

ABOUT THE KENNEL CLUB AND 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. Profit 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 and it is now the largest organisation in the UK devoted to dog, health welfare and training, helping dogs to live healthy, happy lives with responsible owners.

The Kennel Club runs one of the country's largest registration database and reunification microchipping service Petlog, as well as UKAS-accredited Assured Breeders scheme, the only scheme in the UK that monitors breeders in order to protect the welfare of puppies and breeding bitches. The Kennel Club also licenses shows and clubs across a wide range of activities as well as the UK's largest dog training programme, The Kennel Club Good Citizen Dog Training Scheme.

CONTACT: For any media enquiries, please contact The Kennel Club Press Office on press.office@thekennelclub.org.uk or 020 7518 1008.

The Kennel Club spokespersons are Bill Lambert (Health, Welfare and Breeder Services Executive) and Mark Beazley (Chief Executive)

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

- Puppy farming and responsible breeding
- The importance of microchipping
- Responsible dog ownership, including training, safety around dogs and choosing the right breed
- Dog health and welfare issues including electric shock collars, specific breed issues, canine diseases.
- Access for dogs and the importance of allowing dogs to more public spaces
- Dog activities

WE DO:

REGISTRATION

We register around 250,000 puppies a year on our registrations system. We register all dogs: pedigrees (on our breed register) and crossbreeds (on our activities register). The Kennel Club registration provides easy-to-access data on a raft of information regarding both the specific puppy and the breed, including health testing carried out on the puppy's parents. The Kennel Club ensures that all information about the puppies it registers, including health test results, are transparent and available online to aid good puppy buying decisions.

BREEDING

The Kennel Club Assured Breeders 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 high breeding 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 was established to help puppy buyers have a reliable source of responsible breeders. Whilst volume breeders do require breeding licences from their local authorities, local authorities are frequently under-resourced to carry out these checks. Many people buy their puppies over internet, but don't know what they should look for in a responsible breeder, and therefore end up unwittingly buying from somebody who doesn't have the puppy's health and welfare at heart. The Kennel Club runs its [#BePuppywise](#) campaign to encourage responsible puppy buying and breeding every year.

TRAINING

The Kennel Club runs the UK's largest dog training programme, the **Good Citizen Dog Scheme (GCDS)**. The scheme has training clubs throughout the country. People can find a local dog training club at The Kennel Club's website.

The Kennel Club Accredited Instructors scheme 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 grants money to a range of dog health, welfare and re-homing organisations and The Kennel Club Breed Rescue organisations help more than 10,000 dogs each year, thanks to help from KCCT funding.

The Kennel Club Charitable Trust also invests into pioneering canine health research, through individual donations as well as through funding of the Canine Genetics Centre at the University of Cambridge. The work of this centre is crucial in better understanding of genetic diseases and conditions, and helping breeders to make informed breeding decisions, with the aim of eliminating specific 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.

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.

There is more about what The Kennel Club does to improve dog health [here](#).

LOBBYING

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

Pet travel – The Kennel Club has extensively lobbied the Government on the problems with pet travel following the end of the Brexit transition period. In September, the Government announced an indefinite extension of the grace period for the Northern Ireland protocol which will include a suspension of the routine enforcement of pet travel rules when travelling from Great Britain to Northern Ireland. This had previously been delayed just until October and means there will be no routine checks carried out on those travelling with pets from GB to NI. The Kennel Club welcomed this move and continue to press the UK Government to negotiate a solution with the EU that would permanently remove the spectre of restrictions on the free movement of dogs within the UK

Electric shock collars – The Kennel Club has successfully lobbied for a ban on cruel electric shock collars in Wales, with Scotland issuing guidance against the use of such devices and The Kennel Club continuing to push for an outright ban. In Westminster, the UK Government has outlined its commitment to a ban.

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 with this year marking the 30th anniversary of the unjust and ineffective legislation.

Pet theft – The Kennel Club has long campaigned on the issue of pet theft, specifically around tougher sentencing to reflect the emotional value of the dog, tackling the causes of the crime and improving data collection around pet theft. This has become particularly pertinent with the increasing emphasis on the political agenda of pet theft. In the summer, The Kennel Club launched its 'Paw and Order' campaign on pet theft and provided evidence to the Government's Pet Theft Taskforce, set up in May this year. We strongly welcomed the Taskforce's recommendations which plan to create a new 'pet abduction offence', improve data collection and tackle the fear of the crime.

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.

RESPONSIBLE DOG OWNERSHIP

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

#BePuppywise The Kennel Club's #BePuppywise is an awareness-raising campaign promoting responsible puppy buying and ownership. The campaign includes resources and advice guiding potential puppy buyers from the very first step of deciding to buy a dog, to later stages of puppy buying process, such as questions to ask your breeder and red flags to look out for.

The campaign raises awareness about the importance and benefits of buying a puppy responsibly whilst educating buyers about the dangers of rogue breeders and providing tips on how to avoid a puppy scam.

ENJOYING LIFE WITH YOUR DOG

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 licenses** some great days out for you and your dog covering a range of different pursuits such as agility, bloodhound trials, 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.

MICROCHIPPING

The Kennel Clubs runs Petlog, to help reunite lost pets and their owners.