



May 29, 2020

Mr. Jack Alberts, Chairman  
Raad van Beheer op Kynologisch Gebied in Netherland  
Postbus 75901,  
Amsterdam, Netherlands

Dear Mr. Alberts,

The Canadian Kennel Club (CKC) has been the voice of Purebred Dogs in Canada since 1888 so news of restrictive breeding legislation of Brachycephalic Breeds by the Dutch Government in the Netherlands is of concern to the Club and its dedicated member breeders. With this letter we extend our support to the Dutch Kennel Club (Raad Van Beheer RVB) as we see this as an issue with international implications.

The Canadian Kennel Club supports the development of legislation, which will effectively control the activities of irresponsible dog owners and breeders without unduly restricting the responsible owners and breeders. In our opinion, the restrictions imposed by the Dutch Government on breeders in Holland, particularly by prescribing specific breeding practices and dictating specific outcomes is not aligned to this approach. Dedicated and qualified breeders have strived to breed healthier dogs and through selective breeding while respecting tradition, they have demonstrated progress through their willingness to make health improvements a priority. An observation is that a significant portion of the research in the Netherlands is flawed and not supported by balanced evidence. For example, obstructive and disordered breathing problems are not simply a function of the length of muzzle and must consider a broader range of factors such as head and face shape, particularly the width and height of the maxilla (upper jaw). Increasing muzzle length is not a solution and a breed standard is the place to address this holistically.

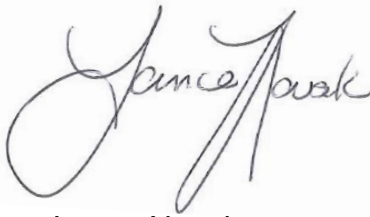
The CKC has formed a Brachycephalic Breed Advisory Committee to study the issues raised, educate our breeders and judges and to recommend to the CKC Board ongoing policies, which support breed health and continuous improvement. Our breeders are urged to practice testing to proactively identify potential problem dogs. For example, we promote the BOAS functionality tests developed by the University of Cambridge in the UK and adopted by the Kennel Club to proactively trend potential breathing problems. We also train our judges to place emphasis on dogs that exhibit good breed type without exaggerations or health issues. Our club is a participating member of the

International Partnership For Dogs (IPFD) whose goal is to enhance the health, well-being and welfare of all dogs and we have sent representatives to various conferences in the pursuit of a global solutions.

Introducing the results of crossbreeding to be registered in the records of the Dutch Kennel Club must be considered under thorough scrutiny, control and conditions. If not, it will raise questions over the integrity of their pedigrees and may cause a worldwide boycott of RVB pedigrees. The dedicated breeders in the Netherlands, who breed responsibly are being unfairly penalized and wrongfully associated and counted with the segment of indiscriminate breeders of dogs who loosely call their dogs purebred.

We are hopeful a solution can be negotiated with co-operation between the Dutch Government, the RVB and the FCI.

Sincerely,  
**THE CANADIAN KENNEL CLUB**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lance Novak". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large loop at the beginning and a long, sweeping tail.

Lance Novak,  
Executive Director of the CKC

c.c. Yves De Clercq, ED