

# Canine Importation: Perspectives of Canadian Veterinarians



59% of veterinarians surveyed reported seeing imported dogs once a week or on a monthly basis.

Importing dogs into Canada is a growing practice that can pose risks to animal health and welfare as well as human health. To gain insight into this practice, we engaged with veterinarians who are the frontline professionals dealing with imported dogs. An anonymous, online survey was distributed to veterinarians across the country from April to June in 2021. Data from 560 veterinarians was collected.

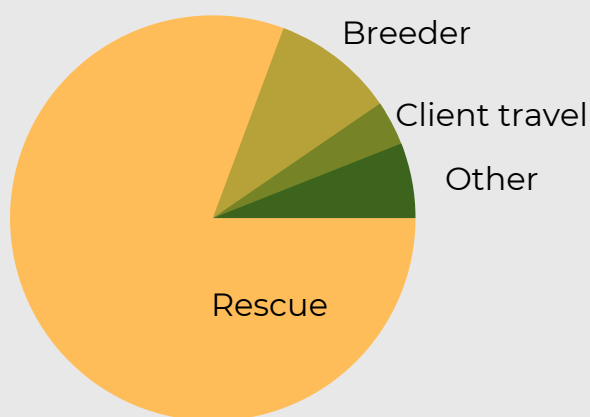
## EXPERIENCES WITH IMPORTED DOGS

### SOURCES OF IMPORTED DOGS



Survey respondents most commonly reported seeing dogs imported from the United States (52.7%) followed by Central America (23.6%).

### ROUTES OF IMPORTATION



Most veterinarians identified rescue organizations as the #1 route of importing dogs.

76% of survey respondents consistently saw imported dogs that had received a rabies vaccine prior to importation. Survey respondents rarely reported seeing dogs that had undergone a period of isolation after importation.

## CONCERNS WITH IMPORTED DOGS

In the past 5 years, survey respondents had concerns regarding:

### TRANSPORT CONDITIONS



### INCOMPLETE VACCINATIONS OR MEDICATIONS



### FOREIGN RECORDS



Survey respondents indicated that when compared to domestic dogs:

### INTERNAL PARASITES



### INFECTIOUS DISEASES



### BEHAVIOURAL DISORDERS

were more commonly seen in imported dogs.

## NEEDED RESOURCES

Survey respondents indicated that these resources would be beneficial for their practice:



Guidelines for screening and diagnosing foreign infectious diseases



Data on country or region specific disease risks



Educational materials for clients on canine importation

Thank you!

Thank you to all the veterinarians who took the time to complete this survey. If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Catherine Belanger at [cbelange@uoguelph.ca](mailto:cbelange@uoguelph.ca).



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