



Press Release from the Danish Kennel Club

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Healthy Dog Breeding in Denmark: A New Regulation Sets Important Framework for Responsible Breeding and Welfare of Breeding Bitches

As of July 1, 2025, it will be mandatory to conduct health examinations and be aware of the health status of a wide range of dog breeds — including mixes of the breeds mentioned — before the dogs can be used for breeding. The regulation is titled “*Animal Welfare Minimum Requirements for Keeping Dogs*”, and it states broadly that no dog may be used for breeding if it possesses clear hereditary traits that pose a risk to the health of future offspring. A direct consequence is that a number of breeds — including mixes of the breeds mentioned — must undergo specific health screenings before being allowed to breed.

Denmark Leads the Way

The Danish Kennel Club (DKK), Denmark’s largest interest organization for dog owners and breeders, is highly satisfied that the legislation focuses on health requirements rather than breed bans, as seen in some neighboring countries.

“The regulation emphasizes ‘health screening and choosing healthy dogs’ — both for dog owners/breeders who want to produce a litter of puppies and for puppy buyers who need guidance in selecting pups from health-tested parents. We have high expectations for this ‘Danish model for healthy dog breeding,’” says Jørgen Hindse, Chairman of the Danish Kennel Club.

A Unique and Broad Collaboration

The development of the regulation has been a long time in the making. Over a year ago, the Danish Kennel Club took the initiative to gather stakeholders who could provide professional input on how legislation on healthy dog breeding could be structured. This led to a broad and fruitful collaboration between Animal Protection Denmark, the Danish Veterinary Association, Dyreværnet, DOSO (the Association of Danish Animal Welfare Organizations), and the Danish Kennel Club.

“Instead of remaining in separate ‘camps’ trying to find solutions, we have worked closely together over the past year, contributing knowledge, professional input, health data, and proposals to tackle the shared challenge. The collaboration has been unique, with a shared goal of prioritizing canine health and welfare. The Minister for Food, Agriculture and Fisheries, and the Danish Veterinary and Food Administration have listened — and that is reflected in the new regulation,” says Jens Glavind, CEO of the Danish Kennel Club.

DKK Breeders Lead the Way

Approximately 50,000 puppies are registered each year in Denmark. Of these, nearly 20,000 are registered with the Danish Kennel Club.



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

“DKK breeders already follow several health screening requirements for their dogs before breeding. It is very important that health checks are now also required for non-pedigree dogs. This will benefit the overall health of the Danish dog population, and we welcome this development,” says Jørgen Hindse.

Welfare of the Bitch

The new regulation also includes rules regarding how young or old a bitch may be when having puppies, how many litters she may have, the spacing between litters, and other measures to ensure her welfare.

“These measures are also very positive,” says Mikael Tranholm, the veterinarian at the Danish Kennel Club. He continues, “DKK’s many thousands of breeders already follow our ethical guidelines for good breeding practices. Now, these rules will apply to everyone — both professional kennels and private individuals.”

Implementation and Public Awareness

The Danish Kennel Club sees a great need for educating the unorganized part of the dog world and informing new puppy buyers.

“In DKK, all requirements and rules will be implemented when the regulation comes into effect on July 1, 2025. Therefore, puppy buyers can be assured that if they purchase a puppy with a DKK pedigree, the rules, health screenings, and breeding standards have been followed. Of course, this is not a 100% guarantee that the dog will never get sick, but many important steps have already been taken to ensure future generations are as healthy as possible,” emphasizes Jørgen Hindse.

“Naturally, it is the breeder’s responsibility to breed healthy dogs, but we must not underestimate the power of consumers. We must encourage puppy buyers to demand puppies from health-tested dogs and ‘reward’ responsible breeders by choosing to buy from them,” says Lise Lotte Christensen, Behavior Consultant at the Danish Kennel Club.

When the legislation comes into effect on July 1, 2025, the Danish Kennel Club will launch a canine health website, allowing health test results to be registered.

“DKK fully supports the ‘Danish model for healthy dog breeding,’ and that’s why we’ve taken the initiative to register health information — even for dogs without a DKK pedigree. This will also enable legislators and professionals to monitor the development of canine health and evaluate the regulation,” concludes Jens Glavind, CEO of the Danish Kennel Club.

Regulation on Animal Welfare Minimum Requirements for Keeping Dogs (Executive Order No. 607 of May 26, 2025):

<https://www.retsinformation.dk/eli/lta/2025/607>

Danish Veterinary and Food Administration Website:

<https://foedevarestyrelsen.dk/indgange/hundeavl>



Ministry Press Release:

<https://fvm.dk/nyheder-og-pressemeddelelser/2025/jun/nye-regler-for-avl-af-hunde-traeder-i-kraft>

For further information, please contact:

CEO Jens Glavind: jegl@dkk.dk

Press contact and Behavior Consultant Lise Lotte Christensen: lich@dkk.dk or +45 20668100

