Canine Importation: Perspectives of Canadian Veterinarians

Importing dogs into Canada is a growing practice that can pose risks to animal health and welfare as well as human health. To gain insight into this practice, we engaged with veterinarians who are the frontline professionals dealing with imported dogs. An anonymous, online survey was distributed to veterinarians across the country from April to June in 2021. Data from 560 veterinarians was collected.

58% of veterinarians surveyed reported seeing imported dogs once a week or on a monthly basis.

78% of survey respondents consistently saw imported dogs that had received a rabies vaccine prior to importation. Survey respondents rarely reported seeing dogs that had undergone a period of isolation after importation.

Survey respondents indicated that these resources would be beneficial for their practice:

- Guidelines for screening and diagnosing foreign infectious diseases
- Data on country or region specific disease risks
- Educational materials for clients on canine importation

Thank you to all the veterinarians who took the time to complete this survey. If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Catherine Belanger at cbelanger@uoguelph.ca.