

The Netherlands Brachycephalic Breed Ban:



Boston Terrier



Brussels Griffon



Cavalier



Pekingese



English Toy Spaniel



Bulldog

"Animal rights terrorists, so designated by the FBI, are relentless in their pursuit of their goals, which include total bans on breeding and companion animal ownership worldwide. We, as the keepers of our breeds must be relentless in our efforts to protect them from extinction. If not us, then who?"



By Linda Kornhi,
AKC Breeder of Merit

In 2014, the Dutch government put into place legislation to ban the breeding of brachycephalic, or ultra short nosed, dogs. This ban has not been enforced until recently, beginning in 2019.

Dogs are now graded for their acceptability for breeding according to a "traffic light" system; and twelve breeds of dog are prohibited from breeding. Those twelve breeds include the English Bulldog, French Bulldogs, Pugs, Cavalier King Charles Spaniels, Boston Terriers, Pekingese, Shih Tzu, Lhasa Apso, English Toy Spaniel, Yorkshire Terrier, Chihuahua, Pomeranian, Maltese, Japanese Spaniel, Affenpinscher, Griffon Belge, Griffon Bruxellois, Petit Brabancon, Staffordshire Bull Terrier, Boxer, Dogue de Bordeaux, Bull-mastiff, Mastiff, and the Mastino Napolitano.

UNDERSTANDING THE BREED BAN

Veterinarians at Utrecht University helped the government decide precisely which characteristics will be banned. The country's agriculture minis-

ter had mentioned flat faces and folded ears as likely targets. Not all of these breeds are brachycephalic nor do they all have folded ears. One can see the inexorable boundary-creeping that seeps into any such effort to "ban the unhealthy dogs".

As a breeder and a Judge of Cavaliers, I can say from personal experience that the pendulum swing in preferred head style has moved far away from the extreme heads we were seeing 8 to 10 years ago. Those heads more resembled the Cavalier's cousin, the English Toy Spaniel, with his domed head, low-set ears, ultra short muzzle and tipped up nose. If the breed was once flirting with the label of Brachycephalic, that is certainly not the case now!

THE OWNERSHIP & ADVERTISING BAN

The Dutch government is also advocating a "showing" ban that would outlaw public display, such as in advertising and on social media, of images of animals with the harmful features. The government has also banned the outright owning of such dogs. Those "brachycephalic" dogs currently living within The Netherlands may live out their natural lives, but may not be replaced with another of their breed.

As a whole, dog people tend to exhibit the "ostrich effect", meaning if it doesn't directly impact "ME" then I'm not going to worry about it. Such an attitude has a disastrous impact on the fancy as a whole. While

those fanciers and breeders around you are dropping like flies, if you don't take action to help them, there will be no one left to help you when you need it! The fact that this action was taken in another country is not protection against the same thing happening here.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

What can you do as a matter of practicality? Join your local All Breed Kennel Club and attend their meetings, offer to serve on committees such as Legislation and Public Education and Outreach. Those with experience in those fields will happily teach you what you need to know in order to be an effective advocate for dogs and for the fancy. The public needs to know there is a Kennel Club in their area, and the good the members do for their community on a regular basis.

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Purebred dogs participate in dog sports of all kinds, which bring in millions of dollars in local revenue through hotels, motels, restaurants, parking fees, local sanitation companies, local catering companies and local artisans who display and sell their goods at the dog show. Visitors come from all over the state to watch the show and speak to breeders about the suitability of a puppy of a particular breed for their family. In 1997 The Eugene Kennel Club presented proof of the 2.5 MILLION dollars that our four day All Breed Dog Show brought to Lane County, Oregon on a yearly basis. The

City Counselors were absolutely stunned to learn those facts.

FIGHTING THE ANIMAL RIGHTS ACTIVISTS

Most counties have some sort of local animal control who are guided by committees made up of local volunteers. Those committees need Veterinarians, Veterinary Technicians, local pet supply store owners/managers, breed rescue participants, breeders, pet owners, performance exhibitors, kennel club members. The more dog and cat community volunteer committee members who volunteer to serve, the stronger and more well informed these committees will be, and the less likely to pass prohibitive breeding and number keeping policies. If we don't staff these committees, the animal rights fanatics will jump at the chance, and once a prohibitive piece of legislation is passed, it is much more difficult to have it repealed. It's far more effective to prevent those pieces of legislation from passing in the first place.

Check the website of your local government, find the committee who advises local animal control officers and put in an application to join the committee. State your qualifications, your varied experience in dog sports, dog health and don't be shy about talking about your expertise.

Linda Kornhi has been a Cavalier fancier since 1989, and is currently a breeder/owner/handler and an AKC sanctioned Judge of the breed, as well as a veterinary technician.