

Breed Watch FAQs

Breed Watch is a quick and easy reference tool which provides up to date information on visible health conditions and exaggerated conformational issues that are detrimental to the health and welfare of dogs.

This web tool enables anyone involved in the world of dogs, but in particular dog show Judges, to find information on the unique challenges that some breeds face.

Do you want to [launch the tool?](#)

BREED WATCH – FAQs FOR:

[EXHIBITORS](#)

[JUDGES](#)

[SHOW SOCIETIES](#)

[BREED CLUBS / BREED HEALTH CO-ORDINATORS](#)

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EXHIBITORS

Q1. What can you tell me about Breed Watch?

- A. The primary purpose of Breed Watch is to enable anyone involved in the world of dogs, but in particular dog show Judges, to find out about any breed specific conformational issues which may lead to health problems. These conditions are known as a 'point(s) of concern'

This online tool also serves as an 'early warning system' to help identify emerging points of concern for individual breeds.

Q2. What else should I know?

- A. Underpinning Breed Watch is the role of the judge who plays an important part in reporting back on the prevalence of existing points of concern, but also contributes to the formation of new points of concern.

From 2014 all Judges at Championship Shows will have the opportunity to report on any visible conditions or exaggerations that they consider to be detrimental to the health and welfare of dogs. Consultation with the Breed Health Coordinator and Breed Club(s)/Council is an important part of the health monitoring process.

Q3. What is the aim of Breed Watch?

- A. The Kennel Club considers that providing information on breed specific visible health concerns, allows judges, breeders and exhibitors to discourage the breeding of dogs with exaggerated conformational issues that are detrimental to health and welfare. Breed Watch provides an opportunity for all involved to monitor and protect the future of Pedigree dogs.

[Click here](#) to download a copy of the 'What is Breed Watch and how does it work flow diagram'

Q4. What are 'points of concern'?

- A. Point(s) of concern are the specific visible conditions or exaggerations which a judge must take into account when deciding awards and to penalise accordingly.

Judges are not expected to assess dogs as a Veterinary Surgeon would. However judges should use their extensive experience and knowledge of the breed to make a considered decision where the published points of concern are present.

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Q5. Is Breed Watch just for judges or can it be used by exhibitors too?

- A. Breed Watch is predominantly aimed at dog show judges to highlight any points of concern which they should take into consideration 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 the future health and welfare of their breed.

Q6. Where can I find the point(s) of concern for my breed?

- A. The points of concern for your breed can be found [here](#). Once you are on the Breed Watch web page you simply enter the breed name in the field provided. Alternatively you can use the breed list displayed to browse all breeds with points of concern.

A copy of the printed [Breed Watch](#) booklet is available on the Breed Watch area of the Kennel Club Website.

Q7. Does every breed have point(s) of concern?

A. No, not every breed, but from 2014 all breeds will fall into one of the following three categories:

Category 1. Breeds with no current Breed Watch points of concern – No visible health concerns have been reported by judges and/or breed Club(s)/Council.

Category 2. 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, these issues are then added as a point of concern. Mandatory judges Reporting begins. [Click here](#) for the list of **Category 2 Breeds**

Category 3. High Profile Breeds – Breeds where some dogs have visible conditions or exaggerations that can cause pain or discomfort. The Kennel Club provides additional support for these breed representatives. Best of Breed (BOB) Veterinary Health checks at General and Group Shows are required. [Click here](#) for the list of **Category 3 Breeds**

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Q8. My breed is in Category 1; how does this affect me when competing with my dog at shows? Will my dog have to have a BOB Veterinary Health check?

A. Being in Category 1 will not affect you when showing your dog. Currently no visible health concerns have been reported by judges, the breed Club(s) or Council for your breed, so judges are not required to provide mandatory reports on the health of the breed. However, an optional form is provided to all judges at Championship Shows, in the back of their judging book should they wish to raise any point of concern. Your breed will not be required to undergo a BOB Veterinary Health check prior to competing in the Group.

Q9. My breed is in Category 2; how does this affect me when competing with my dog at shows? Will my dog have to have a BOB Veterinary Health check?

A. Being in Category 2 will not affect you when showing your dog. When exhibiting at Championship Shows your breed Judge will be required to complete a health monitoring form after their Judging appointment, which provides the Kennel Club with information on the health issues affecting the breed. Your breed will not be required to undergo a BOB Veterinary Health check prior to competing in the Group.

Q10. My breed is in Category 3; how does this affect me when competing with my dog at shows? Will my dog have to have a BOB Veterinary Health check?

- A. Breeds in Category 3 are designated 'High Profile Breed' status and are required to undergo a BOB Veterinary Health check prior to competing in the Group.

When exhibiting at Championship Shows your breed Judge will be required to complete a health monitoring form after their Judging appointment which provides the Kennel Club with information on the health issues affecting the breed.

For more information on High Profile Breeds [click here](#)

Q11. How were the point(s) of concern developed for my breed?

- A. Prior to 2014 any point(s) of concern were derived from a combination of health surveys, veterinary advice, a meeting of Kennel Club Group judges, feedback from judges at shows or consultation with individual breed club(s)/councils via the breed health coordinators.

From 2014 the structure of Breed Watch will allow for a greater involvement by judges in the reporting on and monitoring of the points of concern.

Q.12 How are point(s) of concern added to Breed Watch, who provides this information?

- A. Information identifying point(s) of concern can come from the following sources, however input from the Veterinary community and other relevant external organisations may also be considered:

1. Championship Show Judges – Optional form completed

From 2014 all Championship Show judges of Category 1 Breeds will have the opportunity to report on any visible conditions or exaggerations that they consider to be detrimental to the health and welfare of dogs. If a specific concern is consistently reported the Kennel Club will engage in consultation with the Club(s)/Council for input and if necessary add the concern to Breed Watch so the issue can be monitored (decision made via the Kennel Club Dog Health Group). [Click here](#) for an example of the form

2. Championship Show judges – Compulsory form completed

From 2014 all Championship Show judges of Category 2 & 3 Breeds will be required to complete a judges Health Monitoring Form. This is an adapted version of the yellow form which was previously only completed by High Profile Breed judges. This form has been reviewed to ensure specific monitoring of the points of concern for each breed. The new form also allows the Judge to report on any further emerging conditions. If a specific concern is consistently reported, the Kennel Club will engage

in consultation with the Club(s)/Council for input and if necessary add the concern to Breed Watch so that the issue can be monitored (decision made via the Kennel Club Dog Health Group and General Committee). [Click here](#) for an example of the form

3. Breed Health Coordinators

Breed Health Coordinators have the facility to provide information to the Kennel Club in relation to any visible conditions or exaggerations. As in the case of judges Health Monitoring if a specific concern is identified by the breed club(s) and is reported, the Kennel Club will engage in consultation with all of the Club(s)/Council for input and if appropriate, add the concern to Breed Watch so that the issue can be monitored (decision made via the Kennel Club Dog Health Group and General Committee).

Q13. How do point(s) of concern get removed from Breed Watch?

- A. The Dog Health Group reviews the information reported by all parties (including judges). If over a consistent period of time a specific concern is no longer prevalent in the breed and after 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.

Q14. My Breed has points of concern could it become a High Profile Breed?

- A The current Breeds with 'High Profile Breed' status can be found [here](#)

The transition between a breed having a point(s) of concern, to becoming a High Profile Breed is a very gradual process which only occurs when there is no discernible improvement in the points of concern. The Kennel Club's aim is that the Breed Watch process will enhance each breed's ability to manage health improvement and to address emerging health issues and potentially avoid being allocated 'High Profile Breed' status.

The process map outlining the various stages of Breed Watch can be found [here](#)

Q15. What changes have the Kennel Club made to Breed Watch?

- A. The main changes are:

1) The enhanced role of the Judge. From 2014 every Judge at Championship Shows will have the ability to report any emerging issues which are affecting their breed by completing a form provided in the back of their judging book.

In addition to this the Kennel Club will provide all Championship show judges of category 2 breeds with a report form so that they may provide up to date information on the overall health of those dogs entered under them.

2) Breed Watch Categories. Breed Watch is a facility that is open to all breeds, but has 3 distinct categories; (1) Breeds with no points of concern, (2) Breeds with points of concern and (3) High Profile Breeds. The Kennel Club has given each breed a category (1, 2 or 3) to more easily identify their position in the Breed Watch process. [Click here](#) to download a copy of the 'What is Breed Watch and how does it work process map'

Q16. How do I inform the Kennel Club if I believe there is a health concern in my breed?

- A. Breed enthusiasts should raise their concerns with the Breed Health Coordinator whose role involves collecting health information and data. If appropriate, the Breed Health Coordinator will then inform the Kennel Club, through the Health & Breeder Services Department at hbs@thekennelclub.org.uk

Q17 If Breed Watch is about visible conditions, is there anywhere I can find information on hereditary conditions affecting my breed?

- A. For more information on conditions which may affect your breed, the Kennel Club recommend that you visit the [Breed Information Centre](#) or contact your [local breed club](#) or [Breed Health Co-ordinator](#) for further information.

JUDGES

Q1. What can you tell me about Breed Watch?

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Q2. What else should I know?

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Q3. What is the aim of Breed Watch?

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- A. Point(s) of concern are the specific visible conditions or exaggerations which a judge must take into account when deciding awards and to penalise accordingly.

Judges are not expected to assess dogs as a Veterinary Surgeon would. However judges should use their extensive experience and knowledge of the breed to make a considered decision where the published points of concern are present.

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Q5. Where can I find the point(s) of concern for my breed?

- A. The points of concern for your breed can be found [here](#). Once you are on the Breed Watch web page you simply enter the breed name in the field provided. Alternatively you can use the breed list displayed to browse all breeds with points of concern.

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Q6. Does every breed have point(s) of concern?

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Mandatory judges Reporting begins. [Click here](#) for the list of **Category 2 Breeds**

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From 2014 the structure of Breed Watch will allow for a greater involvement by judges in the reporting on and monitoring of the points of concern.

Q.8 How are point(s) of concern added to Breed Watch, who provides this information?

A. Information identifying point(s) of concern can come from the following sources, however input from the Veterinary community and other relevant external organisations may also be considered:

1. Championship Show Judges – Optional form completed

From 2014 all Championship Show judges of Category 1 Breeds will have the opportunity to report on any visible conditions or exaggerations that they consider to be detrimental to the health and welfare of dogs. If a specific concern is consistently reported the Kennel Club will engage in consultation with the Club(s)/Council for input and if necessary add the concern to Breed Watch so the issue can be monitored (decision made via the Kennel Club Dog Health Group). [Click here](#) for an example of the form

2. Championship Show Judges – Compulsory form completed

From 2014 all Championship Show judges of Category 2 & 3 Breeds will be required to complete a judges Health Monitoring Form. This is an adapted version of the yellow form which was previously only completed by High Profile Breed judges. This form has been reviewed to ensure specific monitoring of the points of concern for each breed. The new form also allows the Judge to report on any further emerging conditions. If a specific concern is consistently reported, the Kennel Club will engage

in consultation with the Club(s)/Council for input and if necessary add the concern to Breed Watch so that the issue can be monitored (decision made via the Kennel Club Dog Health Group and General Committee). [Click here](#) for an example of the form

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Q9. How do point(s) of concern get removed from Breed Watch?

- A. The Dog Health Group reviews the information reported by all parties (including judges). If over a consistent period of time a specific concern is no longer prevalent in the breed and after 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.

Q10. My Breed has points of concern could it become a High Profile Breed?

- A The current Breeds with 'High Profile Breed' status can be found [here](#).

The transition between a breed having a point(s) of concern, to becoming a High Profile Breed is a very gradual process which only occurs when there is no discernible improvement in the points of concern. The Kennel Club's aim is that the Breed Watch process will enhance each breed's ability to manage health improvement and to address emerging health issues and potentially avoid being allocated 'High Profile Breed' status.

The process map outlining the various stages of Breed Watch can be found [here](#)

Q11. What changes have the kennel Club made to Breed Watch?

- A. The main changes are:

1) The enhanced role of the Judge. From 2014 every Judge at Championship Shows will have the ability to report any emerging issues which are affecting their breed by completing a form provided in the back of their judging book.

In addition to this the Kennel Club will provide all Championship show judges of category 2 breeds with a report form so that they may provide up to date information on the overall health of those dogs entered under them.

2) Breed Watch Categories. Breed Watch is a facility that is open to all breeds, but has 3 distinct categories; (1) Breeds with no points of concern, (2) Breeds with points of concern and (3) High Profile Breeds. The Kennel Club has given each breed a category (1,2 or 3) to more easily identify their position in the Breed Watch process. [Click here](#) to download a copy of the 'What is Breed Watch and how does it work process map'

Q12. Why are Judges required to complete a health monitoring form?

A. Improving the health and welfare of dogs is of paramount importance to the Kennel Club. We recognise that judges are in the unique position to influence the future development of these breeds, not only by the decisions they make at shows but also by monitoring the visible conditions affecting the breeds they judge. By completing the form judges also enhance the information we are able to provide to Breed Representatives, enabling them to continue to protect the future of their breed.

Q13. Which breed Judges are required to complete a health monitoring report form?

A. It is mandatory for the judges of Category 2 & 3 Breeds to complete a health monitoring report form; this form is sent by the Kennel Club direct to the judge approximately 2 to 3 months before their appointment. However for all other breeds there is also an optional form available to all judges at championship shows (in the back of the judging book) if they wish to raise any point of concern.

Q14. How do I find information on Kennel Club regulations on health and welfare?

A. Visit [here](#) for the latest information on health and welfare.

Q15. How does the Kennel Club use the information I provide in the health monitoring report form?

A. The information reported by judges is used for analysis and statistical purposes by the Dog Health Group to monitor each breed's progress. The information is gathered and published in the Kennel Club's Annual Health Report. The information is also used by Breed Health Coordinators in developing and monitoring breed health improvement plans.

Q16. Which breeds undergo BOB vet checked at General and Group Championship Shows?

- A. Only Breeds in Category 3 are required to undergo a BOB Veterinary Health check prior to competing in the Group. These breeds are designated '[High Profile Breed status](#)'.

Q17 If Breed Watch is about visible conditions, is there anywhere I can find information on hereditary conditions affecting my breed?

- A. For more information on conditions which may affect your breed, the Kennel Club recommend that you visit the [Breed Information Centre](#) or contact your [local breed club](#) or [Breed Health Co-ordinator](#) for further information.

SHOW SOCIETIES

Q1. What can you tell me about Breed Watch?

- A. The primary purpose of Breed Watch is to enable anyone involved in the world of dogs, but in particular dog show Judges, to find out about any breed specific conformational issues which may lead to health problems. These conditions are known as a 'point(s) of concern'

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Q2. What else should I know?

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Q3. What is the aim of Breed Watch?

- A. The Kennel Club considers that providing information on breed specific visible health concerns, allows judges, breeders and exhibitors to discourage the breeding of dogs with exaggerated conformational issues that are detrimental to health and welfare. Breed Watch provides an opportunity for all involved to monitor and protect the future of Pedigree dogs.

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Q4. What are 'points of concern'?

- A. Point(s) of concern are the specific visible conditions or exaggerations which a judge must take into account when deciding awards and to penalise accordingly.

Judges are not expected to assess dogs as a Veterinary Surgeon would. However judges should use their extensive experience and knowledge of the breed to make a considered decision where the published points of concern are present.

Do you want to [launch the tool](#)?

Q5. Where can I find the point(s) of concern for any breed?

- A. The points of concern for any breed can be found [here](#). Once you are on the Breed Watch web page you simply enter the breed name in the field provided. Alternatively you can use the breed list displayed to browse all breeds with points of concern.

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Q6. Does every breed have point(s) of concern?

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Q10. We run a breed club Championship show; how do the changes to Breed Watch affect our show?

A. If your breed is in Category 2 or 3, then the judge(s) of your show will be sent a health monitoring report form by the Kennel Club approximately 2 to 3 months before their appointment. All championship show judges' books should include, as the last page of the book the optional judges report form. This enables judges to

raise any point of concern they may have noted whilst judging. Please consult with your printer to ensure the form is included.

Q11. We run a General/Group Championship show; how do the changes to Breed Watch affect our show?

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BREED HEALTH COORDINATORS AND BREED CLUBS

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2. Championship Show Judges – Compulsory form completed

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- A The current Breeds with 'High Profile Breed' status can be found [here](#)

The transition between a breed having a point(s) of concern, to becoming a High Profile Breed is a very gradual process which only occurs when there is no discernible improvement in the points of concern. The Kennel Club's aim is that the improved Breed Watch process will enhance each breed's ability to manage health improvement and to address emerging health issues and potentially avoid being allocated 'High Profile Breed' status.

The process map outlining the various stages of Breed Watch can be found [here](#)

Q12. What changes have the Kennel Club made to Breed Watch?

- A. The main changes are:

1) The enhanced role of the Judge. From 2014 every Judge at Championship Shows will have the ability to report any emerging issues which are affecting their breed by completing a form provided in the back of their judging book.

In addition to this the Kennel Club will provide all Championship show judges of category 2 breeds with a report form so that they may provide up to date information on the overall health of those dogs entered under them.

2) Breed Watch Categories. Breed Watch is a facility that is open to all breeds, but has 3 distinct categories; (1) Breeds with no points of concern, (2) Breeds with points of concern and (3) High Profile Breeds. The Kennel Club has given each breed a category (1,2 or 3) to more easily identify their position in the Breed Watch process. [Click here](#) to download a copy of the 'What is Breed Watch and how does it work process map'

Q13. How do we inform the Kennel Club if we believe there is a health concern in our breed?

A. Breed Health Coordinators should inform the Kennel Club, Health & Breeder Services Department by emailing hbs@thekennelclub.org.uk

Q14. How do we find information on how to develop breed health improvements?

A. For more information and BHC resources, please visit the Breed Health Co-ordinator [web page](#) or contact hbs@thekennelclub.org.uk