



THE KENNEL CLUB
Making a difference for dogs

Dear Breed Club Secretary

This letter is urgent and requires your immediate attention.

We are all going through difficult times and the Kennel Club is conscious of the need for tangible change to underline the fact that we all care deeply about the health of our pedigree dogs.

I hope that you will have had time to read the Kennel Club's 'future plans' document which was sent to all Club Secretaries some two weeks ago.

CODES OF ETHICS

In this document you will have read of the Kennel Club's intention to require that all **registered Breed Clubs adopt, with immediate effect, the KC's newly amended Code of Ethics** as their own. A version which can be downloaded so that your club's name or logo may be added can be found at <http://www.thekennelclub.org.uk/item/480>. This document must replace your Club's existing Code of Ethics anywhere that it is published. Failure to do this will result in consideration of de-registration of your Club and we would ask you to **confirm that this has been done by returning the form enclosed**.

The KC recognises that some Clubs will have other clauses incorporated in their current code and if Clubs wish to continue to include such clauses they need to apply to the KC before they do so. Such requests will be considered as they relate to the health and wellbeing of the breed concerned and may be included in the Breed Club Code of Ethics once permission has been granted by the Kennel Club.

I apologise that this requirement is uncompromising but I am sure we all understand the importance of this step for the future of our breeds.

HEALTH SURVEILLANCE

While writing I would like to suggest that **Clubs which do not yet have a breed health committee or representative should give urgent consideration to ensuring that one or other of these is in place**. This committee/representative should be tasked with ensuring that breed health matters are monitored, areas of concern identified and relayed to the Kennel Club via the Club's annual return. If there are specific issues that need to be addressed, these can be taken up either with Diana Brooks-Ward or Jeff Sampson, via diana.brooks-ward@thekennelclub.org.uk or jeff.sampson@thekennelclub.org.uk.



ACCREDITED BREEDER SCHEME

A further positive step that we can all take is to **encourage membership of the Accredited Breeder Scheme** since this is the most effective way of making it clear to everyone that we put health at the top of our agenda when breeding dogs. You as a club are invited to help tailor the scheme to suit the needs of your breed.

HANDLING THE MEDIA

I would also take the opportunity to remind you that the Kennel Club runs regular seminars on 'Handling the Media' and **it would be beneficial to your Club to ensure that a spokesperson for the Club has been nominated and is suitably informed.** I enclose a copy of the KC guide on this subject for your reference. The next seminar will be held in February 2009 – further details will be sent out in due course.

BREED HEALTH PLAN

Finally – and crucially – I would ask you to **ensure that you have a committee meeting set up for the early part of December 2008** since by this time you will have been sent a health plan for your breed which will require urgent consideration by your committee in order that you are able to give feedback to the KC by the end of that month. The plans will be communicated widely in early January.

Thank you for your time in reading this letter and we look forward to receiving confirmation that your Code of Ethics has been updated.

Yours sincerely



Caroline Kisko
Kennel Club Secretary