



The amendments to the Animal Welfare Act also clarified the term "**agony**". The following symptoms are mentioned as agony:

- Dyspnoea
- Movement anomalies
- Lameness
- Inflammation of the skin
- Inflammation of the connective and / or cornea
- blindness
- protruding eyes
- deafness
- Neurological symptoms
- Malformations of the dentition
- Birth difficulties

The legislator assumes that certain characteristics required in the racial standards can lead to these symptoms and now calls for organized cynology to take counter-measures. A transitional period until 1 January 2018 was granted to achieve a health improvement for the breeds concerned.

During this period breeding with dogs exhibiting the symptoms listed above will not be a violation of the animal welfare legislation if it can be shown that breeding measures are being undertaken which lead to a health improvement and thus to a freedom from symptoms that are termed "agony" , Respectively.

Should no or inadequate measures be taken, breeding and holding bans for certain breeds are threatened from 2018 onwards.

In collaboration with Mrs. Univ. Prof. Dr. Irene Sommerfeld-Stur, the ÖKV project "Konterqual" was developed, which should provide security for the races included in the program against sanctions.

Goals of the match

- Increasing the health of breed dogs
- Prevention of breeding, holding and import prohibitions
- Simple, transparent and cost-effective implementation

Naturally, existing measures for combating this problem could also be included in this project. In many breeds there are breeding notes on, for example, combating hip dysplasia, eye diseases, numbness, etc.



Project steps

1. Identification of relevant facts (questionnaire)
2. Evaluation of questionnaires
3. Development of breeding proposals and selection (screening) procedures
4. Discussion and definition of the planned breeding measures with the ÖKV federation bodies
5. Anchoring of the measures in the breeding regulations
6. Start of implementation
7. Breeding according to the program
8. Ongoing evaluation
9. Reporting to Parliament and the public

The screening procedures already introduced in the breeding regulations of the individual breeds and additionally necessary in connection with the project "Konterqual" can be found in the linked [Liste](#).

The measures taken so far are shown in the interim reports [2012](#) , [2013](#), [2015](#) und [2016](#) .

documentation

The Animal Protection Act requires a complete documentation of the measures to prevent agony. This documentation must be submitted in the case of inspections. Within the framework of the ÖKV project "Conterqual" the documentation is carried out in various steps or levels:

ÖKV:

Breeding and registration
Austrian dog breeding book
Ongoing documentation of the entire project

ÖKV - Associations:

Specific breed

Breeder:

Deck and throwing message
Documentation on the required screening procedures (findings of the breeders)

The documents published by the ÖKV and the ÖKV associations are currently available on the respective homepages via the Internet.

Load test for short-nosed dog breeds



Respiratory distress is listed in the animal welfare law as a quality indicator and is always associated with the standard feature of the shortness (brachycephaly).

A stress test, ([Belastungstest](#))¹ which is easy to carry out, should help to identify this agonizing feature. A veterinarian assesses the dogs at the beginning and at the end of the test and provides the appropriate [Untersuchungsbogen](#) examination. The organizing of this test is carried out by the ÖKV - Verband.

1

ÖKV Project Conterqual

Uniform strain test for short-necked dog breeds

With the agrochemical feature

"Shortness of breath"

In order to prevent possible airway problems in the Short-necked dog breeds, is part of the ÖKV project. The load test used by the VDH was used immediately. On Passed stress test is part of the project. Proposed screening (screening) procedures. The associations of associations (or the ÖKV direkt) will be responsible in future Uniform load test, in which cross - breeding dogs of the Short-nosed breeds.

Execution and execution of stress tests

Dates, places and registration procedures of the offered load tests By the federation bodies participating in the ÖKV project "Konterqual" And the short-naked breeds with respiratory problems, are more suitable form.

The implementing federation body is responsible in the framework of the Stress tests a neutral veterinarian with the on-site clinical examination. The veterinarian alone decides whether the burden test was passed or not.

When the load test (first check) is not established, this is a second concept (Post-control) within 6 months. For the second presentation the Examination sheet from the dog owner. Becomes Also the 2nd stress test failed, the dog applies in the sense of the project Conterqual as permanently non-breeding. The owner of the dog can go against to lodge an objection to this decision. The cost of the test and for a

Any Opposition proceedings With Reviews by the Veterinary University of Vienna bears the owner of the dog. The dog is examined immediately before the stress test by the veterinarian (Including heart rate and breathing noises). After that, the dog handler must with his dog-dog in any gait a fixed course Of 1,000 m in a maximum of 11 minutes.



Further investigations of the veterinarian follow immediately after the Stress test and after 5 and 10 minute rest (heart rate and Breathing noises). After 10 minutes, or after 15 minutes at the latest, the heart and heart Respiratory rate normalized to pass the stress test. The organizer can conduct doping checks by means of blood and urine controls carry out. A positive result leads to the retrospective detection of a Passed load tests.

In the summer months, during hot or humid weather, organize appropriate measures to take care of the health of the dogs Not to endanger (laying in the morning hours, shadow, provision of Cooling possibilities).

The organizer of the association is the owner of the dog for the To participate in this test to pay a fee which covers the expenses for The organization and the veterinarian present. In principle, the dog owner is responsible for possible Health damage caused by the stress test. He has to judge whether the dog At this time a load test can be expected at all or whether This must be interrupted during execution.