

## **Norway banning of Bulldog & Cavalier King Charles Spaniels Breeding**

Following a legal challenge by the animal rights group Animal Protection Norway, the selective breeding of British Bulldogs and Cavalier King Charles Spaniels has been banned in Norway. The court ruled that the practice is cruel and results in man-made health problems' for the animals. This ban on breeding Cavalier King Charles Spaniels and British Bulldogs in Norway is viewed by many international agencies as the easy way to try and address the problem.

However in the past, this approach has proven difficult to enforce, may further fuel irresponsible breeders, and subsequently may worsen the health of these breeds. In 1991 the UK introduced the Dangerous Dogs Act, which subsequently drove breeding underground – often to the detriment of the health and wellbeing of the dogs. Veterinary bodies continue to call for repeal of this breed-specific legislation in the UK.

Dogs New Zealand and its Breeders are working with diligence to ensure the standard of health of all pedigree breeds in NZ is maintained to the highest level possible. There are now multiple schemes that have been developed to help breeders do this, such as Breed Litter Registration Limitations (LRL's) which are developed in conjunction with breed clubs to ensure health testing is completed while litters are still in the planning stage.

The Judges Breed Observation Scheme has been operational since 2021 and has given dog show judges the tools to record where breed issues may lie so pedigree dog breeders and stakeholders can ascertain the true degree of health of our pedigree breeds here in New Zealand.

Dogs NZ encourages a more effective approach of working in collaboration with breeders, vets, scientists, and welfare organisations so that evidence-based and practical interventions, are readily identified and put in place.

The reputation of our Veterinarians, the skills of our breeders and the watchful eye of our internationally qualified judges all add to the assurance that can be given to New Zealand public that the health and wellbeing of the pedigree dog in New Zealand is sound!

**Dogs New Zealand**