

PIJAC Canada Statement **SUBSTANDARD DOG BREEDING FACILITIES**

We have all seen disturbing images of dogs being kept in inhumane conditions. For the record, the Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council of Canada (PIJAC Canada) does not support such activities and has frequently expressed its position against such type of substandard operations often referred to as “**puppy mills**”.

In light of recent media coverage, one can wonder exactly what type of establishment can be classified by such a name. Unfortunately, some groups tend to equate the term to any type of operation that derives an economic benefit from their association with dogs.

It starts with industry...

While certain groups are quick to point the finger at the Canadian pet industry and pet retailers, this argument, although convenient, does provide consumers with an inadequate picture, leaving them with the impression that nothing is being done to better the situation and that nothing is improving.

Actions taken by PIJAC Canada

Over the years, PIJAC Canada has made numerous efforts to help industry players and pet owners have access to better quality pets. PIJAC Canada:

- Develops and implements a comprehensive, continuous education program for individuals working within the industry whose jobs require training on animal care and husbandry. Our internet based Certified Companion Animal Specialist Program is unique and is offered in both official languages across Canada.
- Produces numerous information brochures aimed at pet industry employees and the general public in areas pertinent to the prevention of disease transmission, animal care and husbandry.

Our “**New Addition to the Family**” brochure provides consumers with an efficient, unbiased approach to selecting a source for purchasing a pet and outlines the proper questions to ask each source. This brochure was developed in conjunction with the Canadian Kennel Club, Canadian Federation of Humane Societies and the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association.

- Sat on the board of directors for ANIMA Quebec until December 2009. Anima Québec is a gathering of concerned stakeholders sharing in the objective of improving the safety and welfare of dogs and cats in the province of Quebec. This synergy of shelter, veterinary and animal service sectors of the pet industry has resulted in marked improvement of conditions for dogs and cats in the province. More information on ANIMA Quebec and the results that have been achieved can be found on their website at www.animaquebec.com. This model is presently being considered by other regulators, when deliberating on how to improve the efficiency of animal protection legislation in their province.

ANIMA Quebec chooses to involve all sectors of the pet industry in this very important cause. Humane societies, the veterinary community and other members of the animal service industry are working together toward a common goal. PIJAC Canada encourages Quebec pet owners to learn more about the ANIMA Quebec model. We are confident that pet owners will come to realize the incredible progress that has been made using this format; and further appreciate the impact this model can have on improving the safety and welfare of dogs and cats in Quebec. PIJAC Canada intends to continue its work educating the industry and public, as well as support ANIMA Quebec and its mission.

Unfortunately, bad business operators can be found in every sector that offers pets for sale and/or adoption. The solution lies in working together with legislators and law enforcement personnel to improve the conditions of the animals under our care. We reiterate our support for mandatory registration for all establishments that are involved in the breeding, selling and keeping of dogs and cats in Quebec.

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**Pet Industry Joint
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