



Government
Relations

600 Pennsylvania Ave SE
Suite 450
Washington, DC 20003

September 29, 2020

The Honorable Robert R. Redfield, MD
Director
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
1600 Clifton Road, NE
Atlanta, GA 30333

Dear Director Redfield:

On behalf of the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) and our more than 2 million members, I urge the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) to pursue humane outcomes for the 15 French Bulldog puppies who were recently found suffering in a warehouse at O'Hare International Airport in Chicago after arriving from Jordan. We were grateful local authorities were notified and have been able to ensure the puppies are receiving critically needed care. However, the future of these puppies remains uncertain.

I am writing to ask that the CDC use its discretion to collaborate with local care providers so that the puppies may receive needed vaccinations, veterinary care, and any necessary quarantine in the United States. This action will not only help ensure that the dogs do not suffer further neglect or harm, but also ensure that they will not present a risk to public health.

Returning the puppies to Jordan will put the dogs' lives at risk unnecessarily and their fate upon arrival is uncertain. This action will not further the interests of public health since care and quarantine are currently available here. With so much public interest in the welfare of these puppies and with many offers for care and possible placement, we hope that the CDC will allow their health and safety to be protected until issues of proper entry and ownership can be resolved. If the ASPCA can be of service toward this end, please let us know.

We appreciate the CDC's continued vigilance in protecting our country from the spread of disease, including zoonotic diseases like rabies. As the nation's leading animal welfare organization, with expertise in shelter animal health and veterinary medicine, the ASPCA also takes these issues very seriously. As I am sure you agree, it seems the CDC's goals can easily be met without these puppies having to endure any additional suffering. We look forward to working with the agency to fine tune practices and regulations to ensure that humane policies are in place while carrying out the mission of protecting public health.

I appreciate your immediate attention to this very important issue.

Sincerely,

Nancy Perry,
Senior Vice President, Government Relations