

Basic Standards of Care for Dogs in Newfoundland and Labrador

The following document is for discussion purposes. The final intent is to adopt a code like this as law in this province so that there are known minimal standards for dog care. This does not refer directly to commercial breeders or kennels as they are covered separately.

Where abbreviations are identified in parentheses, they are identifying the source of the recommendations. On-line sources for this information are provided at the end of this document.

In the case of AHPA, this refers to the *Animal Health and Protection Act*, which has been passed by the House of Assembly but will not be in force until regulations have been passed. Therefore, AHPA means that it is already accepted as law in this province.

KC refers to "*A Code of Practice for Canadian Kennel Operations, Second edition, May 2007*" published by the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association.

OSPCA refers to the Ontario SPCA and in particular the animal welfare Act for Ontario that is called the *Ontario Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act*.

CSJ refers to the City of St. John's and in particular their animal control bylaws (*St. John's Animal Care Regulation*). As such they are the law within the limits of the City of St. John's.

NLCoV refers to the Newfoundland and Labrador College of Veterinarians, the body in this province that regulates the veterinary profession. They have bylaws on cosmetic surgery in domestic animals.

GCCDCNL refers to the "*Guidelines for Communities Considering Dog Control in Newfoundland and Labrador, 2004*".

This document has not considered the valid interests of sled dog owners and their input is needed.

A. CARE AND CONTROL

1. Every dog must be provided with the following:

- a) clean, fresh drinking water, at all times, as well as a sufficient quantity and quality of food to allow for normal, healthy growth and the maintenance of a normal, healthy body weight, (AHPA/KC)
- b) clean food and water receptacles located so as to avoid spillage and contamination by excreta, (KC)
- c) adequate veterinary attention when necessary, (AHPA/KC)
- d) care necessary for its general welfare, (AHPA)
- e) a shelter that is weather-proofed and insulated to provide protection from the elements. The size and design must be adequate and appropriate for the dog, (AHPA/KC/OSPCA)
- f) all dogs must be kept safely tethered or penned up unless: (AHPA)
 - it is held on a leash by a person capable of restraining the dog, (AHPA)
 - it is being used by a person for the purpose of lawful hunting, (AHPA)

- it is being used by a person to work in a lawful manner with sheep,(AHPA)
- it is being used by a person of lawful hunting,(AHPA)
- in a recognized off leash dog park, (NO REFERENCE DOCUMENT)
- it is off leash, under owner's control, outside municipal boundaries; or (NO REFERENCE DOCUMENT)
- it is being kept or used for another purpose and under the conditions that may be prescribed in regulations. (AHPA)

B. BASIC SHELTER DESIGN (DOGHOUSE)

1. Every shelter must:

- a) provide an adequate and appropriate resting and sleeping area. The dimensions must be directly related to the size of the dog and are important if the dog is to maintain warmth in the shelter with its own body heat. The shelter must have an entrance and hallway separate from a sleeping area, (OSPCA)
- b) for each 2.5 cm (1 inch) of the dog's height (measured from the top of the shoulder to the ground) allow 232 sq cm (36 square inches) of floor space for the sleeping area,(OSPCA)
- c) add 5 cm (2 inches) to the dog's measurement when in a sitting position (from the top of the head to the ground) in order to determine the ceiling height,(OSPCA)
- d) the shelter must have a flat roof to enable the dog to get off the cold ground onto the roof, (OSPCA)
- e) the shelter must be elevated off the ground to ensure the floor is kept dry, (OSPCA)
- f) bedding (such as straw, woodchips, blanket, etc.) must be placed in the sleeping area and changed every 1 to 2 weeks, or as otherwise required, to keep the interior clean and dry, (OSPCA)
- g) a canvas or rubber flap must be used at the entrance of the shelter to provide more weather protection, (OSPCA /KC)
- h) the shelter must contain a mechanism outside to contain the food and water bowls to prevent accidental spillage. (NO REFERENCE DOCUMENT)

C.BASIC REQUIREMENTS FOR PEN/ENCLOSURES

1. Dogs that are confined to a pen or other enclosed structures, for extended periods of time, must be provided with the following:

- a) the pen or enclosure must be in a good state of repair and made of materials that are non-toxic to the dog, (KC)
- b) the pen or enclosure does not have wire mesh, metal or wooden flooring and must be of a texture and design that will not injure the dog, (KC/CSJ)

- c) the pen or enclosure is not stacked with other pens or enclosures, (CSJ)
- d) the pen or enclosure does not contain more than three dogs and must not contain dogs that may pose a danger to other dogs within the same pen or enclosure,(CSJ/OSPCA)
- e) the pen or enclosure does not pose a high risk of injury or distress by or due to the location, (NO REFERENCE DOCUMENT)
- f) pregnant or nursing dogs housed within an pen or enclosure must not be housed with dogs other than its nursing offspring, (CSJ)
- g) the pen or enclosure must be at least twice the length of the largest dog in all directions and not less than nine metres squared (97 sq ft) when one dog is housed. Where more than one dog is housed in the same pen or enclosure, the width and length of the pen or enclosure shall be increased by one meter (one yard) for each additional dog (to a maximum of three dogs), (CSJ)
- h) the pen or enclosure must be a minimum height of one meter (one yard) over and above the height of the tallest dog in the enclosure, (CSJ)
- i) the pen or enclosure must contain a shelter or shelters that are water-proof and insulated, which provide protection from the elements and is/are of sufficient size, as is outlined in the basic shelter design, (CSJ)
- j) the pen or enclosure must be able to provide shade at all times, (CSJ)
- k) the pen or enclosure must be cleaned, including removal of excreta, on a daily basis, (CSJ)
- l) provide daily social interaction with other people and animals, (KC)
- m) provide environmental enrichments , such as toys, etc. appropriate for the dog's well-being, and (KC)
- n) each dog must have daily access to adequate and appropriate exercise outside of the pen or enclosure. (KC)

D. TETHERING

3) Dogs that are tethered, unsupervised, outside for extended periods of time, must be provided with the following:

- a) be tethered in a location that does not pose a high risk of injury or distress,(NO REFERENCE DOCUMENT EXCEPT "DISTRESS" IN THE ACT)
- b) an environment that neither harms nor causes undue strain or stress. This would also include ensuring the area is free of debris, garbage, etc. that could cause harm or entangle the dog, (NO REFERENCE DOCUMENT EXCEPT DISTRESS IN THE ACT)
- c) the chain, rope or other restraining device used to tether a dog that lives primarily outside must be at least four meters long and must allow the dog to move safely and unrestricted (except by its length). (OSPCA)

- d) not be hitched, tied or fastened to a fixed object where a choke collar or chain forms part of the securing apparatus or where the rope or chain is tied directly around the dog's neck, (AHPA)
- e) **daily** adequate and appropriate exercise which would include the opportunity to be unfettered from a fixed area, (KC)
- f) social interaction with other animals and people ,(KC)
- g) enrichments, such as rawhides, toys, etc. appropriate for the dog, to enhance the dog's well-being, (KC)
- h) aged, young, infirm dogs must not be housed outside. Consideration must be given to the individual dog, taking into account factors such as age and overall health. (KC)

E. TRANSPORTING OF DOGS

1. A dog must never be confined to an enclosed space, including a motor vehicle, without adequate ventilation.(AHPA)
2. A dog must not be transported in the trunk of a motor vehicle.(AHPA)
3. A dog must be transported in a manner that ensures its physical safety. A dog is not to be transported in a motor vehicle outside the passenger compartment unless safely confined or secured in a body harness or other fastening device in a manner that is adequate to prevent the dog from falling out. It must also have protection from the direct exposure to any adverse weather conditions.(AHPA)

F. PROHIBITED PRACTICES

1. **Cosmetic surgery is prohibited unless permitted due to an injury or other medical necessity, as determined by a licensed veterinarian. In the case of dogs, cosmetic surgery includes:**
 - a) **tail docking, (AHPA/NLCoV)**
 - b) **ear cropping, (AHPA/NLCoV)**
 - c) **dewclaw removal.(NO REFERENCE DOCUMENT though recommended in the KC)**

G. EUTHANASIA

1. Every dog that is to be euthanized must be done in a manner that is humane and is in conformance with the guidelines developed by the provincial government, the SPCA and the provincial veterinary medical association (GCCDCNL). Some examples of methods of euthanasia that are prohibited are
 - a) poison,
 - b) drowning,
 - c) electrocution,
 - d) suffocation,

the complete list of prohibited methods of euthanasia will be contained in the provincial regulations (under the AHPA).

2. The methods accepted under the provincial guidelines are:

- a) under the supervision of a licensed veterinarian,
- b) free bullet
- c) captive bolt gun
- d) carbon monoxide gas chambers using cylinder gas. (GCCDCNL)

H. On-line sources of reference materials

1. *Animal Health and Protection Act:*

www.assembly.nl.ca/legislation/sr/statutes/a09-1.htm

2. ~~"A Code of Practice for Canadian Kennel Operations, Second edition, May 2007"~~:

[canadianveterinarians.net/Documents/Resources/Files/93_Kennel%20Code%20\(ENTIRE\)%20July%202007.pdf](http://canadianveterinarians.net/Documents/Resources/Files/93_Kennel%20Code%20(ENTIRE)%20July%202007.pdf)

3. *Ontario SPCA Act:*

www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/html/source/statutes/english/2008/elaws_src_s08016_e.htm

- ONTARIO REGULATION 60/09 (Standards of Care), note in particular section 3:

www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/html/source/regs/english/2009/elaws_src_regs_r09060_e.htm

4. City of St. John's – *Animal Control Regulation:*

www.stjohns.ca/ByLaws.nsf/wByLawNum/1514

5. Newfoundland and Labrador College of Veterinarians -Consolidated By-laws of the Newfoundland and Labrador College of Veterinarians 2010:

sites.google.com/site/nlvetcollege/the-act-by-laws-and-regulations/by-laws

6. "Guidelines for Communities Considering Dog Control in Newfoundland and Labrador, 2004" is not currently on-line but is available through the Animal Health Division.

I. Participant groups:

Partridge Forever

NL All Breeds Kennel Club

SPCA

Nunatsiavut Government

NL Veterinary Medical Association

City of St. John's

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