

Brachycephalic Working Group: Actions activity to June 22 2018				BHCs Cambridge RSPCA RVC KC	BVA BSAVA Dogs Trust PDSA KC
Action	Main action owner(s)	Current progress	Next activity planned	Time frame	
Action 1: The Kennel Club to develop Breed Health and Conservation Plans for several brachycephalic breeds, including Bulldog, French Bulldog, Pekingese and Pug. Bespoke plans for each breed to be developed in collaboration with relevant stakeholders, including breed clubs, researchers, Breed Health Coordinators, and, for brachycephalic breeds, in consultation with the BWG. Such plans should also be made available to breeders of puppies that will not be registered with the Kennel Club so that the plans have the greatest possible welfare impact.	Katy Evans	Initial 17 breeds nearing completion, including Pug, Bulldog, French Bulldog and Pekingese. Second round underway.	Katy Evans present an update to group at next meeting	Next BWG meeting	
Action 2: For BWG members (particularly academic and veterinary members) to review the breed standards for brachycephalic breeds and recommend any changes for consideration by relevant breed health co-ordinators and breed clubs, the Breed Standards & Conformation Sub-group of the KC Dog Health Group and the KC Breed Standards and Studbook Sub-committee.	David Sargan Rowena Packer Pug BHC Bulldog BHC French Bulldog BHC	DS & RP completed initial review and developed early recommendations Jan 2018.  KC and BHCs held a meeting (27 <sup>th</sup> April) to discuss possible changes, with BHCs to confer with breed/ Hecior [full name] on agreed amendments	Breeds to discuss with their committee members proposed changes and refer back to group. Hecior Heathcole (external Category 3 vet) to review	KC to give timeline for committee process.	
Action 3: The BWG to review points of concern for brachycephalic category 2 and 3 breeds, including exaggerated conformation and "difficulty breathing", and make recommendations to the Breed Standards and Conformation Sub-Group of the KC Dog Health Group.	David Sargan Rowena Packer Pug BHC Bulldog BHC French Bulldog BHC		Definition of true brachycephalic breed to be discussed at the next Breed Standards & Conformation sub-group of the KC Dog Health Group. Any amendments to be submitted for next possible meeting	BS&C meetings to be held 16 <sup>th</sup> May and 25 <sup>th</sup> September 2018	
Action 4a: BWG to understand and review current judge training (including continuing development) and practice, including the use of in-show health assessments such as exercise tolerance tests, with opportunity to make recommendations to the Breed Standards & Conformation Sub-group of the KC Dog Health Group.	4a Catherine Dobbie Bill Lambert Jane Ladlow		KC to assist and give dates for Judges Competency Framework seminars for sub-group to attend.  Setting up sub-group to meeting to discuss		
Action 4b: BWG to review the current vet-check systems in place at major dog shows, with opportunity to make recommendations to the Breed Standards & Conformation Sub-group of the KC Dog Health Group.	4b Catherine Dobbie Andreas Schiemel Bill Lambert Jane Ladlow Lisa Hens	Meeting held with vets attending Crufts 2018 for updates on system.	Setting up sub-group to meeting to discuss		
Action 5: BVA to investigate brachycephalic health scheme with breed health co-ordinators and Kennel Club, informed by other BWG members.	Gudrun Ravetz Pug BHC Bulldog BHC French Bulldog BHC	Cambridge and KC are developing joint brachy health scheme which is currently undergoing internal approval.	BVA to meet with KC to discuss the appetite for a brachycephalic health scheme based on functional testing that primary-care vets could apply.		
Action 6: BWG to contact companies and marketing bodies to seek public commitments that they will not use brachycephalic breeds in their designs and imagery.	Dan O'Neill Adrienne Conroy Sean Wensley Vicki Betton Alex Jackson Heidi Ansell-Day Gudrun Ravetz	Published Vet Record Dec 15, 2017. Open Letter released to the wider media and well received.  Strategy formed to mitigate harms from Disney's Patrick the Pug movie.	KC potential to now send individual letters to companies. Participants to set up Skype call to discuss strategy.  Patrick the Pug: welfare message in film credits, Pug welfare leaflets at cinemas, no merchandising	Patrick the Pug to be released in the UK on June 29, 2018	
Action 7: Following 2017 launch with the Kennel Club, ensure Puppy Contract and Puppy Information Pack are prominent in BWG member communication channels, e.g. websites, social media and any print or broadcast media output on puppy-buying.	Lisa Hens Bill Lambert	DEFRA breeder licensing act to be released Oct 2018, puppy contract to reflect this.	Continued development of contract online. Puppy contract wording now used as standard in ABS contracts.		
Action 8: Veterinary members of BWG to collaboratively undertake activities at the individual, community and national levels to influence demand for healthy dogs.	Adrienne Conroy  Gudrun Ravetz Sean Wensley	BSAVA has: Published an article in BSAVA's internal monthly publication covering scientific aspects and management of brachy health and welfare problems. Provided CPD for vets on brachy breeds by means of a dedicated stream featured at BSAVA congress. As part of the Big Issues stream at the 2018 BSAVA Congress, featured a session on the puppy trade, in particular of relevance to brachy breeds. Liaised with RCVS to ensure clarity on the desired veterinary approach when dealing with potential, new or existing brachy-owning clients. Contributed to the FVE Consultation on 'Breeding Healthy Dogs' – covers FVE policy, recommendations and actions regarding supply and demand of brachy breeds.  BVA has: Developed a policy position on brachycephalic dogs, including a 10-point plan for veterinary practices, highlighting actions veterinary practices can undertake to improve the health and welfare of brachycephalic dogs and promote responsible pet ownership amongst the dog-buying public. Launched the #BreedtoBreathe campaign to raise awareness of health and welfare issues faced by brachycephalic dogs, cats and rabbits. Secured pledges from big brands not to use images of brachycephalic dogs in their marketing campaigns Hosted a #BreedtoBreathe toolbox a space with resources for the public and the veterinary profession to help raise awareness about the problems associated with brachycephalic breeds, including blogs, graphics and videos to share on social media. Written to the Greetings Cards Association who have highlighted the issue of using brachycephalic breeds with their members Featured a dedicated session on the popularity of brachycephalic breeds, current research on pre-purchase motivations and what the veterinary profession can do about it at BVA Congress 2017.			
Action 9: Brachycephalic Working Group to assist in supporting in evidence collation and research	Dan O'Neill Rowena Packer David Sargan Jane Ladlow	There has been sustained efforts at publishing new evidence on brachycephalic health steered by the BWG. Relevant peer reviewed publications released on 2017 include:  1. WILES, B. M., LLEWELLYN-ZAIDI, A. M., EVANS, K. M., O'NEILL, D. G. & LEWIS, T. W. 2017. Large-scale survey to estimate the prevalence of disorders for 192 Kennel Club registered breeds. <i>Canine Genetics and Epidemiology</i> , 4, 8. 2. O'NEILL, D. G., O'SULLIVAN, A. M., MANSON, E. A., CHURCH, D. B., BOAG, A. K., MCGREEVY, P. D. & BRODBELT, D. C. 2017. Canine dystocia in 50 UK first-opinion emergency-care veterinary practices: prevalence and risk factors. <i>Veterinary Record</i> , 181. 3. O'NEILL, D. G., LEE, M. M., BRODBELT, D. C., CHURCH, D. B. & SANCHEZ, R. F. 2017. Corneal ulcerative disease in dogs under primary veterinary care in England: epidemiology and clinical management. <i>Canine Genetics and Epidemiology</i> , 4, 5. 4. LIU, N.-C., TROCONIS, E. L., KALMAR, L., PRICE, D. J., WRIGHT, H. E., ADAMS, V. J., SARGAN, D. R. & LADLOW, J. F. 2017. Conformational risk factors of brachycephalic obstructive airway syndrome (BOAS) in pugs, French bulldogs, and bulldogs. <i>PLOS ONE</i> , 12, e0181928.  Relevant peer reviewed publications released on 2018 include: 1. O'NEILL, D. G., BARAL, L., CHURCH, D. B., BRODBELT, D. C. & PACKER, R. M. A. 2018. Demography and disorders of the French Bulldog population under primary veterinary care in the UK in 2013. <i>Canine Genetics and Epidemiology</i> , 5, 3. 2. LIU, N. C., TROCONIS EILEEN, L., MCMILLAN, M., GENAIN, M. A., KALMAR, L., PRICE DAVID, J., SARGAN DAVID, R. & LADLOW JANE, F. 2018. Endotracheal tube placement during computed tomography of brachycephalic dogs alters upper airway dimensional measurements. <i>Veterinary Radiology &amp; Ultrasound</i> , 59, 289-304. 3. LADLOW, J., LIU, N.-C., KALMAR, L. & SARGAN, D. 2018. Brachycephalic obstructive airway syndrome. <i>Veterinary Record</i> , 182, 375.	Papers underway include  'Disorders of Bulldogs'		