



17 May 2019

The Bulldog Clubs
By Email

Dear Members

DogsNZ further push to change the Bulldog Breed Standard

As you know last year the Bulldog clubs were asked by DogsNZ to consider changing the Bulldog Breed Standard to the FCI standard or to the updated UK standard. The Bulldog Clubs consulted on this proposal and provided that feedback to DogsNZ. Members also submitted on it and a petition was provided as well. Submissions opposed changing to FCI and all bar one supported the retention of the current NZ standard.

In response to these submissions DogsNZ Executive Council agreed to not change the Bulldog Standard from the current version.

However, since that decision was made the Canine Health and Welfare Committee of DogsNZ has placed the issue back on the Executive Council agenda and ignoring the submissions of clubs and members recommended that the Bulldog Standard be changed. The reasons given were for health and the impact upon the reputation of DogsNZ if they didn't change the standard. The Executive Council of DogsNZ have therefore decided to put the matter back to the clubs for consultation.

However, this consultation is different they are not asking us if we want to retain our standard which was the supported option. We are offered two choices only:

- a. the option unanimously opposed last time of changing to the FCI standard or
- b. changing the NZ standard to the updated UK standard which was opposed by all bar one individual submitter.

Whatever the change it is proposed to happen from 1 August 2019.

The Clubs strongly object to DogsNZs decision to ignore the outcomes of the last consultation and to overturn their decision to accept the views of the clubs and members. The Bulldog Clubs do not consider DogsNZ's unilateral approach of giving two rejected options to us is in fact fair or real consultation. It is window dressing so they can say they have consulted and then make a decision for us (because what do the clubs and their members know about their breeds?). This sets a dangerous precedent for all breed clubs! If our Bulldog Clubs and their members are to be ignored because we wont tow the DogsNZ line who is next? Are we expected to accept that DogsNZ always knows best for us all? Did that work for the docked breeds?

We have **attached** the letter from DogsNZ to this letter. The Bulldog Clubs do not accept the suggestion that the NZ Bulldog Breed Standard is reflective of or the cause of health issues in bulldogs

in New Zealand. Nor that there is “significant” scientific evidence directly connecting the Bulldog breed standard to health issues of all Bulldogs.

We will respond to DogsNZ on this issue again and unlike DogsNZ we will do so based on our members views. As clubs we believe that the views of our members who responded strongly during the last consultation should stand. We did not accept then and do not accept now the proposition that the push to change is for health reasons. Nor as member clubs of DogsNZ do we believe that we should be ignored or forced to accept change to protect DogsNZ reputation. We represent our members.

We will be sending out information on DogsNZ reasons for the consultation and the information we have disputing their claims and responding to it. We invite members to speak to our committee members and to make submissions again. You may not feel like you are being listened to but that does not mean you should not raise your voices. Your views are important.

If you have any questions you can also contact the club secretaries below

Auckland Bulldog Club:- sarahj.baker@xtra.co.nz

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

Central Bulldog Club – suechaytor@kinect.co.nz

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Southern Bulldog Club:- southernbulldogclub@hotmail.com

Combined Bulldog Club Taskforce: - titanbulldogs@gmail.com

With thanks

Kathy Brown – President Southern Bulldog Club

Frank Muncey – President Wellington Bulldog Club

Sue Chaytor – Secretary Central Bulldog Club

Amanda Rutherford – President Auckland Bulldog Club

Sue Tahere – President The French Bulldog Society