



ABOUT THE KENNEL CLUB AND EUKANUBA DISCOVER DOGS

WE ARE: The UK's largest organisation dedicated to the health and welfare of dogs.

OUR OBJECTIVE: To protect and promote the general wellbeing of dogs. All of the profits that the Kennel Club makes go back into dogs and at its heart are programmes and investments into education and health initiatives, to help ensure that dogs can live healthy, happy lives with responsible owners.

WE BELIEVE: That together, working with breeders, owners, the government, other dog organisations and the veterinary profession, we can give all dogs the chance to lead happy healthy lives.

HISTORY: Originally founded in 1873, the Kennel Club's sole consideration was to regulate the conduct of dog shows and trials and then later to register dogs to avoid the duplication of a name in the stud book. Whilst these functions remain, the Kennel Club has developed in ways that could not possibly have been imagined when it was established in Victorian times.

CONTACT: For any media enquiries, please contact the Kennel Club Press Office on 020 7518 1008. You can also reach us out of hours (5pm-9am) on 07825 944843. Alternatively, please email press.office@thekennelclub.org.uk.

The Kennel Club PR team consists of David Robson, Ella Brough, Nikki Cummins and Jennifer White. The primary KC spokespeople are Caroline Kisko (Kennel Club Secretary) and Bill Lambert (Health and Breeders Services Manager).

COMMENT: The Kennel Club supplies comment on a wide range of issues, including:

- Dangerous dogs and dog attacks
- Puppy farming and responsible breeding
- Microchipping
- Access for dogs
- Responsible dog ownership, including training, safety around dogs and choosing the right breed
- Obesity in dogs and dog activities
- Dog health and welfare including electric shock collars, dog meat trade, canine diseases.

WE DO:

REGISTRATION

We register around 250,000 puppies a year on our registrations system. We register all dogs, pedigree (on our breed register) and crossbreed (on our activities and

companion dog registers). The Kennel Club breed register is a record of birth and lineage, much like Somerset House for humans. There are also rules built into the registration system to protect the welfare of dogs, such as only registering four litters from a bitch in its lifetime (the legal limit is six), only registering pups from a bitch that is was at least 12 months old when mated, and only registering five or more litters a year from a breeder if they have a local authority licence.

MICROCHIPPING

The Kennel Clubs runs the largest microchipping database in the country, Petlog, to help reunite lost pets and their owners.

BREEDING

The Kennel Club Assured Breeder Scheme was launched in 2004. It is the only scheme in the UK that sets standards for and inspects breeders. Assured Breeders agree to adhere to standards that ensure that the health and welfare of their pups and breeding bitches comes first and foremost. The Kennel Club has UKAS accreditation to certify breeders on the scheme, meaning it is a robust and impartial assessor. The scheme is much needed in a largely unregulated breeding market.

Breeders need a local authority breeding licence if they breed five or more litters a year, but the local authorities can be under-resourced to carry out these checks and there is nothing to monitor smaller scale breeders. Unfortunately, many people still unwittingly fuel the cruel puppy farming trade, buying puppies from free newspapers, the internet and pet shops, not realising the horrific conditions in which the pups have been raised. Each year the Kennel Club runs a Puppy Awareness Week about the importance of buying from a responsible breeder or rescue home.

The Kennel Club refuses to register puppies from breeders that have bred five or more litters in a year unless they have a local authority license or an Assured Breeder certificate in order to ensure that people do not buy puppy farmed puppies.

TRAINING

The Kennel Club runs the UK's largest dog training programme, the **Good Citizen Dog Scheme**, which has training clubs throughout the country. People can find a local dog training club at www.thekennelclub.org.uk/findadogclub.

The Kennel Club Accreditation Scheme for Instructors in Dog Training and Canine Behaviour (KCAI) recognises and promotes competent and qualified dog training instructors and canine behaviourists, working across a wide range of canine disciplines, for the benefit of the dog-owning public. It is the only scheme for dog training instructors in the UK which is externally verified by City & Guilds NPTC.

CHARITY

The Kennel Club Charitable Trust (KCCT) grants money to dog re-homing charities (such as Battersea Dogs and Cats Home, Wood Green and breed rescue organisations) and assistance dog charities, and invests into pioneering health

research. Kennel Club Breed Rescue organisations help more than 10,000 dogs each year, thanks to help from KCCT funding.

The KCCT gives grants to fund the development of DNA tests for dog diseases at the Kennel Club Genetics Centre at the Animal Health Trust. £1.2 million was initially granted to develop DNA tests to determine affected and carrier dogs, for 10 genetic mutations affecting 29 breeds, and the KCCT subsequently committed an additional £1.5 million to continue this work for a further five years. It hopes that such work will help breeders make informed choices when breeding and see the elimination of certain genetic diseases.

HEALTH

BVA/KC Health Schemes – health schemes for hip dysplasia, elbow dysplasia, eyes, and chiari malformation/syringomyelia have been developed by canine and veterinary specialists to reduce the risk of inherited diseases that impact dog health and welfare. Thousands of dogs are screened each year. The eye scheme is celebrating 50 years in 2016.

Mate Select – combines DNA testing, tools to reduce inbreeding, and tools to reduce complex inherited diseases as a one-stop-shop for advising and supporting breeders and owners to improve dog health.

Breed Information Centre – everything you need to know to help select, and breed happy, healthy, puppies – developed by canine researchers, veterinary experts, and breed specialists.

LOBBYING

The Kennel Club is concerned with anti-dog legislation, promotes the positive place of dogs in society and actively represents the interests of responsible dog owners, whether their dogs are Kennel Club registered or not. Issues covered include:

Pet travel – The Kennel Club has joined the major welfare organisations to highlight the Pet Travel Scheme's unintended consequences to the Government. The relaxation of the quarantine rules in the scheme has seen an increase of illegally imported puppies from central and eastern Europe travelling with falsified pet passports and vaccination documents. In addition, the Pet Travel Scheme has also highlighted the inadequate checks on borders. Both issues have increased the risk of rabies entering the UK.

Electric Shock Collars – The Kennel Club is lobbying Westminster, Scotland and Northern Ireland to introduce a ban on the use of electric shock collars. A ban was introduced by the Welsh government in 2010. The Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) released two research studies in 2014 which concluded that a proportion of dogs trained with electric shock collars experienced long term negative welfare impact, even when trained by professional trainers following an industry set standard of training.

Animal testing – The Kennel Club works with the Home Office on its implementation of the transposition of EU Directive 2010/63/EU regarding animals used in experiments.

Dangerous dogs – The Kennel Club has been instrumental in campaigning for amendments to the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991. Amendments were passed to the Act in 2014 as part of the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act, with the Kennel Club having significant input into the dog related elements of the legislation and accompanying guidance. Although this work achieved a greater focus on the responsibility of owners, as opposed to simply penalising the dogs, breed specific legislation and the demonising of certain breeds still remains. The Kennel Club is committed however, to continuing its work to see that this is repealed in the future.

Microchipping – After successfully campaigning for the introduction of compulsory microchipping for many years, microchipping was made compulsory in England and Wales in April 2016.

Pet advertising – The Kennel Club works with the Pet Advertising Advisory Group (PAAG) (www.paag.org.uk), which comprises representatives from the UK's leading animal welfare groups. It has long been concerned with the way in which pets are sold online, and in a bid to reduce the number of inappropriate, misleading and illegal adverts has launched Minimum Standards for websites advertising pets for sale. Endorsed by Defra, the Minimum Standards aim to encourage websites to improve the quality of their systems to try to filter out unscrupulous advertisements.

Puppy farming and breeding - Although the Kennel Club is continuing to fund work to improve breed health, there is arguably a need for ensured improvement by way of legislation and education. The Breeding of Dogs Act 1973 (as amended by the Breeding and Sale of Dogs (Welfare) Act 1999) seeks to prohibit the worst aspects of indiscriminate breeding and puppy farming. However, the extent to which this is being enforced varies significantly from area to area. The Kennel Club campaigns for an end to the cruel puppy farming trade and believes that principles and standards similar to those followed by members of the Kennel Club Assured Breeder Scheme should be made mandatory for all breeders.

RESPONSIBLE DOG OWNERSHIP

Eukanuba Discover Dogs, held annually at the ExCeL London aims to educate people in all aspects of dog ownership. It helps people to learn about the right breed for their lifestyle and how to buy from a responsible breeder, in addition to helping them find out all they need to know about caring, training and enjoying life with their dog. It is a fun family orientated event where people can meet and greet around 200 breeds of dog.

The **KC Dog** campaign aims to alert local dog walkers to consultations taking place in their local areas so that people can have their say and potentially help to prevent the implementation of Public Space Protection Orders in their areas, banning dogs from being walked in certain places. In return for enjoying maximum access to the UK's open spaces, the Kennel Club promotes responsible ownership

ENJOYING LIFE WITH YOUR DOG

The **Be Dog Friendly** campaign lists all of the places in the UK that are dog friendly, from pubs and hotels to shops and restaurants. The Kennel Club wants to see more places opening their doors to dogs and runs an annual competition to reward the most dog friendly venues in the UK.

The **Get Fit With Fido Challenge** and **Slimmer of the Year competition** help to tackle the obesity problem in dogs and their owners (45% of dogs are overweight and 60% of adults in the UK are reportedly overweight or obese), by giving people exciting ideas and expert information about how dog and owner can get fit together

Licensed clubs can run competitions for fun dog sports such as agility, which helps to keep both dog and owner healthy.

The Kennel Club **organises and licences** some great days out for you and your dog covering a range of different pursuits such as agility, bloodhound trials, canicross, companion dog shows, dog showing, field trials and working gundogs, flyball, heelwork to music, obedience, rally and working trials.

The Kennel Club established the **Young Kennel Club** in 1985, which encourages young people aged 6-24 years old to take an interest in caring, and training for and activities with dogs.