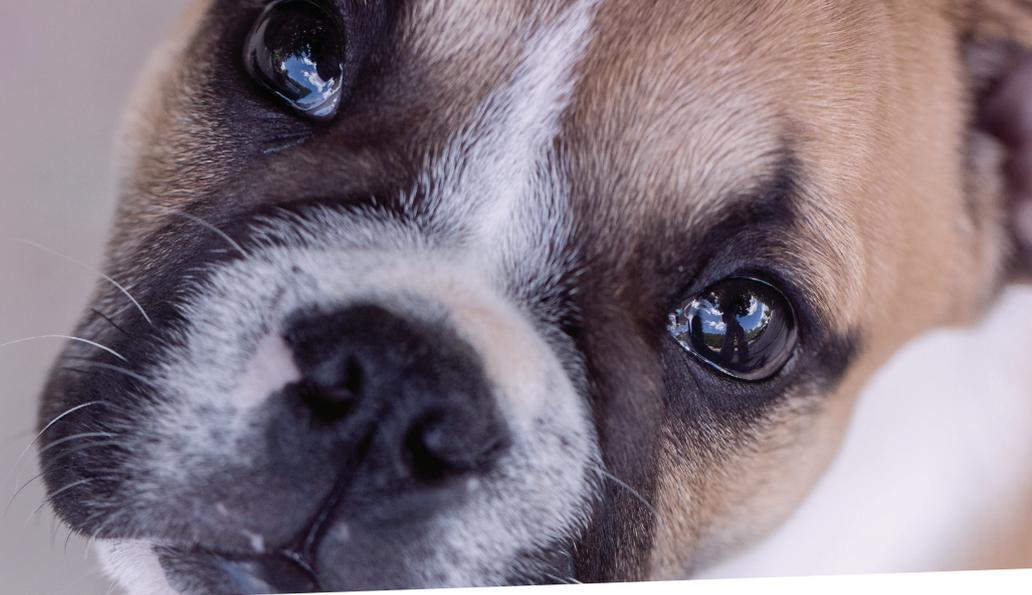


Information for breeders



Pedigree dog breeders usually have a strong connection with their dogs and the breed, and they want to see their puppies live a healthy, happy and long life. There are certain dog breeds that are bred to have exaggerated physical features which compromise their welfare, leading to a poor quality of life. They include Pugs, French Bulldogs, English Bulldogs, Dachshunds and Shar Peis. These dogs also require ongoing veterinary care as a result of their special needs.

But the good news is that these health and welfare problems from exaggerated features can be prevented.

It's important to avoid selecting for exaggerated features in your breeding programs, and choose dogs for breeding with more normal, healthy physical characteristics. Veterinarians can help you with your breeding programs, and advise you on your options.

As a breeder, you have an important responsibility to ensure your puppies go on to live happy, healthy and long lives.

Here are some ways you can proactively prevent problems caused by exaggerated features:

- ♥ Avoiding selection for flat faces to prevent breathing difficulties
- ♥ Choosing parent dogs that have more normal and moderate physical features

- ♥ Considering outcrossing with other dog breeds, which may be necessary to effectively moderate exaggerated features and restore breeds to a physical type that's healthy
- ♥ Calling for urgent changes to breed standards so that exaggerated features are no longer required and each breed standard ensures good health and welfare
- ♥ Support changes in judging criteria that reward health rather than physical appearance as a priority
- ♥ Agree to litter registrations which require veterinary health certificates for both parent dogs prior to breeding.

You should also encourage prospective owners to visit your property and to meet both parents as well as the puppy.

It's important that you communicate clearly with prospective owners about the potential problems associated with the breed and the extra veterinary and daily care the puppy will need over its lifetime. This will then minimise the risk of new owners surrendering their dog if they weren't aware of the additional costs associated with caring for their dog.

Some breeds need more than unconditional love.

Your click can help stop the suffering, loveisblind.org.au



Love is Blind is a joint initiative of the Australian Veterinary Association and RSPCA Australia. We're raising awareness of the animal welfare problems caused by exaggerated physical features and how these problems can be prevented.

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Australian Veterinary Association