

# SLED DOG STANDARD OF CARE – WORKING GROUP TERMS OF REFERENCE Province of British Columbia

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## Approvals

### TOR Sponsor

Melanie J. Stewart, PhD.  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Agriculture and Science Division  
*(Appointed September 26, 2011)*

Dr. Dave Kirby (Member)  
Representative  
College of Veterinarians of BC

Marcie Moriarty (Member)  
General Manager  
Cruelty Investigations  
BC SPCA

Tim Tedford (Member)  
Representative  
Professional Mushers' Association  
of British Columbia

## Terms of Reference

### History

On February 2, 2011 a Sled Dog Industry Task Force was struck to review and examine the reported mass killing of 100 dogs on April 21<sup>st</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2010.

The review encompassed the circumstances leading to the killing of the dogs, as well as the chain of events following any initial reports of the killing to WorkSafeBC and other agencies and why the information was not communicated to appropriate authorities.

The Task Force examined the regulation and oversight of the dog sledding industry and on March 25, 2011 presented ten recommendations to the Minister of Agriculture. The report was announced by Premier Christy Clark on April 5, 2011. The Premier committed the Province would immediately act on the recommendations in the report.

### Purpose

Establish a working group to develop a Sled Dog 'Standard of Care' based upon current knowledge, best practices, science, and expertise with extensive input from key stakeholders including veterinarians, enforcement agencies, animal welfare organizations, and the sled dog industry.

This explicit and mandatory standard will define an acceptable standard of care and provide clarity to both animal owners and law enforcement officials. The standard should provide minimum requirements of care in addition to recommended best practices—including, but not limited to food, water, housing, socialization, tethering, euthanasia and other animal husbandry responsibilities.

Consideration should be given to referencing external authoritative standards, including the CVMA, to ensure the standard continues to reflect emerging best practices.

### Scope

- In Scope
  - Provide clear guidelines for the breeding, rearing, transportation, racing, care and handling of sled dogs as well as retirement and end-of- life issues.
  - Code development will include input from industry, veterinarians, government, the BC SPCA and other organizations.
  - National Farm Animal Care Council Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Dairy Cattle and other officially recognized codes and legislation will be examined.
  
- Out of Scope
  - Activities which would compromise any BC SPCA or the RCMP investigations.
  - Focus will be exclusively on animal care and welfare for sled dogs.

## **Major Deliverables**

Development of a Provincial Standard of Care for Sled Dogs including all of the elements identified in the above Purpose and Scope. Elements will include:

- Methodology;
- Summary of analysis of National Farm Animal Care Council Code of Practice and other recognized Code of Practices, information received by the task force, and legislation as warranted;
- Recommendations for a British Columbia Sled Dog Standard of Care; and,
- Observations and Conclusion.

## **Approach**

The approach may include:

- Gathering information;
- Surveying legislation, regulation, policy and practices, and codes of practice;
- Meetings and interviews with stakeholders; and,
- Other research as required.

## **Operation**

The Sled Dog Industry working group will be lead by the Assistant Deputy Minister, Agriculture Operations Division.

The Working Group will solicit input and ideas from representatives of the sled dog industry, veterinarian professionals, and academics specializing in animal welfare, animal health and welfare organizations as represented on the Working Group.

## **Secretariat Support**

The Ministry of Agriculture (AGRI) will provide secretariat support to the Standard of Care Working Group (the working group) by coordinating work with other relevant Ministries and agencies tasked to undertake the regulatory work, undertaking associated research and writing to support the development of a Standard of Care.

Pam Shatzko, Project Manager, Ministry of Agriculture

Terri Giacomazzi, Strategic Policy Analyst, Ministry of Agriculture

Debra Sand, Operations Coordinator, Health Management and Regulatory Unit

Linda Bates, Manager, Legislation

Sunny White, Manager, Business Improvement

## Working Group Membership

Chair:	Lindsay Kislock, Assistant Deputy Minister, Ministry of Agriculture
Member:	Dr. Dave Kirby, Representative, College of Veterinarians of BC
Member:	Marcie Moriarty, General Manager, Cruelty Investigations British Columbia Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
Member:	Jackie Wepruk, Industry <i>(to September 2011)</i>
Member:	Nancy Clarke, MSW, MSc (Animal Science), Animal Welfare Program University of British Columbia
Member:	Dr. Pam Barker, Veterinarian
Member:	Tim Tedford, Professional Mushers' Association of BC
Member:	Frank Turner, Industry
Member:	Dr. Richard Long, International Sled Dog Vet Med Association
Member:	Marie France Boissonneault, Adjunct Professor, Ontario Veterinary College, University of Guelph
Member:	Dr. Carol Morgan, Chair of the Small Animal Subcommittee CVMA Animal Welfare Committee, Canadian Veterinary Medical Association

## Key Stakeholders Represented

Individuals and entities identified below may be engaged in the working group's review and development of Standard of Care:

- British Columbia Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
- College of Veterinarians of British Columbia
- Canadian Veterinary Medical Association
- Industry
- Academia
- Professional Mushers Association of BC
- Ministry of Agriculture
- Others as appropriate

## Reporting

The working group will have 90-days to provide recommendations that will form the basis for Ministry Staff to prepare a Standard of Care.