

September 5th, 2013,

To whom it may concern at the Canadian Kennel Club (CKC),

I have been asked to correspond with the CKC on behalf of the **“Retain our Rights to Crop, Dock and remove dew claws” organization, or “RRCD.”** Our rapidly growing membership now represents over seventy (70) CKC accredited breed clubs that are strongly opposed to any form of ban on ear cropping, tail docking, or dew claw removal. In the opinion of our membership, the bans that have occurred in several Canadian Provinces represent wrongful decisions that have been made on poor information or misinformation; are based on opinion that replaces the professional judgment of veterinarians working with their breeding customers in the best interests of their animals and the preservation of a wide variety of pure breeds; or on restrictions based on the beliefs of special interest or ‘animal activist’ groups whose stated goal is to eliminate all breeding and ownership of pure bred animals.

The purpose of this correspondence and follow up communications is to ensure that the RRCD and CKC organizations, and their membership, have a complete understanding of each organizations goals and undertakings to date in respect to the preservation of the pure breeds impacted, as well as the overall canine fancy in Canada.

The RRCD is gravely concerned over the direction of the ‘bans’ implemented to date, as well as proposed bans in other Provinces. The organization and its members, who represent a wide variety of CKC recognized breeds, are also very concerned about the future of the canine fancy in Canada, as well as the future of the CKC as a result of these bans.

These concerns are not based on opinion, but fact. As examples, research from the United Kingdom and other Countries has clearly established what the future may hold in regards to the decimation of the Purebred fancy in Canada, as well as the future health and existence of the CKC organization, including:

- Changing the breed standards to add choice, removes choice altogether.
“Yet that so-called --- freedom of choice—the right to dock or not—claimed by breeders showed that docking was merely done for purely cosmetic reasons, a view put forward by the anti-docking alliance. Page 9, Essay by David Delafenêtre titled "The Divided Kingdom"
http://www.academia.edu/379994/And_Say_The_Bakemono_Responded_Animism_Derrida_and_the_Question_of_the_Animal_in_Hayao_Miyazakis_Princess_Mononoke
- By eliminating the showing of docked breeds the decline in show registrations were devastating, across the board. Now Clubs are forced to find other ways to make revenues and allow docked dogs to compete. Windsor was shown to lose in entries, hypothetically, £3,156, Leeds, £3,444, and East of England £3,328
Please keep in mind that CKC does not have to ban the showing of docked breeds, if the ban continues through Canada it will have the same effect.
<http://www.dogworld.co.uk/product.php/88058>
- Massive declines in registrations in breeds impacted by dock/crop in Countries adopting bans. A staggering 83% of the losses were from previously docked or cropped breeds.
<https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=566354016759107&set=a.500291213365388.1073741828.500279413366568&type=1&theater>
- Some breeds nearing endangered status in Countries with bans. There are currently 30 vulnerable breeds as well as the four dog types on the At Watch list, the Kennel Club said. It has been said that

lifestyle and economics play apart in these dogs demise, more to do with Animal Rights and Veterinary empowerment than anything.

http://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/2012/10/28/old-english-sheepdog-dulux-dog-endangered-list_n_2033506.html

- In addition to these examples, of which there are many, in our own Province of Newfoundland (NFLD) show entries and litters have both demonstrated a very clear and marked decline since bans were implemented, which is clear evidence of what lies ahead for our impacted breeds and the entire canine fancy across Canada in the future.

Now that a foundation of mutual concern that should be shared by both the RRCD membership, and the CKC and its entire membership has been established, which is based on fact, let us discuss how it would potentially benefit the CKC to work cooperatively with the RRCD to address this issue in both the short and long term:

- If the CKC has not grasped the same yet, there is obviously 'anger and resentment' across many of the impacted breed clubs in response to the CKC's current push for modifications of existing historical breed standards to not only include tails and ears as 'acceptable' in traditionally docked/cropped breeds, but in many ways promoting the same. There is significant Breed Club and general CKC membership anger and distrust of the CKC over perceived 'strong arm' tactics regarding standards. There exists discussion amongst many of the largest and most influential Breed Clubs in regard to formally withdrawing from the CKC, and adopting an independent Club and championship award program, based on breed standards supported by the Clubs. How can our organizations work together to preserve existing relationships?
- The RRCD and our represented Breed Clubs need to gain a much clearer understanding of what the CKC mandate is in regard to bans on docking/cropping/dew claw removal, as well as modifying breed standards. If the CKC is not there to stand by and protect its breeds; Breed Clubs; and membership in a manner acceptable to the same, then that issue and the reasons for it should be clearly understood. Conversely, if the CKC does intend to stand by its historical breeds; Breed Clubs; and membership, and to protect the viability of the canine fancy in Canada, then that also needs to be clearly understood and communicated, as well as 'how' the CKC intends to go about the same. How can we work together to ensure the canine fancy across Canada understands the true intentions of the CKC if they are in fact aligned with our best interests?
- The RRCD and its represented Breed Clubs would like to understand how the CKC intends to ensure its financial viability into the future in the face of the existing and potential bans; given the clear facts of the immense negative impact to the fancy should additional bans be supported. The CKC must keep in mind that the very same people who assisted in a 'financial bailout' package for the CKC in its time of need several years ago, via donations, are the very same people who feel that the CKC has now turned its back on them, and their breeds/Breed Clubs. Should any more bans be enacted, or the CKC be viewed as not aggressively fighting the same, then the CKC should not be planning on any additional financial support in emergency situations from members impacted by these bans. How can we work together as organizations to reverse these negative feelings?
- How can we ensure that the future relationship between impacted Breed Clubs; breeders; and owners, and the CKC is based on trust and mutual respect?

- How can we as organizations work together to ensure a recovery of the existing canine fancy in the future, based on declines over the past decade, as well as more recent declines directly related to dock/crop/dew claw removal bans?
- How can we work together to ensure the preservation and long term viability of the impacted breeds in Canada?
- How can we work together to ensure the preservation of the physical health of the dogs impacted by bans, as it is clearly demonstrated that there are negative consequences to the health of our canines who have traditionally been docked/cropped? Moreover, given available research that demonstrates that the promotion of unnecessary spaying and neutering of canines is promoting major health issues, including massive increases in the rate of cancer, how can we work together to ensure the Veterinary community is in fact doing 'what is right' for our canines?

In response to these issues and concerns, the CKC should clearly understand what it is that the RRCD is requesting from the CKC:

- To gain the support of CKC. If not monetary, then public support through their newsletters, etc, showing that CKC is in fact supportive of these breeders and their fight to retain and preserve their breeds.
- To open a direct line of communication between RRCD and CKC in regard to these issues;
- A clear understanding of what the CKC is hoping to accomplish with changes to breed standards, and 'why' the CKC feels compelled to do so;
- A clear understanding of 'what' the CKC is actually doing to fight back against bans to docking/cropping/dew claw removal;
- A clear understanding of whether the CKC is willing to support the efforts of the RRCD to launch a Province by Province class action lawsuit against Provincial Veterinary Medical Associations who have passed these bans, and negatively impacted our breeds and the fancy. If so, in what ways will the CKC support this effort?

We hope this initial correspondence between our organizations has laid out a clear discussion of the issues we face as Breed Clubs; breeders; and owners of the more than one hundred (100+) CKC breeds impacted by these bans, as well as the consequences.

We look forward to additional correspondence with your organization in this regard.

Sincerely,

RRCD membership