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Useful Kennel Club Information
Breed Watch

Health monitoring for dogs exhibiting at dog shows

Scope of Breed Watch
The Kennel Club considers that judges, exhibitors and breeders all need to support breed health improvements with the aim of creating a happy healthy future for dogs.

All judges at championship shows have the opportunity to report on any visible health conditions or exaggerations that they consider to be detrimental to the health and welfare of dogs.

Breed Watch is predominantly intended for judges to highlight any points of concern which they should take into consideration and penalise when judging the breed. However, exhibitors should also take the time to become familiar with the points of concern that can affect their breed, as they too have an important role to play in ensuring that dogs are free from health concerns and exaggeration.

Breed Health Coordinators are encouraged to provide information to the Kennel Club in relation to any visible conditions or exaggerations that they have concerns about.

How does Breed Watch identify each breed’s points of concern?
Breed Watch is principally a resource for judges. All judges at championship shows have the opportunity to report on any visible health concerns or exaggerations that they consider to be detrimental to the health and welfare of dogs. Breed health Coordinators, breed clubs and breed councils can also provide information to the Kennel Club in relation to any visible conditions or exaggerations that they have concerns about.

What is Breed Watch and how does it work?
Breed Watch is used to identify visible points of concern for individual breeds. Information is gathered from health surveys, feedback from judges and dog health experts. Full consultation with breed clubs/councils is central to this process.

How do breeds move between the different categories?

- **CATEGORY 1**: Breeds with no current Breed Watch points of concern
- **CATEGORY 2**: Breeds with Breed Watch points of concern
- **CATEGORY 3**: High Profile Breeds

**CATEGORY 1 - 2**
The transition between categories occurs when sufficient information is received indicating an emerging health issue is prevalent in the breed. Mandatory judges’ reporting begins.

**CATEGORY 2 - 3**
The transition between categories occurs when judges and observer reports show no discernible improvement in the points of concern. BOB Vet Health Checks begin.

**CATEGORY 2 - 3**
The transition between categories occurs when breeds successfully meet the Kennel Club guidance. BOB Vet Health Checks cease.

**CATEGORY 1 - 2**
The transition between categories occurs when judges, breed clubs and dog health experts consider the conditions to be no longer prevalent in the breed. Mandatory judges’ reporting ceases.

FIT FOR FUNCTION
FIT FOR LIFE
Do all breeds have points of concern?

All breeds fall into one of the following three categories:

**Category One**
- No visible health concerns have been reported by judges or breed club(s)/council. Optional breed health monitoring forms available in all championship show judges’ packs to be returned if any points of concern found.

**Category Two**
- Breeds with Breed Watch points of concern – visible conditions or exaggerations that can cause pain or discomfort have been reported by judges and/or club(s)/council. After consultation with the breed club(s)/council, the concern is then added as a point of concern. Mandatory judges’ reporting begins.

**Category Three**
- Breeds with Breed Watch points of concern, and have been determined by the Kennel Club’s General Committee as requiring particular monitoring and additional support. Best of Breed Veterinary Health Checks at general and group championship shows are required.

Can breeds move between Breed Watch categories?

**Moving from Category One to Category Two**
- Breeds can move from Category One to Category Two if optional health monitoring forms are consistently provided indicating a health concern within the breed identified by judges.

**Moving from Category Two to Category One**
- The Breed Standards and Conformation Sub-Group of the Dog Health Group reviews the information reported by judges in an annual summary, if a specific concern is no longer reported as prevalent in the breed it will be reviewed. Following consultation with the club(s)/council, the relevant point of concern will be removed from Breed Watch and judges’ monitoring of that point will cease. Breeds listed as Category Two can make a request for a point of concern for their breed to be reviewed by the breed club(s)/council placing the request in writing to the Breed Standards & Conformation Sub-Group via mateselect@thekennelclub.org.uk.

**Moving from Category Three to Category Two**
- A number of factors are considered when moving a breed from Category Three to Category Two and the information provided by judges on mandatory health monitoring forms play a key role in this process. To provide breeds with further information and support in making progress towards moving from Category Three to Category Two the Kennel Club has provided a new infographic tool for breeds, see page 9. The infographic is also a good tool for other breeds, not currently classified as Category Three.

Once a breed has been reclassified from Category Three to Category Two the necessity for Best of Breed Veterinary Health Checks at general and group championship shows will cease. The point(s) of concern for the breed will however remain on Breed Watch as a reminder of the issues faced by the breed.
In assessing dogs, judges must penalise any features or exaggerations which they consider would be detrimental to the soundness, health or wellbeing of the dog. All dogs must be able to see, breathe, walk and be free from pain, irritation or discomfort.

**Regulation F (1) 7.b. Best of Breed**

Where a breed is separately classified, a Best of Breed may be declared but only from those dogs which have received a first prize in a breed class at the show. Where separate classes are provided for each sex of a breed, a Best of Each Sex must be declared. NOTE: The Best of Breed/Best Any Variety Not Separately Classified award relevant to a Category Three Breed will not be confirmed until the dog has passed an examination by the General and Group Championship Show Veterinary Surgeon.

**Regulation F (1) 15b. Exclusion of Dogs**

(Applicable to General & Group Championship Shows) If the show executive receives a report from a show official or Kennel Club official of an apparently visibly unhealthy and/or unsound dog, the dog will be referred to the show veterinary surgeon and if the allegation is upheld the dog will be excluded from subsequent competition at the show. For example, if the dog in question had been awarded Best of Breed, it would be excluded from the Group competition.

**Regulation F (1) 21n.**

Judges and judging: judges may exclude any dog from the ring if it is considered not in a fit state for exhibition owing to savage disposition or suffering from any visible condition which adversely affects its health or welfare – and the exclusion must be reported immediately by the judge/steward to the Show Secretary. The judge’s decision is final and the dog shall be excluded from all subsequent competition at the show. The judge must make a report to the Show Secretary at the first opportunity after he/she has finished judging.

**Regulation F (1) 21o.**

Withdrawal (Health and Welfare): where a dog has been withdrawn at the request or suggestion of the judge, the judge must make a report to the Show Secretary at the first opportunity at the show. The Secretary must forward these details to the Kennel Club within 7 days of the close of the show.

**Withholding of awards Regulation F (1) 21.m.**

You may withhold awards if, in your opinion, an exhibit lacks sufficient merit. Remember, if you withhold third in a class, you must withhold all subsequent awards in that class.

**Regulation F (1) 22e.**

When requested to do so, judges must submit a completed breed health monitoring report form to the Kennel Club within 21 days of the close of the show. There is no longer a requirement to send a copy of your critique with the health monitoring form.
Judge’s Declaration on Challenge Certificate  
(Applicable to Championship Shows)

Having assessed the dogs and penalised any features or exaggerations which I consider detrimental to their soundness, health or welfare, I am clearly of the opinion that... is of such outstanding merit as to be worthy of the title of Champion

Introductory Paragraph to All Breed Standards

A Breed Standard is the guideline which describes the ideal characteristics, temperament and appearance including the correct colour of a breed and ensures that the breed is fit for function. Absolute soundness is essential. Breeders and judges should at all times be careful to avoid obvious conditions or exaggerations which would be detrimental in any way to the health, welfare or soundness of this breed. From time to time certain conditions or exaggerations may be considered to have the potential to affect dogs in some breeds adversely, and judges and breeders are requested to refer to the Breed Watch section of the Kennel Club website here http://www.thekennelclub.org.uk/services/public/breed/watch for details of any such current issues. If a feature or quality is desirable it should only be present in the right measure. However if a dog possesses a feature, characteristic or colour described as undesirable or highly undesirable it is strongly recommended that it should not be rewarded in the show ring.

Summary

No matter how outstanding an exhibit appears in relation to the breed standard in other ways, care must always be taken to consider it in more general terms. Prizes should never be awarded to dogs which are visibly suffering from any condition which would adversely affect their health or welfare e.g.:
- Lameness – including ‘hopping’.
- Inappropriate temperament – refusal to be handled, timidity or aggression.
- A discharge from one or both eyes, or any signs of discomfort in either eye.
- Obvious breathing difficulty.
- Obvious skin disorder or ear irritation.
- Exaggerations that would make the dog unsuited to the breed’s original purpose.
- Significantly over or underweight.

Judges have a number of regulations at their disposal to support their decisions;
- Penalising (not awarding prizes) to dogs which show visible health and/or welfare concerns.
- Best of Breed – declared only at the judge’s discretion.
- Withdrawal – at a judge’s request or suggestion to be reported to show secretary.
- Withholding awards due to lack of sufficient merit.
- Excluding due to temperament, soundness, health and welfare issues – report to show secretary and include on the health report form.

Moving from Category Three to Category Two on Breed Watch

The Kennel Club offers the guidance below to breeds wishing to be considered for reclassification from Category Three to Category Two on Breed Watch.

Creating a proposal for reclassification

For a breed to be considered, the breed would need to have implemented the structure below, as well as highlighting evidence of both development and/or improvements in each area. Further, the breed will need to provide details of demonstrable health improvements when building a case for reclassification. Presentations for reclassification will be considered by the relevant Kennel Club committees on a case by case basis.

We recommend contacting the Kennel Club Health Team before building a proposal for reclassification on Breed Watch.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Breed</th>
<th>Points of Concern</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bloodhound</td>
<td>Excessive amounts of loose facial skin with conformational defects of the upper and/or lower eyelids so that the eyelid margins are not in normal contact with the eye when the dog is in its natural pose (e.g. they turn in, out, or both abnormalities are present)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Excessive skin on head or body. Handlers should be discouraged from pulling skin forward over head and eyes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Weak hindquarters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Nervous temperament</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Signs of dermatitis in skin folds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hair loss or scarring from previous dermatitis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Borzoi</td>
<td>Overly narrow lower jaw</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Misplaced lower canine teeth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dachshund (Long-Haired)</td>
<td>Body weight/condition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dachshund (Miniature Long-Haired)</td>
<td>Body weight/condition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dachshund (Miniature Smooth-Haired)</td>
<td>Body weight/condition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dachshund (Miniature Wire-Haired)</td>
<td>Body weight/condition</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Particular points of concern for individual breeds may include features not specifically highlighted in the breed standard.

The features listed below are derived from health surveys, meetings of group judges, feedback from judges at shows or in consultation with individual breed clubs/councils.
Irish Wolfhound
• Misplaced lower canine teeth

Sloughi
• Significantly underweight

Retriever (Golden)
• Significantly overweight
• Legs too short in proportion to depth of body and to length of back

Retriever (Labrador)
• Significantly overweight
• Legs too short in proportion to depth of body and to length of back

Spaniel (American Cocker)
• Incorrect bite
• Incorrect dentition
• Excessively prominent eyes

Spaniel (Clumber)
• Overweight
• Excessive amounts of loose facial skin with conformational defects of the upper and/or lower eyelids so that the eyelid margins are not in normal contact with the eye when the dog is in its natural pose (e.g. they turn in, or out, or both abnormalities are present)
• Weak hindquarters
• Obvious ear irritation

Gordon Setter
• Excessively thick woolly coat
• Excessive hind angulation
• Overlong hip to hock
• Sickle hocks

Particular points of concern for individual breeds may include features not specifically highlighted in the breed standard.

The features listed below are derived from health surveys, meetings of group judges, feedback from judges at shows or in consultation with individual breed clubs/councils.

Breeds shown in **bold** are those with points of concern.

Bracco Italiano
Brittany
English Setter
German Longhaired Pointer
German Shorthaired Pointer
German Wirehaired Pointer
Gordon Setter
Hungarian Vizsla
Hungarian Wirehaired Vizsla
Irish Red & White Setter
Irish Setter
Italian Spinone
Korthals Griffon
Lagotto Romagnolo
Large Munsterlander
Pointer
Retriever (Chesapeake Bay)
Retriever (Curly Coated)
Retriever (Flat Coated)
Retriever (Golden)
Retriever (Labrador)
Retriever (Nova Scotia Duck Tolling)
Slovakian Rough Haired Pointer
Small Munsterlander
Spaniel (American Cocker)
Spaniel (American Water)
Spaniel (Clumber)
Spaniel (Cocker)
Spaniel (English Springer)
Spaniel (Field)
Spaniel (Irish Water)
Spaniel (Sussex)
Spaniel (Welsh Springer)
Spanish Water Dog
Weimaraner
Particular points of concern for individual breeds may include features not specifically highlighted in the breed standard.

The features listed below are derived from health surveys, meetings of group judges, feedback from judges at shows or in consultation with individual breed clubs/councils.

Breeds shown in bold are those with points of concern:

- Airedale Terrier
- Australian Terrier
- Bedlington Terrier
- Border Terrier
- Bull Terrier
- Bull Terrier (Miniature)
- Cairn Terrier
- Cesky Terrier
- Dandie Dinmont Terrier
- Fox Terrier (Smooth)
- Fox Terrier (Wire)
- Glen of Imaal Terrier
- Irish Terrier
- Kerry Blue Terrier
- Lakeland Terrier
- Manchester Terrier
- Norfolk Terrier
- Norwich Terrier
- Parson Russell Terrier
- Scottish Terrier
- Sealyham Terrier
- Skye Terrier
- Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier
- Staffordshire Bull Terrier
- Welsh Terrier
- West Highland White Terrier

**Bedlington Terrier**
- Cracked and corny pads

**Bull Terrier**
- Misplaced lower canine teeth

**Bull Terrier (Miniature)**
- Misplaced lower canine teeth

**Cesky Terrier**
- Incorrect dentition

**Irish Terrier**
- Cracked and corny pads

**Norwich Terrier**
- Difficulty breathing

**Staffordshire Bull Terrier**
- Misplaced lower canine teeth
- Difficulty breathing

**West Highland White Terrier**
- Misplaced lower canine teeth
- Skin irritation
Particular points of concern for individual breeds may include features not specifically highlighted in the breed standard.

The features listed below are derived from health surveys, meetings of group judges, feedback from judges at shows or in consultation with individual breed clubs/councils.

**Bulldog**
- Significantly overweight
- Pinched nostrils
- Heavy overnose wrinkle (roll)
- Excessive amounts of loose facial skin with conformational defects of the upper and/or lower eyelids so that the eyelid margins are not in normal contact with the eye when the dog is in its natural pose (e.g. they turn in, or out, or both abnormalities are present)
- Unsound movement
- Lack of tail
- Inverted tail
- Tight tail
- Hair loss or scarring from previous dermatitis
- Sore eyes due to damage or poor eyelid conformation

**Chow Chow**
- Difficulty breathing
- Laboured breathing
- Narrow eyelid opening
- Small, deep set eyes with consequent eyelid abnormalities (e.g. the eyelids are turned in)
- Unstable hocks
- Excessive coat

**Keeshond**
- Excessively long coats

**French Bulldog**
- Difficulty breathing
- Pinched nostrils
- Overly short neck
- Excessively prominent eyes
- Incomplete blink
- Incorrect bite
- Screw tail
- Lack of tail
- Inverted tail
- Tight tail
- Exaggerated roach in the top line
- Signs of dermatitis in skin folds
- Hair loss or scarring from previous dermatitis

**Shar Pei**
- Lower lip folding over lower incisors (tight lip)
- Excessive amounts of loose facial skin with conformational defects of the upper and/or lower eyelids so that the eyelid margins are not in normal contact with the eye when the dog is in its natural pose (e.g. they turn in, or out, or both abnormalities are present)
- Signs of dermatitis in skin folds
- Hair loss or scarring from previous dermatitis

Breeds shown in bold are those with points of concern.
Breeds shown in **bold** are those with points of concern.

Particular points of concern for individual breeds may include features not specifically highlighted in the breed standard.

The features listed below are derived from health surveys, meetings of group judges, feedback from judges at shows or in consultation with individual breed clubs/councils.

**Neapolitan Mastiff**
- Significantly overweight
- Excessive skin on head or body
- Excessive wrinkle
- Excessive amounts of loose facial skin with conformational defects of the upper and/or lower eyelids so that the eyelid margins are not in normal contact with the eye when the dog is in its natural pose (e.g., they turn in, or out, or both abnormalities are present)
- Unsound movement
- Weak hindquarters
- Signs of dermatitis in skin folds
- Hair loss or scarring from previous dermatitis

**Newfoundland**
- Conformational defects of the upper and lower eyelids (loose eyelids)

**Great Dane**
- Conformational defects of the upper and lower eyelids (loose eyelids)

**Dogue De Bordeaux**
- Nervous temperament
- Excessive amounts of loose facial skin with conformational defects of the upper and/or lower eyelids so that the eyelid margins are not in normal contact with the eye when the dog is in its natural pose (e.g., they turn in, or out, or both abnormalities are present)
- Signs of dermatitis in skin folds
- Hair loss or scarring from previous dermatitis
- Unsound movement – specifically resulting from weak hind movement
- Signs of dermatitis in skin folds
- Hair loss or scarring from previous dermatitis

**Mastiff**
- Significantly overweight
- Excessive skin on head or body
- Excessive wrinkle
- Excessive amounts of loose facial skin with conformational defects of the upper and/or lower eyelids so that the eyelid margins are not in normal contact with the eye when the dog is in its natural pose (e.g., they turn in, or out, or both abnormalities are present)
- Unsound movement
- Weak hindquarters
- Signs of dermatitis in skin folds
- Hair loss or scarring from previous dermatitis

**Alaskan Malamute**
- Beauceron
- Bernese Mountain Dog
- Bouvier Des Flandres
- Boxer
- Bullmastiff
- Canadian Eskimo Dog
- Dobermann
- Dogue De Bordeaux
- Entlebucher Mountain Dog
- German Pinscher
- Giant Schnauzer
- Great Dane
- Greater Swiss Mountain Dog
- Greenland Dog
- Hovawart
- Leonberger
- Mastiff
- Neapolitan Mastiff
- Newfoundland
- Portugese Water Dog
- Pyrenean Mastiff
- Rottweiler
- Russian Black Terrier
- Siberian Husky
- St. Bernard
- Tibetan Mastiff
- Alaskan Malamute
- Beauceron
- Bernese Mountain Dog
- Bouvier Des Flandres
- Boxer
- Bullmastiff
- Canadian Eskimo Dog
- Dobermann
- Dogue De Bordeaux
- Entlebucher Mountain Dog
- German Pinscher
- Giant Schnauzer
- Great Dane
- Greater Swiss Mountain Dog
- Greenland Dog
- Hovawart
- Leonberger
- Mastiff
- Neapolitan Mastiff
- Newfoundland
- Portugese Water Dog
- Pyrenean Mastiff
- Rottweiler
- Russian Black Terrier
- Siberian Husky
- St. Bernard
- Tibetan Mastiff
St. Bernard
- Incorrect bite
- Incorrect dentition
- Excessive amounts of loose facial skin with conformational defects of the upper and/or lower eyelids so that the eyelid margins are not in normal contact with the eye when the dog is in its natural pose (e.g. they turn in, or out, or both abnormalities are present)
- Unsound movement
- Weak hindquarters

Siberian Husky
- Significantly underweight
- Significantly overweight

Particular points of concern for individual breeds may include features not specifically highlighted in the breed standard.

The features listed below are derived from health surveys, meetings of group judges, feedback from judges at shows or in consultation with individual breed clubs/councils.

Breeds shown in **bold** are those with points of concern

Collie (Rough)
- Overly narrow lower jaw
- Excessively small eyes
- Weak hindquarters
- Cow hocks
- Incorrect dentition

German Shepherd Dog
- Weak hindquarters
- Excessive turn of stifle
- Cow hocks
- Sickle hocks
- Nervous temperament

Old English Sheepdog
- Excessively long coat
- Excessively profuse coat
- Cow hocks
- Weak hind movement

Breed abbreviations allow for ease of reference.

Anatolian Shepherd Dog
Australian Cattle Dog
Australian Shepherd
Beaded Collie
Belgian Shepherd Dog
Bergamasco
Border Collie
Briard
Catalan Sheepdog
Collie (Rough)
Collie (Smooth)
Estrela Mountain Dog
Finnish Lapphund
German Shepherd Dog
Hungarian Kuvasz
Hungarian Puli
Komondor
Lancashire Heeler
Maremma Sheepdog
Norwegian Buhund
Old English Sheepdog
Polish Lowland Sheepdog
Pyrenean Mountain Dog
Pyrenean Sheepdog
Samoyed
Shetland Sheepdog
Swedish Lapphund
Swedish Vallhund
Welsh Corgi (Cardigan)
Welsh Corgi (Pembroke)
Particular points of concern for individual breeds may include features not specifically highlighted in the breed standard.

The features listed below are derived from health surveys, meetings of group judges, feedback from judges at shows or in consultation with individual breed clubs/councils.

**Chinese Crested**
- Clipper rash or burns caused by shaving

**Pekingesse**
- Pinched nostrils
- Heavy overnose wrinkle (roll)
- Excessive nasal folds
- Excessively prominent eyes
- Weak hindquarters
- Poor muscle tone
- Excessive coat
- Sore eyes due to damage or poor eyelid conformation
- Dogs showing signs of respiratory distress

Breed shown in **bold** are those with points of concern.
TOY GROUP

Pomeranian
• Insufficient closure of the fontanelle

Pug
• Difficulty breathing
• Excessively prominent eyes
• Incomplete blink
• Excessive nasal folds
• Pinched nostrils
• Unsound movement
• Significantly overweight
• Sore eyes due to damage or poor eyelid conformation
• Signs of dermatitis in skin folds
• Hair loss or scarring from previous dermatitis

Useful Kennel Club Information

Health Team
For any general health related queries including requests for the Dog Health Group or Breed Standards and Conformation Sub-Group to consider please email mateselect@thekennelclub.org.uk

Breeding Advice
The Kennel Club Health Team offers guidance and support with the Breed Health and Conservation Plan and clubs/councils and individual breeders are encouraged to contact the team for assistance via mateselect@thekennelclub.org.uk

Canine Activities
Any queries relating to judging outside of health related queries should be directed to the Breed Shows Team at the Kennel Club via breedshowsteam@thekennelclub.org.uk