

March 23, 2020

File #: n/a
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Dr. Bonnie Henry
Provincial Health Officer
Office of the Provincial Health Officer
PO Box 9648
Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9P4

Honourable Adrian Dix
Minister of Health
PO Box 9050
Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

Dear Sir and Madam:

Re: Deeming Pet-Related Services as Essential Services

We are writing on behalf of the Executive of the Canadian Bar Association ("CBA") Animal Law section, BC branch.

The CBA nationally represents approximately 36,000 members and the BC branch itself has over 7,000 members. The Animal Law section studies various issues involving wild and domestic animals, and educates the public about the same. The comments expressed herein are the views of the CBA-BC Animal Law section only, and are not necessarily the views of the CBA as a whole.

A recent study found that about 41% of Canadian households have at least one dog, and 38% have at least one cat.¹ There is no question that companion animals are key members of people's families.

We are writing to urge you to please deem essential pet-related services, including veterinary clinics and pet food and supply stores, as "essential services" during the COVID-19 pandemic crisis. As with other essential services that are critical to preserving life, health and basic societal functioning, these pet-related services are required to ensure the health and wellbeing of people's pets.

¹ <https://www.cahi-icsa.ca/press-releases/latest-canadian-pet-population-figures-released>

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours truly,
BREDER LAW CORPORATION



Per:
Rebeka Breder
Animal Law Lawyer
Co-Chair of the CBA-BC Animal Law Section



Per:
Britta Jensen
Co-Chair of the CBA-BC Animal Law Section

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