

Open letter to the Board of the Raad van Beheer (Dutch Kennel Club) regarding Brachycephalic breeds

Hollandse Bulldoggen Club - Eerste Gezelschapshonden Club Nederland - Shih Tzu Club Nederland - Boston Terriër Club Nederland –
Commedia Mopshonden Vereniging - Engelse Bulldog Club Nederland - Bulldog Club Nederland - Pekingees en Dwergspanielclub -
Vereniging van Fokkers en Liefhebbers van gladharige Dwergpinschers

To the Board of the Raad van Beheer op Kynologisch Gebied in Nederland
Attn.: Mr. R. Nuberg, Secretary
p/a Emmalaan 16-18
1075 AV Amsterdam

24th of June 2020

Dear Board,

In regards to the Minister's negative response to the breeding strategy program drawn up jointly by the Raad van Beheer and the involved breed clubs, you informed us on the 11th of May to adjust the breeding declaration and registration of Brachycephalic breeds effective the 18th of May this year.

In fact, this means that the Raad van Beheer (Dutch Kennel Club) no longer issues pedigrees to puppies born from breed-typical parents of the following breeds:

- Affenpinscher, Boston Terrier, Bulldog, French Bulldog, Griffon Belge, Griffon Bruxellois, Petit Brabançon, Japan Chin, King Charles Spaniel, Pug, Pekingese and Shih Tzu.

This disastrous decision makes breeding a dog of these breeds, in accordance with the breed standard impossible in the Netherlands. The breeders of these breeds are therefore heavily duped. In addition, the result of this decision will be that the breeds with a CFR between 0.3 and 0.5 will also follow soon. It also sets a precedent for the same exclusion of breed-typical dogs of other breeds with external characteristics, which will be attacked in an equally easy but misleading manner. Internationally, this decision has already led to many indignant and troubled reactions, both within the FCI and its affiliated contract partners.

The involved breed clubs therefore agree that this is a wrongful decision that ignores the statutes and by-laws of the Raad van Beheer (*Kynologisch Reglement*). Herewith, we would like to make four urgent requests to you to restore the situation as to before the 11th of May and prevent the current situation from having a knock-on effect on many other breeds to follow:

Request 1:

- The 'Raad van Beheer' (Dutch Kennel Club) immediately and retroactively revokes the amended registration procedure for Brachycephalic breeds published the 11th of May 2020.

Request 2:

- The 'Raad van Beheer' (Dutch Kennel Club) endorses the statement that the breed standard is leading and supports the FCI Standards Commission open letter about Brachycephalic dogs

Request 3:

- The 'Raad van Beheer' (Dutch Kennel Club) concludes covenants with the involved breed clubs, whereby a best effort obligation is placed with the breeders as a condition for the issuing of pedigrees. This effort obligation includes a mandatory health test, preferably based on the scientific research conducted by the Cambridge BOAS Research Group through a license from the English Kennel Club supported by the FCI. In view of the many preparatory work already carried out, this can be realized in the very short term together with the involved breed clubs.

Request 4:

- The 'Raad van Beheer' (Dutch Kennel Club) in collaboration with the involved breed clubs, establishes a network of 20 to 30 veterinarians to facilitate the breeders of our clubs to carry out the health tests mentioned in the covenants; for example, the Cambridge BOAS test, patella test and the eye test (for Brachycephalic dogs). These veterinarians can be trained by a number of specialists (partly in accordance with the license with the English Kennel Club) and form a network of test locations in the Netherlands. By doing so health tests can be made cheap and accessible, which increases the chance that not only breeding animals, but also offspring can be tested. This provides more data and can lead to a faster elimination of problems in a breed. These vets are also an important reference group for the pedigree dogs and can act as their ambassadors.

We expect the Raad van Beheer (Dutch Kennel Club) to comply with these requests and to inform the involved breed clubs regarding these requests in full no later than the 5th of July, after which we can work to preserve the breeding of the aforementioned breeds in good cooperation. If you do not respond to our requests, we consider convening an Extraordinary General Meeting in accordance with art. 21 of the statutes of the "Raad van Beheer op Kynologisch Gebied in Nederland" (Dutch Kennel Club).

Yours sincerely,

Hollandse Bulldoggen Club
Eerste Gezelschapshonden Club Nederland
Shih Tzu Club Nederland
Boston Terriër Club Nederland
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