



Vision and shared beliefs of the UK Brachycephalic Working Group

Our vision

A world where no dog experiences health-related welfare problems attributable to having been selectively bred for the brachycephalic conformation.

Our beliefs

We as BWG have a shared belief that...

1. Our area of concern covers the actions of humans, and their consequences for dogs, in relation to the brachycephalic conformation
2. At a population level, the brachycephalic conformation is frequently associated with health problems in dogs
3. When present, health problems associated with the brachycephalic conformation:
 - a. Reduce quality of life
 - b. Compromise a dog's welfare
 - c. Can cause dogs to suffer
4. Suffering, and poor quality of life/welfare in dogs, are important attributes of a dog's life to assess and recognise
5. The animal health and welfare problems linked to breeding for the brachycephalic conformation are one of the UK's leading canine welfare priorities
6. There is a societal ethical obligation to promote a good life for dogs under human stewardship
7. Therefore, the members of BWG – by virtue of our shared responsibility, opportunity, and mandate – must work to promote a good life for dogs and to eliminate breed-related health and welfare problems, especially in relation to brachycephaly
8. Rising populations of certain brachycephalic breeds, because of high current appeal of the brachycephalic conformation to many people, are exacerbating the overall health and welfare problems related to the brachycephalic conformation
9. Addressing the animal health and welfare problems linked to the brachycephalic conformation is a priority for all our organisations
10. Reduction in suffering attributable to health problems associated with the brachycephalic conformation in dogs is achievable
11. The suffering attributable to health problems associated with the brachycephalic conformation can eventually be eliminated

Overall, BWG considers that **“Maximising good health, welfare and temperament overrides all other considerations for dogs.”**

October 6th, 2021