

**ANNOUNCEMENT: DOGS NEW ZEALAND COLLABORATE WITH UK KENNEL CLUB
TO IMPROVE BRACHYCEPHALIC HEALTH**

Today, Friday 3rd July 2020, it has been announced that Dogs New Zealand (New Zealand Kennel Club) will be collaborating with the UK Kennel Club to improve and protect the health of brachycephalic breeds worldwide by agreeing to operate, under license, the Kennel Club/University of Cambridge Respiratory Function Grading (RFG) Scheme.

Tony Allcock OBE, Executive Chairman at the Kennel Club said: “We are delighted to work with Dogs New Zealand to help improve brachycephalic health and make a difference for dogs. The Respiratory Function Grading Scheme enables breeders and owners of Bulldogs, French Bulldogs and Pugs to make informed decisions and aims to create a healthier future for these breeds. This move also enables further and international data collection on those complex health conditions related to brachycephaly which is vital for ongoing research and developing evidence-based solutions.”

Dogs NZ President Mr Brian Harris said that adopting the RFG scheme was part of a scientific evidence based approach for Dogs NZ Breeders to improve the health of Pugs, Bulldogs and French Bulldogs in NZ.

“The RFG scheme will be one of the compulsory health tests available for these three brachycephalic breeds should they adopt our Litter Registration Limitation (LRL) Health schemes” said Mr Harris. “In addition, the RFG Scheme will be immediately designated as a mandatory test for the three breeds under our Accredited Breeders Scheme. We look forward to all Pugs, Bulldogs and French Bulldogs in New Zealand having the opportunity to participate in this evidence-based scheme”

Tony Allcock OBE added: “We encourage other Kennel Clubs across the world who are committed to improving the health of brachycephalic dogs globally to follow New Zealand’s lead and contact the Kennel Club’s health team. By working together we can make a difference for dogs and we look forward to collaborating with other Kennel Clubs and organisations internationally to license the Respiratory Function Grading Scheme.”

Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tony Allcock', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Tony Allcock, OBE Kennel Club Executive Chairman



Brian Harris, Dogs New Zealand President

ENDS

3 July 2020

For journalists who would like further press information, images or interview requests please email press.office@thekennelclub.org.uk

Notes to Editor

The Kennel Club

The Kennel Club is the largest organisation in the UK devoted to dog health, welfare and training. Its objective is to ensure that dogs live healthy, happy lives with responsible owners.

It runs the country's largest registration database for both pedigree and crossbred dogs and the Petlog database, which is the UK's biggest reunification service for microchipped animals. The Kennel Club is accredited by UKAS to certify members of its Assured Breeder Scheme, which is the only scheme in the UK that monitors breeders in order to protect the welfare of puppies and breeding bitches. It also runs the UK's largest dog training programme, the Good Citizen Dog Training Scheme and accredits dog trainers and behaviourists through the Kennel Club Accredited Instructors Scheme.

It licenses shows and clubs across a wide range of activities, which help dog owners to bond and enjoy life with their dogs. The Kennel Club runs the world's greatest dog show, Crufts, and the Discover Dogs event at ExCeL London, which is a fun family day out that educates people about how to buy responsibly and care for their dog.

The Kennel Club invests in welfare campaigns, dog training and education programmes and the Kennel Club Charitable Trust, which supports research into dog diseases and dog welfare charities, including Kennel Club Breed Rescue organisations that re-home dogs throughout the UK.

Dogs New Zealand

Dogs NZ (The NZ Kennel Club) is the oldest and largest national dog organisation in New Zealand. The vision for Dogs NZ is to be recognised as leaders in running dog sports and competitions, breeding healthy dogs and training well-mannered dogs.

It operates New Zealand's largest pedigree and dog sports database and is the largest provider of dog training services in the country with its puppy training and Canine Good Citizen programmes. 318 member clubs provide the opportunity for dog lovers to participate in a wide range of show, agility and obedience dog sport events.

Dogs NZ is active in promoting dog welfare programmes with its LRL Health testing schemes and Breeders Code of Conduct which are aimed at producing healthy, active and well-mannered dogs.