



THE KENNEL CLUB

Making a difference for dogs

ABOUT THE KENNEL CLUB AND DISCOVER DOGS

WE ARE: The UK's largest organisation dedicated to the health and welfare of dogs.

OUR OBJECTIVE: To protect and promote the general wellbeing of dogs. All of the profits that the Kennel Club makes go back into dogs and at its heart are programmes and investments into education and health initiatives, to help ensure that dogs can live healthy, happy lives with responsible owners.

WE BELIEVE: That together, working with breeders, owners, the government, other dog organisations and the veterinary profession, we can give all dogs the chance to lead happy healthy lives.

HISTORY: Originally founded in 1873, the Kennel Club's sole consideration was to regulate the conduct of dog shows and trials and then later to register dogs to avoid the duplication of a name in the stud book. Whilst these functions remain, the Kennel Club has developed in ways that could not possibly have been imagined when it was established in Victorian times.

CONTACT: For any media enquiries, please contact the Kennel Club Press Office on 020 7518 1008. You can also reach us out of hours (5pm-9am) on 07800 937070. Alternatively, please email press.office@thekennelclub.org.uk.

The Kennel Club PR team consists of Ella Brough, Glen Dymock, Helena Byrne-Stevens, Heidi Ansell-Day and Sara Wilde. The primary KC spokespeople are Caroline Kisko (Kennel Club Secretary) and Bill Lambert (Senior Health and Welfare Manager).

COMMENT: The Kennel Club supplies comment on a wide range of issues, including:

- Dangerous dogs and dog attacks
- Puppy farming and responsible breeding
- Microchipping
- Access for dogs
- Responsible dog ownership, including training, safety around dogs and choosing the right breed
- Obesity in dogs and dog activities
- Dog health and welfare including electric shock collars, dog meat trade, canine diseases.

WE DO:

REGISTRATION

We register around 250,000 puppies a year on our registrations system. We register all dogs, pedigree (on our breed register) and crossbreed (on our activities register). The Kennel Club breed register is a record of birth and lineage, much like Somerset House for humans. There are also rules built into the registration system to protect the welfare of dogs, such as only registering four litters from a bitch in its lifetime (whereas the legal limit is six) and only registering pups from a bitch that was at least 12 months old when mated.

MICROCHIPPING

The Kennel Clubs runs Petlog, to help reunite lost pets and their owners.

BREEDING

The Kennel Club Assured Breeder Scheme was launched in 2004. It is the only scheme in the UK that sets standards for and inspects breeders. Assured Breeders agree to adhere to standards that ensure that the health and welfare of their pups and breeding bitches comes first and foremost. The Kennel Club has UKAS accreditation to certify breeders on the scheme, meaning it is a robust and impartial assessor. The scheme is much needed in a largely unregulated breeding market.

The scheme was established to help puppy buyers have a reliable source of responsible breeders. Whilst volume breeders do require breeding licences from their local authorities, local authorities are frequently under-resourced to carry out these checks. Many people buy their puppies over internet, but don't know what they should look for in a responsible breeder, and therefore end up unwittingly buying from somebody who doesn't have the puppy's health and welfare at heart. Each year the Kennel Club runs a Puppy Awareness Week about the importance of buying from a responsible breeder or rescue home.

TRAINING

The Kennel Club runs the UK's largest dog training programme, the **Good Citizen Dog Scheme (GCDS)**. The GCDS has training clubs throughout the country. People can find a local dog training club at www.thekennelclub.org.uk/findadogclub.

The Kennel Club Accreditation Scheme for Instructors in Dog Training and Canine Behaviour (KCAI) recognises and promotes competent and qualified dog training instructors and canine behaviourists, working across a wide range of canine disciplines, for the benefit of the dog-owning public. It is the only scheme for dog training instructors in the UK which is externally verified by City & Guilds NPTC.

CHARITY

The Kennel Club Charitable Trust (KCCT) grants money to dog re-homing charities (such as Battersea Dogs and Cats Home, Wood Green and breed rescue

organisations) and assistance dog charities, and invests into pioneering health research. Kennel Club Breed Rescue organisations help more than 10,000 dogs each year, thanks to help from KCCT funding.

The KCCT gives grants to fund the development of DNA tests for dog diseases at the Kennel Club Genetics Centre at the Animal Health Trust. £1.2 million was initially granted to develop DNA tests to determine affected and carrier dogs, for 10 genetic mutations affecting 29 breeds, and the KCCT subsequently committed an additional £1.5 million to continue this work for a further five years. It hopes that such work will help breeders make informed choices when breeding and see the elimination of certain genetic diseases.

HEALTH

BVA/KC Health Schemes – health schemes for hip dysplasia, elbow dysplasia, eyes, and chiari malformation/syringomyelia have been developed by canine and veterinary specialists to reduce the risk of inherited diseases that impact dog health and welfare. Thousands of dogs are screened each year.

Mate Select – combines DNA testing, tools to reduce inbreeding, and tools to reduce complex inherited diseases as a one-stop-shop for advising and supporting breeders and owners to improve dog health.

Breed Information Centre – everything you need to know to help select, and breed happy, healthy, puppies – developed by canine researchers, veterinary experts, and breed specialists.

There is more about what the Kennel Club does to improve dog health [here](#).

LOBBYING

The Kennel Club is concerned with anti-dog legislation, promotes the positive place of dogs in society and actively represents the interests of responsible dog owners, whether their dogs are Kennel Club registered or not. Issues covered include:

Pet travel – The Kennel Club has joined the major welfare organisations to highlight the Pet Travel Scheme's unintended consequences to the Government. The relaxation of the quarantine rules in the scheme has seen an increase of illegally imported puppies from central and eastern Europe travelling with falsified pet passports and vaccination documents. In addition, the Pet Travel Scheme has also highlighted the inadequate checks on borders. Both issues have increased the risk of rabies entering the UK.

Electric shock collars – The has successfully lobbied for and seen a ban of cruel electric shock collars in Scotland and Wales, with Westminster looking to follow suit.

Dangerous dogs – The Kennel Club has been instrumental in campaigning for amendments to the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991. Amendments were passed to the Act in 2014 as part of the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act, with the Kennel Club having significant input into the dog related elements of the legislation and

accompanying guidance. Although this work achieved a greater focus on the responsibility of owners, as opposed to simply penalising the dogs, breed specific legislation and the demonising of certain breeds still remains. The Kennel Club is committed however, to continuing its work to see that this is repealed in the future.

Pet advertising – The Kennel Club works with the Pet Advertising Advisory Group (PAAG) (www.paag.org.uk), which comprises representatives from the UK's leading animal welfare groups. It has long been concerned with the way in which pets are sold online, and in a bid to reduce the number of inappropriate, misleading and illegal adverts has launched Minimum Standards for websites advertising pets for sale. Endorsed by Defra, the Minimum Standards aim to encourage websites to improve the quality of their systems to try to filter out unscrupulous advertisements.

RESPONSIBLE DOG OWNERSHIP

Discover Dogs, held annually at the ExCeL London, aims to educate people in all aspects of dog ownership. It helps people to learn about the right breed for their lifestyle and how to buy from a responsible breeder, in addition to helping them find out all they need to know about caring, training and enjoying life with their dog. It is a fun family orientated event where people can meet and greet around 200 breeds of dog.

The **KC Dog** campaign aims to alert local dog walkers to consultations taking place in their local areas so that people can have their say and potentially help to prevent the implementation of Public Space Protection Orders in their areas, banning dogs from being walked in certain places. In return for enjoying maximum access to the UK's open spaces, the Kennel Club promotes responsible ownership

ENJOYING LIFE WITH YOUR DOG

The **Be Dog Friendly** campaign lists all of the places in the UK that are dog friendly, from pubs and hotels to shops and restaurants. The Kennel Club wants to see more places opening their doors to dogs and runs an annual competition to reward the most dog friendly venues in the UK.

Licensed clubs can run competitions for fun dog sports such as agility, which helps to keep both dog and owner healthy.

The Kennel Club **organises and licences** some great days out for you and your dog covering a range of different pursuits such as agility, bloodhound trials, canicross, companion dog shows, dog showing, field trials and working gundogs, flyball, heelwork to music, obedience, rally and working trials.

The Kennel Club established the **Young Kennel Club** in 1985, which encourages young people aged 6-24 years old to take an interest in caring, and training for and activities with dogs.