



## SPA Canada reaction in the Puppy mill shut down in outaouais

**Ottawa, September 18th 2011.**

The MAPAQ (Qc government), highly criticized for its disinclination to act in the controversial Berger Blanc, and other for-profit animal control pounds, as well as government bill P-42, has taken recent events as an opportunity to enhance its image. The recent seizure of over 500 dogs from a puppy mill in Clarendon, QC, has shed light on a poorly hidden secret for the ministry and for Anima-Québec. The society for the protection of animals of Canada has been tracking this (one of the largest in Québec) and other puppy mills since 2008, and has been actively campaigning for change. Our organization has submitted a petition signed by 55 000 citizens, demanding that the government take immediate action to counteract the increasing plague of puppy mills, and the problem of canine overpopulation in our province. Bill P-42 is presumed to be the solution. However, our recommendations to the ministry concerning this bill have been largely devalued to the point that passionate animal rescue groups are now fervently opposed to it, as its aim is fundamentally insignificant. Nevertheless, it is interesting to note that our lobbying attempts towards our government in the recent years are starting to generate some recognition.

Paws 'R' us produced thousands of puppies each and every year and this, in absolutely unacceptable conditions. The worst part being that this was only ONE puppy mill among many others. In order to be highly profitable, as with any prosperous business, puppy mills operate by reducing production costs as much as possible. These practices inevitably create inhumane and atrocious living conditions for the dogs detained in these places: access to food as well as water is restricted; some dogs having no access to fresh water hours on end, lack of qualified personnel causes extremely unsanitary conditions, often with little to no space heating. The incompetence of the people supervising the animals in effect eliminates the dogs' inherent need for mental stimulation; these are only some of the inhumane conditions endured by the constantly confined animals. The only lucky ones are the puppies that leave these horrendous conditions; but what can be said of their mothers? They are forced to endure their existence as prisoners peering through dirty metal bars, and are hardly able to move. They have no chance of getting out, and no contact with daylight or fresh air. They are confined to cages that are too small, and often hung to ceilings in order to

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preserve space and enable a larger population of livestock. Consequently, most occupants suffer from a myriad of preventable diseases, and have little to no veterinary care.

We strongly believe it is imperative to stop denying reality. Each and every one of us is responsible for the over-consumption and over-population of domestic animals. Thankfully, citizens have the power to create change, exert pressure on our elected officials to demand better legislation, and most of all, require adequate application of the laws already in place. In addition, it is absolutely necessary to report suspected puppy mills to our organization, since SPA Canada is fully competent to generate revolutionary results. Information about puppy mills and other animal ethics issues can be found on our website ([www.spacanada.org](http://www.spacanada.org)). Visitors can therefore be on the front line of all developments.

Conclusively, SPA Canada has been pressing for legislation to illegalize uncontrolled breeding ever since its creation. The Quebec government has always given the green light to dog breeders, thus permitting Quebec to become the province with the largest concentration of puppy mills on North America. When contemplating the management of abandoned animals and animal rescue on our territory, it is not surprising that Quebec now has the unfortunate label of being the largest cradle for puppy mills of all industrialized nations.

We are available for interviews

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(Translated from French by Veronique McKeagan)

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