

# DogsNZ Health Testing Strategy and the Importance of LRL's

The home of healthy, active and well mannered dogs

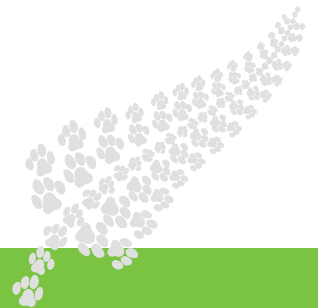




# DogsNZ Health Testing Strategy and the Importance of LRL's

Canine Health & Welfare Committee

ACOD 25<sup>th</sup> June 2022



RESEARCH

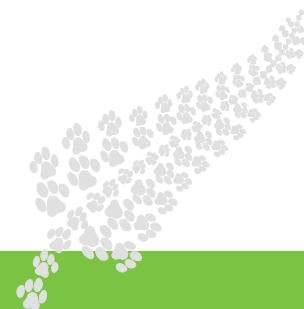
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## Health of Pug dogs in the UK: disorder predispositions and protections

Dan G. O'Neill<sup>1\*</sup>, Jaya Sahota<sup>1</sup>, Dave C. Brodbelt<sup>1</sup>, David B. Church<sup>2</sup>, Rowena M.A. Packer<sup>2</sup> and Camilla Pegram<sup>1</sup>

**Conclusions:** The current study highlights that predispositions outnumber protections between Pugs and non-Pugs for common disorders, suggesting some critical health welfare challenges to overcome for Pugs. *Highly differing health profiles between Pugs and other dogs in the UK suggest that the Pug has **diverged substantially from main-stream dog breeds and can no longer be considered as a typical dog from a health perspective.***




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# How much is that doodle in the window? Exploring motivations and behaviours of UK owners acquiring designer crossbreed dogs (2019-2020)

E. Burnett<sup>1,2</sup>, C. L. Brand<sup>1</sup>, D. G. O'Neill<sup>3</sup>, C. L. Pegram<sup>3</sup>, Z. Belshaw<sup>4</sup>, K. B. Stevens<sup>3</sup> and R. M. A. Packer<sup>1\*</sup> 



**Conclusions:** The recent boom in designer crossbreeds in the UK has been fuelled by a desire for perceived hypoallergenic and generally healthy dogs that fit the lifestyles of households with children and limited experience with dogs. Some sought-after traits in designer crossbreeds are misconceptions that risk canine welfare, including relinquishment risk, if owner expectations are not met.

**Purchasing practices fuelling this boom support irresponsible breeding and selling practices, which combined with reduced pressure for health testing from buyers, may result in a higher disease burden and poorer future welfare for this growing designer dog population.**



# Current Legislative Tools



## Minimum Standard No. 7 – Breeding

Breeders must make all reasonable efforts to ensure that the genetic make-up of both sire and dam will not result in an increase in the frequency or severity of known inherited disorders.

### Recommended Best Practice

- a) Breeders should report the occurrence of inherited disorders to the Dogs New Zealand Canine Health committee to assist progress in reducing these disorders and identify carrier dogs.
- b) Breeders should follow a documented scheme that allows for monitoring and eventual prevention of known inherited disorders.
- c) Dogs and bitches should not be kept together if there is a risk of accidental mating.
- d) All dogs being considered for mating should be tested for inherited disorders where such tests are available. For those inherited disorders where no suitable test is available, occurrence of inherited disorders in their genealogy should be assessed. Veterinary or other appropriate advice should be sought in this respect.

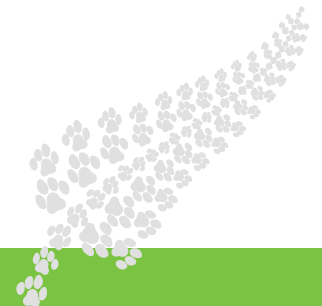
Code of Welfare

Dogs

1 October 2018

Issued under the Animal Welfare Act 1980

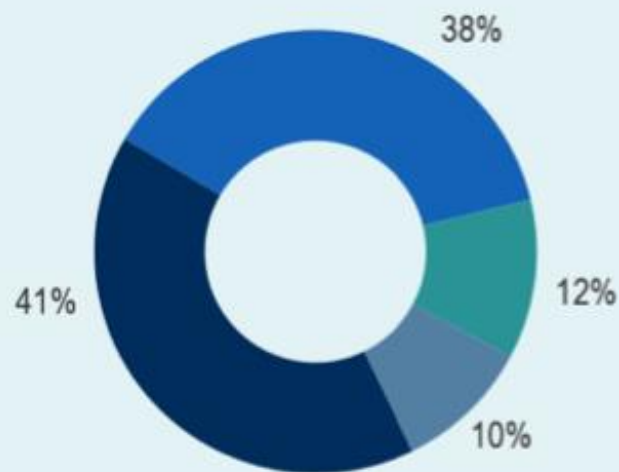
New Zealand Government



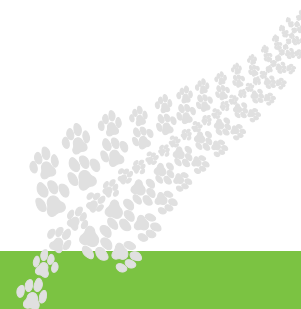
# Dogs in NZ



- Mixed / non pure breed
- Pure breed
- Registered pedigree
- Designer breed



*Companion Animals in New Zealand 2020*





# DogsNZ Strategy

## Strategic Priority Five

### Promoting Canine Health and Welfare and effective advocacy for pedigree breeds

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- Key initiatives in this plan include
  - Expansion of the LRL scheme
  - Breeders Code of Conduct
  - Health testing programs and developments
  - Monitoring of the health of pedigree dogs in NZ via the Judges Breed Observation program
  - Strategic relationships with regulatory and other canine health and welfare bodies





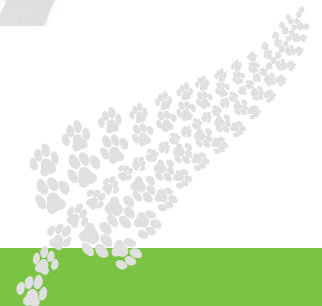
# LRL's (Litter registration limitation)



- Specifies mandatory parental health tests re puppies of that breed.
- Current DNZ priority to incorporate LRL's for
  - Most popular breeds
  - "At risk breeds"

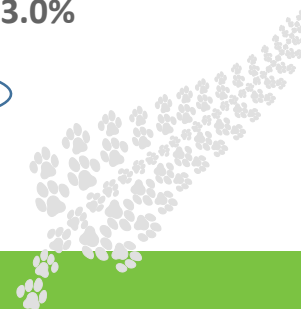
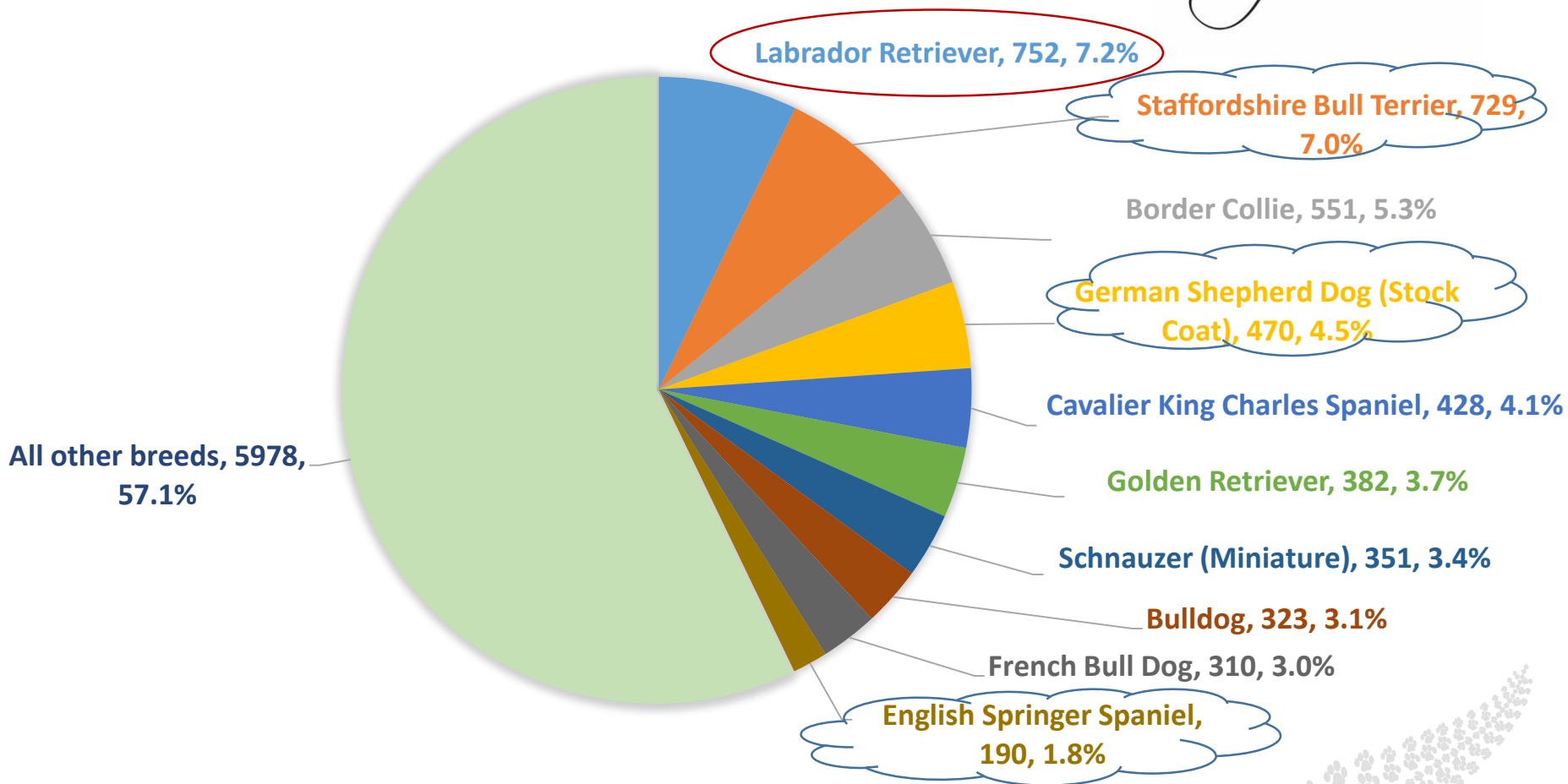
*We need prospective puppy owners to say "I want a registered pup because I am much less likely to have problems"*

*Dr Mike Getting (Labrador Retrievers)*

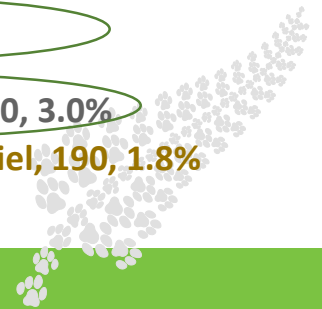
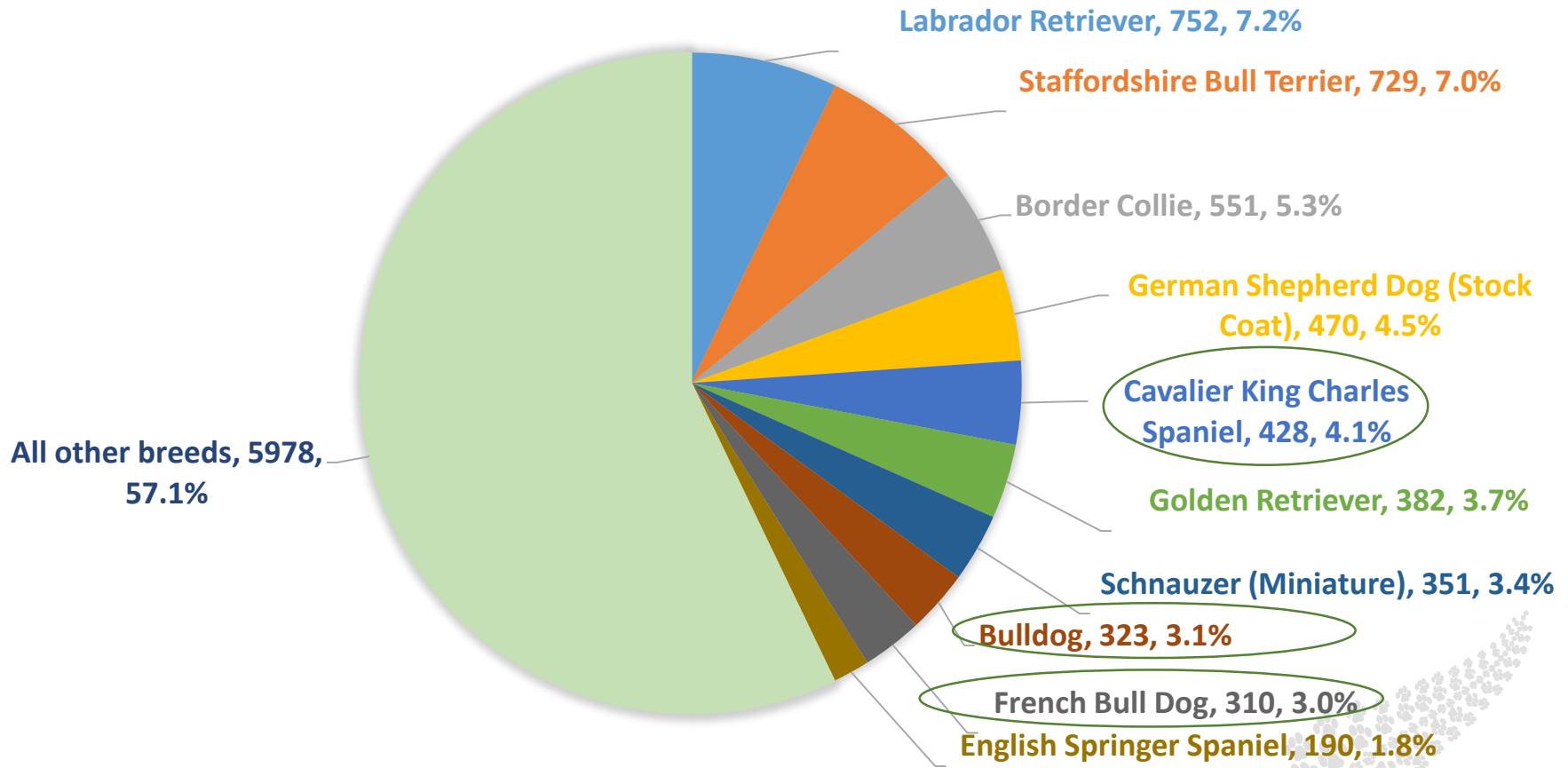


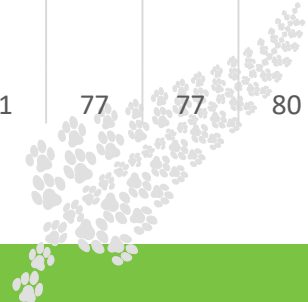


# LRL's – popular breeds



# LRL's for "at risk" (brachycephalic) breeds





# LRL progress



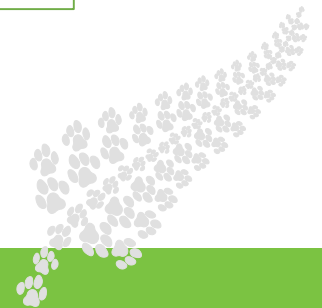
## Completed

- Labrador retrievers
- Pugs
- Rottweilers
- Bouvier des Flandres



## In process

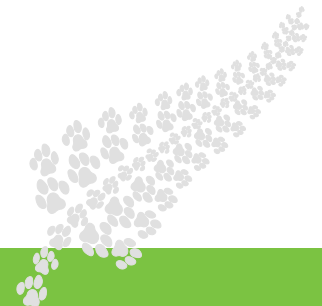
- English Springer Spaniel
- Staffordshire Bull Terriers
- German Shepherd Dogs (Stock & Long coat)
- Dachshund (all 6 varieties)



# LRL's going forward



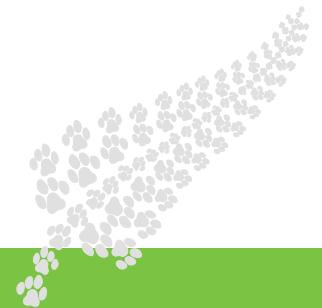
- More LRL's are needed to provide critical “mass” to support the concept of responsible pedigree dog breeding
- LRL's are club and breed driven
  - All tests are decided on and confirmed by consensus within clubs and breeders
  - CHWC offers assistance and information when requested to support LRL initiatives.



# Summary



- As breeders and breed enthusiasts we must recognize that the world has changed - health and welfare issues are used to undermine the very existence of pedigree dogs.
- DNZ must take a strong lead in the promotion of the health & welfare of pedigree dogs in NZ
  - Has strategy for this
- LRL's are a critical part of that strategy
  - they are **not** DNZ initiated, rather they are DNZ supported tool
  - they are **breed club and breeder** driven

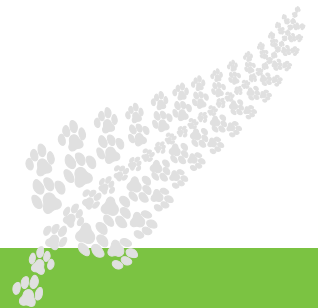




# What next?

- Canine health & welfare is the responsibility of all breeders and breed enthusiasts
- Breeders and breed clubs must individually step up and take responsibility and be accountable
- LRL's are a great start
  - They are a proactive scheme addressing breeding practices & hereditary disease
  - Government regulation on dog breeding may yet be strengthened

.....Conversations are an even better start





# Questions

