

How you can help?

When choosing a new puppy, expect the highest welfare standards from a breeder.

Buy a puppy only from their breeder, never from a third party.

Use the AWF Puppy Contract: www.puppycontract.org.uk

Only buy a puppy if you can see him/her with the mother and siblings. This will indicate that the puppies have been bred on site and that mum has been treated well.

Always check which health tests are appropriate for a breed (or cross breed) before visiting the breeder. Ask to see the health test certificates for both parents.

Use the breed health information provided on the DBRG website.

Never purchase a puppy to rescue them from bad conditions. Sadly, this only encourages bad breeders to continue breeding.

Report a breeder to the local authority if you feel the standards of health and welfare are poor.

Never buy a puppy from someone who suggests delivery or meeting you halfway. This is often a cover for poor welfare at the breeding premises.

Inform the breeder if your dog develops an inherited disease or problem linked to its body shape.

Love your dog, provide good care, a good diet, companionship, fun and exercise.



Animal Welfare Laws

United Kingdom Animal Welfare Act 2006

The Animal Welfare Act 2006 lists an animal's needs. All owners must ensure that the following needs of their dog are met:

- The need for a suitable environment
- The need for a suitable diet
- The need to be able to exhibit normal behaviour
- Any need a dog has to be housed with, or apart from, other animals
- The need to be protected from pain, suffering, injury and disease

The Animal Welfare (Licensing of Activities Involving Animals) Regulations and Guidance Notes for Conditions for Breeding Dogs 2018 (2022) (England)

Lucy's Law (Ban on the Third Party Sale of Puppies and Kittens) 2020 (England)

(Note that animal welfare is devolved to national administrations [Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland] and there may be some differences in the detailed Regulations)



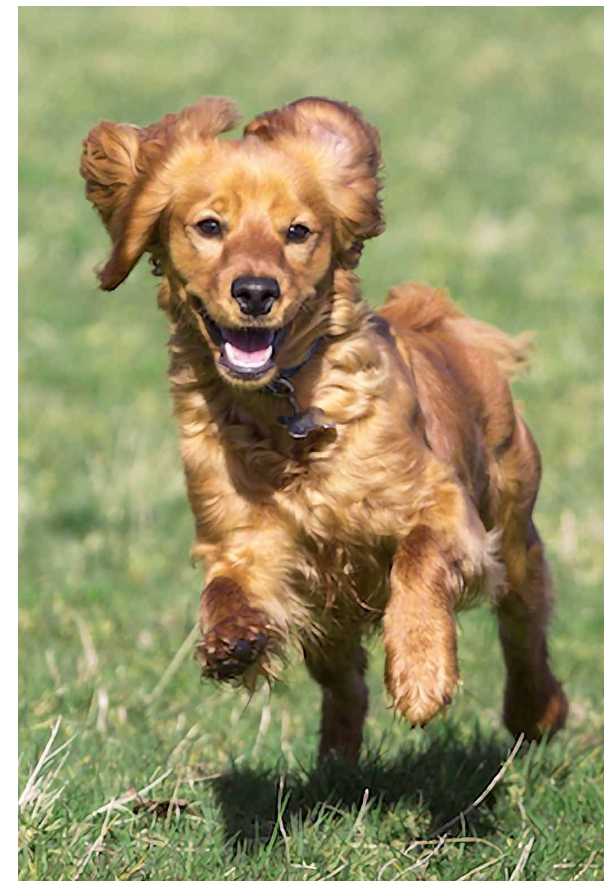
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Charitable Incorporated Organisation no. 1195705



A Voice for Dogs™



Promoting higher standards
for dog health and
informed puppy buying

What are the problems?



Enforcement of dog breeding regulations varies across the UK.

Some breeders pay little regard to the welfare needs of dogs used for breeding or their puppies.

Health testing prior to breeding is not always carried out.

Dogs may be bred with exaggerated physical features which compromise their health and welfare

Dogs with flat faces (brachycephalic) have many health problems, including difficulty in breathing.

Some puppy buyers are unaware of the health problems suffered by flat-faced dogs.

Buying a puppy is often done with insufficient research.

Buyers sometimes choose a breed which is unsuited to their location, home environment and lifestyle.

Some dog owners are unaware of the lifetime financial costs of caring for a dog.

Too many dogs are surrendered to re-homing centres by owners who can no longer look after them.

Our Objectives

Further legislation to protect all dogs from irresponsible breeding and selling practices.

Breeders who breed one or two litters per year should be registered with the Local Authority.

Better enforcement and good training for local authority inspectors in dog health issues.

Effective protection of progeny from inherited diseases and harmful traits

Reduce the maximum number of litters per breeding female to four.

Widespread use of the Animal Welfare Foundation (AWF) Puppy Contract.

Raise public awareness of key health and welfare problems associated with dog breeding.

Inclusion of animal welfare education within the school curriculum.

Appropriate health screening carried out before dogs are selected for breeding.

Improved genetic diversity for pedigree dogs including outcrossing where necessary.

Standardisation of microchip databases including the retention of the breeder's and any previous owner's details.



How we aim to achieve those Objectives

- Provide a website Guide to Finding the Right Dog
- Provide website Breed Health Information
- Promote the Animal Welfare Foundation (AWF) Puppy Contract
- Promote the BVA/KC Canine Health Schemes
- Organise regular Canine Health Symposiums
- Promote the Code of Practice for the Welfare of Dogs, Code of Practice for Dog Breeding, and Guidelines on Extreme Conformation
- Promote the Animal Welfare (Licensing of Activities Involving Animals) Regulations 2022 and accompanying Guidance Notes for Dog Breeding
- Respond to official consultations with the aim to further improve the Regulations for Dog Breeding
- Collaborate with sector groups such as CFSG and CAWGW
- Raise awareness of Schedule 6, 2022 Dog Breeding Regulations: *'No dog may be kept for breeding if it can reasonably be expected on the basis of genotype, phenotype or state of health that breeding from it could have a detrimental effect on its health or welfare or that of its offspring'*

