

# **APPLICATION GUIDE**

**FOR THE REGULATION RESPECTING  
THE SAFETY AND WELFARE OF CATS  
AND DOGS**

We would like to thank everyone who contributed to the development of this document by sharing their comments.

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**Note:** This guide applies only to cats and dogs. The Regulation referred to in this document has provincial jurisdiction. In case of inconsistency between this document and the Act or its Regulation, the latter two prevail.

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The following table indicates the responsibilities of each level of government (municipal, provincial and federal) with regard to animal welfare.

LEVEL OF GOVERNMENT	RESPONSIBILITIES	EXAMPLES
<p><b>MUNICIPAL</b></p>	<p>Nuisance complaints, licences and permits (by-laws vary by municipality)</p>	<p>A dog whose barking is disturbing the public peace</p> <p>An animal, with or without a known owner, that wanders around the neighbourhood (a stray)</p> <p>Maximum number of animals that can be kept in a single dwelling or house</p> <p>Animal ownership permits (tags)</p>
<p><b>PROVINCIAL</b></p> <p><i>Animal Health Protection Act (R.S.Q., c. P-42)</i></p> <p>and</p> <p><i>Regulation respecting the safety and welfare of cats and dogs</i></p>	<p>Safety and welfare</p>	<p>An animal whose food is soiled by urine or feces</p> <p>An animal that has a fracture and has not been examined or treated by a veterinary surgeon</p> <p>An animal whose matted (firmly tangled) fur is causing it discomfort or injury</p> <p>An animal who is kept in full sun with no source of shade</p> <p>Killing or attempting to kill an animal without regard for the anxiety or pain inflicted</p>
<p><b>FEDERAL</b></p> <p><i>Criminal Code</i></p>	<p>Animal cruelty</p> <p>(The intention to commit wrongdoing must be proven)</p>	<p>A person who organizes a fight between two dogs</p> <p>An animal that is beaten by its owner or custodian to the point of injury</p>
<p><i>Health of Animals Regulations (Part XII)</i></p>	<p>Transportation</p>	<p>Requirement that carriers must feed and water all animals in their care at least every 12 hours</p>

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## APPLICATION GUIDE

### INTRODUCTION

Division IV.1.1 of the *Animal Health Protection Act* (R.S.Q., c. P-42), which relates to the safety and welfare of animals, came into force in December 2004. It was decided that the Act would first apply to cats and dogs beginning in January 2005.

That division of the Act contains provisions for the safety and welfare of animals, mainly in section 55.9.2. The *Regulation respecting the safety and welfare of cats and dogs*, which was enacted on December 14, 2011, and came into force on June 14, 2012, expands upon most provisions of the Act that apply to cats and dogs.

The purpose of this guide is to facilitate the application of the Regulation. It acts as a reference for the targeted clientele as well as for inspectors who are responsible for applying Division IV.1.1 of the Act and the Regulation. It is not exhaustive nor does it add any constraints, conditions or parameters that are not already contained in the Regulation. In the event of inconsistency between this document and the Act or Regulation, the latter two prevail.

### CHAPTER I - ANIMALS COVERED

**Section 1: This Regulation establishes standards for the keeping of cats (*Felis catus*) and their hybrids, and the keeping of dogs (*Canis familiaris*) and their hybrids, in order to provide for their safety and welfare.**

A hybrid is the result of a natural or forced crossbreeding of two different species. For cats, some notable examples include the Bengal (a cross between a domestic cat and an Asian leopard cat) and the Savannah (a cross between a domestic cat and a Serval cat). For dogs, the wolf-dog hybrid is a good example, as well as the jackal-dog hybrid, known as a "Sulimov dog."

## CHAPTER II

### PROVISIONS APPLICABLE TO CERTAIN OWNERS OR CUSTODIANS OF ANIMALS

#### OWNERS AND CUSTODIANS

**Section 2: The owner or custodian of at least 5 animals 6 months old or older of the same species kept in one location must comply with the requirements of this Chapter.**

**The same applies to the owner or custodian keeping one or more animals, regardless of the animal's age,**

- (1) on the premises of a commercial activity such as a breeding operation, a pet shop, a grooming salon, an animal boarding establishment, or a training school;**
- (2) on premises held by an establishment; or**
- (3) in the kennel or cattery of a laboratory or an academic institution.**

**An establishment is any person who collects cats or dogs to transfer them to new premises or euthanize them or have them euthanized, including pounds, animal houses and organizations dedicated to protecting animals.**

#### **Examples of owners or custodians to whom Chapter II of the Regulation applies:**

- A person who has five or more dogs or cats six months old or older, even if the animals are not for sale.
- The owner of a fertile female cat or dog used for breeding, who sells kittens or puppies (commercial activity).
- The custodian of an animal of any age used for remunerated zootherapy (commercial activity).
- The owner of five sled dogs six months old or older used for recreation, who does not sell puppies.
- The owner of a pet shop (commercial activity) who has a cat or dog of any age in the store.
- The owner of a fertile male used for insemination, who is paid for the service (commercial activity).

Breeding operations, grooming salons, training schools and animal boarding establishments among others are subject to section 2 even if they are located in a private dwelling.

## **FOOD AND WATER**

**Section 3: Food and drinking water to which an animal has access must be clean, fresh and free of contaminants such as feces, urine and litter.**

**Section 4: Snow and ice are not a source of drinking water that meets the animal's biological needs.**

**An animal's biological needs are its needs relating, in particular, to its species, age, growth stage, size, level of physical activity and state of health, to the fact that it is gestating or lactating, and to its adaptation level to heat or cold.**

To avoid contaminating food, it is recommended that perishable food be kept refrigerated until it is served to animals. When only part of a container of wet cat food is used, for example, the rest must be put in the fridge. It is also important to follow the food manufacturer's instructions, especially with regard to the expiry date. Food that is not eaten by one animal should not be offered to another animal.

### **Examples of ways to keep food fresh:**

- Remove any food that remains in a bowl after each meal.
- Replace the food when it is soiled by litter, urine or feces.

To maintain fluid levels and avoid dehydration, an animal must compensate for the amount of water it loses by consuming fresh water. Normal water loss occurs through respiration, perspiration—especially through the paw pads—urination and defecation. Water loss also increases when ambient temperatures are higher.

Animals need water even if they eat snow and ice. In fact, an animal would have to eat a large amount of snow and ice to meet its hydration needs. In addition, when swallowed, snow and ice can lower an animal's body temperature and in turn increase the amount of energy the animal must burn to maintain its body temperature. An animal could end up losing weight because it needs to use its fat reserves to compensate for its energy requirements.

### **Examples of ways to keep water fresh:**

- Replace the water in each bowl at least once per day to avoid contamination by bacteria and algae.
- Replace the water when it is soiled by litter, urine or feces.

**Examples of ways to water dogs kept mostly outdoors:** Water may not always be available when it is freezing cold outside. To ensure that animals ingest a sufficient amount of water, some owners and custodians:

- Add warm water or broth to food at every meal.
- Serve water several times per day.
- Use a heated bowl when outside temperatures drop below 0 °C.



## **SHELTER**

### **1) BUILDING**

**Section 5: A building in which an animal is kept must be built and maintained so as to not present a risk for the animal's safety. The building must**

- (1) be weatherproof;**
- (2) protect the animal from the adverse effects of the sun, and from drafts; and**
- (3) prevent escape by the animal and the intrusion of any other animal.**

**For the purposes of this Regulation, a building is any structure or part of a structure in which an animal is kept, including a barn, shed, hangar or garage. A vehicle used for holding animals is considered to be a building.**

A building in which an animal is kept must therefore prevent water from infiltrating and protect the animal from the adverse effects of the sun and from drafts (cold or heat). The roof may be made of a variety of materials (wood, asphalt or wood shingles, concrete, etc.) so long as it satisfies the above conditions. The outside walls of the building may be built in whole or in part of brick, metal, concrete or wood, among other things. The roof and walls must be designed to thermally insulate the building and keep the inside of the building within the minimum and maximum acceptable temperatures mentioned in section 8.

**Examples of unacceptable buildings:** A school bus or the box of a truck transformed into a kennel is not considered an acceptable building unless it complies with all of the sections under the "Buildings" heading (sections 5 to 10 inclusive).

**Example of a way to protect an animal from the adverse effects of the sun:** Where there is a window, install a sun shade to protect the animal when the sun beats directly on it.

**Example of a way to prevent the intrusion of any other animals:** Properly fill all external joints of the building.

**Example of a way to prevent the animal from escaping:** Build a porch at the entrance to the building that has two doors, one to access the outside and one to enter the building. The first door must be closed properly before opening the second.

**Section 6: Floors in the building, and the lower portions of walls with which an animal may come into contact, must**

- (1) be made of non-porous, non-toxic, smooth, durable materials that can be washed and disinfected easily, and are mould and corrosion resistant;**
- (2) be in good condition and free of holes other than those for urine drainage, with no parts jutting out and no sharp edges or other potential causes of injury.**

Section 6 does not apply to a dwelling house.

**Example of a way to make surfaces smooth and easy to wash and disinfect:** Curve the edges of a concrete floor up about 20 cm to meet the walls.

**Example of a porous material that is used for floors:** Concrete that is not protected with a sealant.

**Example of a non-porous material:** Concrete that is protected with a sealant.

**Examples of ways to make a surface non-toxic, smooth and easy to wash and disinfect:**

- Apply lead-free paint to seal porous surfaces (walls and floor) and prevent waste or organic materials from accumulating.
- Build the walls of PVC.

**Examples of toxic materials used for walls:** Exposed lime or mineral wool.

**Example of a corrosion-resistant material used for walls:** Quality stainless steel.

**Example of walls in poor condition:** Walls covered in stainless steel that is pitted with corrosion from animal urine.

**Section 7: Liquids such as urine and clean-up water must drain quickly and entirely from the building's floor.**

Section 7 does not apply to a dwelling house.

This measure ensures that the floor of the building remains dry for the majority of the day. In fact, all liquid must be able to be drained to avoid the accumulation of water, which promotes mould and bacteria development.

**Examples:**

- Install a drainage channel in the floor in front of enclosures to collect and drain off clean-up water and animal urine.
- Slope the floor in enclosures by up to 4% to help direct urine and clean-up water toward the drain.
- Use a mop to collect most water and then a squeegee to direct the rest toward the drain.

**Section 8: The building's indoor temperature and humidity levels must be compatible with the animal's biological needs.**

Biological needs vary by breed, among other things. For example, a pug, which is brachycephalic (has a shortened nose), will have a harder time breathing when it's really hot than a German shepherd, which has a long nose. Older dogs, puppies, kittens and sick animals are more sensitive to temperature and humidity changes and therefore require special attention.

It is recommended that a thermometer and a hygrometer be installed in the building where the animals are kept to measure the temperature and humidity levels.

**TABLE I**

**Acceptable Temperature and Humidity Levels for Cats and Dogs Kept Indoors**

	MINIMUM ACCEPTABLE TEMPERATURE	MAXIMUM ACCEPTABLE TEMPERATURE	IDEAL HUMIDITY LEVELS (MIN. AND MAX.)	ACCEPTABLE HUMIDITY LEVELS (MIN. AND MAX.)
<b>CATS</b>	15 °C (59 °F)	27 °C (79 °F)	45–55%	30–70%
<b>DOGS</b>	15 °C (59 °F) 10 °C (50 °F) for northern breeds	27 °C (79 °F)	45–55%	30–70%

**Examples of ways to regulate temperature and humidity:**

- Install a back-up ventilation device such as a wall or ceiling fan, a vent, a blower or an air conditioner to compensate for high temperatures and humidity levels.
- Open windows (may be enough in certain cases).
- Install an adequate heating system for when it is cold outside.
- Use a dehumidifier when the humidity is high.

**Section 9: The building must be ventilated and the air renewed to prevent the concentration of contaminants such as ammonia and dust.**

A high concentration of dust or ammonia in the air is hazardous to the respiratory tract of animals. The inflammation and irritation that develop make it easier for secondary bacteria that are responsible for more severe infections to settle in and multiply. Symptoms of respiratory illnesses include coughing, nasal or ocular secretions and a loss of appetite. A source of fresh air that is free of harmful vapours helps to prevent this type of illness. Air circulation must never be hindered by obstacles or inappropriate layout such as an enclosure that has walls that extend right to the ceiling.

**Example of a way to prevent the concentration of contaminants:** Install a mechanical ventilation system that is geared to the needs of the animals being kept.

**Ventilation is adequate when:**

- A source of fresh air from outside is available.
- Fresh air circulates through the entire building, including in corners and in lower portions of enclosures or cages
- Air sourced from outside is heated in the winter.
- Air contains very little dust.
- The ambient humidity is less than 70% (there is no condensation on the walls or ceiling).
- The temperature is relatively stable.
- Air is renewed 8–12 times per hour for dogs and 10–18 times per hour for cats.

- Ventilation units are equipped with intake filters.
- Filters are replaced regularly.

**Section 10: The intensity and duration of the lighting in a building in which an animal is kept must be compatible with the animal's biological needs.**

**They must also be sufficient for an inspection of the premises and their equipment and of the animal kept there.**

Periods of darkness are as important as periods of light to maintain a natural sleep/wake cycle. A regular daytime lighting cycle (natural or artificial) must be followed in the part of the building where animals are kept. A normal cycle usually consists of a minimum of 8 hours of continuous light per 24-hour period. A minimum of 8 hours of continuous darkness is also recommended for sleeping.

Enclosures and cages must be arranged in such a way that no animal is exposed to or deprived of too much light. The duration and intensity of artificial lighting must resemble that of natural light as much as possible. An emergency lighting system may be useful in the event of a power outage.

**Example:** Ensure that the lighting system is designed in such a way that light reaches all cages, including those located at ground or ceiling level.

**Example:** Design the building to include windows and allow as much natural light in as possible.

**Section 11: Sections 6 and 7 do not apply to a dwelling house.**

## 2) REST AREA

**Section 12: An animal must have access at all times to a rest area that is dry, clean, full, comfortable and sufficiently large to allow the animal to lie on its side with its legs fully extended.**

**The area must provide shelter from elements that may stress the animal or harm its health, including bad weather, sun, drafts, loud noise and harmful gases.**

Rest areas must be provided in cages and enclosures as well as for animals kept mostly outdoors (see section 24). Rest areas must be sufficiently large for all animals kept together to fully stretch out as indicated, at the same time and on the full area. This section applies, for example, to exercise yards or when two or more animals are in the same cage or enclosure.

An inadequately designed rest area can cause pressure sores (bed sores) or skin lesions.

**Example of a way to make the area comfortable:** Install a mat covered with a washable plastic material or a commercial animal bed.

Cats and dogs have a more developed sense of hearing than humans do. All noises that bother us are even more unpleasant to them.

**Example of excessive noise:** A noisy ventilation system.

It is important to ensure that the sun does not beat down directly on an animal's rest area.

**Examples of sun protection:**

- For outdoor rest areas, install a wooden roof or stretch a tarp between two trees.
- For an indoor rest area, install sun screens over windows.

**Example of a rest area for animals kept mostly outdoors:** Near the shelter, keep an area clear that satisfies the criteria in section 12 (with a fine gravel surface for example) so that the animal does not have to step through mud when leaving its shelter.

### 3) CAGES AND ENCLOSURES

**Section 13: Cages, except cages used for the transportation of animals, and enclosures must be sufficiently large for the animal to stand up and sit normally, turn around easily, stretch out full length and lie on its side with its legs fully extended.**

**A cage is a container for confining an animal, usually having a floor, a ceiling and 4 walls at least 1 of which is a mesh or trellis or has openings over most of its surface. A cage may be portable or fixed.**

**An enclosure is an enclosed area for confining an animal, but not large enough for a dog to run. An enclosure may be indoor or outdoor.**

Cages used for transportation are small so as to prevent the animal from injuring itself during transportation. They should not be used as a permanent method of confinement if they do not permit the animal to stand up and sit normally, turn around easily, stretch out full length and lie on its side with its legs fully extended, as indicated in the Regulation.

The cage or enclosure must be at least as big as the rest area described in section 12 of the Regulation. In addition, if several animals are kept in the same cage or enclosure, each animal must have its own space in the rest area as described in section 12.

**Examples of normal standing positions:** The animal is able to keep its tail upright and move its head comfortably without touching the ceiling of the cage.

**Example of normal sitting positions:** The animal's head, including its ears, do not touch the ceiling.

**Section 14: Cages and enclosures must**

**(1) be made of non-porous, non-toxic, durable materials that can be washed and disinfected easily, and are mould and corrosion resistant;**

- (2)be in good condition, safe and free of parts jutting out and sharp edges or other potential causes of injury;**
- (3)be solid and stable;**
- (4)be built and installed to prevent the escape of the animal and any injury or stress inflicted by another animal not kept in the same cage or enclosure;**
- (5)have at least 1 side through which the custodian can easily observe the animal and the animal can see outside; and**
- (6)be built and installed so as not to obstruct air circulation.**

**Examples of non-porous materials:** Brick or metal. If concrete or plaster is used, it must be protected with a sealant.

**Examples of toxic materials:** Lime or mineral wool not protected by another material.

**Examples of ways to prevent injury or stress:** Preferably use more than just mesh to separate two adjacent cages. The lower portion of the cage or enclosure could be made of brick, concrete or any other material that prevents animals from intimidating or injuring one another.

**Example of a way to allow air to circulate:** On the lower portion of an enclosure, install a solid half-wall that is tall enough to prevent the animals from seeing or touching each other, then fill in the upper portion with mesh that extends to the ceiling.

**Example of a cage or enclosure in poor condition:** A cage or enclosure that has a wall with broken mesh and pointy links that could injure the animal.

**Example of a way to prevent escape:** Install safety hooks on enclosure latches.

**Section 15: Cages and enclosures must be installed so as not to become soiled by feces, urine or waste from another cage or enclosure.**

Each enclosure should ideally be equipped with its own drainage system designed to prevent the passage of urine and clean-up water from one enclosure to the next. Drain covers must be designed to prevent paws and tails from getting stuck in them.

**Example:** For cages arranged over top of other cages, ensure that urine, feces and waste cannot fall into the cages below.

**Example:** Do not leave space at the bottom of walls separating enclosures.

**Example:** Do not install a smaller cage over top of an enclosure, as urine, feces and waste from the cage may fall into the enclosure.

**Section 16: An animal may be kept in a cage or enclosure with a floor in good condition and that complies with the following requirements:**

- (1)the floor is flat and has a non-slip surface;**
- (2)the floor supports the animal without sagging; and**
- (3)the animal's paws cannot pass through or get stuck in the spaces between its constituent parts or in the holes.**

**If the floor is made of wire mesh or trellis, it must be coated with synthetic material to prevent injuries or discomfort for the animal, such as plastic.**

A flat surface is by definition free of asperities, bumps and bulges. A floor with a slippery surface may cause injury, muscle weakness and mobility problems. The floor is in good condition if, among other things, it is free of parts jutting out and sharp edges that could injure the animal.

A floor made of wire mesh that is not coated with synthetic material is not acceptable according to the Regulation. It must be modified (for example, by adding a rubber mat over top) or changed so that all criteria in section 16 are met.

**Examples of synthetic materials:** Plastic or rubber.

When the floor is made of wire mesh, the animal must have a rest area with a full (not latticed) surface that satisfies the criteria in section 12:

- The rest area must be dry, clean, full, comfortable and sufficiently large to allow the animal to lie on its side with its legs fully extended.
- The area must provide shelter from elements that may stress the animal or harm its health, including bad weather, sun, drafts, loud noise and harmful gases.

**Section 17: The slope of the floor of a cage or enclosure may not be greater than 4%.**

A slope of up to 4% allows fluids to drain off without jeopardizing the safety and welfare of the animal.

#### 4) YARD

**Section 18: A yard intended for animals to exercise must**

- (1) be built to prevent the animal from escaping and to prevent the infliction of an injury or stress by another animal not kept in the same yard;**
- (2) have a surface that drains easily;**
- (3) if outdoors, contain an area large enough to protect the animal from bad weather and the adverse effects of the sun; and**
- (4) have a fence with posts and wire mesh, if applicable, and all other components, that are in good condition and free of parts jutting out and sharp edges or other potential causes of injury.**

**A yard is an enclosed area in which a number of animals can run free together. A yard may be indoor or outdoor.**

**Examples of ways to protect against bad weather and the adverse effects of the sun:**

For an outdoor yard, build a roof to protect all animals that are present at the same time against rain, prevailing winds, snow and sun.

**Examples of surfaces that drain easily:** Grass, sand and gravel are good substrates.

**Examples of ways to prevent escape:**

- The fence may be buried at least 20 cm deep to prevent certain dogs from digging under it.
- Cement blocks may be placed along the length of the fence.
- Some dogs are able to climb fences and jump over them. These animals should be identified and monitored.
- The height of the fence should be determined based on the breed of animals kept.

**Examples of yard designs for cats:**

- A yard may be designed to include hideouts and toys to encourage cats to exercise.
- Because cats are climbers, the elevated area is just as important as the ground area. Install perches around the edges of the yard to encourage cats to exercise.

Only compatible animals can be allowed to be together in the yard (see section 34).

**Example of compatible animals in a yard:** Puppies should be allowed in the yard only with their mother or other puppies.

**Section 19: Section 18 does not apply to municipal parks intended for the exercise of animals.**

## 5) EQUIPMENT

**Section 20: An animal's food and water containers or dispensers must**

- (1) be appropriate to the animal's physical characteristics, particularly body size and muzzle shape and size;**
- (2) be easy to clean and disinfect;**
- (3) be made of a non-toxic material, in good condition, solid and easily accessible, and free of potential causes of injury; and**
- (4) be designed and installed to avoid spills and contamination.**

When several animals are kept together, each animal should have its own food bowl. A few puppies or kittens aged 12 weeks or younger or a mother and her babies may use the same container. Automatic water dispensers must be regularly checked and maintained to ensure they work properly.

**Examples of acceptable bowls:** Bowls made of stainless steel, plastic or glazed ceramic.

**Example of an unacceptable bowl:** A bowl that has chewed edges, as it is a potential cause of injury for the animal.

**Examples of ways to prevent spills:**

- Put the bowl in a stand designed for this purpose.



- Use spill-proof bowls.

**Example of a way to prevent contamination:** Position the bowl near the wall and slightly above the ground to prevent feces and waste (cat litter, wood chips, straw) from accumulating as much as possible.

**Section 21: Cats that are kept indoors must have access at all times to a litter box that**

- (1) is made of a non-toxic material that can be washed and disinfected easily;**
- (2) is in good condition, free of parts jutting out and sharp edges or other potential causes of injury; and**
- (3) contains a sufficient amount of regularly-replaced absorbent litter, to avoid odours and the accumulation of feces and urine.**

It is recommended that the litter box be at least one and a half times longer than the cat and be wide enough so the animal's entire body can fit inside. The box should hold a sufficient quantity of litter so that the cat can cover its feces and urine.

**Examples of absorbent litter:** Commercial litter, untreated wood chips, shredded paper or sand may be used as an absorbent substrate in a litter box.

## 6) ANIMALS KEPT MOSTLY OUTDOORS

**Section 22: An animal may be kept mostly outdoors if its morphology, coat, age, health and adaptation level to heat or cold are such that the animal is adequately protected from the weather conditions to which it is exposed.**

**Where an animal's adaptation level to heat or cold is unknown, the owner or custodian must plan for a gradual acclimatization period to being kept outdoors.**

**The following categories of animals should not be kept mostly outdoors:**

- Short-haired dogs (e.g. Dalmatians and Dobermans), when it is cold outside;
- Older or sick animals;
- Kittens and puppies.

Animals need to gradually get accustomed to being kept mostly outdoors (during an acclimatization period) so that their coat develops enough of an undercoat to provide adequate protection. In addition, newly adopted animals whose adaptation level is unknown should not be left outside without an acclimatization period.

**Example of an acclimatization period:** A dog that is kept outside beginning at the end of summer to stimulate undercoat formation will be better protected once winter arrives.

**Section 23: A dog kept mostly outdoors must have a doghouse or shelter serving as such that complies with the following requirements:**

- (1)it is made of durable, non-toxic, corrosion resistant materials;**
- (2)it has a waterproof roof and walls, a floor raised off the ground and an opening through which the dog can enter at all times;**
- (3)it is in good condition, free of parts jutting out and sharp edges or other potential causes of injury;**
- (4)it is solid and stable;**
- (5)its size allows the dog to turn around and maintain its body temperature in cold weather; and**
- (6)it is designed and built so that the dog is protected from bad weather.**

A doghouse must be sufficiently large to permit the dog to turn around but no larger. In fact, an overly large doghouse will not allow the dog to maintain its body temperature. The floor must also be raised to properly protect the dog from cold and prevent moisture build-up. A height of at least six inches above the ground is recommended.

To help the dog maintain its body temperature, it is recommended to install bedding made of straw or untreated wood chips on the floor of the doghouse and to replace the bedding regularly to avoid moisture build-up. If the doghouse has a sloped roof, the inside portion of the roof may be closed off from the inside of the house with a solid ceiling to prevent heat from rising. Mineral wool may also be added in the roof space.

**Example of a durable, non-toxic, corrosion resistant material:** Vinyl-coated wood.

**Examples of non-toxic materials:** Wood that is not coated in paint or varnish that contains lead or any other product that is toxic to dogs.

**Examples of ways to keep the entry accessible at all times:**

- Remove all snow from the doghouse and reposition the doghouse on top of accumulated snow.
- Remove snow from the entrance to the doghouse after each snowfall as necessary.

**Examples of ways to enable a dog to protect itself from bad weather:**

- Walls can be insulated with styrofoam and then covered on the inner side with presswood or plywood to prevent the dog from chewing the styrofoam.
- The entrance to the doghouse should face away from prevailing winds in winter.
- The opening in the doghouse should be just large enough to let the dog using it pass through.
- To prevent wind from penetrating into the doghouse, the house can be divided into two sections: an entrance and a main room.
- Certain owners and custodians relocate their doghouses depending on the season in order to better control the effects of sun and wind. It is very important to protect the animal from extreme outdoor conditions such as strong winds, bitter cold, rain and intense solar heat.

**Section 24: The inside of a doghouse or shelter serving as such is not considered to be a shaded area.**

Shaded areas must be located outside because doghouses can get too hot in the summer.

**Examples of ways to design a shaded area:** Locate the doghouse near a tree or install a roof near the doghouse.

## 7) RESTRAINTS

**Section 25: A restraint such as a chain or a rope that is used to attach an animal outdoors must**

- (1) not be liable to get stuck or shortened, in particular by wrapping itself around an object;**
- (2) not cause discomfort for the animal, in particular because of its weight;**
- (3) allow the animal to move about freely and safely; and**
- (4) allow the animal to reach its food and water.**

**Examples of acceptable restraints:**

- Each of the two clips on the restraint (the one on the collar end and the one on ground level) can be connected to an “anti-twist” system.
- The restraint anchor can be attached to a pivot that is positioned above ground.
- A restraint that is anchored in the air may be used so long as it is installed in such a way that the restraint does not come in contact with any objects on the property or get wrapped around anything. The height of the support cable anchoring the restraint must always permit the animal to move about freely and lie down.

**Section 26: The animal’s collar must not hamper the animal’s breathing, or cause it pain or injury.**

An animal wearing a choke chain or any other device that can be tightened around its neck should never be left unattended. Such devices should be used only as temporary restraint measures, such as when the animal is being walked on a leash.

It is important to regularly check the size of an animal’s collar when it is in its growth stage to ensure that the collar does not hamper the animal’s breathing or cause it pain.

**TABLE II**

**Unacceptable Collar Types**

<p><b>SHOCK COLLAR</b> (for anti-bark systems or training)</p>	<p>These collars <b>do not meet the Regulation’s requirements</b> since they may cause the animal pain or injury.</p>
<p><b>STUDED COLLAR</b></p>	<p>These collars <b>do not meet the Regulation’s requirements</b> since they may cause the animal pain or injury.</p>

**TABLE III**

**Acceptable Collar Types**

<b>COLLAR TYPE</b>	<b>RECOMMENDED USES</b>	<b>EXAMPLE</b>
<p><b>METAL OR NYLON CHOKE CHAIN</b></p>	<p>When walking or training the animal</p>	
<p><b>HEAD HALTER</b></p>	<p>When walking or training the animal (prevents the animal from pulling)</p>	
<p><b>NYLON OR LEATHER NON-CHOKE COLLAR</b></p>	<p>When restraining, walking or training the animal</p>	
<p><b>HARNESS</b></p>	<p>To prevent the animal from choking while being walked</p>	
<p><b>CITRONELLA SPRAY COLLAR</b></p>	<p>To control excessive barking  The animal cannot be restrained with this type of collar.</p>	

**Section 27: Muzzled animals must not be left unattended.**

A muzzle is a device placed over an animal’s snout to temporarily prevent it from biting. It does not cause the animal injury. However, a muzzle will generally prevent the animal from drinking when thirsty and from panting enough to lower its body temperature when hot or nervous. As a result, the animal may develop heatstroke (hyperthermia), which can lead to death. An animal wearing a muzzle must, therefore, be attended by its owner or custodian at all times.

TABLE IV

**Muzzle Types**

<b>TRADITIONAL MUZZLE</b>	To restrain the animal, e.g. while its claws are being trimmed	
<b>BASKET MUZZLE</b>	E.g. when walking the animal on a leash	

**8) CLEANLINESS AND SAFETY**

**Section 28: An animal's cage, enclosure, yard, doghouse or shelter serving as such and immediate surroundings must be free of any product, object or material that poses a threat to its safety.**

**Examples of products, objects and material that pose a threat to the animal's safety:** Cleaners or disinfectants, construction materials, medications, aerosol paints and vermin control products may be dangerous to the animal if they are accessible to the animal in its immediate surroundings.

**Section 29: A building, cage, enclosure, yard, doghouse or shelter serving as such in which an animal is kept, and the animal's immediate surroundings including any equipment and accessories, must be kept clean and free of waste, and in particular of accumulations of feces and urine.**

Feces should be picked up at least once a day, more often if necessary, and immediately removed from the building. The floor of buildings, cages or enclosures should also be cleaned at least once a day to remove urine.

**Examples of accessories:** Toys and bedding material (e.g. a blanket).

**Examples of equipment:** Food and water bowls and litter boxes.

**Examples of waste:** Household waste and rodent feces.

**Section 30: Articles used to clean the building, cage, enclosure, yard, doghouse or shelter serving as such and immediate surroundings in which an animal is kept, including accessories and any object with which the animal may come into contact, must be kept clean.**

After a mop is used on organic matter, it is advised to clean and rinse the mop, then soak it in a suitable disinfectant according to manufacturer's instructions. The mop should then be rinsed again and allowed to dry. Dirty mop water should not be used to wash another section of the building. Ideally, separate cleaning and disinfection equipment should be used in each section to reduce the spread of illness.

**Section 31: Products used to clean and disinfect the animal's immediate surroundings and objects which may come into contact with the animal, its water or food, must be used according to the manufacturer's recommendations.**

**Examples of manufacturer's recommendations:**

- Use recommended concentrations to avoid poisoning and injuries, such as burns.
- Do not use phenol-based products near cats. Such products are poisonous to them.
- Ensure that animals do not ingest cleaners or disinfectants, which may contain substances hazardous to their health.

**Section 32: The owner or custodian of an animal must prepare, keep up to date and implement a cleaning, disinfecting and vermin control protocol for the building, cage, enclosure or yard in which the animal is kept, including equipment and accessories. The protocol must indicate**

- (1) the frequency of cleaning and disinfecting;**
- (2) the order in which cleaning and disinfecting must be done;**
- (3) the cleaning products and disinfectants to be used as well as their concentration, surface contact time and rinsing method; and**
- (4) the vermin control procedure to be used.**

**The protocol must be kept on the premises where the animal is kept and made available to any person who looks after it, and to an inspector on request.**

**This section does not apply to a dwelling house.**

The protocol is a code of practice concerning cleaning, disinfection and the control of vermin (insects or animals) liable to invade the building where cats or dogs are sheltered. It must be kept on the same premises as the animals so that it can be consulted by the people in charge of the animals.

By cleaning and disinfecting, the risk of illness developing and spreading from one animal to another or from animals to humans is reduced. Daily cleaning removes most organic matter (e.g. urine, feces and food), and regular disinfection (e.g. once a week) destroys infectious germs such as bacteria and viruses that may be living on surfaces.

For cleaning and disinfection to be effective, the following five steps should routinely be followed, in the order presented:

- Scraping, to remove as much organic matter as possible.
- Soaking, to moisten what remains stuck.
- Washing with a cleaning product and hot water, to remove residual waste and biofilm.
- Disinfecting, which involves applying a disinfectant to surfaces and leaving it on for the contact time required.
- Drying, to allow surfaces to dry before allowing the animals back in.

The cleaning and disinfection procedure should be done in a way that ensures the safety and well-being of the animals. To reduce stress on certain animals, it is best to leave them in their cage during a quick cleaning (while collecting feces or changing the litter box). However, this is strongly advised against during a full cleaning or the disinfection of the cage.

Vermin can spread illnesses to cats and dogs and can injure them, for instance through bites. As such, measures must be implemented to control their presence in the building.

**Examples of cleaning and disinfection protocol items:**

**A) Daily**

- Clean the maternity ward first each morning, before the other sections of the building, since puppies and kittens are more susceptible to illness.
- Do not clean food and water bowls in the sink at the same time as litter boxes, in order to reduce contamination risks.
- Disinfect the sink after cleaning litter boxes.
- Pick up feces in the yard before each group of animals arrives, in order to reduce the spread of illness and internal parasites.
- When leaving quarantine or isolation rooms, wash hands, wash and disinfect boots, leave the used lab coat in the room and put a clean one on.

**B) Once a week**

- Clean and disinfect all cages and enclosures.
- Clean and disinfect all toys.
- Clean and disinfect quarantine and isolation areas, if any.

**C) As needed**

- Clean and disinfect empty cages and enclosures before using them for new animals.
- In the case of contagious diseases, perform a complete cleanout, according to the veterinarian's recommendations.

**D) Vermin control**

- Keep food in airtight containers.
- Plug all holes through which vermin can enter the building.
- Hire a vermin control company's prevention services, if necessary.

Veterinarians can make recommendations on how to prepare the protocol, which can be revised as needed when illnesses develop. It is recommended to regularly review the protocol and adjust it as needed.

**Section 33: An animal's carcass must be removed without delay from the immediate environment of other animals.**

A carcass is a source of contamination for other animals. It also attracts vermin and causes odour.

## MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

### 1) PREVENTION

**Section 34: The following animals must be kept separate:**

- (1) incompatible animals;**
- (2) aggressive animals; and**
- (3) a female in heat and a non-castrated male of breeding age.**

**Despite the foregoing, the owner or custodian of an animal may keep a female in heat and a non-castrated male of breeding age together solely for the time required for them to mate.**

Two animals are considered to be incompatible when, for example, one animal behaves inappropriately toward the other. This may involve intimidation or aggression. Incompatibility may be occasional or ongoing. For example, a female animal may get along well with other animals except when it is in heat, in which case it may attack other females.

#### **Examples of incompatibility:**

- An animal dominates another animal and prevents it from eating or carrying out its normal functions, such as urination.
- Young animals are kept with an adult animal that is not their mother.
- A cat is kept with a dog and is subjected to intimidation and aggression.

**Example of compatibility:** Puppies should be let out into the yard only with their mother or with other puppies that they interact with well and are not aggressive with.

**Example of incompatibility for being kept in a group:** It is important to ensure that all animals each have access to their own allotment of food. If an animal defends or protects its food, it is advised to feed it separately.

A female in heat and a non-castrated male of breeding age may not be kept together in the same cage or enclosure except for the time required for them to mate. Since a female is fertile only in the last days of blood loss, it is not necessary to put it in contact with the male before that. When the female is fertile, it is recommended that the male be left with the female for only a few hours a day to allow them to mate.

**Section 35: To prevent the spread of disease and parasites, animals with symptoms of disease must be separated from other animals.**

**Animals of unknown state of health must be quarantined.**

**An animal's state of health is determined on the basis of known information about its health, including information about administered vaccines and wormers, diagnosed illnesses and observed symptoms.**

It is advised to observe animals and their immediate environment every day, before cleaning, to quickly detect any evidence of a health problem, such as a runny nose or a wound. This verification includes the amount of water and food consumed, the state of



feces, the amount of urine, the presence of vomit, the animal's behaviour and its gait. A consultation with a veterinarian may be requested, if necessary.

An animal with signs of disease must be quarantined in an isolation room for a period of time or by a pre-established protocol determined by the veterinarian. This measure ensures the animal avoids contaminating other healthy animals.

An animal of unknown state of health should be quarantined to ensure it is not incubating disease. The quarantine period can vary from one premise to another. Ideally, it is 10 consecutive days. Thereafter, if no disease was declared, the animal may be put into contact with healthy animals.

**Examples of a similar state of health:**

- Puppies and kittens that do not have the same mother can be put together after deworming and vaccinating them (including the post-vaccination period) and a quarantine period, if they have compatible behaviour.
- Two or more healthy adult animals may live together provided they have received all required vaccines and deworming treatments.

**Example of a different state of health:**

- Animals showing signs of contagious diseases should not be kept in the same room as healthy animals.

**Examples of an unknown state of health:**

- A stray animal that is found will have an unknown health history (unknown vaccination and deworming schedule, unknown diseases or treatments received).
- It is impossible to know the state of health of a new animal purchased without a vaccination certificate.

**Section 36: An animal must be groomed and have its claws trimmed frequently enough to avoid disease, discomfort, injury and poor posture or gait.**

Grooming includes bathing, hair clipping, brushing, cleaning skin folds (e.g. under eyes), cleaning ears and removing hair from them if necessary. The frequency of grooming and nail trimming depends on many factors: the animal's breed and age, its lifestyle and its ability to groom itself.

**Examples of diseases:** Pyoderma (skin infection), otitis (ear infection) or conjunctivitis (pink eye).

**Example of discomfort:** Matted fur (firmly tangled) that has not been brushed or clipped regularly.

**Example of injury:** An ingrown claw that has not been trimmed regularly.

**Example of poor posture:** Overgrown claws that cause the toes to be deformed.

**Example of poor gait:** A limp caused by an ingrown claw.

## 2) EXERCISE

### **Section 37: Animals must exercise, in keeping with their age and physical condition.**

Exercise is important for an animal's physical and psychological balance. An animal that exercises on a daily basis will be less likely to have undesirable behaviours, such as chewing or eating objects. Furthermore, when it is removed from its enclosure or its cage every day, the animal is less likely to develop stereotypic behaviours such as circling. This enables the animal to use up its energy and to explore its environment. Sometimes it is necessary to encourage the animals to move, especially cats, by playing with them.

The animal should be taken out of its cage or enclosure daily and put into a yard intended for animals to exercise or be walked on a leash. According to the *Code of Practice for Canadian Kennel Operations*, dogs confined in cages should be exercised twice daily for at least 20 minutes.

Because cats are climbers, the elevated area is just as important as the ground area. Thus, perches on the walls of the cages or enclosures can enable them to get exercise.

Elderly or sick animals should have an exercise program tailored to their situation. For example, you can throw the ball for an hour with a young dog; however, 10 minutes may be sufficient for an old dog.

### **Section 38: The owner or custodian of an animal must draw up, update and implement an exercise protocol for the animal. The protocol must be kept on the premises where the animal is kept and made available to every person who cares for the animal and to an inspector on request.**

**This section does not apply to an animal that is kept at liberty in a dwelling house, in a grooming salon, or in a veterinary clinic or hospital to receive care.**

The exercise protocol details the physical activities provided for the animals. It describes the kinds of activities, their duration and frequency, and whether they are for groups of animals or individual animals. It can also provide details on the order for taking animals out.

#### **Example of an exercise protocol:**

##### **Twice a day:**

1. First, let each female and her litter take turns in the yard for 20 minutes.
2. Then, adult animals may be let into the yard in small compatible groups for 20 minutes.
3. Let aggressive animals or non-castrated males individually take turns in the yard for 20 minutes.
4. Install obstacle courses in the yard.
5. Regularly move perches and hiding places to encourage cats to exercise.

### 3) GESTATING AND LACTATING ANIMALS

**Section 39: Females giving birth and females nursing a litter must be kept separate from other animals for one month following the birth of the litter, in a cage or enclosure in which**

- (1) a portion of the floor accessible to litter is full;**
- (2) the spacing between the bars is close enough to prevent kittens or puppies from escaping or from causing themselves harm.**

A female dog that is kept tied up must be put in a cage or enclosure once she has started whelping and be kept there for the following month. As required in section 12, each animal in the cage or enclosure must have a rest area. This area must be able to expand as the puppies grow.

Ideally, cages or enclosures used for females who are in late pregnancy or nursing should be segregated in a quiet, private place. In addition to the requirements outlined in sections 12 (rest area) and 13 (cages and enclosures), it is recommended to ensure that the following conditions are met:

- The mother should be able to safely reach her kittens or puppies. She should not have to jump into the area where the kittens and puppies are being kept, to avoid injuring them.
- The cage or enclosure should ensure the privacy of animals, but it should be accessible by the veterinarian for observations or interventions, if necessary.
- Blankets or carpets may be installed on the floor as long as they are washed regularly, as indicated in section 29.

**Section 40: Females must have ongoing access to their kittens or puppies until they are weaned.**

**Despite the foregoing, females must be able to isolate themselves from their litter if they wish.**

Weaning is a gradual transition period between nursing and eating food by the puppy or kitten. A female must have access to her litter, among other things for nursing, cleaning and protecting them. However, she might want to isolate herself from her litter, especially to rest, eat or drink.

**Example of ways the mother can isolate herself:** Install a small barrier that the kittens or puppies cannot cross but still low enough for the female to cross without jumping.

**Section 41: A new-born kitten or puppy must be kept at a temperature suitable for its biological needs.**

**Where a source of artificial heat is used to warm a kitten or puppy, it must not be liable to cause it injury.**

When using an artificial heat source, do not overheat the cage because the female may leave her litter. In general, it is recommended to maintain a section of the cage or enclosure between 25 °C and 30 °C, except for northern dog breeds. The intensity of the heat may be

reduced gradually as the puppies and kittens grow. The artificial heat source can be removed as soon as they can retain their body heat.

**Examples of artificial heat sources:** A heat lamp, an infrared heat lamp or a heated floor.

**Examples of ways to prevent injuries:**

- Separate the heating element from the animals using a grate to block the puppies or kittens from accidentally touching the heat source.
- Install insulation between the heated floor and the puppies or kittens.

**Section 42: No kitten or puppy may be weaned before the age of 8 weeks by the owner or custodian.**

In this Regulation, weaning includes the period when the female is no longer nursing her young, usually between six and eight weeks of age. It is important to allow the mother to wean her own young and not to separate them from her before the age of eight weeks, except in extreme cases (e.g. the mother abandoning her young).

By the third or fourth week, you can begin to accustom puppies and kittens to self feed, by providing them with the same food as their mother and with unlimited water, even if the mother is still nursing. Weaning should be done gradually to avoid disrupting the digestive flora of the young animals. Moreover, the mother's presence is essential for the social and behavioural development of the puppies and kittens. They should stay with their mother until at least eight weeks of age.

#### 4) EUTHANASIA

**Section 43: When an animal is euthanized, its owner or custodian must ensure that the circumstances and the method used are not cruel and cause the animal a minimum of anxiety and pain. The euthanasia method chosen must result in rapid and irreversible loss of consciousness, followed quickly by death.**

**The owner or custodian must also ensure that the absence of vital signs is determined immediately following euthanasia.**

Administering a tranquilizer prior to euthanasia is recommended for aggressive, anxious or distressed animals. The owner or custodian must verify the absence of vital signs immediately following euthanasia to ensure the animal has died.

**These are the main vital signs that can be verified:**

- Absence of heartbeat;
- Absence of breathing;
- Absence of palpebral reflex (absence of blinking);
- Absence of deep reflex (the animal does not pull back on its foot when a toe is firmly pinched).

Before disposing of the carcass, it should be placed in a location where it is possible to observe evidence of any vital sign for at least 15 minutes to ensure the euthanasia procedure was correctly performed.

**Example of non-cruel euthanasia method:** Intravenous injection of barbiturates by a veterinarian.

**Section 44: No animal may be euthanized in the presence of another animal.**

Animals should not be euthanized in the room where they are being kept.

**REGISTER**

**Section 45: For each animal kept, the owner or custodian must maintain an up-to-date register containing**

- (1) a description of the animal, including species, breed or crossbreed, colour, gender and date of birth or, if unknown, approximate date of birth;**
- (2) an indication whether the animal has a microchip implant, along with the microchip number or a tattoo number, if the animal has one, and any other number used by the owner or custodian to identify the animal;**
- (3) if the animal was not born with its current owner or custodian, the date of its arrival, and the name, address and telephone number of its previous owner or custodian;**
- (4) the dates when females give birth and the number of kittens or puppies of each of their litter; and**
- (5) the date of the animal's death, or of its final departure to a new owner or custodian and the name, address and telephone number of the new owner or custodian in the case of an owner or custodian referred to in section 2.**

The owner or custodian of at least five animals six months old or older of the same species kept in one location must comply with the requirements below. The same applies to the owner or custodian keeping one or more animals, regardless of the animal's age,

- (1) on the premises of a commercial activity such as a breeding operation, a pet shop, a grooming salon, an animal boarding establishment or a training school;
- (2) on premises held by an establishment; or
- (3) in the kennel or cattery of a laboratory or an academic institution.

Paragraphs 1 to 5 apply to the following animals:

- Adult male animals: paragraphs 1, 2, 3 and 5;
- Adult female animals: paragraphs 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5;
- Animals born at the custodial location that will be put up for adoption at eight weeks of age: paragraphs 1, 2 and 5;
- Animals that have newly arrived at the custodial location: paragraphs 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5.

A sample register is provided in Appendix 1.

**Section 46: The register provided for in section 45 must be kept at the place where the animal is kept for 2 years after the animal's death or after its transfer to a new custodial location.**

**The register must be given to an inspector on request.**

A copy of the register may be given to the inspector and the original kept at the custodial location.

**Section 47: The owner or custodian of the animal must record in the register, accurately and legibly, all of the information required by section 45.**

**Section 48: Grooming salons, animal board establishments and veterinary clinics and hospitals are exempted from keeping the register provided for in section 45.**

## CHAPTER III - PROVISIONS APPLICABLE TO ESTABLISHMENTS

### OWNERS AND CUSTODIANS

**Section 49: In addition to complying with the requirements of Chapter II, the custodian of an animal kept on premises held by an establishment must comply with the requirements of this Chapter.**

An establishment is any person who collects cats or dogs to transfer them to new premises or euthanize them or have them euthanized, including pounds, animal houses and organizations dedicated to protecting animals. An establishment may be located in a private house.

Animals found in establishments come from various backgrounds (individuals, stray animals, breeders, etc.) Additional requirements are necessary to minimize transmitting diseases among animals, and between animals and humans.

### ISOLATION AND QUARANTINE ROOMS

**Section 50: For the purposes of section 35, a building kept by an establishment must include an isolation room and a quarantine room.**

Section 35 describes the reasons and obligations for the isolation and quarantine of animals.

At least two separate physical premises are required, one for isolation and one for quarantine. Ideally, if the facility has both cats and dogs, four rooms would be provided (i.e., a quarantine area and an isolation area for each species.)

Quarantine keeps animals of unknown status away from healthy ones. The recommended quarantine period is 10 consecutive days.

**Example:** Stray animals should be placed in the quarantine room upon arrival.

The isolation area is used for animals with symptoms of a contagious disease. The duration of the isolation is determined by the veterinarian or the protocol pre-established with the veterinarian.

**Example:** A cat with symptoms of rhinotracheitis or a dog possibly suffering from kennel cough should be kept in an isolation room for a period of time prescribed by the veterinarian.

**Section 51: Cages and enclosures used in isolation and quarantine rooms must be designed and installed so as to reduce the risk of contamination to a minimum and avoid direct contact between animals.**

**Examples of possible methods:**

- Arrange cages or enclosures back to back in the centre of the room so that the animals are facing the wall. This layout reduces the risk of disease transmission through aerosols (sneezing).
- Install cages or enclosures with three solid sidewalls, not open mesh.
- Keep animals in separate cages or enclosures.
- You can keep a mother with her litter when all the animals are suffering from the same disease or are found wandering together. Two kittens or puppies from the same litter can be kept together for the same reasons.

**Section 52: Cages and enclosures located in isolation and quarantine rooms, including their equipment and accessories, must be disinfected prior to housing a new animal and must be disinfected daily during disease outbreaks.**

For the isolation room, a disinfectant is usually chosen based on the infectious agent (e.g. parvovirus) that prevails at the time of use. For the quarantine room, a broad spectrum disinfectant is typically used.

**Section 53: Traffic between isolation and quarantine rooms and the other sections of the building must be limited, and all other reasonable means to prevent the spread of disease must be implemented.**

**Examples of how to limit traffic:**

- Establish two different maintenance crews, one for the isolation and quarantine rooms and one for the maternity ward and the adoption room.
- Prohibit the public from entering the isolation and quarantine rooms.
- Set up the building so that staff or the public does not have to go through the isolation or quarantine rooms to go to the maternity ward or the adoption room.

**Examples of reasonable means to prevent the spread of diseases:**

- Clean and disinfect in this order: maternity ward, the adoption room, the quarantine and isolation rooms.
- Install quarantine and isolation room drains so that they are connected directly to the main sewer line, as close as possible to where it exits the building, to avoid contamination.
- Remove cover clothing (e.g. lab coat) before leaving the quarantine or isolation room.
- Do not move equipment or accessories from one room to another.
- Install a separate ventilation system in the quarantine and isolation rooms.



## CHAPTER IV - OTHER PROVISIONS APPLICABLE TO ALL OWNERS AND CUSTODIANS OF AN ANIMAL

### OWNERS AND CUSTODIANS

This section applies to any owner or custodian of at least one cat, one hybrid cat, one dog or one hybrid dog, whether it be kept for commercial purposes, as a pet, as a boarder or for other purposes.

**Section 54: Sections 3, 4, 12, 22 to 27 and 43 apply to all owners and custodians of a cat or a dog.**

The following provisions of the Regulation apply to owners or guardians of any cat or dog:

- **Sections 3 and 4: Food and water;**
- **Section 12: Rest area;**
- **Sections 22 to 27: Animals kept mostly outdoors and restraints;**
- **Section 43: Euthanasia.**

The provisions are described in Chapter II of this guide.

## CHAPTER V - EXEMPTION FROM VETERINARY SURGEONS

**Section 55: The owner or custodian of an animal is not required to comply with any provision of Chapter II whose application, as attested in the written opinion of a veterinarian, is not recommended for the animal, given its state of health or when veterinary treatment is planned.**

**The opinion of the veterinarian must**

- (1) be signed and dated and indicate the veterinarian's licence number;**
- (2) indicate the name and contact information of the animal's owner or custodian;**
- (3) describe the animal in question so that it is recognizable by its owner or custodian or by an inspector;**
- (4) state the requirement from which the animal's owner or custodian is temporarily exempted;**
- (5) state the period during which the owner or custodian is exempted from the requirement under subparagraph 4; and**
- (6) be kept by the animal's owner or custodian for the period stated under subparagraph 5 and made available to an inspector on request.**

A template of a written opinion of a veterinarian and an example of a completed form are provided in Appendix 2.

### **Examples of veterinary exemptions:**

- Keeping an animal on a wire mesh floor without a full rest area may be allowed with a written notice from the attending veterinarian for post-surgery convalescence so that urine does not cause the animal to have skin problems.
- Keeping an animal in a cage that does not meet the requirements of section 13 may be indicated for a pelvic fracture case, with a written notice from the attending veterinarian.

**Section 56: Veterinarians are not required to comply with any provision of Chapter II whose application is not recommended for an animal in their custody, given its state of health or when veterinary treatment is planned.**

**Example:** A cat may be kept on a wire mesh floor in order to collect its urine.

## RECOMMENDED PRACTICES

This section provides recommended practices for keeping cats or dogs. It is not an exhaustive list of best practices. Other suggested methods may exist.

### FOOD AND WATER

Providing water at all times is recommended so that the animal can fulfill its biological needs. Too much water is not harmful to the animal. However, too little water can be very damaging.

An owner or custodian of a dog may remove water at night, for approximately eight hours, when the animal is learning to be housetrained. Since cats use a litter box from an early age, they can be given water at all times. Typically, a dog will need from 50 to 70 millilitres of water per kilogram of weight every day. For a cat, daily requirements are 100 to 200 millilitres. This amount should be increased especially in hot weather, during lactation or if the animal undergoes physical activity. Animals that eat dry food will need a larger quantity of water than those given canned food.

Animals need different nutrients to survive, including water, the amino acids that make up proteins, fatty acids, carbohydrates, vitamins and minerals. The owner or custodian must ensure that the food has sufficient nutritional value so the animal develops normally, maintains an optimal weight and remains healthy. It is important to follow the food manufacturer's recommendations to ensure that the animal's daily diet meets all its needs in terms of energy, protein, vitamins and minerals. If raw food is the only food source, it must be supplemented with vitamin and mineral supplements especially to compensate for calcium deficiency.

TABLE V

### Recommended Feeding Frequency

ANIMAL	MEAL FREQUENCY
GESTATING FEMALE	Double the normal ration, divided into two meals per day
LACTATING FEMALE	Triple the normal ration, divided into four meals per day
PUPPIES AND KITTENS (FROM FOUR TO SIX MONTHS OLD)	Three times per day (or more) depending on the breed
ADULT	One or two times per day, depending on the breed

It is best to feed each animal separately to avoid aggression. Sick or underweight animals should be fed more frequently to meet their additional needs. Animals that have a lack of appetite or gain or lose too much weight should be examined by a veterinarian. An animal's body condition and weight should be evaluated regularly.

## **CAGES AND ENCLOSURES**

It is recommended to separate the ground surface into three distinct areas: the rest area, the sanitary area (litter) and the feeding area.

## **PREVENTION**

An animal that is sold or placed for adoption must be vaccinated, dewormed and treated against external parasites according to a protocol recommended by a veterinarian, before arriving at its new home. Fleas, ear mites, body mites and lice are examples of external parasites.

A vaccinated animal has received a vaccine that protects against one or more diseases. In dogs, the main vaccines immunize animals against parvovirus, distemper, adenovirus and rabies. In cats, the main vaccines protect against panleukopenia, herpesvirus, calicivirus and rabies.

A dewormed animal has received a medication that kills intestinal parasites. There are several classes of deworming treatments, each dealing with a certain group of internal parasites. Roundworms, tapeworms and coccidia are examples of intestinal parasites.

Usually, vaccines and deworming treatments are administered under veterinary supervision upon the animal's arrival. Upon its release, the animal may receive deworming treatments against roundworms and tapeworms to minimize the risk of transmission to another animal or a human.

## **GROOMING**

A dog should not be washed too often. Excessive washing removes the protective sebum from the coat and alters the natural characteristics of its hair. When washing is required, it is best to initially place a rubber mat in the bathtub to avoid injury. For cats, usually it is not necessary to wash them; they are able to properly do it themselves. Washing is only done if necessary, for example, when recommended by the veterinarian.

TABLE VI

### Recommended Grooming Frequency

TREATMENT	DOG	CAT
BATHING	Once every three months or as needed	Only if needed
CLIPPING HAIR	Once every three months, if needed	Once every three months, if needed
CLEANING EARS	Every month or as needed	As needed
BRUSHING	As often as needed to prevent knots from forming in the fur	As often as needed to prevent knots from forming in the fur
TRIMMING CLAWS	Approximately once a month, depending on the amount of exercise the dog gets and the surface it walks on (asphalt or grass)	Approximately once a month, depending on the amount of exercise the cat gets and the surface it walks on (inside or outside cats)

### ANIMALS KEPT MOSTLY OUTDOORS

A doghouse with a flat roof is preferable because the dog can lie on it; however, when it is located in an enclosure, it should not be too close to the fence to prevent the dog from jumping over the fence. Using straw or untreated wood chips as bedding inside the doghouse is highly recommended. The bedding should be replaced regularly, especially if it is damp.

### SOCIALIZATION AND BEHAVIOUR

The owner or custodian of an animal should interact with it every day, to ensure that an animal under the age of six months is able to live with people or to maintain this ability for an adult animal. "Able to live with people" means that the animal, once adult, will not growl at people, not bite, will follow the hierarchy in the prospective adoptive family, will accept being petted, will not be afraid of humans and will be house-trained.

Between three and twelve weeks old, dogs should be used to having humans around. For cats, the minimum period for adapting to humans is between three and eight weeks old. This period is necessary for them to become good pets. Unsocialized animals are often afraid of humans and may bite them for this reason. They are also more difficult to handle and control.

Daily socialization should be part of any breeding program. The ideal situation is to spend time with each puppy or kitten, without visual or physical contact with other animals from the litter to prevent a puppy or kitten from influencing the others. For example, a puppy that is afraid of humans might negatively influence the others in the litter.

One theory about canine behaviour claims that dogs perceive the human family they live with as part of their pack. If the pack has a well-defined social structure (respect for

hierarchy), and the dog knows its rank in the structure, the dog will acquire the necessary security to avoid becoming the tyrant of the family or a dangerous dog that bites.

In order to socialize young animals, an owner or custodian can expose them to sources of familiar sounds (such as vacuuming or the phone), to children, to other animal species, to the external environment, to automobile transportation, to animals of the same species or to other adult humans. Sound recordings (doorbell, vacuum cleaner and other noises) on compact discs can be found on the market.

The owner or custodian should also provide the animal with an environment conducive to expressing natural behaviours. These behaviours include states of being, acting and reacting that enable the animal to express its needs, moods and innate instincts and affections. Natural behaviours can be expressed in several ways. For dogs, they include running, smelling, chewing, playing, exploring or resting. For cats, they include hiding, scratching, playing, climbing, running, hunting, exploring and relaxing.

Some activities and objects help create a stimulating environment, enabling animals to perceive sounds, images, smells, tastes and sensations that decrease the risk of developing inappropriate behaviours. These objects and activities should be changed regularly to maintain novelty and the animal's interest. There should be more toys than animals in the yard. To sustain an animal's interest, it is advisable to put toys away after playtime and exercise and to take them out the next day.

Here are some ways that can be used to promote the expression of natural behaviours.

**For dogs:**

- Provide toys (ropes, plastic balls) and rawhide bones to chew on.
- Allow them to get exercise.
- Play with them.
- Put several dogs together in the yard with toys.
- Use an interactive feeding dish.
- Provide places where they can dig freely.

**For cats:**

- Put hiding spots, toys, ledges or platforms in their cage and in the yard.
- Motivate them to exercise.
- Keep them with other cats.
- Use a ball with food inside.

A puppy has to remain with its mother and the other puppies in its litter until at least 8 weeks old, especially to develop normal canine behaviour. When you let a kitten stay with the other kittens in the litter for 10 to 12 weeks (8 weeks minimum), it should be more acclimated to the company of other cats later on in life.

**OWNER OR CUSTODIAN ACCOUNTABILITY**

To reduce the significant number of animals euthanized, future owners or custodians need to understand that adopting a dog or cat should not be taken lightly. The life expectancy is on average 12 years for a dog and 15 years for a cat. Therefore, it is a long-term

commitment. Upon adoption, people must be prepared to spend time with their pet, to educate them, to take them outside every day and give them regular care, such as brushing. In addition, money must be budgeted for purchasing the food they will need all their life and for receiving veterinary care such as vaccinations and neutering.

Females in heat should not be kept tied up outside unattended because they attract males from the neighborhood. During this period, they should be kept indoors or in an enclosure outside to prevent unwanted pregnancy. This avoids having to euthanize kittens and puppies not able to be adopted. Moreover, sterilization is recommended for any animal that is not intended for breeding in order to limit the number of animals euthanized each year in Québec.

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### INTERNET LINKS

- 1) *Animal Health Protection Act* (R.S.Q., c. P-42) and its regulations.
- 2) *Regulation respecting the safety and welfare of cats and dogs.*
- 3) *Health of Animals Regulations*, Part XII (Transportation of Animals) (C.R.C., c. 296).
- 4) *Criminal Code* (R.S.C. 1985, c. C-46).

**APPENDIX 1 – Example of an Animal Register**

<b>NAME OF ANIMAL</b>	<b>SPECIES</b>	<b>BREED OR CROSSBREED</b>	<b>DATE OF BIRTH (ACTUAL OR APPROXIMATE)</b>	<b>COLOUR</b>	<b>GENDER</b>

<b>IDENTIFICATION NUMBER (MICROCHIP OR TATTOO)</b>	<b>DATE OF ARRIVAL (IF BORN ELSEWHERE)</b>	<b>NAME, ADDRESS AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF PREVIOUS OWNER</b>	<b>DATE WHEN FEMALES GIVE BIRTH</b>	<b>NUMBER OF ANIMALS IN THE LITTER</b>	<b>DATE OF DEATH OR OF FINAL DEPARTURE TO A NEW OWNER</b>	<b>NAME, ADDRESS AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF NEW OWNER</b>

## **APPENDIX 2 - TEMPLATE**

### **OPINION OF VETERINARY SURGEON**

**Date:**

**Name of Owner or Custodian:**

**Address of Owner or Custodian:**

**Telephone Number of Owner or Custodian:**

**Animal Description:  
(Species, Breed or Crossbreed, Gender, Colour)**

**Microchip or Tattoo Number:**

**Requirement that is exempted:**

**Exemption Period:**

**Signature of Veterinary Surgeon:**

**Licence Number:**

#### **The opinion of the veterinary surgeon must**

- (1) be signed and dated and indicate the veterinary surgeon's licence number;
- (2) indicate the name and contact information of the animal's owner or custodian;
- (3) describe the animal in question so that it is recognizable by its owner or custodian or by an inspector;
- (4) state the requirement from which the animal's owner or custodian is temporarily exempted;
- (5) state the period during which the owner or custodian is exempted from the requirement under subparagraph 4.

#### **EXAMPLE**

**OPINION OF VETERINARY SURGEON**

**Date: February 29, 2011**

**Name of Owner or Custodian: Mr. Jack Russell**

**Address of Owner or Custodian: 111 Feline Avenue  
Montréal, Québec**

**Telephone Number of Owner or Custodian: XXX XXX-XXXX**

**Animal Description: Female, yellow Labrador named Lassie  
(Species, Breed or Crossbreed, Gender, Colour)**

**Microchip or Tattoo Number: None**

**Requirement that is exempted: This dog has a fractured pelvis. She must be confined to a small cage to limit her movements and promote healing of the bones. Therefore, Mr. Russell cannot comply with the obligation to keep his dog in a cage in compliance with the provisions of section 13 of the *Regulation respecting the safety and welfare of cats and dogs*.**

**Exemption Period: From February 29 to March 21, 2011**

**Signature of Veterinarian: Dr. Isabelle Sheppard**

**Licence Number: ABCD**