

The SKK Welcomes Increased Cooperation with Veterinarians

Original link: <http://www.skk.se/sv/nyheter/2015/8/SKK-valkomnar-okat-samarbete-med-veterinarer/>

Aug. 10, 2015 The Swedish Kennel Club (SKK) welcomes extended collaboration with veterinarians on the subject of dogs with breathing difficulties. The collaboration has already been ongoing for years and the next meeting regarding dog breeding will be held on September 10, including the Swedish Veterinary Association, the Swedish Board of Agriculture and the SKK. Recently, a petition, in the form of an open letter, has been published in which more than 500 veterinarians express their concern about the health of many brachycephalic dogs in Sweden.

The SKK welcomes the letter and is looking forward to increased collaboration with veterinarians regarding brachycephalic syndrome in certain breeds.

The predisposed problems with breathing of brachycephalic breeds is something that the SKK, as well as veterinarians, have identified as a serious health problem and which the SKK for a long time has worked with on various levels, including changes in breeding goals of the breeds in question, a raised awareness among dog show judges and information to the dog purchasing general public.

The SKK has also initiated international partnerships for the exchange of experiences and has for a long time worked on and planned a conference focusing on the problems of brachycephalic breeds, which will take place next winter. Several of these breeds have increased in popularity during the past decade, as well as the import of puppies of these breeds. To reach the set breeding goals for enhanced health in all brachycephalic breeds, an international collaboration is an important part.

Veterinarians and the SKK work towards the same goal, i.e. improvement of dog health, but each organization respectively has access to and uses different means to reach that goal. Breeding is a long term and determined work, which takes time and is complemented, in an excellent way, with the clinical practice performed by veterinarians in the field. The SKK is an organization with voluntary membership, but members are expected to follow Swedish law as well as the rules set by the SKK.

The SKK has a well-established partnership with veterinarians within various areas and contributes financially to research related to the field of dog health. An increased collaboration regarding the problems of brachycephalic breeds, would enable faster changes and increased well-being for our dogs and that is something we welcome within the SKK.

During this fall the SKK will invite representatives from veterinarians to a meeting to discuss respiratory problems and together draw up guidelines for continued collaboration towards healthier dogs within this area.

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