



CANADIAN VETERINARY
MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

L'ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE
DES MÉDECINS VÉTÉRINAIRES

CFIA Letter to the Canadian Veterinary Community on Canada's Post-Import Quarantine Requirement for Commercial Dogs Less than Eight Months of Age

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) is committed to protecting the health of animals through import controls. Under the Health of Animals Act and its Regulations, the CFIA administers and enforces import requirements for all animals and animal products entering Canada, including domestic pets.

Effective May 15, 2021, the CFIA is implementing new import requirements for commercial dogs under eight (8) months of age for the breeding, show/exhibition (permanent stay) and resale/adoption end uses from all countries. The changes are designed to improve compliance with the CFIA's humane transport and animal health requirements, making sure that animals imported into Canada, including dogs, are healthy and travel humanely.

The CFIA's revised import requirements will be available in the [Automated Import Reference System \(AIRS\)](#) by this time. More information can be found on the CFIA's website at the following links:

- [Notice to industry: Updates to the import requirements for commercial dogs less than 8 months of age for breeding and resale \(which includes adoption\) end uses](#)
- [Fact sheet: Then and now – Summary of changes to the import requirements for commercial dogs less than 8 months of age for breeding and resale \(which includes adoption\) end uses](#)
- [Bringing animals to Canada: Importing and travelling with pets](#)

As part of these new measures, importers with shipments arriving by air will be required to obtain a post-import quarantine facility in the event imported dogs require further inspection, veterinary care and/or quarantine upon arrival. The post-import quarantine facility must be inspected and approved by the CFIA as meeting specific criteria prior to the issuance of an import permit. The [Criteria for Quarantine Facilities for Commercial Dogs Less than Eight \(8\) Months of Age \(Breeding,](#)

Show/Exhibition (Permanent Stay), and Resale/Adoption End Uses) Entering Canada by Air are available on the CFIA website for your reference.

This information is being shared with you for your advance awareness and understanding as importers will be required to demonstrate, in writing, that a licensed veterinarian is aware of the import and has agreed to provide services, at the expense of the importer/owner, should the dog(s) require immediate veterinary care/treatment upon entry into Canada or during any required quarantine. The veterinary clinic must be located within one hundred kilometers (100 km) of the airport where the animals will first enter Canada and any required veterinary care must be provided at either the veterinary clinic or the approved quarantine facility.

Considering this, it is possible that individuals who are importing dog(s) may approach you, as a licensed veterinarian, to further discuss your ability to help them meet this requirement. They may inquire about the possibility of using your clinic as a quarantine facility. Alternatively, individuals may inquire about the possibility of securing your services for any veterinarian care should the dog(s) require further examination or treatment on arrival or during any required quarantine. Some possible scenarios include:

- A breeder in Manitoba who is importing a single dog from Europe to add to their breeding program may contact your veterinary clinic in Toronto to secure your services if they are needed when the dog arrives in Canada as the flight from Europe will first be landing in Toronto.
- An importer who imports dogs for the purposes of subsequently adopting them out in Canada may inquire about obtaining your services in the event the animal(s) require immediate veterinary care on arrival in Canada or they are placed under quarantine on arrival and need veterinary care throughout the quarantine period.

The ability to provide veterinary care may be impacted by factors such as:

- the time of entry into Canada (i.e., subject to the time of arrival of the imported dog(s), an emergency clinic or clinic which provides emergency after hour services may be necessary)
- the number of dog(s) being imported at any one time (i.e., a veterinary clinic may only be able to house, accommodate and render veterinary care to a limited number of animal(s) at any one point in time)
- the type of practice and its available resources (i.e. mobile clinic may provide services at the pre-approved quarantine facility).

The CFIA has developed a template letter which can be used as a model for licensed veterinarians who agree to provide veterinary services to importers and it is attached

in Annex 1 for your reference. The CFIA acknowledges there is no obligation for you to provide veterinary services to importers who contact you to request it; the decision is solely at the discretion of the licensed veterinarian.

The CFIA will monitor the effectiveness of these new measures to determine whether compliance with its import and humane transportation requirements has improved. The CFIA is committed to taking appropriate enforcement actions with non-compliant importers; such as ordering the animals removed from Canada, applying monetary fines, and/or legal proceedings.

The CFIA values the commitment of Canada's licensed veterinarians and the role you play in assisting individuals to make informed decisions when purchasing/adopting a dog. The following webpage, [If you're thinking of buying or adopting a dog](#) has information for anyone looking to adopt or purchase a dog. The CFIA acknowledges and extends a thank you for your support with this matter and looks forward to your ongoing commitment to ensure the health of animals imported into Canada. Please do not hesitate to contact me for any questions and/or additional information.



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Please see the complete letter [here](#) along with a [Model Letter for Veterinary Clinics Regarding Services](#).



You are receiving this message as a member of the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA). The CVMA is the national and international voice for Canada's veterinarians, providing leadership and advocacy for veterinary medicine.