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Canada

## Mixed reaction to Canada's ban on dogs from countries at high risk of rabies

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Jeffrey Beri, founder of the North American rescue team [NoDogs Left Behind](#), which has a sanctuary in Ontario, describes this as "a big blow to international rescue around the world."

"It's not shy about devastation," Beri said.

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency states that the new measures will come into effect on September 28, which is also World Rabies Day.

Over-the-counter dogs are defined as dogs intended for transfer / transfer, resale, adoption, foster care, breeding, exhibition, exhibition, or research.

The ban list includes dogs from almost everywhere in Africa, many of Latin America and the Caribbean, most of Asia and the Middle East, including Afghanistan, and parts of Eastern Europe.

Dogs returning or traveling to Canada with their owners are not included.

Phil Nichols, CEO of the Toronto Humane Society, said he wouldn't be surprised at this progress as federal law has been in force for the past six years.

He points to an example of 38 arriving in Toronto in June 2020 and importing 500 French Bulldogs from Ukraine.

"The risks are very real," Nichols said. "I think there is a combination of concerns when looking at countries with high rabies. How relevant are their medical records? If we don't tighten regulations, we might take a step towards reducing puppy mills in the country. Maybe, but if our market supports poor animal welfare, puppy mills, and bad breeding outside Canada, we need to take steps and restrictions to prevent it. "

Still, Beri has recently relaxed a similar ban by the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, where animals are healthy, have microchips, are over 6 months old, and their owners are effective rabies prevention issued in the United States. You can submit an inoculation certificate.

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"When they cut off rescue from allowing them to import live animals and dogs—you essentially shut them down," Beri said.

He instead suggests giving dogs a rabies titer to check for the presence of antibodies that neutralize rabies.

"Although it allows rescuers to continue to rescue animals, it implements a process and protocol that requires the dog to be taken to an accredited veterinary laboratory for rabies titers. The dog has antibodies. If so, that should be enough for any country. It doesn't have to be all or zero," Beri said.