

All Breeds with Points of Concerns

The objective of the Kennel Club is to promote, in every way, the general improvement of dogs. We believe that every dog should have the opportunity to lead a healthy, happy life and our 'Fit For Function: Fit For Life' campaign aims to encourage breeders, judges and all dog lovers to take the necessary steps to ensure that this happens, and to act as a reminder that a dog's health and welfare should be the most important consideration in any decisions made.

Breed Watch serves as an 'early warning system' to identify points of concern for individual breeds. Its primary purpose 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'. All Breeds form part of Breed Watch and fall into one of the following categories.

Category key/legend text:

- 1 – Breeds with no current points of concern reported
- 2 – Breeds with Breed Watch points of concern
- 3 - Breeds where some dogs have visible conditions or exaggerations that can cause pain or discomfort (previously known as High Profile)

The way in which the Kennel Club monitors the health of pedigree dogs has been enhanced through the expansion of the role of Breed Watch (Flow diagram refers). As part of this work, all Judges at Championship Shows have the opportunity to report on any visible conditions or exaggerations that they consider to be detrimental to the health and welfare of dogs.

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.

The following information provides a summary of the Breed Watch points of concern for Category 2 & Category 3 breeds.

Particular points of concern for individual breeds may include features not specifically highlighted in the breed standard including current issues. In some breeds, features may be listed which, if exaggerated, might potentially affect the breed in the future.

Prior to 2014 the features listed below 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 allows for a greater involvement by judges in the reporting on and monitoring of the points of concern.

Basset Hound

Category 2

Hound

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). Handlers should be discouraged from pulling skin forward over head and eyes.

Excessive length of ears

Hair loss or scarring from previous dermatitis

Inadequate ground clearance – overly deep body and/or presence of excessive skin

Incorrect bite

Significantly overweight

Signs of dermatitis in skin folds

Bedlington Terrier

Category 2

Terrier

Cracked and corny pads

Bloodhound

Category 3

Hound

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).

Excessive skin on head or body. Handlers should be discouraged from pulling skin forward over head and eyes.

Hair loss or scarring from previous dermatitis

Nervous temperament

Signs of dermatitis in skin folds

Weak hindquarters

Borzoï

Category 2

Hound

Misplaced lower canine teeth

Overly narrow lower jaw

Bull Terrier

Category 2

Terrier

Misplaced lower canine teeth

Bull Terrier (Miniature)

Category 2

Terrier

Misplaced lower canine teeth

Bulldog

Category 3

Utility

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).

Hair loss or scarring from previous dermatitis

Heavy overnose wrinkle (roll)

Inverted tail

Lack of tail

Pinched nostrils

Significantly overweight

Sore eyes due to damage or poor eyelid conformation

Tight tail

Unsound movement

Cesky Terrier

Category 2

Terrier

Incorrect dentition

Chinese Crested

Category 2

Toy

Clipper rash or burns caused by shaving

Chow Chow

Category 3

Utility

Difficulty breathing

Excessive coat

Laboured breathing

Narrow eyelid opening

Small, deep set eyes with consequent eyelid abnormalities (e.g. the eyelids are turned in)

Unstable hocks

Collie (Rough)

Category 2

Pastoral

Cow hocks

Excessively small eyes

Incorrect dentition

Overly narrow lower jaw

Weak hindquarters

Dachshund (Miniature Long Haired)

Category 2

Hound

Body weight/condition

Dachshund (Miniature Smooth Haired)

Category 2

Hound

Body weight/condition

Dachshund (Miniature Wire Haired)

Category 2

Hound

Body weight/condition

Dogue de Bordeaux

Category 3

Working

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).

Grossly undershot Jaw

Hair loss or scarring from previous dermatitis

Nervous temperament

Significantly overweight

Significantly underweight

Signs of dermatitis in skin folds

Unsound movement - specifically resulting from weak hind movement

French Bulldog

Category 2

Utility

Difficulty breathing

Exaggerated roach in the top line

Excessively prominent eyes

Hair loss or scarring from previous dermatitis

Incomplete blink

Incorrect bite

Inverted tail

Lack of tail

Overly short neck

Pinched nostrils

Screw tail

Signs of dermatitis in skin folds

Tight tail

German Shepherd Dog

Category 3

Pastoral

Cow hocks

Excessive turn of stifle

Nervous temperament

Sickle hock

Weak hindquarters

Gordon Setter

Category 2

Gundog

Excessive hind angulation

Excessively thick woolly coat

Overlong hip to hock

Sickle hock

Great Dane

Category 2

Working

Conformational defects of the upper and lower eyelids (loose eye lids)

Irish Terrier

Category 2

Terrier

Cracked and corny pads

Irish Wolfhound

Category 2

Hound

Misplaced lower canine teeth

Keeshond

Category 2

Utility

Excessively long coat

Mastiff

Category 3

Working

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).

Excessive skin on head or body

Excessive wrinkle

Hair loss or scarring from previous dermatitis

Significantly overweight

Signs of dermatitis in skin folds

Unsound movement

Weak hindquarters

Neapolitan Mastiff

Category 3

Working

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).

Excessive dewlap

Excessive skin on head or body

Hair loss or scarring from previous dermatitis

Significantly overweight

Signs of dermatitis in skin folds

Unsound movement - specifically resulting from weak hind movement

Newfoundland

Category 2

Working

Conformational defects of the upper and lower eyelids (loose eye lids)

Norwich Terrier

Category 2

Terrier

Difficulty breathing

Old English Sheepdog

Category 2

Pastoral

Cow hocks

Excessively long coat

Excessively profuse coat

Weak hind movement

Pekingese

Category 3

Toy

Dogs showing signs of respiratory distress

Excessive coat

Excessive nasal folds

Excessively prominent eyes

Heavy overnose wrinkle (roll)

Pinched nostrils

Poor muscle tone

Uncomfortable eyes due to damage or poor eyelid conformation

Weak hindquarters

Pomeranian

Category 2

Toy

In mature dogs, 18 months and over, the fontanelle should be fully closed

Pug	Category 3	Toy
Difficulty breathing		
Excessive nasal folds		
Excessively prominent eyes		
Hair loss or scarring from previous dermatitis		
Incomplete blink		
Pinched nostrils		
Significantly overweight		
Signs of dermatitis in skin folds		
Sore eyes due to damage or poor eyelid conformation		
Unsound movement		
Pyrenean Mountain Dog	Category 2	Pastoral
Significantly overweight		
Unstable hocks		
Weak hindquarters		
Retriever (Golden)	Category 2	Gundog
Legs too short in proportion to depth of body and to length of back		
Significantly overweight		
Retriever (Labrador)	Category 2	Gundog
Legs too short in proportion to depth of body and to length of back		
Significantly overweight		
Shar Pei	Category 3	Utility
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).		
Hair loss or scarring from previous dermatitis		
Lower lip folding over lower incisors (tight lip)		
Signs of dermatitis in skin folds		
Shetland Sheepdog	Category 2	Pastoral
Excessively small eyes		

Misplaced upper canine teeth

Siberian Husky

Category 2

Working

Significantly overweight

Significantly underweight

Sloughi

Category 2

Hound

Significantly underweight

Spaniel (American Cocker)

Category 2

Gundog

Excessively prominent eyes

Incorrect bite

Incorrect dentition

Spaniel (Clumber)

Category 2

Gundog

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).

Obvious ear irritation

Overweight

Weak hindquarters

St. Bernard

Category 3

Working

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).

Incorrect bite

Incorrect dentition

Unsound movement

Weak hindquarters

Staffordshire Bull Terrier

Category 2

Terrier

Difficulty breathing

Misplaced lower canine teeth

West Highland White Terrier

Category 2

Terrier

Misplaced lower canine teeth

Skin irritation
