



THE ASSOCIATION FOR THE
PROTECTION
of Fur-Bearing Animals

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Responses about the dog and cat fur trade from the Canadian Government

Canada's Minister of Agricultural Trade – Honourable Peter Van Loan – “The Government of Canada decided not to ban the importation of cat and dog fur products into Canada after careful review and analysis of the information available, and after taking into consideration the views of various Canadian stakeholders.” Jan 2011.

Canada's Trade Minister – Stockwell Day - “The World Trade Organization's general prohibition of quantitative restrictions on the importation and exportation of goods (i.e. import and export bans) is an important provision in maintaining this [fur trade] access.” Feb 2009.

Note: The USA successfully enacted a ban against the import and sale of dog and cat fur products with their Dog and Cat Protection Act of 2000. In 2008, the European Union passed similar legislation. The World Trade Organization's restriction did not stop all these countries from implementing trade bans regarding dog and cat fur.

Canada's Agriculture Minister – Gerry Ritz - “There is no evidence of such commercial activity in Canada.” Jul 2008.

Note: To our best knowledge, the Canadian Government has not conducted any proper investigations into the cat and dog fur trade (ie. conduct DNA testing of fur samples etc.). Furthermore, Canada accepts unlabelled fur into our country; therefore how can it be determined what is cat and dog fur and what isn't? As more countries close their borders to cat and dog fur trade, it puts Canada at greater risk because we have no laws to prevent the import, export or sale of these products.

Canada's Agriculture Minister – Gerry Ritz – “Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada officials have been taking steps to determine if it is possible to obtain better information about alleged importations. They will continue to work with other departments in that regard.” Jan 2008.

Canada's Former Minister of Industry – Maxime Bernier – “While I understand your concerns, I must inform you that there are currently no restrictions regarding animal identity labeling or the importation and sale of dog and cat fur products in Canada.” Jul 2007.

Canada's former Trade Minister - David Emerson - “My priorities include ensuring foreign market access for Canadian exports ...Adopting an import ban on dog and cat fur such as you suggest could undermine Canada's case against implementation of import bans imposed on Canadian seal products.” Mar 2007.

Note: The government is using one form of animal cruelty, to defend another. Any action to help end any animal suffering is worthwhile. Canadian laws should reflect Canadians' values. Shouldn't the trade minister's priority reflect the interests and values of Canadians?

Office of the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food – Policy Advisor - Christine Bakke – “There is currently no law in place in Canada forbidding the distribution, sale or importation of any specific animals' fur or hides, except where those animals are endangered.” Oct 2006.

Canada's former International Trade Minister – James Peterson – “I do believe that the possibility of the importation of dog and cat fur is an issue that should be further investigated. That is why I have asked departmental officials to closely examine Canada's options and legal implications with respect to stopping any potential imports of cat and dog fur.” Jan 2006.

Canada's former International Trade Minister – James Peterson – “It is important to preserve Canada's access to foreign fur markets.” Nov 2005.

Canada's Former Agriculture Minister – Andy Mitchell – “A ban must be consistent with Canada's international trade obligations and should neither inadvertently impede legitimate trade nor have the effect of favouring Canadian production over foreign goods.” Sep 2005.

Canada's former International Trade Minister – James Peterson - “While I share your concern for animals welfare, implementing a ban on imports of fur products and garments would be inconsistent with our international trading obligations. As a major exporter, Canada has an interest in avoiding trade barriers created by one country imposing on another.” May 2005.

Canada's former International Trade Minister – James Peterson – “Some countries have banned trade in fur of domestic animals, and this was preceded by domestic legislation prohibiting all sales of these furs.” May 2005.

Canada Border Services Agency – A/Director/Partnerships Division - Raymond Bedard – “There is no federal legislation in Canada that required such products (fur products) to contain labels showing the type of animal or country of origin.” Apr 2005.

Canada's former International Trade Minister – Andy Mitchell – “Canada does not collect statistics on the volume or value of dog and cat fur that enters Canada.” Jan 2005.

Canada's former Department of Finance General Director – Bruce Montador – “While the Customs Tariff includes a listing of certain goods that cannot be imported into Canada, it does not prohibit the importation of dog and cat fur.” May 2001.

Canada's former International Trade Minister – Pierre Pettigrew – “Any fur, if properly labelled, not regulated by CITES and in accordance with all Canadian health and sanitary requirements, would be allowed into the Canadian market.”

Office of the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food – Special Assistant – Louise Mignault – “The only basis for making a regulation or imposing conditions for the entry of cat and dog fur into Canada under the Health of Animals Act would be if these animal products were affected with or contaminated by disease that poses a risk on entry into Canada.” May 2000.

Canada Customs and Revenue Agency – Assistant Commissioner – Denis Lefebvre – “There is no legislation or regulation that would prohibit the importation of dog and cat fur.” May 2000.

Fur Council of Canada’s So-Called “dog and cat fur policy”

In addition to the statements above, often quoted by the various officials in the Canadian Government is, “The Fur Council of Canada, the national association representing the fur trade, has an established policy that Canadian designers, manufacturers and retailers not work with, buy or sell products containing fur from domestic dog or cats.”

Note: The Fur Council of Canada is the marketing body of the fur trade. Their mandate is to promote fur, not protect animals nor allocate resources to investigate issues concerning animal welfare or cruelty. This so-called policy has no legal value nor bearing on retail stores, department stores, etc. This policy also does not affect the business practices of fur suppliers and exporters in other countries.

