



The Bulldog Club Combined Taskforce
British and French Bulldog Health Scheme
Information Sheet

Purpose

The Bulldog Club Taskforce brings together the 5 national Bulldog Clubs to work together for the betterment of the British and French Bulldog Breeds and to support our club members. The Taskforce has an approved term of reference which includes the consideration of options for improving the health of the British and French Bulldog breeds including the potential for establishing health schemes in line with the actions of other clubs overseas. The Taskforce therefore are undertaking the work for the clubs to establish the British Bulldog Health Scheme (**BBHS**) and the French Bulldog Health Scheme (**FBHS**).

The Schemes

It is acknowledged that both British Bulldogs and French Bulldogs, given their recent popularity are facing considerable public attention, as are all brachycephalic breeds. Prior to this a few breeders worked quietly and diligently to breed to the breed standard and to continue to improve the health of the breed. However, with popularity has come a rise in people who are not breeding for health, rather their interest is profit. Welfare groups are now publicly stating that the health of French bulldogs is at risk utilising research from other countries as there is none in New Zealand. Some are suggesting the breed should be banned. The Taskforce is tasked with working on a range of activities to counter this perspective, support our dog owners/breeders and to educate and inform the public.

Therefore, the Taskforce has a number of Terms of Reference including:

- *Consider 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;*

During their work the Taskforce identified a number of reasons for health schemes including:

1. Promoting and supporting dog owner/breeders to start testing by:

- i) Providing a clear indication of the tests that a breeder could undertake.
- ii) Placing an emphasis on promoting health testing as part of an overall assessment. Not to exclude a dog but to enable a breeder to understand what is happening both outside and within their dog. On that basis the emphasis is on participation.

2. Building a data base of information and data – to again assist breeders but to also provide over time a database of health statistics that can be used by the clubs and taskforce to get more of an understanding of what is happening with our breeds and we hope over time seeing more improvements in health and wellbeing. It will also provide statistics that we can use in response to perceived views of the breeds by third parties and the media.

3. Through an award system run by the clubs attached to the dog rather than the breeder providing a visible mechanism to advertise good health testing practices and hopefully distinguish responsible breeders from the irresponsible.

For Breeders

We recommend that you contact your club to discuss how you can join the clubs health schemes. We can provide you with resources and recommend vets who are participating. Equally you can take the forms to your own vets and ask them to perform the tests needed.

For the Public

We recommend that anyone thinking about getting a British Bulldog or French Bulldog puppy or dog that they ask breeders if they are members of one of our clubs, participating in our health schemes and are health testing their dogs in line with the clubs recommendations.

We always recommend that the public only buy their dogs from responsible breeders who will answer questions, support you after you have the pup and who are focussed on the welfare of their dogs wherever they may be.

Feel free to go to our Taskforce page on facebook or contact the secretaries of the clubs on the contacts below if you have any questions.

Auckland Bulldog Club – sarahj.baker@xtra.co.nz

Central Bulldog Club – suechaytor@kinect.co.nz

Wellington Bulldog Club – wgnbulldogclub@gmail.com

Southern Bulldog Club – southernbulldogclub@hotmail.com

The French Bulldog Society - trina.far74@xtra.co.nz

Bulldog Club Taskforce - BTF.Taskforce@outlook.com