



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 in Dutch).