

Enclosure 2

ANIMAL WELFARE LEGISLATION IN THE NORDIC COUNTRIES

Norway

In Norway, the animal welfare act states that

“Breeding shall promote traits which give robust animals with good function and health. Breeding (including gene technology), shall not be carried out in such a way that:

- a. genes are changed in a way that influences the animals’ physical or mental functions in a negative way, or passes on such genes,
- b. reduces the animals’ ability to perform natural behaviour, or
- c. leads to public ethical reactions.

Animals with genes mentioned in the second article shall not be used for further breeding.”.

(Norwegian Animal Welfare Act, 25 § Breeding)

Sweden

In Sweden, the animal welfare legislation is being revised at the moment. The current law states that such animal breeding, which may cause suffering to the animals, is prohibited.

Dogs and cats (Chapter 1. § 24): Animals must not be used in breeding if

1. they have diseases or disabilities which can be inherited,
2. they are or are very likely homozygotes for a recessive gene causing an illness,
3. they are or are very likely carriers of a single recessive gene for a disease unless the pairing is done with an individual who is found free of the corresponding genes,
4. the mating combination, on the basis of available information, increases the risk of illness or disability in the offspring,
5. they exhibit behavioral disorders in the form of excessive fear responses or aggressive behavior in unprovoked or for the animal everyday situations, or
6. they lack the ability to reproduce in a natural way.

Chapter 1. 25 §: A bitch or a female cat that has gone through two Caesarean sections may not be used for further breeding.

Ministry of Agriculture may grant case by case exceptions, if a given breed has, for example, a very small genetic population.

Proposal for the new Swedish Animal Protection Act:

14 § Breeding with such an orientation as to cause distress to the mother animal or progeny is prohibited.

Animals should be bred in such a way that they can naturally give birth to their offspring. Breeding should have such a focus that it gives the offspring normal body functions such as being able to breathe and move freely and be able to use their senses without causing suffering.

The government or the authority authorized by the government may issue regulations on conditions for breeding and exemptions from the ban on breeding that could cause suffering or affect the animals' natural behaviour.

The government or the authority authorized by the government may issue regulations on the reporting requirements for veterinarians regarding defects or other complications caused by breeding.

Finland

The Animal Welfare Act is being revised. The current law is from 1996:

§ 8 Animal breeding and genetic engineering

Animal welfare aspects as well as animal health have to be taken into account in animal breeding.

Such animal breeding or use of breeding methods that may cause suffering or significant damage to the health or welfare of the animal is prohibited.

In addition to the provisions of subsection 1, the use of gene technology to modify animal production quantitatively or qualitatively is prohibited if it may have an adverse effect on animal health or welfare.

Animal Protection Regulation, § 24 Animal breeding

Any breeding method that causes or is likely to cause suffering or harm to the animal may not be used.

Denmark

Animal breeding is regulated by the Danish Animal Welfare Act and by the Danish Act on Professional Trading and Breeding of Dogs. The Animal Welfare Act is in a process of revision at present. Breeding is not regulated in details but §12 stk.3 states that "The minister can determine rules regarding the breeding of family animals".

The Act on Professional Trading and Breeding of Dogs was enacted in 2010 and revised in 2015. The aim of this act is to make a more detailed description of the conditions under which dogs should be kept. The following persons are covered by the act:

1. Breeders that produce three or more litters with three or more bitches per year.
2. Persons that acquire dogs for resale
3. Persons that run shelters or boarding kennels with more than four dogs at a time

The act describes, among others, the minimum requirements for the dog's environment with respect to in- and outdoor facilities and, required management measures to ensure the dog's health. In addition, the act states that the person responsible for the dogs must be properly educated with certified knowledge of topics like dog behaviour, breed characteristics, hygiene, nutrition, general health and emergency treatment. The Danish Kennel Club provides an education that is approved by the authorities.

Finally, a veterinarian must visit the kennel for inspection four times a year to ensure that the act is respected.

Enclosure 3a

Registration numbers of the three pilot breeds in the Nordic countries

The French Bulldog shows the largest increase in registration numbers, closely followed by the Pug. Registration numbers for the English Bulldog have been more stable with smaller fluctuations. Nordic populations of the pilot breeds comprise only a small fraction of the populations worldwide. These breeds are among the most popular breeds in the world.

Boston terrier may be a new upcoming brachycephalic breed. Registration numbers in Denmark alone have gone up from 37 in 2006 to 106 in 2015 (Norway: 70 in 2006, 138 in 2015).

Denmark is the only Nordic country with mandatory chip marking and registration of all dogs in the country, regardless of origin or breed, in a national dog registry (Danish Dog Registry). Due to this, it has been possible to demonstrate an increase in the number of brachycephalic dogs bred outside the Danish Kennel Club (DKC).

It is a common experience from the countries with mandatory chip marking of all dogs, that when a breed becomes a “fashion breed”, registration numbers increase far more rapidly outside the organized kennel club systems than within. Thus, the kennel clubs’ share of the population decreases. A fair share of the brachycephalic dogs outside the kennel clubs come from countries in Eastern Europe where some of them are produced by reckless breeders and puppy mills. This constitutes a serious challenge in improving the general health of the dogs.

In 2007, approximately one third of all French bulldogs in the Danish Dog Registry had a DKC pedigree (35 %). This share dropped to 15 % in 2015 and it is a general trend seen in other breeds as well; when popularity of a breed goes up – the DKC share goes down.

In Norway, there is a separate chip registry for all dogs, NKK registered or not. Although chip marking is not mandatory for dogs in Norway, and the numbers hence has several weaknesses, the difference between ID-marked individuals and NKK registration numbers may give an indication of the problem with unregistered dogs. In 2015, the number of NKK registered French bulldogs comprises 62 % of all dogs ID-marked claiming to be French bulldogs. The corresponding percentages for English bulldogs and pugs are 71 and 73 %, respectively.

We may have a similar situation in the other Nordic countries as well, but the extent is difficult to estimate. Nevertheless, this issue presents one of the main problems regarding the implementation of mandatory tests for brachycephalic dogs before breeding before they are allowed to breed from. If tests are mandatory only for kennel club registered dogs, we would miss a large number of dogs outside this registry. In addition, if the kennel club

breeders find the procedures too comprehensive, we might push even more breeders away from our organized kennel club systems. This aspect has to be taken into account when recommendations are formulated.

Tables: Development in registration numbers over the last ten years in each of the Nordic countries and in total.

French bulldog	2006	2010	2015
Denmark (DKK)	239	479	320
Finland (FKK)	173	552	540
Norway (NKK)	73	309	297
Sweden (SKK)	250	651	778
All Nordic countries	735	1991	1935

English bulldog	2006	2010	2015
Denmark (DKK)	124	107	201
Finland (FKK)	212	293	157
Norway (NKK)	83	129	119
Sweden (SKK)	131	157	149
All Nordic countries	550	686	626

Pug	2006	2010	2015
Denmark (DKK)	107	266	184
Finland (FKK)	252	389	332
Norway (NKK)	163	314	184
Sweden (SKK)	316	512	737
All Nordic countries	838	1481	1437