

Statement regarding a YouTube clip showing a Pug with breathing difficulties at a dog show in Sweden.

The Swedish Kennel Club (SKC) has worked intensively on the education of show judges on how to handle exaggerated anatomical features in their duties. Breathing has been in focus both in general and specific texts within the Nordic Breed Specific Instructions (<http://www.skk.se/Global/Dokument/Utstallning/special-breed-specific-instructions-A8.pdf>). There is also a video production specifically focused on breathing difficulties available on YouTube (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kQ_3f4bLkME&feature=youtu.be).

The SKC board therefore deeply regrets the scenario depicted on YouTube regarding the examination and rewarding a Pug with clinical signs of distress related to breathing at a dog show in Sweden this summer.

The judge on duty has been asked to explain and motivate his actions according to procedures to be followed when situations like this are brought to our attention. That process is not yet completed

SKC expects that such scenarios shown in the film clip are not going to happen again. SKC's ambition is to make sure that every judge at shows in Sweden will fully comply with BSI and the importance of the health aspects in the evaluation of exaggerated anatomical features. This incident very clearly shows the continuous need for attention towards exaggerations in anatomical features and the importance to continue the work with the Breed Specific Instructions, BSI.

To make sure that potential breeding stock in brachycephalic breeds meets expected criteria regarding breathing SKK have developed collaborative efforts in Sweden with, the veterinary profession and national authorities. Within this collaborative framework there are six focus areas:

- a) An update on nationally and internationally available data on the prevalence of unhealthy related to a brachycephalic constitution.
- b) Investigate the possibilities to centrally register diagnoses and surgical procedures related to exaggerated anatomical features.
- c) Revision of the puppy health certificate, mandatory to all puppies sold by members of SKC, to include more focus on constitutional aspect on health.
- d) Develop a protocol and veterinary certificate for potential breeding stock on breathing capacity intended as a merit and if necessary be made compulsory before breeding.
- e) Further training of judges, veterinarians and breeders related to exaggerated anatomical features.
- f) Consumer education on health risks related to a brachycephalic constitution..

These projects all aiming to avoid scenarios as the one alluded on will be reported on at Dog WellNet.com.