written information on raising dogs, breed characteristics, and so on. Personal contact on the part of the breeder/kennel operator should provide an additional educational experience for prospective dog owners. In addition to information on general care and breed specifics, prospective owners should be made aware of their responsibility to the dog and what the community expects of the owner in controlling noise, animal waste and other annoyances. Puppies should not be sold at less than 7 weeks of age.

Prospective owners should be provided with information on training classes for dogs that use positive training methods, and should be encouraged to pursue them (Appendix C-2). Owners should seek out those classes held within their municipalities.

Kennel owners need not only educate dog owners on responsible pet ownership, but may also help to educate the “anti-dog” segment regarding the importance of dogs in our society. Some people have a negative view of dogs and may not realize the close relationship many people share with their dogs and how these relationships are mutually beneficial for both the owner and the dog.

SECTION VIII
Emergencies and Unforeseen Problems

KENNEL MANAGEMENT

Preventive medicine is the dominant theme in good kennel management. Despite the best efforts to prevent illness or accident, emergencies will occur. A well-managed kennel will have an established rapport with a local veterinary hospital to deal with emergencies, e.g., whelping difficulties or severe injury resulting from dog fights.

Written procedures for dog care should be posted so that they are available to all kennel personnel at all times. These procedures should include methods of handling sickness, injury or death of dogs and should include telephone numbers of veterinarians and backup car transportation.

Written procedures for the following situations should also be readily available to kennel personnel:

Dog escapes: List appropriate phone numbers of dog control officers, humane societies, veterinarians, local radio stations, and so on.

Accidental exposure to injurious chemicals or vapours that may be used on the premises: Include directions for immediate care, antidotes, and appropriate assistance telephone numbers - e.g., veterinarian, poison control centre.

Dog bites to employees or visitors: Anyone who has suffered a dog bite should be encouraged to seek proper medical attention.

All kennels should have emergency evacuation capabilities, including more than one available exit. Emergency procedures should be posted, clearly understood by staff, and updated regularly, including:

1) evacuation procedure for dogs and people;
2) a list of emergency telephone numbers; and
3) emergency transportation and housing arrangements.

Emergency equipment should be installed, including:

1) an effective smoke and fire detection system;
2) fire extinguishers appropriately rated; and
3) emergency lighting systems.

Kennel owners should consult with local fire departments and request a site visit to review their emergency preparedness and to familiarize emergency responders with their site and operation.

Planning for possible emergency situations and their management should be done in advance of encountering or having to handle an incident. Remember Murphy's Law: If anything can go wrong, it probably will. Be prepared.

APPENDIX A
Minimal Space Requirements for a Dog[8]

Weight (kg)	Floor Area (m^2)	Minimum Height (m)	Puppies up to 7 weeks old
<12	**1.1**	**1**	Add 10% per puppy
12–30	**1.86**	**2**	Add 10% per puppy
>30	**2.2**	**2**	Add 10% per puppy

Dogs confined in cages should be exercised twice daily for at least 20 minutes, either in runs or by walking on a leash.

If dogs are pair- or group-housed, the minimum space provided should be 1.4 m^2 per dog. Dogs that share kennels should be evaluated for compatibility and monitored closely.

Minimal Space Requirements for Puppies 7—16 weeks[9]

Weight (kg)	Floor Area per puppy (m^2)	Minimum Height (m)
< 3	**.5**	**.5**
3–11	**.5**	**.6**
> 11	**.6**	**.6**

All the above space requirements are suggested minimums; more space should be provided wherever possible. Cages should be large enough to allow each dog to stand up, lie down, turn around and sit normally. Each dog should be provided with a minimum floor space equal to the length of the dog plus 15 cm.

[8] HSUS Guidelines for the Operation of an Animal Shelter http://www.animalsheltering.org/resource_library/policies_and_guidelines/guidelines_for_animal_shelter_operations.html last accessed March 5, 2007.

[9] ANIMA-Quebec (Association nationale d'intervention pour le mieux-être des animaux) Guide des pratiques généralement reconnues, 2006.

APPENDIX B
Recommended Vaccination Schedule in a Breeding Kennel

Vaccine	Type of vaccine	Schedule
Canine distemper virus (CDV)	Modified live virus	First at 6—8 weeks of age, repeated every 3 weeks until 12 weeks of age (or more)
Infectious canine hepatitis	Modified live virus	Given in combination with CDV
Canine parvovirus	Modified live virus	First at 8 weeks of age, repeated every 3 weeks until the age of 15—16 weeks (or more)
Canine parainfluenza	Modified live virus	Given in combination with CDV
Canine kennel cough	Modified live, intranasal vaccine	Given once, as early as 3 weeks of age (specify vaccine type) then 12 wks
Canine leptospirosis	Killed bacterin	Given if considered regionally appropriate by consulting veterinarian
Rabies	Killed virus	16 weeks (vaccine labels allow for vaccination as early as 12 weeks)

***All of the above to be boosted at intervals as recommended by the consulting veterinarian.**

Dogs that are older than 16 weeks when first vaccinated should receive 2 doses, 3 to 4 weeks apart.

Note: The above are guidelines only. Vaccination protocols should be designed individually, for a given operation, by the consulting veterinarian with input from the client, considering the relative risks and benefits.

See also http://www.aahanet.org/PublicDocuments/VaccineGuidelines06Revised.pdf for detailed vaccine guidelines and supporting information from the 2006 AAHA Canine Vaccine Task Force (last accessed May 22, 2007).

Preventive Health Programs

Preventive disease control in a kennel operation should be of primary consideration. The size of kennel, type of facility, number of dogs housed and number of litters produced per year will determine the type of program best suited for the operation. It is important to work closely with the kennel's regular veterinarian. He or she can develop a suitable program which would include kennel visitations and examinations supported by radiographic and laboratory work (as required), accurate record-keeping, and follow-up regimens.

APPENDIX C-1
Position Statement - Cosmetic Surgery

POSITION

The Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA) opposes surgical alteration of any animal, for purely cosmetic purposes.

BACKGROUND

The CVMA believes that cosmetic surgery is unnecessary. Surgical alterations in cases of injury or for reasons of health are not considered cosmetic. Examples of cosmetic procedures include:

- tail docking in the equine, bovine, or canine species;
- tail nicking/setting in the equine species;
- ear cropping in canine species; and onychectomy in species other than the domestic cat.

The CVMA recommends that breed associations change their breed standards so that cosmetic procedures are not required.

(Revised, November 2000)

APPENDIX C-2
Position Statement - Humane Training Methods for Dogs

POSITION

The Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA) supports the use of humane training methods that are built on current scientific knowledge of learning theory. Methods using positive reinforcement are highly favoured. Methods causing fear, distress, pain or anxiety are unacceptable.

BACKGROUND

Recent years have seen a shift towards reward-based methods, such as clicker training and the use of food, toys and praise as motivators. Training methods utilizing pain, fear, distress or anxiety, including violent use of choke collars and shock collars are to be condemned. The use of shock collars for invisible fencing systems can be acceptable if the dog is properly trained and monitored to ensure there are no negative effects on the dog. Some dogs become very agitated from the shock and may even be afraid to enter the yard. Owners should also be mindful that invisible fencing does not keep other animals out.

RESOURCES

1. Tucker MT, ed. Professional Standards for Dog Trainers: Effective, Humane Principles. Renton, Washington: Delta Society, 2001.
2. Miller P. The Power of Positive Dog Training. Indianapolis, Indiana: Hungry Minds, 2001.
3. Overall K. Clinical Behavioural Medicine for Small Animals. St. Louis, Missouri: Mosby-YearBook Inc., Missouri, 1997.
4. www.upei.ca/cidd - last accessed May 22, 2007.

(Established July 2004)

APPENDIX C-3

Position Statement – Raw Food Diets for Pets

Canadian Veterinary Medical Association and Public Health Agency of Canada
Joint Position Statement

POSITION

The Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA) and the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) believe that there is evidence of potential health risks for pets fed raw meat based diets, and for humans in contact with such pets. Currently there is little scientific evidence supporting the efficacy of these diets. However, the documented scientific evidence of potential animal and public health risks in feeding raw meats outweigh any perceived benefits of this feeding practice. If veterinarians do recommend raw meat diets for pets under their care they should be aware of potential liability concerns should a pet or in-contact human become ill due to pathogens originating in the diet. Veterinarians recommending raw food diets must inform pet owners of potential risks, and should educate the owners on how to mitigate risks of pathogen exposure in both handling the food and in managing pets consuming raw meat diets. It is also important for veterinarians to emphasize that there is a higher risk of human infections if pets on these diets are being used to visit human hospitals for therapeutic reasons, or if pets are fed in households with people who have compromised immune function, or where there are very young children that could come into direct contact with the food or with the feces of pets consuming raw foods.

BACKGROUND

Feeding pets raw meat based diets is a recent trend. Multiple benefits of feeding these diets are touted, but all are supported only by anecdotal reports. To date, no scientific evidence to support the efficacy or safety of these diets have been published. There are now multiple peer-reviewed studies documenting potential risks from bacterial pathogens present in raw meats for both pets fed these diets, and for in-contact humans. Studies have also proven that pets fed raw meats can shed potential bacterial pathogens in their stool thereby acting as a source of potentially significant zoonotic infections to in-contact humans. The public health risks of feeding raw food are magnified with evidence that bacterial pathogens in raw foods, and in the stool of pets fed raw foods have enhanced patterns of antimicrobial resistance.

References:

1. Lejeune TJ, Hancock DD. Public Health Concerns Associated with Feeding Raw Meat Diets to Dogs. J Am Vet Med Assoc 2001;219(9):1222-1225

2. Joffe DJ, Schlesinger DP. Preliminary Assessment of the Risk of Salmonella Infection in Dogs Fed Raw Chicken Diets. Can Vet J 2002;43(6):441-2 CVJ Jun 2002)

3. Murphy C, et al, ACVIM abstr 2005)

4. Weese JS, Rousseau J, Arroyo L. Bacterial Evaluation of Commercial Canine and Feline Raw Diets. Can Vet J 2005;46(6):513-516.

5. Finley R, Reid-Smith R, Weese JS. Human Health Implications of Salmonella-Contaminated Natural Pet Treats and Raw Pet Food. Clin Infect Dis 2006;42(5):686-91

6. Finley R, Ribble C, Aramini J, Vandermeer M, Popa M, Littman M, Reid-Smith R. The risk of salmonellae shedding by dogs fed *Salmonella*-contaminated commercial raw food diets. Can Vet J. *Accepted for publication.*

7. Finley RL. *Salmonella* in commercially available pig ear treats and raw food diets: prevalence survey and canine feeding trial. [MSc. Thesis]. Guelph, Ontario. University of Guelph, 2004.

8. Strohmeyer RA, Morley SP, Hyatt DR, Dargatz DA, Scorza AV, Lappin MR. Evaluation of Bacterial and Protozoal Contamination of Commercially Available Raw Meat Diets for Dogs. J Am Vet Med Assoc 2006; 228 (4) 537-542.

(Approved November 2006)

APPENDIX C-4
Position Statement - Euthanasia

POSITION

The Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA) believes that when animals are killed for food, humane necessity or any other reason, their death must be quick and cause the least possible pain and distress. The most appropriate method of euthanasia, however, may vary depending on animal species. Every practice should have a policy on euthanasia. For species other than companion animals, veterinarians should assist clients in developing a euthanasia plan for each species and class of animal under their care.

BACKGROUND

The animal must be rendered irreversibly unconscious as rapidly as possible with the least possible pain, fear and anxiety. The preferred methods used to achieve this are those that affect the brain first, followed quickly by cessation of cardiac and respiratory function. The experience, training, sensitivity and compassion of the individual carrying out the procedure are critical (1–5).

Handling and movement of animals should be minimized. Animal restraint should be in accordance with animal welfare and operator safety requirements, and sufficient to facilitate effective killing. When restraint is required, killing should follow with minimal delay (1,5).

The intravenous injection of a concentrated barbiturate with prior sedation is widely considered the most humane method for euthanizing animals. It causes a comparatively aesthetic death, is rapid-acting, reliable and effective. Care must be taken, however, to ensure that animals killed with barbiturates are disposed of in a responsible manner since such animals can be a significant source of environmental toxicity. Improper disposal may result in the illness and death of scavenging animals (1, 5).

Euthanasia of large numbers of unwanted companion animals may occur at animal shelters, pounds and animal hospitals. The CVMA believes that euthanasia is not desirable as a sole means of population control, but recognizes that euthanasia is still necessary for unwanted companion animals that cannot be placed in new homes (6). The CVMA encourages veterinarians, animal shelters and municipal governments to work together to ensure that optimal methods of euthanasia are used in all animal shelters, pounds and animal hospitals.

A variety of acceptable and humane methods of euthanasia exist for livestock and other animal species. When feasible, sedation of fractious animals is encouraged to minimize fear and risk of injury.

Large numbers of livestock and poultry have been euthanized in response to infectious disease outbreaks and natural disasters. Animal welfare considerations should be addressed within emergency response contingency plans.

The CVMA recommends that federal and provincial governments develop and periodically update protocols for humane killing of animals for both emergency response situations and human consumption. The use of pithing rods guarantees that the stunning of livestock is irreversible and that the contamination of carcasses and immediate surroundings is minimized. Use of pithing rods should be considered when large numbers of animals are to be killed as an emergency response requirement, provided that the intact brain will not be needed for diagnostic testing (7).

The CVMA continues to actively review the literature on this most important subject and supports the recommendations made in the following documents:

1. AVMA Panel on Euthanasia – American Veterinary Medical Association. 2000 report of the AVMA panel on euthanasia. J Am Vet Med Assoc 2001;218:669–696.

2. The Canadian Council on Animal Care (CCAC) Guide to the Care and Use of Experimental Animals, Vol #1, 2nd ed. 1993.

3. Canadian Veterinary Medical Association, Position Statement on Pest Control, March 2003. Available from http://canadianveterinarians.net/ShowText.aspx?ResourceID=27 Last accessed 24 March, 2006.

4. Canadian Veterinary Medical Association, Position Statement on Trapping of Fur-Bearing Animals, July 2005. Available from http://canadianveterinarians.net/ShowText.aspx?ResourceID=24 Last accessed 24 March, 2006.

5. World Organization for Animal Health, Terrestrial Animal Health Code, 12th ed. Section 3.7, 2005. Available from http://www.oie.int/eng/normes/mcode/en_titre_3.7.htm Updated July 26, 2005. Last accessed 24 March, 2006.

6. Reeve CL, Spitzmüller C, Rogelberg SG, Walker A, Schultz L, Clark O. Employee reactions and adjustment to euthanasia-related work: Identifying turning-point events through retrospective narratives. J Appl Anim Welf Sci 2004;7:1–25.

7. Federal Institute for Health Consumer Protection and Veterinary Medicine. The suitability of disposable spinal-cord pithing guns as a tool in the humane killing of cattle. Bundesinstitut für gesun dheitlichen Verbraucherschutz und Veterinämedzin=BgVV, April 9, 2001.

(Revised, December 2006)

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APPENDIX D
Organizations that Provided Input on the Care and Humane Treatment of Dogs (First Edition)

Canadian Veterinary Medical Association
339 Booth Street
Ottawa, Ontario K1R 7K1
Tel: (613) 236-1162
E-mail: admin@cvma-acmv.org
Web site: www.canadianveterinarians.net

Canadian Federation of Humane Societies
102-30 Concourse Gate
Ottawa, Ontario K2E 7V7
Tel: (613) 224-8072
Tel: 1-888-678-2347 (CFHS)
E-mail: info@cfhs.ca
Web site: www.cfhs.ca

Canadian Kennel Club
100-89 Skyway Avenue
Etobicoke, Ontario M9W 6R4
Tel: (416) 675-5511
E-mail: information@ckc.ca
Web site: www.ckc.ca

Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council of Canada
2442 St. Joseph Blvd., Suite 102
Ottawa, Ontario K1C 1G1
Tel: (613) 834-2111
E-mail: executiveoffice@pijaccanada.com
Web site: www.pijaccanada.com

Human Animal Bond Association of Canada
c/o OISE/UT
252 Bloor St. W., 7th Floor
Toronto, Ontario M5S 1V6
Tel: (416) 923-6641 x 2550
E-mail: habac@habac.ca

Canadian Council on Animal Care
1000-151 Slater Street
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 5H3
Tel: (613) 238-4031
E-mail: ccac@ccac.ca
Web site: www.ccac.ca

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
Public Information Request Services
Sir John Carling Bldg.
930 Carling Avenue
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0C7
Tel: (613) 759-1000
E-mail: info@agr.gc.ca
Web site: http://www.agr.gc.ca

Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food
Public Affairs Bldg.
77 Grenville, 11th Floor
Toronto, Ontario M5S 1B3

Canadian Association for Laboratory Animal Medicine
Room 140, HMRC - Heritage Wing
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