

Response from the board of the Raad van Beheer to the open letter from the chairman of the FCI

The Dutch Kennel Club Raad van Beheer is very surprised and displeased with the open letter from the chairman of the FCI. The Raad van Beheer do not recognise themselves in the picture presented by the chairman and they feel insulted by him. The FCI has been continuously informed about current developments in the Netherlands. On 12 May last, we made another request for support to the FCI. The chairman of the FCI received a copy of this letter we sent to the FCI in which we explained the Minister's decision and its consequences for the breeding and pedigree certification of dogs belonging to the short-muzzled breeds. We urged the FCI to discuss this with us.

The Raad van Beheer's main focus lies on the breeding of and with healthy dogs. In recent years, the Raad van Beheer has continuously demanded international attention for the position of the short-muzzled breeds, including during FCI meetings of shows and judges and the FCI Breeding Commission. At these meetings, national and international criticism of the short-muzzled breeds was discussed, and representatives from the Netherlands gave presentations about current developments in the Netherlands. In addition, the Netherlands was, partly at the request of the FCI, present at sessions on animal welfare and excessive breed characteristics in the European Parliament.

Many European governments are working closely together to achieve a uniform policy for short-muzzled breeds in Europe. National and international veterinarian organisations are also working together to achieve a uniform health policy. All large and international operating petfood companies now have the policy that they no longer use images of short-muzzled breeds in their advertising campaigns. This is due to the negative international publicity surrounding these breeds.

During the European Section meeting in Austria in the summer of 2019, the chairman of the FCI promised that the FCI Scientific Commission would draw up a report and recommendations regarding the problems surrounding short-muzzled breeds *within 6 weeks*. The Netherlands again sounded the alarm during the FCI show and judges meeting in February 2020. The chairman of the FCI indicated at this meeting that he was very frustrated that the FCI Scientific Commission still had not drawn up a report and recommendations after formal requests from the FCI Board. It is the responsibility of the FCI Board to take appropriate action towards the relevant commission.

Once again, we strongly emphasise that the Raad van Beheer, as co-founder of the FCI, is very committed to its breeders and all recognised FCI breeds. The Raad van Beheer and their members have made great efforts in recent years to achieve a responsible breeding policy with regard to all (pedigree) dogs. Unfortunately, our breeding supervision plan for short-muzzled dogs has not been adopted by the government and, as an organisation, we have to conform to national legislation. In doing so, the Raad van Beheer acts in full accordance with FCI's statutes and standing orders? . The Raad van Beheer remains committed to the preservation and responsible breeding and keeping of all FCI breeds and requests understanding and support from the national and international dog world.

The full statement of the Raad van Beheer regarding the current position of short-muzzled breeds in the Netherlands and the process that proceeded can be found [here](#).

Dutch Kennel Club Raad van Beheer

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