

WELFARE OF PETS - RENEWAL OF AGREEMENT WITH ANIMA-QUEBEC FOR INSPECTION OF PLACES WHERE DOGS AND CATS ARE KEPT, BRED AND SOLD

QUEBEC, December 22, 2009 / CNW Telbec / - The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food announced it has renewed its agreement with ANIMA-Québec Inc. to inspect, under the Safety and Welfare of Animals Section (IV.1.1) of the Animal Health Protection Act (RSQ, c. P-42), places where dogs and cats are kept, bred and sold..

This agreement, effective until March 31, 2011, ensures ANIMA-Quebec has the funding necessary to carry out its activities, in the amount of \$ 400 000 per annum.

The welfare of pets is a major concern of the people of Quebec. This agreement constitutes an essential step in the establishment of a system to strengthen existing measures and to establish new ways to more effectively counter abusive practices against pets.

On October 7, 2009, following the tabling of the report of Mr. Geoffrey Kelley, entitled "Towards a network for the welfare of pets", Minister Claude Bechard announced his intention to implement the recommendations in that document. To this end, a program to improve infrastructure for the care of pets, with a budget of \$ 1 million, was established in November 2009. The aim is to improve the facilities of Societies for the Protection of Animals (SPAs) and Societies for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCAs) and ensure the establishment of a network of shelters covering the entire territory of Quebec to house animals seized under the section of the Animal Health Protection Act cited above.

For more information, visit the website of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, at [www.mapaq.gouv.qc.ca / animal](http://www.mapaq.gouv.qc.ca/animal).

(Translated by AAO)