



## Statement on the Health and Breeding of French Bulldogs

The Pennine and Scottish French Bulldog Association (P&SFBA) recognise that due to the overwhelming sudden increase in the popularity of French Bulldogs and the subsequent frequent indiscriminate breeding of them to satisfy this demand, pre-existing health problems are being perpetuated by such breeders.

The P&SFBA recommends that anybody considering breeding their dogs has them health tested to the highest possible level of The French Bulldog Health Scheme and in particular The Respiratory Grading Scheme (BOAS) Test before considering any mating. We would advise that any dog or bitch which indicates an existing health problem, particularly problems with BOAS, either before or after testing is not used for breeding purposes.

The P&SFBA also advises all pet owners have their dogs tested at the Basic and Bronze level of The French Bulldog Health Scheme and through the Respiratory Grading Scheme to ensure their dogs are able to lead a long, healthy, normal life.

A number of factors have led to the committee of the Pennine and Scottish French Bulldog Association publishing this statement.

We are very fortunate that due to the structure of the committee of the Pennine and Scottish French Bulldog Association we are able to have an overview of the problems occurring within the breed both in health, welfare and legislative terms.

The committee noted with concern the actions being taken against the breed both in Holland and Norway and wanted to consider what actions we might be able to take to forestall similar events in the UK.

We know the demand for French Bulldogs has subsequently resulted in an increase in breeding, often indiscriminately and with little regard for any possible underlying health problems, in particular problems with breathing and BOAS (Brachycephalic Obstructive Airway Syndrome).

In addition, we are very aware that the veterinary profession has serious concerns about the health of French Bulldogs. We need, therefore, to gather

statistical evidence on health from both breeding dogs and pet dogs to gain accurate information about the overall health of the breed.

One of the ways to gather such data is to test as many French Bulldogs as possible, both in the breeding and pet community, through the well-established French Bulldog Health Scheme. This scheme assesses the health of any French Bulldog most effectively.

We are also fortunate to have the Kennel Club and Cambridge University Respiratory Function Grading Scheme (RFGS) open to all French Bulldogs regardless of colour or breeding. It is invaluable in assessing the breathing of the dog through a non-invasive examination by an RFGS trained vet.

The results of such health testing can then be used to compile the statistics we need.

However, just testing for statistics is not our only purpose.

We also have serious concerns about the undiscerning breeding of these dogs and wish to encourage all breeders to have their dogs fully tested before considering mating them.

Most particularly we want to have the pet owners involved. They, in fact, own the largest number of French Bulldogs and can really help in collecting the data.

So, we believe health testing can be informative for the breeder and owner as well as providing the statistics we need, hence the statement.