

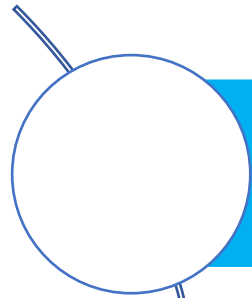


Updates on extreme traits, and vision forward: the ENCI approach



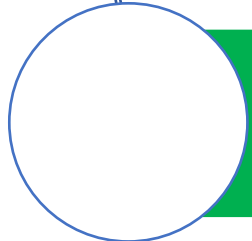
**INTERNATIONAL
6TH DOG HEALTH
WORKSHOP**
All Roads Lead to Dog Health

16 – 17 April 2026 Online	30 May – 1 June 2026 Bologna, Italy
Lead Sponsor	Platinum Sponsor
Agria	ROYAL CANIN <small>a division of Mars Petcare</small>

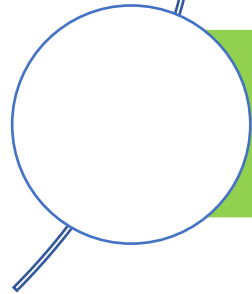


Biodiversity conservation

ipfdogs International
Partnership
for Dogs



Health



Welfare

ENCI

Directly appointed by the Ministry of Agriculture to manage and preserve canine studbook

Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Health delegates are members of the Central Technical Commission

ENCI studbook management activity

Implementation of breeding rules and regulations

18.42% registered-pedigree canine population (FCI, Marton A., 2024)

Around 140000 new entries in 2025



Type (breed specific traits) and welfare: points of concern

RESOLUTION ON THE BREEDING OF PET ANIMALS

1. to encourage breeding associations, in particular cats and dogs breeding associations:

- to reconsider **breeding standards** in order, if appropriate, to amend those which can cause potential welfare problems, in particular in the light of the recommendations presented in the Appendix;

- to reconsider the standards and to select the animals taking into account not only aesthetic criteria but also **behavioural characteristics** (for instance with regard to problems of aggressiveness) and abilities;

- to ensure, by good information and education of breeders and judges, that breeding standards are interpreted in such a way as to counteract the development of extreme characteristics (hypertype) which can cause welfare problems;

- to raise public awareness to the problems related to some physical and behavioural characteristics of the animals;

*European
Convention for the
Protection of Pet
Animals
Strasbourg,
13.XI.1987*

*Multilateral
Consultation of
Parties to the
European Conventi
on for The
Protection of Pet
Animals
Strasbourg,
10.III.1995*



European Treaty Series - No. 125

European Convention for the Protection of Pet Animals

Strasbourg, 13.XI.1987

Preamble

The member States of the Council of Europe signatory hereto,

Considering that the aim of the Council of Europe is to achieve a greater unity between its members;

Recognising that man has a moral obligation to respect all living creatures and bearing in mind that pet animals have a special relationship with man;

Considering the importance of pet animals in contributing to the quality of life and their consequent value to society;

Considering the difficulties arising from the enormous variety of animals which are kept by man;

Considering the risks which are inherent in pet animal overpopulation for hygiene, health and safety of man and of other animals;

Considering that the keeping of specimens of wild fauna as pet animals should not be encouraged;

Aware of the different conditions which govern the acquisition, keeping, commercial and non-commercial breeding and disposal of and the trading in pet animals;

Aware that pet animals are not always kept in conditions that promote their health and well-being;

Noting that attitudes towards pet animals vary widely, sometimes because of limited knowledge and awareness;

Considering that a basic common standard of attitude and practice which results in responsible pet ownership is not only a desirable, but a realistic goal,

Have agreed as follows:



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UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI
DI MILANO

Type (breed specific traits) and welfare: points of concern

RESOLUTION ON THE BREEDING OF PET ANIMALS

2. if these measures are not sufficient, to consider the possibility of prohibiting the breeding and for phasing out the exhibition and the selling of certain types or breeds when characteristics of these animals correspond to harmful defects such as those presented in the Appendix.

- set **maximum and minimum values for height or weight** of very large or small dogs, respectively, to avoid skeleton and joint disorders (e.g. dysplasia of hip joints or elbows, fractures, luxation of elbow or patella, persistent fontanella) and collapse of trachea;
- set **maximum values for the proportion between length and height of short-legged dogs** (e.g. Basset hound, Dachshund) to avoid disorders of the vertebral column;
- set **limits to the shortness of skull, respectively nose, so that breathing difficulties and blockage of lachrymal ducts are avoided, as well as disposition to birth difficulties** (e.g. Persian cats, especially the "extreme type", **Bulldogs, Japan Chin, King Charles Spaniel, Pug, Pekingese**);



Type (breed specific traits) and welfare: points of concern

RESOLUTION ON THE BREEDING OF PET ANIMALS

prevent the occurrence of:

- a persistent **fontanella** (e.g. Chihuahua) to avoid brain damages;
- **abnormal positions of legs** (e.g. very steep line of hind legs in ChowChow, Norwegian Buhund, Swedish Lapphund, Finnish Spitz; bowed legs in Bassethound, Pekin Palacedog, Shi Tzu) to avoid difficulties in movement and joint degeneration;
- **abnormal positions of teeth** (e.g. brachygnathia in Boxers, Bulldogs, Persian Cats) to avoid difficulties in feeding and caring for the newborn;
- **abnormal size and form of eyes or eyelids** (e.g. ectropium: Bassethound, Bloodhound, St. Bernard; small deep lying eyes with disposition to entropium: Airedale Terrier, Australian Terrier, Bedlington Terrier, Bullterrier, Bloodhound, Chow Chow, EnglishToyTerrier, Jagdterrier, Newfoundland, SharPei; large, protruding eyes: Boston Terrier, Cavalier King Charles Spaniel, Dandie Dinmont Terrier, Brussels Griffon, Japan Chin, King Charles Spaniel, Pug, Pekin Palacedog, Shi Tzu, Tibet Terrier) to avoid irritation, inflammation and degeneration as well as prolapse of eyes;
- **very long ears** (e.g. English Cocker Spaniel, Bassethound, Bloodhound) to avoid disposition to injuries;
- **markedly folded skin** (e.g. Bassethound, Bulldog, Bloodhound, Pug, Pekin Palacedog, Shar Pei) to avoid eczemas and in the case of furrows around the eyes irritation and inflammation of eyes;



Type (breed specific traits) and welfare: points of concern

RESOLUTION ON THE BREEDING OF PET ANIMALS

- avoid or, if it is not possible to **eliminate severe defects**, discontinued breeding of:
 - animals carrying **semi-lethal factors** (e.g. Entlebucher Cattle dog);
 - animals carrying **recessive defect-genes** (e.g. homozygotic Scottish Fold Cat: short legs, vertebral column and tail defects)
 - **hairless dogs and cats** (lack of protection against sun and chill, disposition to significant reduction of number of teeth, semi-lethal factor)
 - Manx-cat (movement disorder, disposition to vertebral column defects, difficulties in elimination of urine and faeces, semi-lethal factor)
 - cats carrying "dominant white" (significant disposition to deafness);
 - **dogs carrying "Merle factor"** (significant disposition to deafness and eye disorders, e.g.: Blue merle Collie, Merle Sheltie, Merle Corgie, Merle Bobtail, Tigerdogge, Tigerteckel).



ENCI: technical actions

standard pedigree



Genealogy



Traceability
Genetic reservoir
Biodiversity conservation

selected pedigree



Genealogy
Health test requirement fulfilled by both parents
Behavioral test requirement fulfilled by both parents
Conformation requirements fulfilled by both parents
Genetic variability requirements fulfilled by both parents*



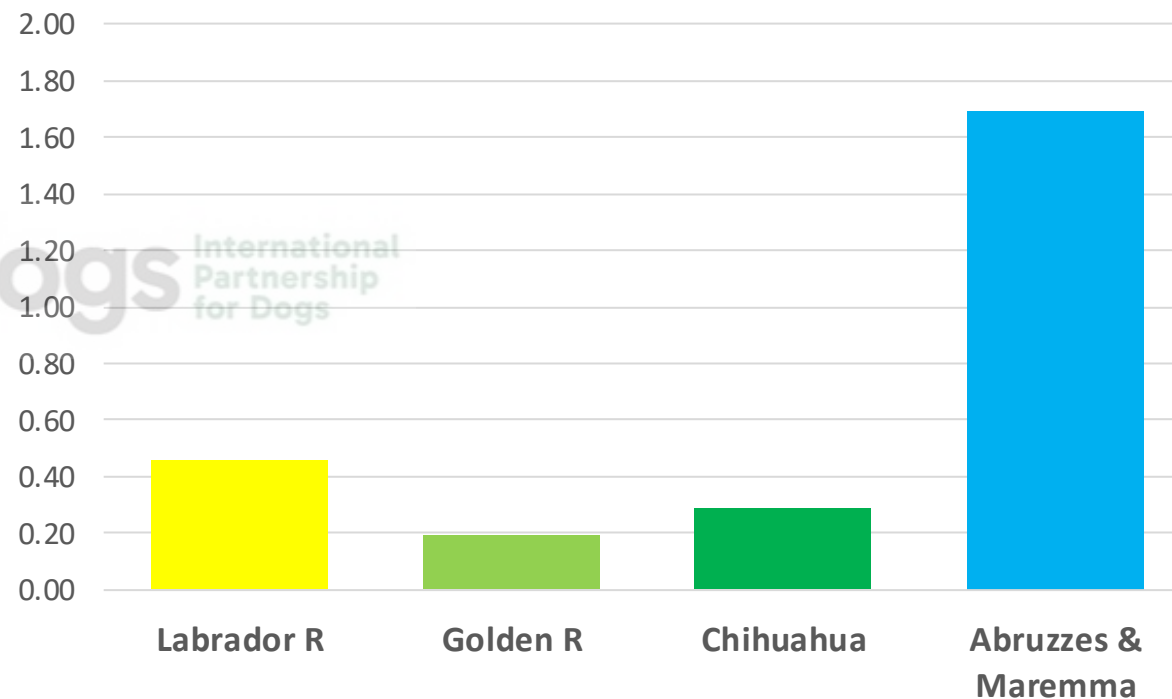
Traceability
Genetic reservoir
Biodiversity conservation
Breed health & type improvement



Selected breeders per year (2024); N

<i>breed</i>	<i>entries 2024</i>	<i>selected breeder 2024</i>	<i>% SB/Entries</i>
Labrador R	6549	30	0,46
Golden R	9289	18	0,19
Chihuahua	7412	21	0,28
Abreuzzes & Maremma	946	16	1,69

proportion of selected breeders number on breed's entry;
year 2024; %



ENCI: technical actions

Breed specific health test:

DNA tests (specific protocols)

Clinical tests (specific protocols, official recognition of the DVM)

Judges Formation:

Seminars about dog welfare and extreme type

(academic speaker breeder and judge = same language)

BOAS: Brachycephalic Exercise Aptitude Test for Health(**BREATH**) or Respiratory Function Grading Scheme(**RFGS**)

Specific actions of Scientific and Central Technical Commission: Scientific evidence-based actions

Pedigree control: DNA analysis



BREATH test

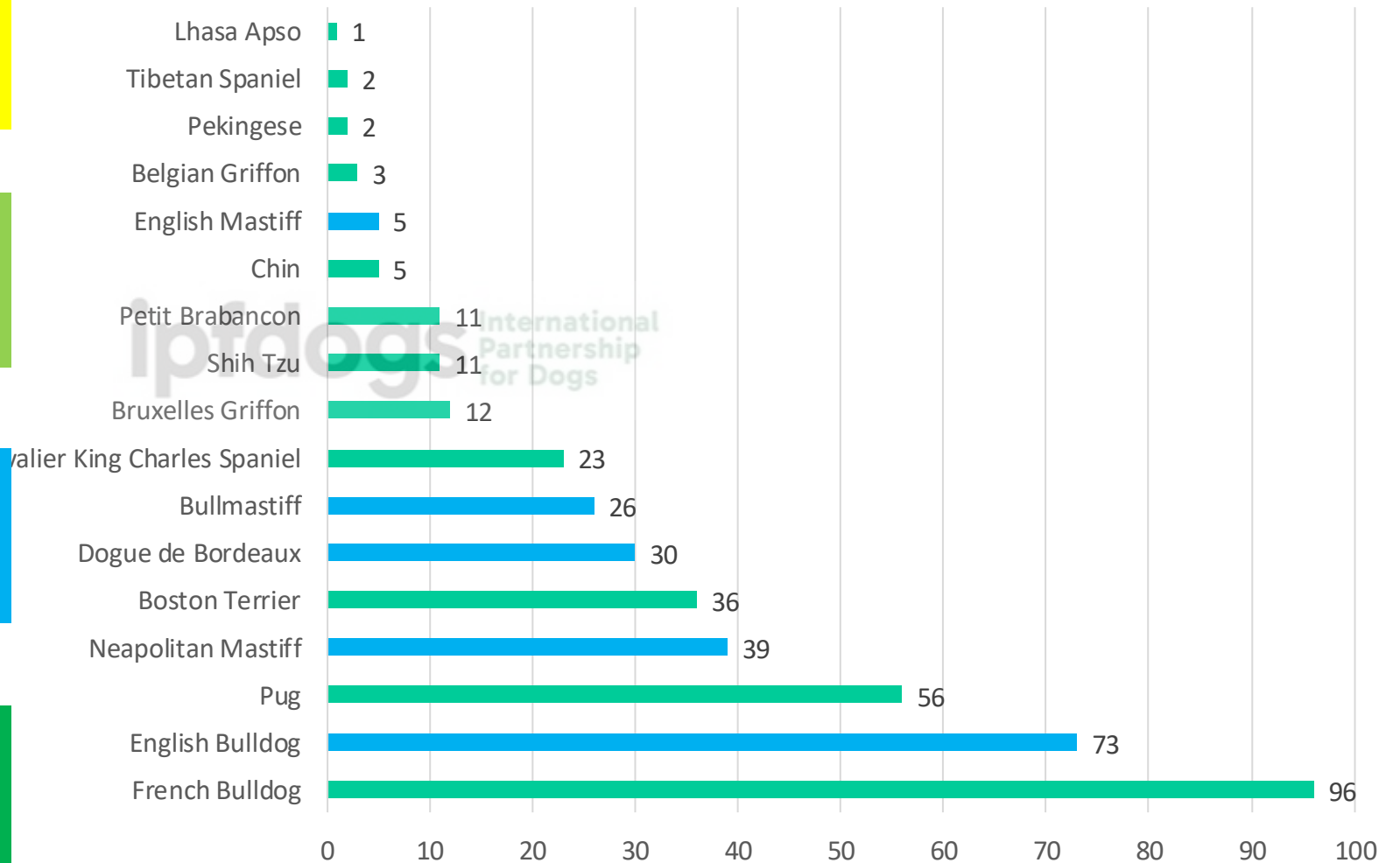
**Years: 2024+2025 total:
431 tested subject**

**French Bulldog 2024
entries: 2482**

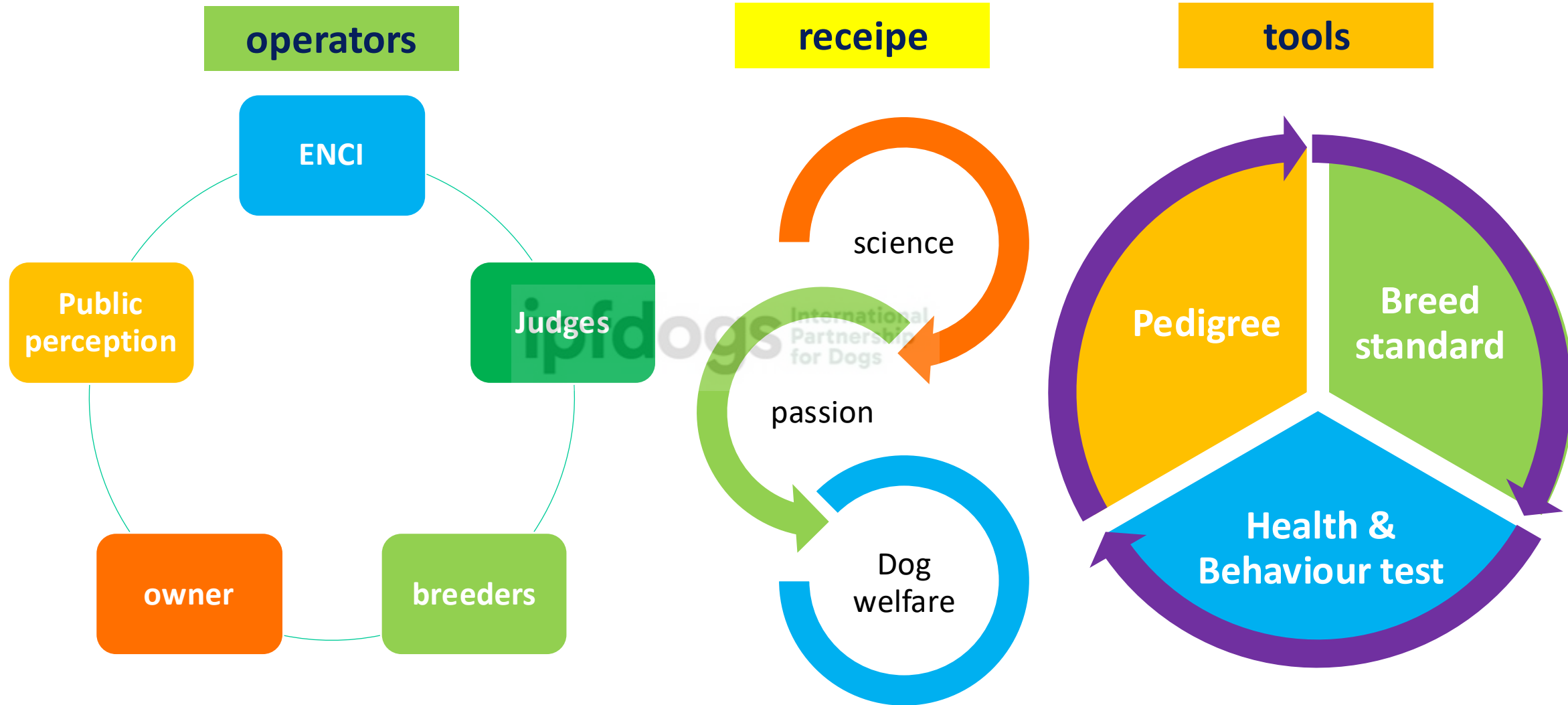
**English Bulldog 2024
entries: 854**

**Pug 2024 entries:
854**

BREATH test breed distribution, year 24 + 25, N



Critical Control Point



Strategies for extreme type control: a dynamic approach

Strong technical support to:

- Direction Board
- Breed Clubs
- Breeders

Judges
formation
&
responsibility

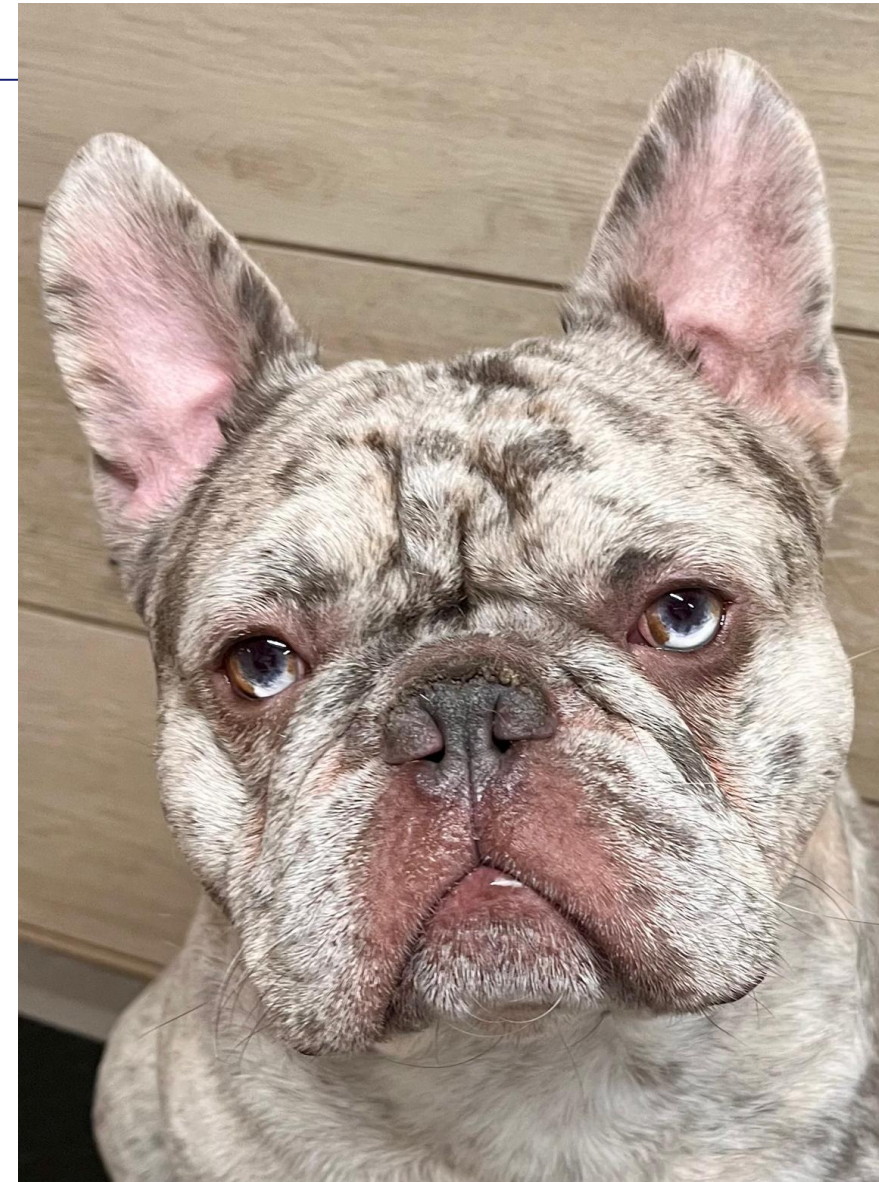
Not only brachycephalic
breeds (see slide 3-6)

Health based - Open
registry – studbook

Clear standard definition
Basic role of championship
certificates assignment

Apply the powerful tools of
genomic analysis in
breeding plans definition

Science lead decision over tradition lead decision



Thank you for your attention



Preserve the
uniqueness
of heritage breeds

