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21 August 2019

The Secretary

Auckland Bulldog Club  
Central Bulldog Club  
Southern Bulldog Club  
Wellington Bulldog Club

Dear Club Secretaries

**RE: British Bulldog Breed Standard Decision**

I would like to thank you for your valued participation in the Bulldog Breed standard consultation and the resulting Club letters to Executive Council providing information on the preference between the current FCI or UK Bulldog Breed Standard.

There was a clear preference expressed by the Clubs that in the event that Executive Council voted to update the existing NZ Bulldog standard, the current UK standard be adopted.

At their July meeting Executive Council decided to update the standard and to follow the clubs' preference to adopt the current country of origin UK standard as the New Zealand Bulldog Breed Standard effective immediately.

The adoption of the current UK Standard will remove extreme language which promotes undesirable health outcomes in the breed. The new Breed Standard will allow Dogs New Zealand to show our regulatory stakeholders (who hold the view that moderation of extreme features in brachycephalic dogs is important for their health & welfare) that we are making every effort to protect both the health & welfare of the breed and the opportunity for the breed to thrive in the future.

This is not a decision that Dogs New Zealand has made lightly. Discussions with the Bulldog community on health issues and breed standards date back to 2016. Both parties have had a number of opportunities to express their views on this important topic.

Now that Dogs New Zealand have made a decision for change what does the future hold for the Bulldog Community?

It is important to note that Breed Standards are an ideal that we expect breeders to work towards over time. Adopting a new standard does not mean that bulldogs conforming to the previous standard are no longer welcome in the show ring or as a breeding line.

We will continue to enjoy seeing your bulldogs in the ring at Breed and All Breed shows. Registry regulations for registration of bulldogs litters and puppies do not change.

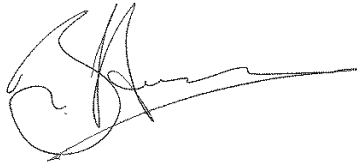


What we do look forward to is a continuing dialogue with clubs, breeders and owners on the potential for future health testing schemes such as a bulldog specific LRL's or Accredited Breeders schemes to improve the breed.

Any introduction of these health schemes will only be done in partnership with the clubs and members as we have done with the Labradors, Rottweilers and currently with the Pugs.

I look forward to working with the clubs and members to ensure the future prosperity of the Bulldog in New Zealand.

*Kind regards*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brian Harris', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Brian Harris  
President: Dogs New Zealand

