



Prosser Street, Private Bag 50903  
PORIRUA 5240

t: +64 0274 438 555

w: [dogsnz.org.nz](http://dogsnz.org.nz)

e: [ntrainer@scdhb.health.nz](mailto:ntrainer@scdhb.health.nz)

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The Secretary

Auckland Bulldog Club  
Central Bulldog Club  
Southern Bulldog Club  
Wellington Bulldog Club

Dear Club Secretary's

**RE: British Bulldog Breed Standards**

You will be aware of our recent review of the Bulldog Breed Standards which was initiated following a Canine Health and Welfare Committee recommendation that the British Bulldog breed standard be revised to align with either the current FCI Breed standard or current UK Kennel Club standard. Both standards remove suggestion of extreme conformation in the interests of the health and welfare of the breed.

Thank you to those who took the time to participate in our review process. There are clearly strongly held views around the British Bulldog breed standard and submissions signalled that change to the current New Zealand breed standard in favour of the new standards will likely draw a negative response from some of our membership.

However Dogs NZ has an overarching interest to promote and act in the interests of the health and welfare of pedigree dogs which is fundamental to the future of the organisation. It is therefore irresponsible for us as an organisation to maintain a breed standard which describes desirable features that are directly related to animal welfare detriment.

Clear scientific evidence for this has been presented to Executive Council by the Canine Health and Welfare Committee. There is compelling evidence that the change in the UK Breed Standards has improved the health and wellbeing of British bulldogs.

On this basis Executive Council decided at the February meeting to review its earlier decision to retain the current NZ standard and at the subsequent April meeting has agreed that the NZ standard should align with either the current FCI or UK Kennel Club breed standard. We are now going out to members to determine the preference for which of these standards to adopt.

I reiterate that the decision to change the breed standard is based on the overriding health and welfare concerns associated with the current NZ breed standard, which are supported by strong scientific evidence. I have attached a copy of the Canine Health and Welfare Committee's report for your information.



I am confident that members want to maintain the highest standards of health and welfare for our breeds. In doing so it is critical for the credibility of our organisation that we continue to make decisions that are based on science backed by a sound evidence base.

*Kind regards*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nigel Trainor', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Nigel Trainor  
President  
Dogs New Zealand

