



Bulldog Club  
Taskforce



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Combined Taskforce



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<https://www.dogz.net.nz/nzbulldogclubcombinedtaskforce/default.asp>

Hi Everyone

### **Bulldog Breed Standard Meeting Update**

Yesterday a group of representatives from our Bulldog clubs attended the meeting with DNZ on the proposed change to the NZ Bulldog Breed Standard. Our intent with this meeting was to seek common ground and find a mutually agreed solution between our clubs and DogsNZ (DNZ).

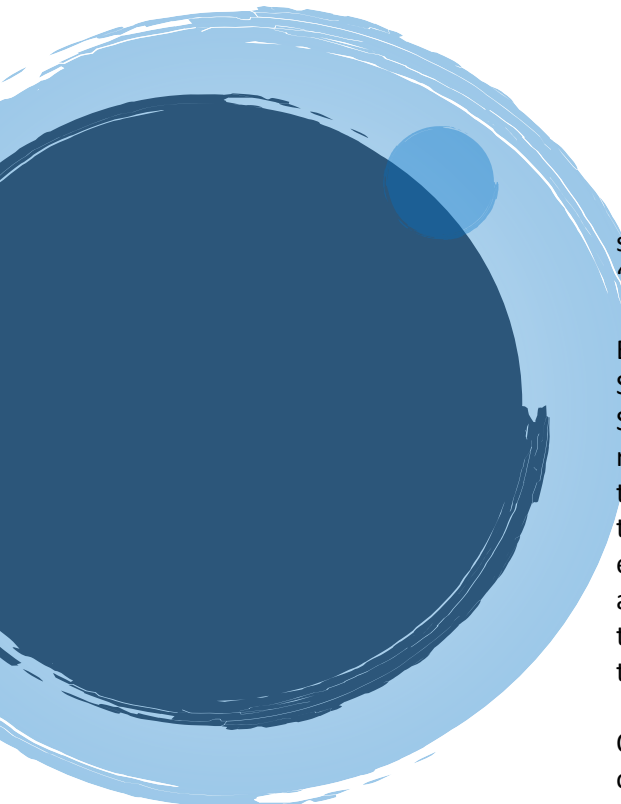
In the face of significant opposition (not the least being the Wellington weather that delayed the meeting by hours), our representatives put forward the longstanding position that the current standard should not be changed. That it is a document of worth with a rich history and knowledge from breeders who have sought to protect the breed for over 100 years.

The Bulldog Standard is not the basis for ill health in the breed and the international research used to support this claim was neither reflective of the NZ bulldog, nor was it accurately interpreted by DNZ. Our bulldogs are not the same as the UK bulldogs and a wheel is not a wheel turning everywhere as we were told. Different environments, different lifestyles, different dogs. Its common sense.

To cherry pick the bits that suit will not make the entire research say what DNZ want it to, no matter how much you try to redefine terms such as maybe, objective, subjective, correlation and cause. To quote a member of our team responding yesterday – it doesn't work like that the umbrella doesn't cause the rain. That just makes no sense. The fact that writers of those reports themselves said that their research had little relevance outside of the UK was also lost on the DNZ.

The reality that our surveys in a week gave us more information about more bulldogs than much of the research DNZ quoted at us, was not lost on us. Bulldog Breeders and owners know what's happening with their dogs. The fact that we had more responses to each of our surveys in one day then DNZ got from theirs to bulldog breeders and owners as a whole? But again, our surveys are not valid and should be ignored, because its club led work? Where have we heard that before?

That survey data and feedback from real NZ owners and breeders says what we have all heard and thought. Our dogs and our experiences with them are not the same as overseas. Nor should our Bulldogs or the Bulldog Standard be treated that way by DNZ. But it doesn't matter, our views and experience don't count. Afterall if the DNZ approach is to



suggest at the meeting that a person punched in the face would then “feel” like a bulldog? What hope do we have?

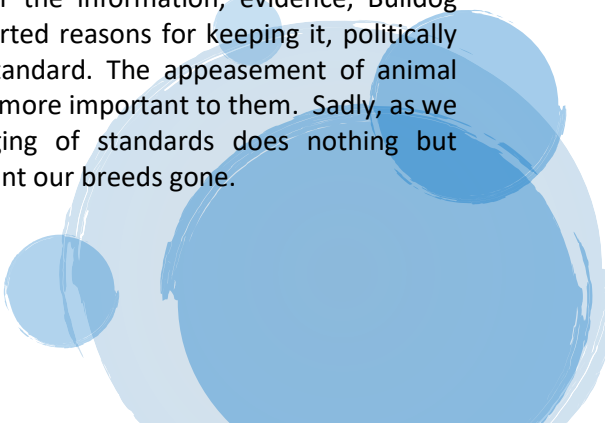
Even though we don't want to change the current NZ Bulldog Breed Standard we know that DNZ have the power under their rules to do so. So, we came to the meeting as we said we would, with options. Our representatives put forward options to recognise DNZ need to deal with their perception of “extreme” words, but to also prevent other changes that have nothing to do with their stated reasons, protecting the essence of the bulldog for example in its tilt back and layback of nose and the description of the bulldog's distinctive roach. To allow for more time for our health schemes, research and data relevant to our NZ dogs to be developed before substantive change if it were necessary at all.

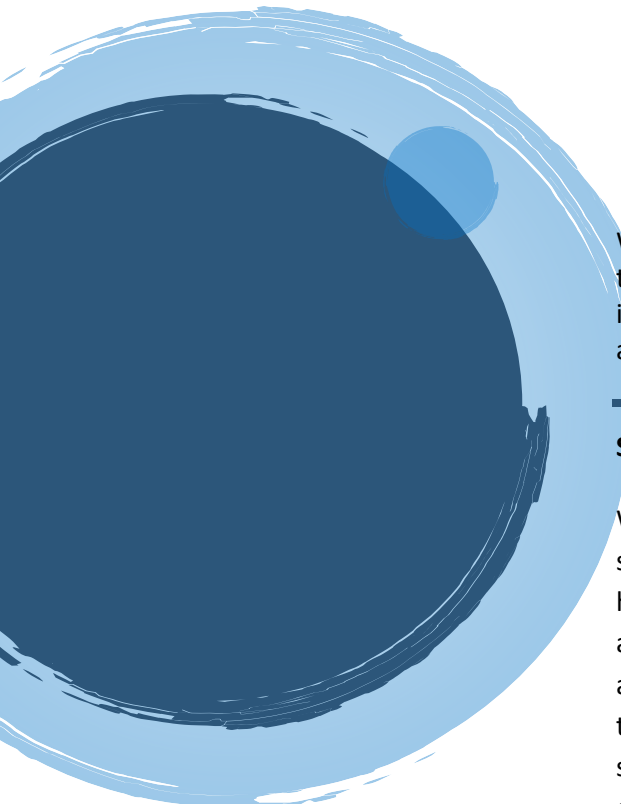
Our team tried to negotiate, to find a way forward. But negotiations are only effective when both sides are willing and really there was no desire from the other side, certainly no movement. DNZ has said they will change the standard come their next EC meeting and they will choose either the updated UK or FCI. Ignoring all other options, the ones we put forward and the options of the Australian and the US standards.

The one concession given to our representatives was the clubs could talk to their members and decide which one; updated UK or FCI is preferred, with a response due next week. Given DNZ received only 12 responses from the over 150 bulldog people they surveyed in May this would seem fair. They can hardly say they have a clear mandate one way or the other for the updated UK and FCI standards. As we all know the mandate was for no change.

**But to be absolutely clear, any response to the two change options should never be assumed to be an agreed position. DNZ is changing the Bulldog Breed Standard without the support of the Bulldog Clubs, the vast majority of its members and the many non-club member breeders who have given their mandate and support to our fight.**

The response and position of DNZ yesterday, not to look for a mutually agreed way forward is incredibly disappointing, reinforcing what we have always known in terms of the reasons for change, which were confirmed yesterday. No matter the information, evidence, Bulldog Breeders, owners or Club supported reasons for keeping it, politically DNZ will change the Bulldog Standard. The appeasement of animal welfare groups the final nail and more important to them. Sadly, as we know from the UK the changing of standards does nothing but embolden these groups. They want our breeds gone.





We have said before to all the specialist breed clubs would you want this to be your standard next? We still feel that way, more so perhaps. If this is the habit that is forming within DNZ then at some point we all have to ask if it's the one we signed up for and want.

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### **So, what do we need you to do?**

We want to hear from our members and from non-members who are still registered bulldog breeders and owners of registered bulldogs who have a right to voice their opinion. We need you to tell us what you think and which of these two directives: updated UK or FCI we are given yet again, you prefer. While it would feel good to just say nothing and ignore this, the reality is we cannot leave this to the whims of DNZ. Feel free to state what you think of the decision to change over our stated opposition if you want too. We will give that to DNZ with the Clubs responses!

Today we will be placing the presentation and documents we created in support for our representatives on our website. We will also be setting up a page on the site so you can tell us what you think and what choice you pick. We need that response this week so will be posting on social media and sending emails out as well with reminders.

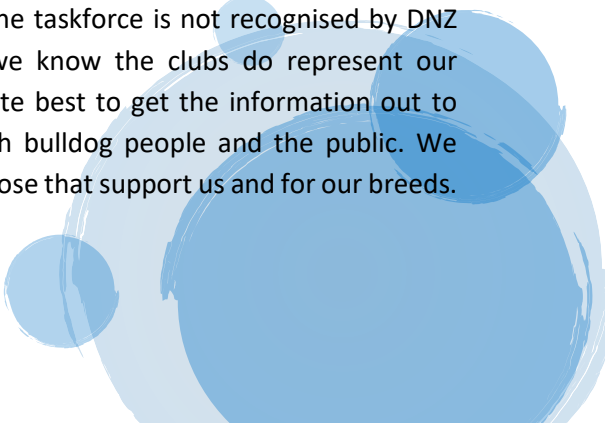
If you have any questions email us or message. We will answer.

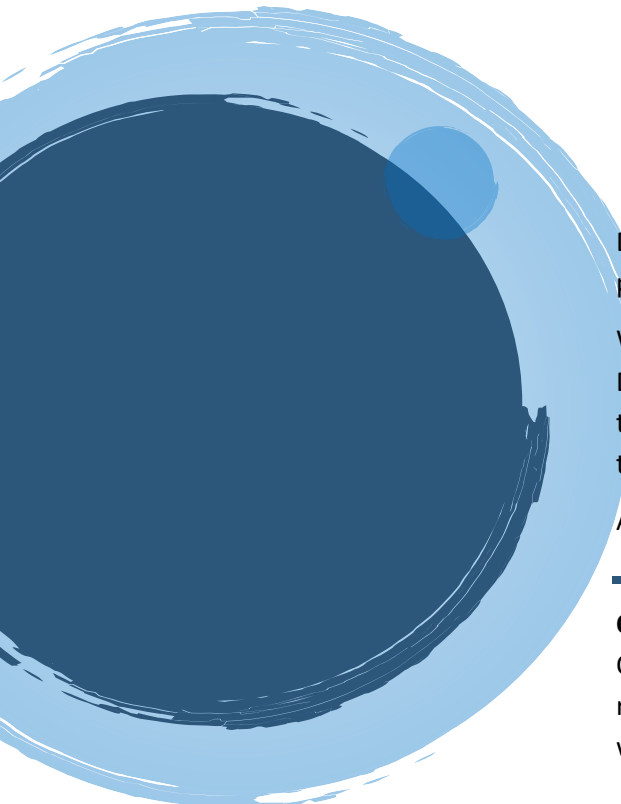
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### **THANK YOU**

The Bulldog Club Presidents, Committees, Taskforce members all want to say thank you to the many many Bulldog and French Bulldog breeders and owners, vets, experts, clubs (here and overseas) who have backed and continue to support us.

We know we have backing; we are told and we have the written stated mandate and support of so many. We keep getting told by the same few people that the Clubs don't represent their members, that we don't keep members informed. That the taskforce is not recognised by DNZ (because we need that?) But we know the clubs do represent our members and we do our absolute best to get the information out to them and to bulldog and French bulldog people and the public. We engage, advocate and fight for those that support us and for our breeds.





DNZ didn't expect unity when they started this, but we did, we bulldog people don't just lie down.

We may lose a battle with the change to the Bulldog Standard because DNZ can do it without listening. But the war is not lost and we know that through this process we are better engaged and better able to lead that fight.

Again, thank you.

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### **Our Club Health Schemes and Surveys**

Our Club Run Bulldog and French Bulldog Health Schemes are up and running and available. We have two surveys up and running and will be working on more.

Joining our Health Schemes and completing our surveys are the best way to help us to build a clear picture of what is happening with our breeds. You don't have to be a breeder only to join as an owner of a registered bulldog or French bulldog, you and your bulldog or Frenchie matter too and can participate. In fact, we want you to. Your specific information will be respected and kept confidential. Its yours, you own it and we won't do anything with it without your support.

We will be moving forward with getting endorsements for our health schemes and establishing a charitable foundation to identify and support research which will be relevant to our breeds in NZ. So, join us as we move forward and reinforce that the people who know the most and will act in the best interests of our bulldogs and frenchies are their registered breeders, owners and their Bulldog Clubs.

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### **Contacts**

You can use our website to give your response to DNZ options for the Bulldog Breed Standard and to get representatives information from the meeting. Go to:

[www.dogz.net.nz/nzbulldogclubcombinedtaskforce/default.asp](http://www.dogz.net.nz/nzbulldogclubcombinedtaskforce/default.asp)

You can email us if you have any questions on

[bulldog.taskforce@gmail.com](mailto:bulldog.taskforce@gmail.com).

Our fb contact is on the first page of this update too.

