

## Press Release from the Danish Kennel Club:

15.04.2024

## All the major dog organizations join forces to improve the health and welfare of Danish dogs

To ensure that we breed the healthiest dogs in Denmark and give them the best possible starting point for a good life, the largest dog organizations have now joined forces in a historic collaboration, as Animal Protection Denmark, the Danish Veterinary Association, DOSO (Animal Welfare Organizations' Cooperation Organization), The Danish Society for the Protection of Animals (Dyreværnet) and The Danish Kennel Club launch a proposal for a new Danish health model for dogs.

The proposal for the new Danish health model for dogs consists of the following values:

- 1) Health and welfare are more important than a specific appearance
- 2) Health is required when breeding dogs
- 3) Welfare is required when breeding dogs
- 4) A registry for dogs' possible diseases and health status
- 5) Equal terms for commercial and private dog breeding
- 6) Focus on healthy dogs also when importing

The five organizations agree that the main goal is healthier Danish dogs bred with a focus on the welfare of the dogs. This should apply to all dogs, regardless of pedigree or not, breed or mix.

The model has been launched in continuation of the Danish government's proposal "Together for Animals Agreement on Animal Welfare 2024-2027". At the same time, new EU legislation on dog welfare is in the pipeline. However, the EU legislation only propose new rules to apply to commercial breeding. Commercial dog breeding covers approx. 50% of Danish dog breeding, and therefore the five organizations believe that our proposal should be introduced into Danish legislation and apply to all dog breeding in Denmark. The welfare of the dogs should not be dependent on whether it is a private individual who breeds the litter or a commercial breeder. It makes no difference to the dogs.

Together, the organizations hope to inspire the political apparatus, which is already in the process of drafting new legislation that will have a huge impact on future breeding, but also on many homes that want a family member they can enjoy for many years to come.

"At the Danish Kennel Club, we welcome this historic collaboration, which bodes well for the future of dog breeding. We want health and welfare for all dogs. And since, for some breeds, only a very small fraction of puppy registrations is subject to the Danish Kennel Club's breeding

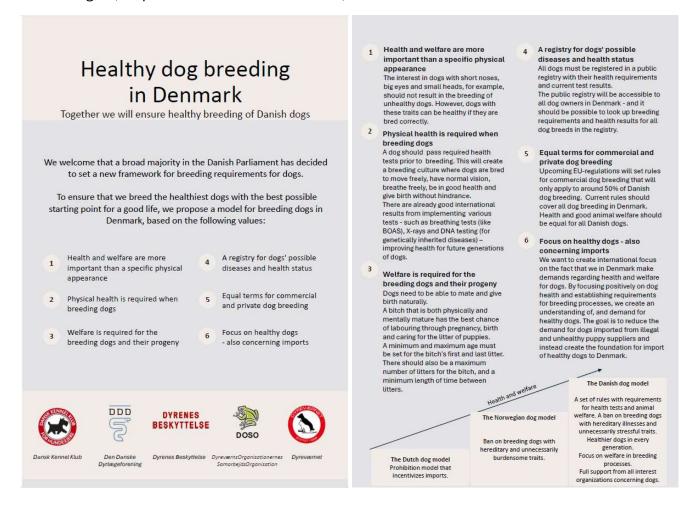




**Dansk Kennel Klub** 

Parkvej 1 DK-2680 Solrød Strand Tlf.: +45 5618 8100 CVR: 11 88 18 15 Bank: 5035 0001361253

www.dkk.dk post@dkk.dk requirements and ethical breeding recommendations, this proposal is essential to achieve our common goal," explains Lise Lotte Christensen, behavior consultant at the Danish Kennel Club.



## Further background on the current dog welfare debate:

Animal welfare and the healthy breeding of dogs has certainly caught the public's attention. And with good reason: there's a dog in around one in four homes and we love our dogs like never before.

Therefore, it has become increasingly important to the five organizations that our dogs are healthy and happy. And just as equestrian sports are being scrutinized to see if the industry is living up to its ethical responsibilities, there has been similar criticism about the health of dog breeds.

The debate has largely focused on the short-nosed dog breeds, some of which can have breathing difficulties.





In February, the government published the political agreement "Together for the Animals Agreement on Animal Welfare 2024-2027" between the Government (Socialdemokratiet, Venstre, Moderaterne), Socialistisk Folkeparti, Liberal Alliance, Det Konservative Folkeparti, Radikale Venstre, Dansk Folkeparti and Alternativet.)

The agreement contains the following three points concerning dogs:

- 1) Initiative against extreme breeding of pets
- 2) Clarification of rules on the tethering of dogs
- 3) Ban on certain dog collars

In addition, DKK 1 million will be allocated to The National Register of Blood Tracking Dogs.

## **Contact information:**

Danish Kennel Club: Lise Lotte Christensen, lich@dkk.dk tel.: 20 66 81 00

Danish Animal Protection Society: Jens Jokumsen, jj@dyrenesbeskyttelse.dk tel.: +45 40 84 15 12

Danish Veterinary Association: Christine Fossing, cf@ddd.dk tel.: 25 15 56 52

DOSO: Therese Servé Wilbert, tw@kattens-vaern.dk tel.: 25 39 04 96

The Danish Society for the Protection of Animals: Nina Amdi, nina@dyrevaernet.dk tel.: +45 44 94 66 95



