

Breed Specific Instructions (BSI)

regarding exaggerations in pedigree dogs

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Introduction

NOTE! The present document is a comprehensive survey of problems connected to exaggerations regarding pedigree dogs. This knowledge is of basic importance for all dog show judges and concerns dogs of all breeds. Judges are requested to study the whole document but in connection with an assignment a judge should pay special attention to the specific text regarding the breed(s) he/she will judge and the introduction text for the pertinent FCI group. Information regarding the principles of advice is given under Application.

The task of a dog show judge is to preserve the characteristics of each breed within the frames of the approved breed standard. This must never be done at the expense of soundness. It is the responsibility of the judge to be acquainted with the breed standard as well as such health problems which by exaggerations related to breed type may harm the individual dog and interfere with the development of the breed as a whole.

A breed standard does not describe exaggerations but the wording of breed typical characteristics can mislead judges and breeders to such interpretations that specimen with extreme type will be preferred at shows and in breeding.

A judge shall primarily evaluate the exhibits as a result of previous generations of breeding. However *trends towards exaggerations* must be identified before they have given rise to problems.* The dog show judge has

an excellent opportunity to prevent unsound breeding by avoiding to give high awards and instead merit the specimen with the optimal combination of breed type and soundness.

The Breed Specific Instructions (BSI) identify *areas of risk* related to breed type with the intention to increase the awareness of judges of problems related to *exaggerations in* breed types. BSI is thus primarily a complement to the breed standard and not a listing of deviations and faults nor a manual of rules connecting the observed issues to a fixed quality grading. The BSI implies recommendations to the judge to observe the breed specific areas of risk and note issues as well as soundness in these areas. The general perspective is preventive more than criticizing by not only noting deviations but also focusing on soundness in the areas of risk. Frequently occurring faults in a breed which are not connected to exaggeration in breed type are not regularly mentioned in the BSI.

The NKU BSI is founded on the experiences in the Nordic countries regarding identification of areas of risk in a selected number of high profile breeds during the last decade. These instructions are the result of inventories made possible through extensive collaboration between dog show

INTRODUCTION

judges, breed clubs, veterinary surgeons and supported by veterinary health insurance statistics. This constitutes the basis for the selection of listed breeds and for the written directions for each breed. The structure of the inventory allows for a continuous follow up and dynamic revisions of the BSI.

The breeds listed constitute 39 of the approximately 300 FCI breeds represented in

Nordic countries and are selected from 73 breeds deemed, by Scandinavian Kennel Clubs, as possibly challenged with a negative development due to exaggerated features.

*See **Appendix 1** regarding the criteria for listing breeds in the BSI.*

* FCI GC 2013, FCI Model standard; "Only functionally and clinically healthy dogs with breed typical conformation should be used for breeding."

Application

A judge should familiarise himself/herself with the breed specific instructions (BSI) for the breeds he or she has been invited to judge and also consider the text introducing the pertinent breed group as well as the sections “Basics for all dogs” (page 8) and “Breed types” (page 10).

It is of utmost importance that judges in quality grading and competition assessment continue to evaluate every dog regarding breed type and overall merit in a positive manner, but also by scrutinizing exaggerations and faults which may jeopardize soundness and health, i. e. an actual inspection of each dog is emphasized. This is relevant for all breeds but especially for the BSI listed breeds.

It is important to remember that all dogs should be healthy and sound. However, a dog that is sound but lacking in breed type, is NOT a good representative of that particular breed.

BSI issues and quality grading

The observations regarding the areas of risk (BSI issues) specific for each listed breed should influence quality grading and competition assessment depending on the degree and severity of the deviation just like other faults.

BSI is not a manual of rules connecting issues to fixed quality grades except when these observations are mentioned in the breed standards as disqualifying faults.

Judges are instructed however to particularly consider the BSI issues when awarding CK (certificate quality), and respect that deviations from overall health and soundness are much more serious than cosmetic failings.

*See **Appendix 1** regarding FCI GC 2013 Basic Statement For Show Judges.*

The written critiques

In written critiques, judges should comment on the BSI issues and how these observations influence the grading of each dog.

It is particularly important to highlight when dogs exhibit soundness regarding the areas of risk. In this way dog shows may support selection for positive future breeding regarding the combination of show qualities and soundness. The preventive intention of the BSI concept is thus fulfilled **.

The judges' reports

An essential value of the BSI concept is the judges' reports on observations regarding areas of risk on a special form for each breed.

These reports are necessary for the follow-up of the listed breeds and for the continuous updating of the BSI document. These forms are also communicated to the breed clubs in order to create consensus between judges and breed expertise.

It's up to the national kennel clubs to decide about the practical implementation of the reporting.

The judge is invited to give his further personal views and comments as well as suggest other breeds for consideration for BSI listing. The report form is also available to judges for breeds not BSI-listed.

Exaggerations in presentation

Exaggerations in presentation may negatively influence the way in which the public sees dog showing and harm the respect for pedigree dogs.

Judges are therefore asked to point out in their critiques any exaggerations in handling and presentation which may be detrimental to the dog and also unethical in relation to health and function. Coat preparation and grooming may lead to unacceptable living conditions for the dogs of some breeds and this is thus mentioned in the BSI text although not directly being an issue affecting the breeding.

Movement should be evaluated at a breed specific speed and manner.

*** FCI Show Judges Code Of Commitment To The Welfare Of Pure Bred Dogs:*

"At shows, FCI show judges are responsible for choosing and placing the best dogs in each breed and thus for allowing these dogs to be the base of the individual breed gene pool as well as the tools for selective breeding for all responsible dog breeders."

Basics for all dogs

All judges shall practise an actual *inspection* regarding health and soundness of each dog of any breed – not only the breeds listed in the BSI document. The observations – negative as well as positive (!) – should be noted in the individual critique.

The form for reporting BSI observations may be used also for other breeds if the judge wants to draw the attention to a breed not listed in the BSI.

Breathing

All dogs should be able to breathe normally, also when moving. About assessment of respiratory distress symptoms, see *Appendix 2*.

Eyes

All dogs should have sound, clear eyes without signs of irritation, see *Appendix 3*.

Bite and teeth

All dogs should have healthy teeth and well-functioning bite corresponding to what the breed standard requires. Incorrectly placed teeth, may cause damage to the gums. Jaws should close normally.

The gums should not display any signs of injury, irritation or damage. Such deviations could be clinical signs of impaired health and should be handled accordingly.

Weight

No dogs should be obese/overweight or overly thin.

All dogs should be in good muscular condition.

Skin and coat

All dogs should have healthy skin without any signs of irritation.

The extent and presentation of the coat should follow the requirements of the breed standard and not be so profuse that it affects the dog's well-being and ability to move freely and soundly also in daily life.

Movement

All dogs should move without effort and distress in a breed specific manner.

Behaviour

All dogs should have temperaments which allow them to function in the modern society. Breed typical behaviour is to be noted and respected if not obstructing social behaviour and accessibility. Excessive reactions of fear or shyness is never desirable.

Uncontrolled aggressive behaviour or panic attempts to flee are not to be tolerated and shall consequently motivate the award "*disqualified*".

Behaviour issues are especially mentioned in the BSI text where it has been indicated to make up an area of risk.

Breed types

In a number of breeds the type and characteristics are due to genetic constellations causing specific anatomical features which are expressions of deleterious mutations (defect-genes) and not to be considered as normal canine anatomic variations.

Such breed types are the result of human intention to consolidate specific physical breed characteristics. It is thus of utmost importance that judges and breeders when preserving breed type characteristics promote selection of animals which show optimal combination of breed type and vital constitution.

Brachycephalic breeds

The short skull/faced (brachycephalic) breeds are represented in FCI groups 2 and 9, and constitute a group of breeds, where the typical features are expressed to a varying degree in skull, muzzle, jaws, eyes, ribcage and skin. Exaggerations in the specific conformation might lead to serious health problems in these breeds; especially, but not exclusively, referring to breathing and regulation of body temperature.

See Appendix 2: assessment of breathing distress
See Appendix 3: eye problems

Toy breeds

Small sized breeds, sometimes called dwarfs, are seen in FCI group 9, but also in groups 2, 3, 4 and 5. When dwarfism is carried to the extreme it leads to a devitalizing overall weakness and poor skeletal and muscular development. Further exaggerations of dwarfism would give rise to serious health problems. Some of the toy breeds are also brachycephalic (see above) and/or chondrodystrophic (see below).

Protruding eyes in shallow eye sockets occur in brachycephalic toy breeds. Open fontanel occurs as does wry lower jaw and lame tongue. Dwarfism can also cause ribcage malformations; shortened or open ribcages with short sternal bone, rib deformations and narrow ribcages. Powerless shuffling movement is seen in some of the breeds as an effect of poor muscular condition.

See Appendix 2: assessment of breathing distress
See Appendix 3: eye problems

Breeds with chondrodystrophic (disproportionate) growth retardation

Breeds with chondrodystrophic (disproportionate) growth retardation are seen in FCI groups 1, 3, 4, 6, 8 and 9. If the chondro-

dystrophic traits are exaggerated, it leads to serious skeletal deformities and inability to move soundly. Inadequate ground clearance interfering with the working function of the breed is also a negative consequence.

The molossoïd breeds

This group includes the mastiff breeds and the mountain dogs, descendants of the ancient molossoïd dogs. These are dogs of giant size with accentuated body volume and skin and are seen in FCI groups 1 and 2.

These dogs must have a sound conformation of muscular strength and suitable amount of skin in order to function well and to be able to carry the specific traits required by the breed standards. The specific molossoïd traits must not be exaggerated creating grotesque dimensions. To this group belongs also the small molossoïd type breeds of group 9.

*See **Appendix 2**: assessment of breathing distress*

*See **Appendix 3**: eye problems*

FCI GROUP 1

Sheepdogs and Cattle Dogs

Ardennes Cattle Dog	Collie, smooth-haired	Portuguese Sheepdog
Australian Cattle Dog	Croatian Sheepdog	Puli
Australian Kelpie	Czechoslovakian Wolfdog	Pumi
Australian Shepherd	Dutch Shepherd Dog, long-haired	Pyrenean Sheepdog - smooth faced
Australian Stumpy Tail Cattle Dog	Dutch Shepherd Dog, rough-haired	Romanian Carpathian Shepherd Dog
Bearded Collie	Dutch Shepherd Dog, short-haired	Romanian Mioritic Shepherd Dog
Beauceron	Flanders Cattle Dog	Saarloos Wolfdog
Belgian Shepherd Dog/ Groenendael	German Shepherd Dog	Schapendoes
Belgian Shepherd Dog/Laekenois	Komondor	Schipperke
Belgian Shepherd Dog/Malinois	Kuvasz	Shetland Sheepdog
Belgian Shepherd Dog/Tervueren	Long-Haired Pyrenean Sheepdog	Slovakian Chuvach
Bergamasco Shepherd Dog	Majorca Shepherd Dog	South Russian Shepherd Dog
Berger Picard	Maremma and Abruzzes Sheepdog	Tatra Shepherd Dog
Border Collie	Mudi	Welsh Corgi Cardigan
Briard	Old English Sheepdog (Bobtail)	Welsh Corgi Pembroke
Catalan Sheepdog	Polish Lowland Sheepdog	White Swiss Shepherd Dog
Collie, rough-haired		

Breeds in bold types are listed in the BSI.

About the breeds in group 1

This group contains several working breeds, for which soundness and the spirit to move are of paramount importance. Movement should therefore be evaluated with particular attention regarding capacity, soundness and breed type.

Breeds of the molossoïd type as well as chondrodystrophic breeds are represented in this group.

There are breeds in this group with problems of exaggerated shyness and inaccessibility.

BSI listed breeds in group 1

The text within inverted commas are quotations from the breed standards.

Collie, rough-haired and smooth-haired

Areas of risk are:

1. **Mouth:** Narrow lower jaw resulting in inverted canine teeth going straight up into the roof of the gums (palate). *“The lower jaw shall be strong and well marked”*
2. **Eyes:** Excessively small and very deeply set eyes. Eyes shall be *“Medium sized (never very small)”*. For further information, see **Appendix 3**.
3. **Behaviour:** Anxiousness and undue shyness.

Look for correct lower jaw, bite, teeth and eyes as well as the behaviour. The standard notes *“Friendly disposition with no trace of nervousness or aggressiveness.”*

German Shepherd Dog (*Deutscher Schäferhund*)

Areas of risk are:

1. **Front construction:** East-west feet, weak pasterns and loose or narrow elbows.
2. **Hindquarters:** Over angulated and cow hocked hindquarters with instability in hocks.
3. **Top line:** Arched and cut away in loin and croup.

There are at present frequent anatomical flaws not to be considered as exaggerations but likewise very negatively influencing the dog's sustainability and function. Such deviations are oversize, flat withers, shoulders pushed forwards, straight upper arms and *also insufficient* angulation in the rear and restricted movement.

Exaggeration in presentation with extreme handling precludes assessment of the demands of the standard: *“the position of hind legs is slightly backwards whereby the hind limbs are parallel to each other when seen from the rear”*.

Evaluation of the movement should be made at both trot and walk.

FCI GROUP 2

Pinscher and Schnauzer - Molossoïd Breeds - Swiss Mountain and Cattle Dogs

Affenpinscher
 Alentejo Mastiff
 Anatolian Shepherd Dog
 Appenzell Cattle Dog
 Atlas Mountain Dog - Aidi
 Austrian Pinscher
 Bernese Mountain Dog
 Bosnian -Herzegovinian -
 Croatian Shepherd Dog
 Broholmer

Bulldog

Bullmastiff

Cao Fila de Sao Miguel
 Castro Laboreiro Dog
 Caucasian Shepherd Dog
 Central Asia Shepherd Dog
 Cimarron uruguayo
 Danish-Swedish Farmdog
 Dobermann
 Dogo Argentino
 Dogo Canario

Dogue De Bordeaux

Dutch Smoushond
 Entlebuch Cattle Dog
 Fila Brasileiro
German Boxer
 German Pinscher
 Giant Schnauzer, black
 Giant Schnauzer, pepper and salt

Great Dane

Great Swiss Mountain Dog
 Hovawart

Italian Corso Dog
 Karst Shepherd Dog
 Landseer (Continental-
 European type)
 Leonberger
 Majorca Mastiff

Mastiff

Miniature Pinscher
 Miniature Schnauzer, black
 Miniature Schnauzer,
 black and silver
 Miniature Schnauzer,
 pepper and salt

Miniature Schnauzer, white

Neapolitan Mastiff

Newfoundland
 Pyrenean Mastiff
 Pyrenean Mountain Dog
 Rottweiler
 Russian Black Terrier

Saint Bernard Dog, long-haired

Saint Bernard Dog, short-haired

Schnauzer, black
 Schnauzer, pepper and salt
 Serra da estrela Mountain Dog,
 long-haired
 Serra da estrela Mountain Dog,
 smooth-haired

Shar Pei

Spanish Mastiff
 Tibetan Mastiff
 Tosa
 Yugoslavian Shepherd Dog-
 Sharplanina

Breeds in bold types are listed in the BSI.

About the breeds in group 2

This group contains several brachycephalic breeds and also breeds of mastiff type as well as mountain dogs. It is of utmost importance that dogs are not of grotesque dimensions or overweight. They must have a sound, strong constitution in order to carry the typically heavy body and head according to the demands of the standards. They must move without effort or discomfort. Heavy breathing as well as overly heavy heads carried too low is incorrect in both small and large breeds. *See also Appendix 2 regarding assessment of breathing distress.*

Narrow fronts, bent fore legs and weak pasterns as well as cow-hocks, lack of angulation or over-angulation in hindlegs are incorrect for any breed but particularly important regarding the heavy breeds of group 2.

The mastiff type dogs have excessive, loose skin which must never be exaggerated to cause skin, eye or lip problems. *See also Appendix 3 about eye problems.*

A dog's skin must be healthy without any sign of discomfort.

Many breeds in the group have traces of original mental sharpness and guarding instincts. Breed typical characteristics should be preserved but must never exceed general basic recommendations for all breeds nor judicial regulations.

BSI listed breeds in group 2

The text within inverted commas are quotations from the breed standards.

Bullmastiff – brachycephalic and molossoïd type

Areas of risk are:

1. **Breathing problems** which could result from overly short muzzle and insufficient room in throat and pharyngeal cavities, and/or pinched nostrils.
2. **Facial skin:** Excessive amount of facial skin which can cause eye and eyelid problems.
3. **Skin problems.**
4. **Hindquarters:** Lack of angulation which can cause knee problems.
5. **Top line:** Exaggerated height over rear and very steep croup which can cause locomotion problems.
6. **Type and size exaggerations.**

Look for sound breathing and that the muzzle is not shorter than one third of length of head. Sound movement and correct angulation in hindquarters should be praised highly as well as sound skin and coat. Extreme type and size should not be preferred over soundness, balance and correct construction.

Bulldog – brachycephalic and molossoïd type

The extreme conformation of this breed with shortened skull and muzzle, underdeveloped bridge of nose and excessive amount of skin, causes health problems if exaggerated.

Areas of risk are:

1. **Breathing problems**, which could result from overly short muzzle and/or pinched nostrils. More important is however the insufficient room in throat and pharyngeal cavities due to excessive amount of loose tissue. Breathing distress is a disqualifying fault.
2. **Exaggerated type conformation** and insufficient angulation of fore- and hindquarters might result in unsound movement/lameness challenging the standard's demand; "*Soundness of movement of the utmost importance.*"
3. **Face:** Excessively short bridge of muzzle, excessively loose facial skin and loose eyelids

can cause injury and inflammation of eyes. Overhanging nose roll can cause inflammations.

4. **Tail:** Rigid tail carried tightly over anus may disturb the function to defecate. Skin wrinkles in the anal region can cause inflammations.

The standard explicitly states the importance of unconstrained breathing.

Dogs with free, sound breathing and breed typical sound action as well as sound skin and eyes shall be particularly appreciated. It is of utmost importance that the tail is movable within the frame of the statement of the standard.

Dogue De Bordeaux – brachycephalic and molossoïd type

Areas of risk are:

1. **General anatomical construction:** Exaggeration of the standard points regarding the front, hindquarter angulation and the high croup which can cause unsound movement without drive and vigour.
2. **Loose eyelids.**

Look for functional anatomy, sound movement and sound eyes.

German Boxer (*Deutscher Boxer*) – brachycephalic and molossoïd type

Areas of risk are:

1. **Breathing:** Problems with snoring and open mouth could result from overly short muzzle, insufficient room in pharyngeal cavities and/or pinched nostrils.
2. **Skin:** Irritation and discoloration.

The standard prescribes that “*Length of nose bridge in relation to skull should be 1:2*” and muzzle must thus not be overly short. Dentition should be sound and according to the breed standard.

Look for sound breathing, the correct proportions in head, the correct teeth and skin.

Great Dane (*Deutsche Dogge*) – molossoïd type

Areas of risk are:

1. **Fore- and hindquarters:** Pasterns knuckling over as well as weak hindquarters.
2. **Loose eyelids.**
3. **Feet:** Pads which do not meet the ground.
4. **Behaviour:** Anxiousness and undue shyness.

Look for accessibility, correct fore- and hindquarters, correct feet and sound eyes.

Mastiff – molossoïd type

Areas of risk are:

1. **Hindquarters:** Too high at the rear, straight stifles and very steep croup may cause incorrect and impaired movement.
2. **Breathing problems:** Snoring and laboured breathing often with mouth constantly open could result from overly short muzzle, insufficient room in pharyngeal cavities, and/or pinched nostrils.
3. **Skin:** Irritation and discoloration.
4. **Loose eyelids.**

Look for the typical strong, sound conformation supporting this breed's strongly made body and heavy bone. The massive head shall be carried in a breed typical way. Movement must be sound and without discomfort.

Neapolitan Mastiff (*Mastino Napoletano*) – molossoïd type

The conformation of the breed is creating a “*large heavy massive and bulky dog*” which however must not be grotesque. The typical skin “*thick abundant and loose all over the body*” makes pronounced exaggerations risky.

Areas of risk are:

1. **Skin:** Too excessive skin in general, on head forming wrinkles surrounding eyes and/or oversized eyelids which may cause eyelids folding inwards or outwards - also unsoundness in lip folds.
2. **General construction:** Incorrect construction of the legs and poor overall anatomy and conformation can cause unsoundness and discomfort of movement.

Look for healthy skin and sound eyes, but also correct movement. Too excessive skin and incorrect movement should not be encouraged.

Dogs with the required typical cat-like, agile, somewhat slow movement with good drive from sound hindquarters and proper reach in front, should be highly appraised.

Saint Bernard Dog, short-haired and long-haired

(*St. Bernhardshund*) – molossoïd type

Areas of risk are:

1. **Skin:** Excessive amount of loose skin and too loose lip folds.
2. **Eyelids:** Loose and/or oversized or inverted eye lids.
3. **Head:** Over dimensioned and too heavy.

Look for the correct amount of loose skin and that eyes are sound. Dentition should be sound and according to the breed standard. The proportions of the dog must be correct and the construction powerful and movement sound.

Shar-Pei

The extreme type and character of the skin (mucinosis/hyaluronosis) of this breed may give rise to health problems when exaggerated.

Areas of risk are:

1. **Skin:** Excessive amounts of /and loose wrinkled skin, which may lead to eye, ear and skin problems.
2. **Mouth:** The padding of the lower lip can fold over the teeth. When the lower lip is *constantly* rolled in and *“interfering with the bite”*, it is a disqualifying fault in the standard. (Constant tight lip interferes with the development of the lower jaw).

Nota bene: the following are some other disqualifying faults mentioned in the breed standard: *“Skin folds or hair disturbing the normal function of the eye”*, *“Heavy folds of skin on body (except withers and base of tail) and limbs”*.

Look for dogs with healthy skin of amount that is according to the standard, correct lower lip and sound/clear eyes and ears.

FCI GROUP 3

Terriers

Airedale Terrier
 American Staffordshire Terrier
 Australian Silky Terrier
 Australian Terrier
 Bedlington Terrier
 Border Terrier
 Brazilian Terrier
Bull Terrier
 Cairn Terrier
 Cesky Terrier
 Dandie Dinmont Terrier
 English Toy Terrier

Fox Terrier, smooth
 Fox Terrier, wire
 German Hunting Terrier
 Irish Glen of Imaal Terrier
 Irish Softcoated Wheaten Terrier
 Irish Terrier
 Jack Russell Terrier
 Japanese Terrier
 Kerry Blue Terrier
 Lakeland Terrier
 Manchester Terrier
Miniature Bull Terrier

Norfolk Terrier
Norwich Terrier
 Parson Russell Terrier
 Scottish Terrier
 Sealyham Terrier
 Skye Terrier
Staffordshire Bull Terrier
 Welsh Terrier
West Highland White Terrier
Yorkshire Terrier

Breeds in bold types are listed in the BSI.

About the breeds in group 3

The chondrodystrophic type is known in this group. Some breeds in the group might show skin problems, some have problems with incorrect bites and some with tendencies towards exaggerated breed type. Hairless patches and sparse coat occur in a couple of the breeds.

BSI listed breeds in group 3

The text within inverted commas are quotations from the breed standards.

Bull Terrier/ Miniature Bull Terrier

Areas of risk are:

1. **Mouth:** Narrow lower jaw with canine teeth going up into the roof of the palate.
2. **Skin:** Irritation, and sparse coat without gloss.
3. **Eyes:** Undersized eye openings. *For further information, see Appendix 3.*

The unique type of head explains the tendency for faulty bite. Look for a correct head and a strong lower jaw.

Norwich Terrier

Areas of risk are related to a *tendency towards dwarfism*:

1. Resulting in apple head, protruding eyes and a tendency to dish face which can cause **breathing problems**. *For further information, see Appendix 2.*
2. **Movement**: Excessively short neck and extremely short body negatively affecting movement.

Look for a correct head type and body, but also sound and free movement and breathing.

Staffordshire Bull Terrier

Areas of risk are:

1. **Mouth**: Lower canine teeth going up into the roof of the gum.
2. **Breathing problems**. *For further information, see Appendix 2.*
3. **Coat and skin**: Sparse coat and skin irritation.

Look for a correct bite, normal breathing and healthy skin.

West Highland White Terrier

Area of risk is:

1. **Skin**: Irritation and exaggerated skin folds.

Look for healthy skin.

Yorkshire Terrier – toy terrier

This is a toy breed and thus the introduction text to group 9 is partly relevant.

Areas of risk are:

1. **Breathing**: Problems caused by narrow/compressed/collapsed respiratory channels. *For further information, see Appendix 2..*
2. **Mouth**: Poor jaws and dentition as well as lame (paralytic) tongue which is a disqualifying anomaly.
3. **Exaggerated dwarfism**: Standard points out; *“Weight up to 3,2 kgs. Skull: Rather small and flat, not too prominent or round. Eyes; not prominent.”*
4. **Coat**: Long coat *“must never impede movement”* or the development of good muscular condition.

Look for sound breathing and normal development of muscular condition. The muzzle, healthy teeth and correct jaws and tongue are important.

FCI GROUP 4

Dachshunds

Dachshund miniature,
smooth-haired
long-haired
wire-haired

Dachshund rabbit,
smooth-haired
long-haired
wire-haired

Dachshund standard,
smooth-haired
long-haired
wire-haired

Breeds in bold types are listed in the BSI.

BSI listed breeds in group 4

The text within inverted commas are quotations from the breed standard.

Dachshunds – chondrodystrophic type

The chondrodystrophic constitution of the Dachshunds may when exaggerated lead to problems.

Areas of risk are:

1. **Front:** Crooked forelegs (axis deviation when seen from the front) is linked to the chondrodystrophic constitution. The standard reads: “...*standing straight with good strength of bone; feet pointing straight forward*”.
2. **Ground clearance:** Inadequate ground clearance as a result of excessive shortness of legs may cause incorrect movement and interfere with the working function of the breed, “*the distance above ground level of about one third of the height at withers*”.
3. **The ribcage:** Too short, defect and deformed ribs and a short sternal bone.

FCI GROUP 5

Spitz and Primitive types

Akita	Japanese Spitz	Portuguese Warren Hound -
Alaskan Malamute	Kai	Portuguese Podengo,
American Akita	Karelian Bear Dog	wire-haired/large
Basenji	Kishu	Portuguese Warren Hound -
Canaan Dog	Korea Jindo Dog	Portuguese Podengo,
Canarian Warren Hound	Norrbottenspitz	wire-haired/medium-sized
Chow Chow	Norwegian Buhund	Portuguese Warren Hound -
Cirneco dell'Etna	Norwegian Elkhound, black	Portuguese Podengo,
East Siberian Laika	Norwegian Elkhound, grey	wire-haired/miniature
Eurasian	Norwegian Lundehund	Russian-European Laika
Finnish Lapphund	Peruvian Hairless Dog (also coa-	Samoyed
Finnish Reindeer Herder	ted), large	Shiba
Finnish Spitz	Peruvian Hairless Dog (also	Shikoku
German Spitz/Keeshond	coated),	Siberian Husky
German Spitz/Giant Spitz	medium-sized	Swedish Elkhound
German Spitz/Medium size Spitz	Peruvian Hairless Dog (also coa-	Swedish Lapphund
German Spitz/Miniature Spitz	ted), miniature	Swedish Vallhund
German Spitz/Pomeranian	Pharaoh Hound	Taiwan Dog
Greenland Dog	Portuguese Warren Hound -	Thai ridgeback dog
Hokkaido	Portuguese Podengo,	Volpino Italiano
Ibizan Warren Hound -	smooth-haired/large	West Siberian Laika
Ibizan Podenco, rough-haired	Portuguese Warren Hound -	Xoloitzcuintle (hairless & coated),
Ibizan Warren Hound -	Portuguese Podengo,	medium sized
Ibizan Podenco, smooth-haired	smooth-haired/medium-sized	Xoloitzcuintle (hairless & coated),
Icelandic Sheepdog	Portuguese Warren Hound -	miniature
	Portuguese Podengo,	Xoloitzcuintle (hairless & coated),
	smooth-haired/miniature	large

Breeds in bold types are listed in the BSI.

About the breeds in group 5

The group has breeds of great variation in size but a comparatively homogenous basic type conformation which is not inviting to exaggerations. Some type characteristics make up areas of risk in a couple of the breeds. In several of them there is occurrence of incorrect coats with poor top coat and an abundance of under coat or persisting puppy coat.

BSI listed breeds in group 5

The text within inverted commas are quotations from the breed standards.

Chow-Chow

Exaggerations regarding the amount of skin and the construction of the hindquarters can cause problems.

Areas of risk are:

1. **Breathing problems:** Snoring and laboured breathing often with mouth constantly open, caused by insufficient room in respiratory channels and throat. *For further information, see Appendix 2.*
2. **Hindquarters:** The breed typical restricted angulation of stifles and hock joints are requirements for the desirable breed typical movement but these constructions also constitute an important area of risk. Stifles and hocks that knuckle over are anatomically incorrect and are highly undesirable.
3. **Face:** Excessive amount of skin embedding the eyes. Small eye lid openings. Eyes should be *“Dark, oval shaped, medium sized and clean”*. *For further information, see Appendix 3.*

Look for sound breathing, eyes and skin and also correct movement.

Unconstrained breathing, sound eyes not showing any sign of irritation and breed typical yet sound movement should be highly appreciated.

German Spitz/Pomeranian (*Deutscher Spitz/Zwergspitz*) – toy spitz

This is a toy breed and some of the risks regarding exaggeration of dwarfism mentioned in the introduction text to group 9 should be considered.

Area of risk is:

1. **Coat:** Exaggerated amount of undercoat in combination with faulty or deficient top coat causes lack of the elasticity characterizing a correct double coat.

Standard reads; *“Long, straight, stand off top coat and short, thick, cotton-wool-like undercoat”*. A faulty coat might indicate development of hairlessness. Correct coat quality is thus essential!

Look also for correct size, nose, jaws and teeth.

FCI GROUP 6

Scenthounds and Related Breeds

Alpine Dachsbracke	Gascon Saintongeais	Polish Hound
American Foxhound	German Hound	Polish Hunting Dog
Anglo-français de Petite Vénerie	Grand Basset Griffon Vendéen	Porcelain
Ariégeois	Grand Griffon Vendéen	Posavaz Hound
Artesian-Norman Basset	Great Anglo-French Tricolour Hound	Rhodesian Ridgeback
Artois Hound	Great Anglo-French White and Black Hound	Schiller Hound
Austrian Black and Tan Hound	Great Anglo-French White and Orange Hound	Serbian Hound
Basset Hound	Great Gascony Hound	Serbian Tricolour Hound
Bavarian Mountain Scenthound	Griffon Nivernais	Slovakian Hound
Beagle	Halden Hound	Småland Hound
Beagle-Harrier	Hamilton Hound	Small Blue Gascony Hound
Billy	Hanoverian Scenthound	Small Swiss Hound/Bernese Hound
Black and Tan Coonhound	Harrier	Small Swiss Hound/Jura Hound
Bloodhound	Hellenic Hound	Small Swiss Hound/Lucerne Hound
Blue Gascony Basset	Hygen Hound	Small Swiss Hound/Schwyz Hound
Blue Gascony Griffon	Istrian Coarse-haired Hound	Spanish Hound
Bosnian Coarse-haired Hound - called Barak	Istrian Short-haired Hound	Styrian Coarse-haired Hound
Dalmatian	Italian Hound, coarse-haired	Swiss Hound/Bernese Hound
Drever	Italian Hound, short-haired	Swiss Hound/Jura Hound
English Foxhound	Medium Griffon Vendéen	Swiss Hound/Lucerne Hound
Fawn Brittany Basset	Montenegrin Mountain Hound	Swiss Hound/Schwyz Hound
Fawn Brittany Griffon	Norwegian Hound	Transylvanian Hound
Finnish Hound	Otterhound	Tyrolean Hound
French Tricolour Hound	Petit Basset Griffon Vendéen	Westphalian Dachsbracke
French White and Black Hound	Poitevin	
French White and Orange Hound		

Breeds in bold types are listed in the BSI.

About the breeds in group 6

This group contains working hunting dogs with high demands for a sound construction. The Basset breeds are chondrodystrophic which can predispose to unsound front construction, for instance causing toe pads not meeting the ground properly. A particular area of risk is the ribcage which can be deformed with defect ribs and a short sternal bone.

In the short legged breeds poor front construction and asymmetry must be observed as well as inadequate ground clearance that interfere with the working function.

BSI listed breeds in group 6

The text within inverted commas are quotations from the breed standards.

Basset Hound – chondrodystrophic type

Exaggerations of the breed type and proportions, substance and some breed characteristics constitute risks for health problems.

Areas of risk are:

1. **Skin:** Unsound and/or excessive amount of loose skin may cause inflammations in wrinkles. The standard reads *“Skin is supple and elastic without any exaggeration”*.
2. **Fore- and hindquarters:** Poor construction and inadequate ground clearance as a result of excessive shortness of legs may cause incorrect movement and interfere with the working function of the breed.
3. **Eyelids:** Too loose, oversized and/or inverted eyelids. *For further information, see Appendix 3.*
4. **Ears:** Exaggeration of length of ears.

Look for typical proportions, eyes, ears and skin. Heavy ears and skin may cause eyelid problems. Of even greater importance is the correct movement, the standard reads *“Smooth, powerful and effortless action with forelegs reaching well forward and hind legs showing powerful thrust, hound moving true both front and rear. Hocks and stifles never stiff in movement, nor must any toes be dragged”*.

Bloodhound (*Chien de Saint-Hubert*)

Area of risk is:

1. **Skin:** Too excessive amount of skin and loose or inverted eyelids may cause problems. *For further information, see Appendix 3.*

FCI GROUP 7

Pointing Dogs

Ariege Pointing Dog
 Auvergne Pointing Dog
 Blue Picardy Spaniel
 Bohemian Wire-haired
 Pointing Griffon
 Bourbonnais Pointing Dog
 Brittany
 Burgos Pointing Dog
 Drentse Partridge Dog
 English Pointer
 English Setter
 French Pointing Dog -
 Gascogne type
 French Pointing Dog -
 Pyrenean type
 French Spaniel

French Wire-haired Korthals
 Pointing Griffon
 German Long-haired Pointing Dog
 German Rough-haired
 Pointing Dog
 German Short-haired
 Pointing Dog
 German Wire-haired Pointing Dog
 Gordon Setter
 Hungarian Short-haired
 Pointing Dog
 Hungarian Wire-haired
 Pointing Dog
 Irish Red and White Setter
 Irish Red Setter
**Italian Pointing Dog
 (Bracco Italiano)**

**Italian Wire-haired
 Pointing Dog (Spinone
 Italiano)**
 Large Münsterlander
 Old Danish Pointing Dog
 Picardy Spaniel
 Portuguese Pointing Dog
 Pudelpointer
 Slovakian Wire-haired Pointing
 Dog
 Small Münsterlander
 Spaniel de Pont-Audemer
 Stabyhoun
 St. Germain Pointing Dog
 Weimaraner, long-haired
 Weimaraner, short-haired

Breeds in bold types are listed in the BSI.

About the breeds in group 7

This group contains gundogs with high demands for soundness in construction which must not show extreme tendencies such as heaviness, overly lymphatic conformation nor too elegant construction with excessive coat and/or ribcages that are too deep or too flat.

There are some breeds in this group though with comparatively rich skin.

BSI listed breeds in group 7

Italian Pointing Dog (*Bracco Italiano*)

Area of risk is:

1. **Facial skin:** Excessive loose skin may cause unsound lip folds and/or eyelid problems.
For further information, see Appendix 3.

Italian Wire-haired Pointing Dog (*Spinone Italiano*)

Area of risk is:

1. **Facial skin:** Excessive loose skin may cause unsound lip folds and/or eyelid problems.
For further information, see Appendix 3.

FCI GROUP 8

Retrievers - Flushing Dogs - Water Dogs

American Cocker Spaniel

American Water Spaniel
Cheasapeake Bay Retriever

Clumber Spaniel

Curly Coated Retriever
English Cocker Spaniel
English Springer Spaniel
Field Spaniel

Flat Coated Retriever

French Water Dog (Barbet)
German Spaniel
Golden Retriever
Irish Water Spaniel
Labrador Retriever
Nederlandse Kooikerhondje
Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever

Portuguese Water Dog
Romagna Water Dog
Small Dutch Waterfowl Dog
Spanish Waterdog
Sussex Spaniel
Welsh Springer Spaniel

Breeds in bold types are listed in the BSI.

About the breeds in group 8

This group contains gundogs and endurance and sound movement are therefore particularly important as is good muscular condition. It is important to distinguish between substance and obesity/overweight. Some of the spaniel breeds in this group show problems with eyes and ears due to excessive skin and also due to large heavily coated outer ears. *See also Appendix 3 about eyes.*

Poor accessibility is found in some of the breeds.

BSI listed breeds in group 8

The text within inverted commas are quotations from the breed standards.

American Cocker Spaniel

Areas of risk are mostly related to tendencies towards brachycephaly expressed in p.1-3:

1. **Head:** Overly short muzzle, too short rounded skull and bite problems.
2. **Eyes:** Protruding eyes and shallow eye sockets, profuse flow of tears. Loose eyelids and unsound lip folds.
3. **Ribcage:** Poorly developed short ribcage with short sternal bone.
4. **Coat:** Exaggerated volume of coat and incorrect coat texture.

Look for correct head and muzzle proportions, sound eyes, normal tear drainage and correct bite. Good length of ribcage and sternal bone as well as correct coat are also highly estimated. The standard reads about the coat: "...of a texture which permits easy care" and indicating the breed's "...appearance and function as a moderately coated sporting dog".

Clumber Spaniel

This should be an agile working dog of good condition without overweight or exaggerations in head and skull.

Areas of risk are:

1. **Construction:** Unsound with insufficient angulation that may affect the movement.
2. **Head:** Excessively heavy with an abundance of loose skin and loose eyelids which may cause eye problems.
3. **Exaggerated size and heaviness.**

Powerful, sound, typical movement in dogs with correct dimensions, size and head, should be particularly appraised.

Flat Coated Retriever

Area of risk is:

1. **Eyes:** Too deeply set.

FCI GROUP 9

Companion and Toy Dogs

Belgian Griffon

Bichon Frise

Bolognese

Boston Terrier**Brussels Griffon****Cavalier King Charles Spaniel****Chihuahua, long-haired****Chihuahua, smooth-haired****Chinese Crested Dog**

Coton de Tuléar

French Bulldog

Havanese

Japanese Chin**King Charles Spaniel**

Kromfohrländer

Lhasa Apso

Little Lion Dog

Maltese

Papillon

Pekingese

Phalène

Poodle, standard, medium sized,
miniature, toy**Pug**

Russian Toy, longhaired

Russian Toy, smooth-haired

Shih Tzu**Small Brabant Griffon**

Tibetan Spaniel

Tibetan Terrier

Breeds in bold types are listed in the BSI.

About the breeds in group 9

Most breeds in this group are toy breeds and some have extreme conformation such as shortened skull and underdeveloped muzzle - brachycephalic. Some of the breeds are also chondrodystrophic. Further exaggeration of these standard correct features and exaggerated dwarfism would give rise to serious health problems. *See also page 10 Breed types Toy Breeds.*

The brachycephalic head is part of the breed type in Boston Terriers, French Bulldogs, the Griffon breeds, Japanese Chin, King Charles Spaniels, Pugs, Pekingese and Shih-Tzus. This may give rise to breathing problems and impaired body temperature regulation. Narrow respiratory channels with restrained breathing and pinched nostrils are serious problems which must be noted. *See also Appendix 2 regarding assessment of breathing distress.*

Several of the breeds have protruding eyes in shallow eye sockets disposing for eye injuries. *See also Appendix 3 regarding eye problems.*

Open fontanel is an anomaly and a disqualifying fault in all breeds.

Wry lower jaw and/or lame tongue, so called paralyzed tongue, are disqualifying faults.

A deviant pattern of movement in some breeds with frantic scratching behaviour and signs of unmotivated pain when on leash may indicate a serious neurological disorder, syringomyelia.

Powerless shuffling movement can be seen in toy breeds as an effect of unsound living conditions causing poor muscles.

Some of the breeds in this group are heavily coated which in some cases has resulted in incorrect, woolly and excessive coats, so heavy that it impairs movement and affects quality of daily life for the dogs. *See also Exaggerations in presentation page 7.*

BSI listed breeds in group 9

The text within inverted commas are quotations from the breed standards.

Belgian Griffon, Brussels Griffon and Small Brabant Griffon

(Griffon Belge, Griffon Bruxellois and Petit Brabançon) – brachycephalic type

Areas of risk are:

1. **Breathing:** Problems caused by insufficient room in throat cavities and/or ribcage and/or pinched nostrils.
2. **Face:** Overly short muzzle can give rise to eye injuries.
3. **Movement:** A deviant pattern of movement with frantic scratching behaviour and signs of unmotivated pain when on leash may indicate a serious neurological disorder, syringomyelia.

Particular attention must be paid to breathing, nose and sound eyes as well as the pattern of movement.

Bostonterrier – brachycephalic and small molossoïd breed

Areas of risk are related to toy type and brachycephaly:

1. **General construction:** Overly short body, roach back, diminutive tail, too short and flat in muzzle. Heavy and coarse head.
2. **Breathing:** Problems which can be linked to narrow respiratory channels: insufficient room in pharyngeal cavities and/or ribcage and pinched nostrils.

Look for sound breathing, the correct formation of the head/skull and the dog's proportions.

Cavalier King Charles Spaniel

Areas of risk are related to tendency towards brachycephaly, expressed in p.1-3:

1. **Breathing problems** with snoring sound.
2. **Head:** Overly short muzzle and very short rounded skull.
3. **Eyes:** Protruding eyes, shallow eye sockets and loose eyelids. Profuse flow of tears. Skin folds showing sign of irritation.
4. **Movement:** A deviant pattern of movement with frantic scratching behaviour and signs of unmotivated pain when on leash that may indicate a serious neurological disorder, syringomyelia.

Look for soundness of breathing, skin, eyes and movement. The wording of the standard explicitly prevents a brachycephalic tendency: "*Head, cranial region: Skull: Almost flat between ears. Stop: Shallow.*" The eyes shall be "*Large, dark, round but not prominent; spaced well apart*".

Chihuahua, smooth-haired and long-haired (*Chihuahuero*)

Areas of risk are all related to exaggerated dwarfism:

1. **Mouth:** Problems like underdeveloped muzzle giving rise to faulty bite, dentition and jaws. Also canine teeth running up into the roof of gums.
2. **Paralyzed tongue.**
3. **Eyes:** Protruding and set in shallow eye sockets which increase risk of eye injuries.
4. **Hindquarters:** Weedy and unsound in construction.
5. **Open fontanel** is now a disqualifying fault from having been a characteristic feature.

Particular attention must be paid to the formation of the skull and the jaws and the general anatomy; "*Hind legs well muscled with long bones*". A minor dimple noticeable as the result of the closure of the fontanel is not a disqualifying fault.

Chinese Crested Dog/hairless variety

The *show preparation* constitutes the area of risk:

1. Skin injuries caused by ethically unacceptable removal of hair (epilating and chemical hair removal) in order to present the dogs in agreement with the standard.

French Bulldog (*Bouledogue francais*) – brachycephalic and small molossoïd breed

The special conformation of this breed with shortened skull and overly short bridge of nose as well as underdeveloped tail, cause health problems if exaggerated further.

Areas of risk are:

1. **Breathing:** Problems which could result from overly short muzzle as well as pinched nostrils, insufficient room foremost in throat, pharyngeal cavities and/or ribcage.
2. **Face:** Too short muzzle and protruding eyes which increase the risk of eye injuries.
3. **Proportions and construction:** Overly short proportions in neck and back as well as insufficient angulation in fore- and hindquarters can cause powerless dragging movement.
4. **Underdeveloped tail:** Lack of visible/touchable tail vertebrae is a disqualifying fault.
5. **Skin problems.**

Look for sound breathing, correct bridge of nose, eyes, skin, tail and movement. Breed standard reads; "*Length of muzzle about 1/6 of the total length of the head*".

Gait should be free and active. The breed standard calls for an "*active*" dog which is "*powerful for its small size, short, compact in all its proportions*", but the French Bulldog must not be excessively short in neck and back.

Japanese Chin – brachycephalic type

Areas of risk are:

1. **Breathing:** Problems caused by too small skull, pinched nostrils and also too short ribcage.
2. **Eyes:** Protruding eyes in shallow eye sockets may predispose for injuries.

Look for sound breathing and the correct formation of the head/skull and the ribcage.

King Charles Spaniel – brachycephalic type

Areas of risk are:

1. **General construction:** Poor, underdeveloped ribcage with a keel; bent front legs and feet turning out.
2. **Muzzle,** too short.
3. **Eyes:** Protruding eyes increase the risk for injuries.
4. **Movement:** A deviant pattern of movement with frantic scratching behaviour and signs of unmotivated pain when on leash may indicate a serious neurological disorder, syringomyelia.

Particular attention must be paid to the shape of the skull and the eyes, but also to sound movement and the general anatomy.

Pekingese – brachycephalic and chondrodystrophic type

The special conformation of this breed by the shortened skull, overly short bridge of nose and jaws may cause health problems if exaggerated.

Areas of risk are related to exaggerated dwarfism, brachycephaly and chondrodystrophy:

1. **Breathing:** Problems caused by narrow and insufficient room in general air passages: pharyngeal cavities and/or ribcage and/or pinched nostrils.
2. **Eyes:** Protruding eyes which increase the risk for injuries.
3. **Nose wrinkle:** Overhanging nose wrinkle obstructing nostrils and can also cause inflammation.
4. **General construction:** Weak with poor ribcage, short sternal bone and bad muscle condition.
5. **Coat:** Coat which can be too profuse and/or woolly and cause discomfort. The standard reads *“Length and volume of coat should neither impair the activity of the dog nor obscure the shapeliness of body. Excessive coat must be heavily penalized.”*

“All signs of respiratory distress are unacceptable and should be heavily penalized.” Breathing shall be assessed with dog in action.

Untypical/unsound movement must not be confused with *“Typically slow, dignified rolling gait in front”*. *“Any signs of inability to move soundly are unacceptable and should be heavily penalized”*.

Pug – brachycephalic and small molossoïd breed

Areas of risk are:

1. **Breathing:** Problems due to obesity/overweight, pinched nostrils, narrow respiratory channels with insufficient room in pharyngeal cavities and/or short and open ribcage with short ribs and sternal bone.
2. **Face:** Overly short muzzle and/or excessive loose skin and hair on a nose wrinkle disturbing the function of the eyes as well as the nose. The standard does in fact not ask for a nose wrinkle – neither unbroken nor broken.
3. **Eyes:** Protruding eyes which increase the risk of injuries.
4. **Coat presentation:** Trimming with scissors should not be practised.

Look for sound breathing, sound skin and eyes, the formation of the ribcage and the size and weight. The standard mentions the ideal weight to be 6,3-8,1 kg.

Shih Tzu – brachycephalic and chondrodystrophic type

Areas of risk are:

1. **Breathing:** Problems caused by too small head which limits the room of the upper respiratory cavities, too short muzzle and/or pinched nostrils. Standard reads; *“Muzzle: Length about 2,5 cms from tip to stop”*.
2. **Eyes:** Protruding eyes which dispose for injuries.
3. **Mouth:** Narrow lower jaw and poor dentition.

Look for sound breathing and correct head proportions, eyes, jaws and teeth.

FCI GROUP 10

Sighthounds

Afghan Hound
Arabian Greyhound
Azawakh
Borzoi
Deerhound

Greyhound
Hungarian Greyhound
Irish Wolfhound
Italian Greyhound
Polish Greyhound

Saluki
Spanish Greyhound
Whippet

Breeds in bold types are listed in the BSI.

About the breeds in group 10

The breeds of this group are characterized by a homogenous type of construction. Problems with teeth and bites are found in some of the breeds as are poor and sparse coats. There are some Afro-Asian sighthounds with exotic mentality (aloof and supercilious) which however must not turn into exaggerated inaccessibility.

BSI listed breeds in group 10

The text within inverted commas are quotations from the breed standards.

Borzoi (*Russkaya Psovaya Borzaya*)

Areas of risk are:

1. **Mouth:** Incorrectly placed canine teeth.
2. **Eyes:** Deep set and small openings. *For further information, see Appendix 3.*

The breed standard gives clear information: Eliminating fault: *“Faulty position of one or both canines of the lower jaw which, when the mouth is shut, can damage the upper gums or the palate.”*

Irish Wolfhound

Area of risk is:

1. **Mouth:** Incorrect bite caused by narrow lower jaw with lower canine teeth going straight up into the roof of the gum.

Look for correct canine teeth, bite and jaws.

Appendix 1

Background of the BSI

The NKU BSI is the result of inventories made possible through extensive collaboration between dog show judges, breed clubs, veterinary surgeons and health insurance statistics.

These inventories constitute the basis for the selection of the high profile breeds and for the specific directions for each individual breed. The development of the instrument is primarily based on Danish, Swedish and Finish experiences. The first edition of the Swedish BSI was applied in practice during 2009 at all the shows arranged by the regional Kennel Clubs affiliated to the Swedish Kennel Club (SKK) and the BSI is since then included in the routines. The basis for the BSI instrument in its present form is an integrated evaluation of six different factors:

1. The initial selection of high profile breeds made by ten Scandinavian allrounders 2006 and the follow-up done 2012 with 20 Scandinavian allrounders.
2. The dialogue with the pertinent Scandinavian breed clubs during 2007-2013.
3. a) The evaluation of the health situation by information from a questionnaire to all Swedish Small animal specialists 2010 and Swedish insurance statistics (Agria Breed Profiles) for these breeds 1995-2011.
b) Information from a questionnaire to all members of the Norwegian Veterinary Association for Small Animal Practice, Norwegian championship show judges and breed clubs 2011-2012.
4. The consensual result regarding the selection of listed breeds achieved at the Swedish general dog show judges' conferences in 2007 and 2012. The present BSI document was supported by the Norwegian General Show Judge Conference in 2014.
5. The evaluating reports of the BSI application made by judges at all the SKK shows 2009-2012.
6. The final selections and elaborations made by the NKU-BSI working group 2012-2014.

The justification for listing a breed in the system is its relative weight in the overall integration of material made up by the six pillars.

The compound information from the six factors thus motivates the listing of the breeds assessed as at risk for a negative development due to exaggerations of type characteristics. These breeds should attract the judges' special attention at dog shows

regarding soundness and health in relation to exaggerations of breed type.

A continuous follow-up based on new data in the six areas above will update the list regarding the focused breeds and the instructions.

The present BSI document is in accordance with the *FCI Basic Statement For Show*

Judges, Dogs fit for their original function, approved by the FCI GC in Helsinki October 2013 and further discussed at the FCI Show and Judges Commission's meeting in Paris, February 2014. The attitude of the BSI to be **recommendations to the judges** and not strict compulsory rules was highly acclaimed.

Appendix 2

Assessments of breathing distress in the show ring

All dogs should be able to breathe effortlessly also when moving.

Three levels of breathing distress should be taken into consideration in quality grading and competition assessment with regards to the dogs' ability to breathe normally in the show ring also when moving.

1. Nonsignificant/temporary signs of affected breathing but without causing any difficulty to the dog should be noted but not necessarily affect the quality grading. This should however be considered at the competition assessment.
2. Milder affection of the ability to breath /milder respiratory problems, as well as anatomical conditions, that potentially affect the ability to breathe should influence the quality grading (pinched nostrils, too short nose, overly small head and/or very short proportions, underdeveloped ribcage and so on).
3. Obvious signs of respiratory problems should motivate considering disqualification. Those signs of breathing distress are at hand if the dog already while stan-

ding still and without any "provoking external factors" (like hot temperature, exciting stimuli and so on) shows laboured respiration such as

- mouth breathing with obvious retraction of the mouth angle and/or very protruding tongue
- loud breathing sounds; aspiratory and/or expiratory
- retractions in the fore chest area and/or behind the ribcage synchronous with the respiration
- nodding movements of the head and neck synchronous with the respiration.

The assessment of breathing should always include evaluation of possible respiratory distress symptoms during and after evaluation of movement which should be of breed adequate speed and duration.

General signs of exhaustion as well as difficulties and prolongation of recovery after action are very serious findings and serious signs of lack of respiratory capacity.*

* SKK 2012 dvd *Making assessments of dogs' respiration*.

Appendix 3

Eye problems

Anatomical features that may cause eye problems

Eye problems which should be observed by the show judge are commonly related to the ocular adnexa (tissues surrounding the eye). Attention should also be paid to sunken eyes and/or eyes that are smaller than normal (microphthalmic), as well as to protruding eyes. Protruding eyes are often mistaken for over sized eye balls, a thing which hardly exists. Protruding eyes are due to shallow eye sockets and/or big eye openings.

The anatomy of the skull, the position of the eye in the eye socket, the shape of the lid opening and the presence of facial wrinkles and excessive amounts of loose skin surrounding the eyes are examples of adnexal features that may injure the eye. Folds and wrinkles on the muzzle or in the face may touch the cornea and cause irritation and damage. These anatomical features of the face which increases risks for eye problems are likewise observable for the show judge.

The form and depth of the eye socket affects the position of the eyeball i.e. may lead to too deeply set too protruding eyes. A too deeply set eye may result in an inwards turning of the eyelid (entropion). A wide skull increases the risk of entropion at the outer corner.

Protruding eyes are due to shallow eye sockets and are more prone to injury, especially in combination with a short nose where the rhinarium (wet part of the nose) is placed between and close to the eyes. Abundance of skin and hair adjacent to the eye may cause irritation/ damage to the ocular surface especially if the eye is protruding as is often seen with a short muzzle. Thick and heavy folds in or around the face and/or heavy lips and ears may distort the lid opening.

Depending on the extent of these features, hair/eyelashes may rub on the cornea and cause irritation/damage to the surface of the eye. Different parts of the eyelid may turn inwards – *entropion*. The lower eyelid may also droop outwards, exposing the conjunctiva – *ectropion*. A special form is seen in the *diamond shaped eye* where the eye opening is rhomboid which can cause combined entropion and ectropion.

Signs of eye disease

Visual problems, even blindness, are difficult to evaluate properly in the show ring.

Signs of discomfort, irritation or pain related to the eye or its adnexa are:

- Overflow of tears, accumulation of mucus and brownish stain below the eye. Wet lid margins. Redness of the conjunctiva.

- Repeated squinting up and blinking.
- Lack of corneal lustre, pigmented or opaque cornea.

Specific features in brachycephalic breeds

The wide and short skull, short nose and bridge of muzzle, loose facial skin, skin folds and long (wide open) eyelids can cause dryness, injury and inflammation.

Specific features in breeds with excessive and loose skin

The problems are related to the size and shape of the eye lids in addition to the looseness of the skin, heavy ears and heavy lips typical for these breeds. These breed characteristics can, when exaggerated, by weighing down the tissues give rise to loose or inverted eyelids (ectropion and/or entropion and/or diamond eye and/or macroblepharon = over sized eye lid) as well as to upper eyelids overhanging the eye and lashes rubbing on the cornea. Kinks on the lid margin affect the blink mechanism.

Assessing eye problems in the quality grading

Signs of eye problems should influence the quality grading depending on the degree

and severity of the deviation.

- The obviously blind dog must in all cases be disqualified irrespective of possible reasons. A one eyed dog due to trauma shall not be penalized if not obviously impeded by the acquired defect.
- Damage to the eyeball indicated by cloudiness and/or pigmentation of the cornea is a disqualifying fault regardless of its cause.
- Signs of irritation like repeated squinting and blinking should be taken into account in quality grading.
- Anatomical features related to increased risk of eye problems (too short nose, too loose skin and so on) are areas of risk and should be taken into account in quality grading and the competition assessment in relation to its extent.

Considerations in competition assessment

Milder signs of irritation like excessive tear flow and staining of the facial hairs should influence the competition assessment.

Appendix 4

Report – observations of areas of risk in the BSI-listed breeds

This evaluation form will be available at the show. Please fill out and forward to the ring steward after judging any breed listed in the BSI.



REPORT – observations of areas of risk in the BSI-listed breeds

This form can also be used to report observed areas of risk in any breed.
Please complete the report in connection with the judging and forward it to the ring steward.

ORGANIZING CLUB:

You have been invited to judge this breed listed in the BSI:

at the dog show in:

date:

This breed is listed in the BSI for breeds under observation with regard to exaggerations and a risk towards unsoundness and poor overall health.

Did you receive written information about the BSI before the show? YES ☐ NO ☐

You are requested to study the whole BSI document with special attention to the specific text regarding the breed(s) you will judge and the introduction text for the pertinent FCI group.

Instruction for application is described in the first pages of the document.

We would like you to answer the questions below to make it possible to evaluate the accuracy of the breeds listed and the areas of risk pointed out.

The number of dogs of the breed in question which you judged were:

Mark with a cross if no dogs were shown ☐

Did you notice any of the issues and topics mentioned for the breed? YES ☐ NO ☐

If YES, which of the areas of risk/issues did you observe and in how many dogs?

Did you notice dogs showing excellent quality in the areas of risk? YES ☐ NO ☐

Please indicate and make comments below!

Do you find it appropriate that this breed is listed in the BSI?

You are asked to consider this question from a perspective of your total experience in this breed and not only from the present show.

Please indicate and make comments below!

- ☐ Yes, it's appropriate that this breed is listed
- ☐ No, it's not appropriate that this breed is listed
- ☐ I have at present no opinion (please comment why)

Do you have any other comments or suggestions about other breeds you feel ought to be considered for listing in the BSI?

Date and signature

Name in block letters

Thank you for your cooperation!

NKU BSI – a collaboration between the Nordic Kennel Clubs





Breed Specific Instructions (BSI)

regarding exaggerations in pedigree dogs

