

# Southern Bulldog Club

PO Box 76198  
Northwood  
Christchurch 8548  
southernbulldogclub@hotmail.com

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To the Director/Secretary

## **NEW RULE FOR CONSIDERATION AT THE 2017 CONFERENCE OF DELEGATES**

Our club wishes to table:

- a. A new rule allowing for the establishment of by the Delegates tasked with undertaking specific activities and reporting back to the Executive Council and Conference of Delegates.
- b. A recommendation that the first Taskforce to be established relates to the British and French Bulldog Breeds.

Our club has discussed this Remit and subsequent Recommendations with the other Breed Clubs. We understand one or more of the other clubs will be submitting on this issue as well.

## **NEW RULE**

The proposed new rule is as follows:

## **TASKFORCE**

1. The Delegates at an Annual Conference of Delegates shall have the power to establish a Taskforce to examine, research and report on a specific subject or

subjects relating to the welfare and care of a specific breed or breeds or for such other purposes as they may consider of importance to the NZKC and all or part of its members.

2. The motion to establish a Taskforce shall be made based upon a Recommendation or Recommendations from a society or societies affiliated or associated requesting a Taskforce. The Recommendation shall include the proposed subjects for consideration by the Taskforce and any other matters intended to facilitate the administration of the Taskforce. A simple majority of Delegates shall be required for the motion to pass.
3. The Taskforce shall be established for one year unless approved by the Delegates and shall be required to report its findings and recommendations in writing to both the Executive Council and the next Conference of Delegates. The Executive Council shall be required to provide administrative support to the Taskforce as required.
4. Upon receipt of the Taskforce's report the Executive Council shall consider the report and make recommendations to the next Annual Conference of Delegates either in support, amending or opposing the Taskforces recommendations. The Delegates shall then consider both sets of recommendations as part of General Business.

## **RATIONALE**

Currently the Executive Committee retain the right to appoint standing committees. Those committees are responsible to the Executive and report to them. Their warrant is limited to any subject within the Rules and Regulations of the New Zealand Kennel Club ("NZKC"). We propose that this option is extended and a taskforce structure utilized.

Our reasoning for the taskforce is that there will be the need from time to time for a vehicle which enables sanctioned action for the purpose or purposes which step beyond the pure wording of the Rules and regulations of the NZKC but which it is considered would be of benefit to the NZKC and or some or all of its members.

In some instances, for example a Taskforce may be established to liaise with international counterparts to enable the New Zealand models utilized by the NZKC or clubs to understand if not reflect the international experience as it relates to a breed or breeds.

The taskforce could provide the vehicle to draw clubs together formally to work on common initiatives such as codes of conduct or health testing regimes. In others, it may be working alongside the NZKC at the forefront of discussions with domestic stakeholders such as welfare groups, veterinarians and government agencies where matters of welfare affect specific breeds or breed types. This is not to take away from the NZKCs role as advocate for the purebred dog, rather it may reflect a specific need across a breed or breeds requiring a targeted approach.

Given its wider scope a Taskforce should in our view be established by the Delegates at Conference and should ultimately provide a report to the Executive Council and the Delegates. Recommendations made may relate to Rule or regulation change or may relate to new initiatives, policies, practices or activities which are not related to the current Rules or regulations. They should therefore be considered initially by the Executive Council but also be presented to the Delegates as part of General Business on the basis of their wider scope and interest to the membership.

Administratively proposals for a taskforce should provide for a base scope of issues and should set out a membership structure if not specific individuals. We provide an example of the need for this Rule through our subsequent recommendation below. Specifically, we seek a Taskforce:

- a. The subjects of which are two breeds British and French bulldogs facing considerable scrutiny by the public and welfare organisations. Given this the club considers there is a need to take a proactive approach to developing a common response to the views represented to the public and to developing common and effective methods for improving both the perception and ongoing health of the breeds.
- b. The terms of reference of which do not all fit naturally within the specific matters raised in the Rules and Regulations of the NZKC.
- c. Whose potential recommendations may or may not relate to Rule or regulation changes. Many will relate to new initiative's, policy, education and health development.
- d. A Taskforce has been established for the French Bulldog breed in Australia by the Australian National Kennel Council Ltd ("**ANKC**"). An equivalent Taskforce would be able to liaise on equal footing with that group and both could learn from the experience of the other, improving the relevance and quality of recommendations relating to common issues.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

Following the establishment of the new rule proposed above we make the following recommendation:

**That the Executive Council establish a Taskforce tasked with:**

- a. Undertaking a review of research relating to the health of French and British bulldogs and where relevant making recommendations for the development of further research to support the breeds**
- b. Consideration of the range of methods used by international breed clubs and organisations to both reflect and publicise good health testing practices and to hold health information;**
- c. Provide a formal response to the NAWAC opinion on selective breeding as it relates to these breeds.**
- d. Advocating and developing products to support the education of the public about reputable breeding practices and the breed standard;**
- e. Developing a common Code of Ethics for the French and Bulldog Breeds supported by the breed clubs;**
- f. Considering methods for strengthening the integrity of the breed registers and specifically the placement of non-standard coloured French and British bulldogs onto those registers.**
- g. Consider if any specific amendments or additions are required to the policies, rules or regulations of the NZKC as they relate to the French and British Bulldog breeds including the testing requirements for both breeds under the NZKC Accredited Breeder Scheme.**
- h. Such other activities as are agreed under a final Terms of Reference agreed by the Breed Clubs.**

**Ancillary recommendations for the Taskforce are:**

- a. **Membership shall include two members from and nominated by each of the Breed Clubs. Each member will have one vote each. The makeup of the Taskforce shall always ensure that jointly the club members will have the majority or if required casting vote on Taskforce decisions. The Executive Council shall be entitled to appoint two non-voting observers to the Taskforce. All remaining members will be appointed on the basis of specific expertise requirements and the voting members shall determine whether they are voting or non-voting members.**
- b. **The Taskforce consult with and report back recommendations to the Breed Clubs.**
- c. **The Taskforce make a full report to be presented to the Executive Council and at the next NZKC Delegates Conference in 2018.**

## **INFORMATION**

The bases for these recommendations are:

- a. There is a perception publicly that British and French bulldogs and other brachycephalic breeds are a health risk<sup>1</sup>. As is the case internationally information provided via media and other fora are at most anecdotal and lack research. There is a need to get ahead of the media and public perception and front foot the issues. Our club considers that this can be done through a better understanding of the issues which are being raised. Any research should include consideration of the extensive testing and breeding for health undertaken by reputable breeders and the work currently being undertaken both domestically and overseas for the betterment and care of the breeds. That information will form the basis for recommendations for the development of appropriate responses to media advances and be part of developing effective health testing, methods of publicizing that testing by reputable breeders and the holding of health information in an appropriate form and place, which can be actively supported and sponsored by the breed clubs with their members and the public.
- b. Following the points above our club considers that better information will enable better education of the public, animal welfare organisation's and the government

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.mpi.govt.nz/.../national-animal-welfare-advisory-.../>

when contemplating regulation or codes of welfare. It will enable better advocacy for the British and French Bulldog breeds. The breed clubs are the strongest advocates of their breeds. The NZKC can support this advocacy through the Taskforce and the establishment of policies and processes for co-ordinated action.

- c. A common breed specific code of ethics for the breed clubs which will sit alongside the breed standards to inform the public of appropriate standards both in care and breed and to be a reference for both reputable breeders and public alike. A Taskforce is well placed to develop this document and to grow the support for it with the Breed clubs.
- d. There may be need to amend existing rules and regulations to facilitate recommendations. Should that be the case then the Taskforce should provide draft rules and explanations for them for consideration. This may include amendments to the current testing regimes for French and British bulldogs under the NZKC Accredited Breeder Scheme.
- e. The ANKC has established a Taskforce intended to “make recommendations to strengthen the Regulations to protect the integrity of the registration process” in respect to French Bulldogs. The basis being that breeders of non-standard coloured dogs are fraudulently applying to register them under approved colours. We have the opportunity to collaborate with the ANKC Taskforce to protect the breeds in both countries and to learn from common lessons.

The points above are but a few of the reasons we consider the Taskforce would be an effective means to progress the issues faced by the French Bulldog and British Bulldog breeds today and the breed clubs tasked with protecting and advocating for our breeds. Our club is available to answer any questions and nominates Mike Dellow and Loretta Lovell to present at the Conference and to respond to any questions.

Yours Sincerely  
Kathy Brown  
President