



Canadian Veterinary  
Medical Association  
Association canadienne  
des médecins vétérinaires

July 30, 2024

The Honourable Mark Holland, P.C., M.P.  
Minister of Health, Health Canada  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0K9

via email: [hcminister.ministresc@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:hcminister.ministresc@hc-sc.gc.ca) and [mark.holland@parl.gc.ca](mailto:mark.holland@parl.gc.ca)

Dear Minister Holland:

On behalf of the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA), I would like to express our sincere thanks and appreciation for your efforts to amend the Centers for Disease Control's (CDC) proposed regulations on cross-border travel for Canadian dogs. Your advocacy on behalf of Canadians, their pets, and their well-being is crucial for our profession's ability to deliver essential services.

As you are aware, the Canadian veterinarian sector is struggling with a severe labour shortage. The CDC's proposed regulations would exacerbate this issue by imposing additional stresses on our already overburdened and understaffed members. Specifically, the requirement for a veterinary appointment for dogs travelling across the border would place an unfair burden on veterinarians and the Canadians they serve.

We all share a common goal of ensuring the safety and well-being of pets while facilitating manageable travel protocols. To this end, the CVMA supports the proposed measures of a 6-month Canadian residence requirement, a microchip number, and the CDC electronic form. We believe that it would be relatively straightforward for veterinarians to document proof of a functional rabies vaccination linked to a microchip. In addition, a process for derogations for Canadian born dogs less than six months of age needs to be negotiated.

In addressing these concerns moving forward, we strongly recommend involving a CVMA representative in the future negotiations with the CDC on this matter. As practicing veterinarians, we can provide valuable insights that balance the CDC's objectives with the practical realities of our industry, ensuring that any regulations do not unduly burden Canadians. Our expertise allows us to navigate these issues while minimizing costs to our clients.

We also suggest that a representative from the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) is consulted by the CDC during future negotiations to further minimize the overreach of policy.



Once again, we would like to sincerely thank you and your office for working on behalf of Canadians and their best interest. We look forward to hearing from you, and our continued work together in the future.

Sincerely,



Dr. Tim Arthur, DVM  
President, CVMA

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