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Till: Communicatie - Raad van Beheer; Rony Doedijns - Raad van Beheer
Ämne: Statement Dutch Kennel Club - Criteria breeding brachycephalic dogs in The Netherlands - May 2020
Bifogade filer: criteria short muzzled dogs - vet form - ENG may 2020 def.pdf; Statement criteria short muzzled dogs remain unchanged - DKC - may 2020.pdf

To the FCI Kennel Clubs

Dear Kennel Clubs, dear colleague's,

Enclosed you will find the official English statement of the Dutch Kennel Club regarding the breeding criteria for brachycephalic dogs in The Netherlands.

The Dutch Kennel club has to follow Dutch law and legislation, within the guidelines that our now given by the Dutch government.

We will investigate and negotiate with the Dutch short muzzled breed clubs about possible further action. The short muzzled breeds are not banned in the Netherlands, we can still breed them but we have to follow the 6 health criteria. Importing short muzzled breeds to the Netherlands and showing these breeds at our dog shows is also not forbidden.

The report of our ministry with the criteria can be found on our website at the bottom of the page www.houdenvahonden.nl/fokkenkortsnuiten (rest page is in Dutch).

Enclosed you will find a copy of the veterinary screenings form for short muzzled breeds.

The parents of the litter have to meet these criteria. After a positive evaluation of the parents the offspring will receive an official FCI pedigree and are registered in our main studbook. If one of the parents does not meet the required minimum muzzle length and all the other 5 criteria are sufficient the litter will also get an official FCI pedigree. This is a temporary allowed exception. If both parents are not fulfilling the requirements no FCI pedigree will be issued.

Hopefully at our next general assembly our members will decide that litters that are born out of parents that do not follow the health requirements, will be registered in a special studbook addendum. The puppies that are born out of those parents can possibly meet the requirements when they are adults. Therefore we want to keep these dogs registered. When they meet all the requirements, their puppies can go back in to the Dutch Kennel Club main FCI studbook.

The Dutch Kennel club is not going to issue FCI pedigrees to crossbred dogs.

International help and support is needed urgently from FCI. The FCI has already offered their assistance which we gladly accept.

The Dutch government has a lot of contact with authorities in several countries and the problem of short muzzled breeds is an international issue. In middle and northern Europe this topic is high on the agenda of animal right and welfare organisations. But also the different national authorities are making guidelines and rules and regulations concerning breeding, keeping and showing short muzzled breeds in their countries.

At the moment the Raad van Beheer, the Dutch Kennel Club, is following the national law. We do hope that Kennel Clubs, breeders, judges and owners will come to the realization that we must modernise our way of thinking and that the health and well-being of our breeds are our top priority. Some breeds will have to go back to basic more, with the breeds still being typical considering the breed standard. We count on your support in this international issue.

With best regards,

Rony Doedijns | Director

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Criteria Short muzzled dogs

Name veterinarian:	
Name owner:	
Name dog:	
ID number dog:	
Date of examination:	
Signature veterinarian:	Signature owner:

Criterion	Measurement/observation			
1. Abnormal breathing sound in rest	Absent	Present: sniffing/snorting	Present: snoring	Present: sawing
2. Nostrils	Open	moderate open	Stenotic/narrowed	closed
3. Relative muzzle length Muzzle length: ... cm Cranial length: ... cm Ratio: M/C=	≥0,5	0,3-0,5	≤0,3	
4. Nasal fold	Absent	Present: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visible nasal fold on top of muzzle: can be easily put between a calliper No eye contacts No visible inflammation signs in the eye 	Present: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eye contact Signs of inflammation of the eye 	
5. Exposed white of the eye as a result of a shallow orbit in the skull. Measured with the dog looking forward.	None	In 1 quadrant	In ≥2 quadrantes	
6. Eyelid closure when the eyelid reflex is elicited	Fully closed	Incompletely closed		
Other remarks:				
General health?				
Are there other hereditary diseases known?				

Conclusion

	Green = Agreed When all the criteria are scored in green the dog is (for these criteria) suitable for breeding.
	Orange = Unsatisfactory. Temporarily allowed if scored only once
	Red = Not Agreed. Temporarily it is allowed to form a combination consisting of a dog with a CFR < 0.3 and a dog with a CFR > 0.3

Figures

Figure 1. Nostrils

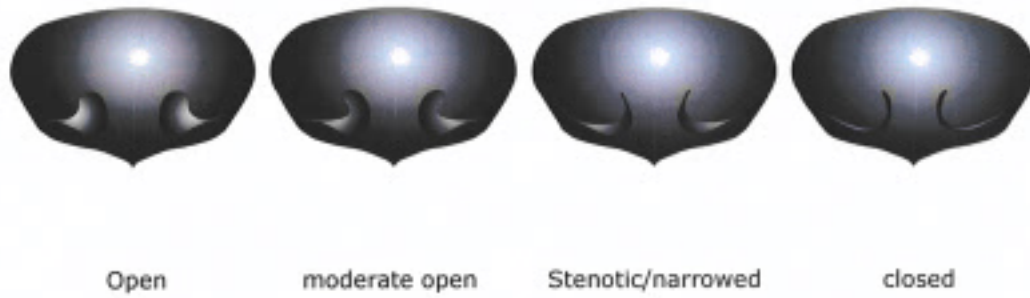
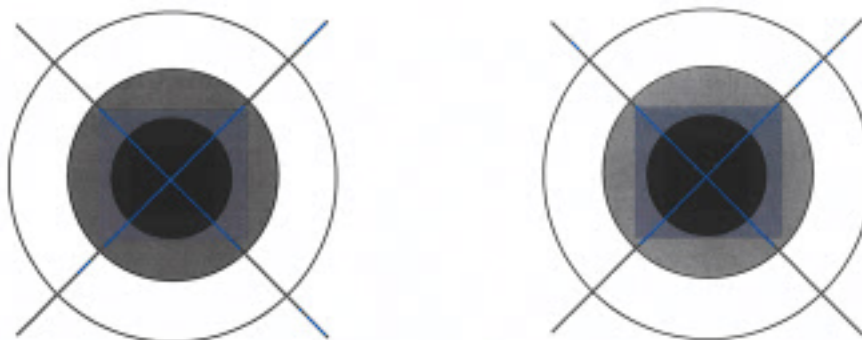


Figure 2. Muzzle length (line) and cranial length (dashed line)



Figure 3. Exposed white of the eye as a result of a shallow orbit in the skull. Measured with the dog looking forward. (shade the quadrantes)





News item – 11th May 2020

**Dutch Minister Carola Schouten of the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality:
Criteria for breeding short-muzzled dogs in the Netherlands remain unchanged**

In March 2019, the report "Breeding brachycephalic dogs" with enforcement criteria for the breeding of brachycephalic dogs was published. In August 2019, the Dutch Kennel Club 'Raad van Beheer' together with the breed clubs of the involved breeds, submitted a breeding strategy. The breeding strategy included a mandatory proof that the brachycephalic dogs were proven free of conformation related problems.

With this breeding strategy, the Dutch Kennel club asked for an exception to the muzzle length criterion for regulated pedigree dog breeding in the Netherlands. By doing so, the Dutch Kennel Club would offer a healthy and responsible alternative to the non-regulated import of dogs that don't need to comply to the criteria. For some breeds, more than 70% of the annual number of puppies sold is imported into the Netherlands.

The Minister expresses her appreciation for the actions described, and largely endorses the additional measures from the breeding strategy. But the minister does not adopt the breeding strategy and maintains the six criteria from the original report.

However, the minister does not want to ban breeds and therefore temporarily allows breeding a combination of dogs. It is temporarily allowed to breed if one parent dog does not meet the muzzle length criterion (Craniofacial ratio (CFR) smaller or equal to 0,3) but meets all the other 5 criteria. The other parent dog must meet all the 6 criteria including muzzle length (CFR larger than 0,3).

This can be done within the breeding rules of the Dutch Kennel Club by selection within the breed or using cross-breeding.

The Dutch Kennel club regrets that the minister does not implement the necessary additional regulations for example on the import of short muzzled dogs. The imported dogs are not included in the enforcement criteria and, by focusing enforcement on the dogs bred by the organized pedigree dog breeders in the Netherlands, the imported dogs are only more likely to increase in number. The health and welfare of the short muzzled dogs will not improve if only breeding in the Netherlands is regulated. The Dutch Kennel Club will, in collaboration with the breed clubs of short-muzzled dogs, take initiative to tackle this legal inequality with regard to import dogs and dogs originating from alleged puppy farms.

Adjusted registration procedure

Based on the response of the minister, the board of the Dutch Kennel Club has decided to take the following measure:

From May 18, 2020, a modified procedure applies for registration of litters of short-muzzled dogs. A FCI pedigree is only issued if the correct evidence of fulfilling the enforcement criteria from both parent dogs is given. If this evidence is not available, no pedigree will be issued.

For more information about breeding short-muzzled dogs, including the English translation of the report with the criteria of the government and our breeding strategy can be found on our website at: www.houdenvanhonden.nl/fokkenkortsnuiten (rest of the page is in Dutch).