

To : christine.barthe@mapaq.gouv.qc.ca

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Subject: Draft animal welfare regulations

Dear Deputy Minister,

As a citizen concerned about animal welfare, I would like to begin by applauding your ministry's initiative to introduce new animal welfare regulations.

I wish, however, to express my disappointment with certain aspects of the proposed regulations, including:

- Several species, including farm animals and even some companion animals, such as pot-bellied pigs, continue to be excluded;
- Exemptions for agricultural, educational and scientific research activities, which, among other things, would remove some existing protection for dogs and cats used in research;
- Several measures necessary to improve animal welfare in a meaningful way are absent, including:
 - A ban on the permanent chaining of dogs;
 - A cap on the number of breeding animals that cat or dog breeders can own;
 - Requirements dealing with psychological well-being for all species covered by the *Animal Welfare and Safety Act*.

Thank you for considering my comments and amending the regulations accordingly.

Regards,