

Listing for Utility Breed Group

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.

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

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

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

Keeshond

Category 2

Utility

Excessively long coat

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
