



June 17, 2022

David A. Helming  
Show Chair  
Westminster Kennel Club  
111 Broadway, Ste. 805  
New York, NY 10006

Dear Mr. Helming:

I'm writing to request that you remove brachycephalic breeds, including but not limited to pugs, Pekingese, English bulldogs, French bulldogs, and Cavalier King Charles spaniels, from the 2022 Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show.

Many bulldogs, pugs, Pekingese, and other flat-faced breeds can barely breathe—let alone go for a walk or chase a ball—without gasping for air, because they have been bred to have unnaturally shortened airways. This unnatural process results in enormous suffering, hefty veterinary bills, and heartbreak for dog guardians, as you must know.

A recent [study conducted by the Royal Veterinary College](#) found that “the Pug has now diverged to such an extent from mainstream dog breeds that it can no longer be considered as a typical dog from a health perspective.” Dr. Dan G. O’Neill, lead author of the study, [concluded](#), “It is time now that we focus on the health of the dog rather than the whims of the owner.”

Earlier this year, a [court in Norway ruled](#) that the breeding of brachycephalic dogs is cruel and results in human-created health problems. Following the ruling, [veterinarian Dr. Scott Miller](#) said, “All kennel clubs have to take responsibility that they set those breeding standards, and those standards have become so insane that these dogs are struggling. They’re in pain, they’re uncomfortable and in a lot of cases, they need surgical correction to be normal.”

Of course, adopting a homeless dog is far more considerate than breeding a new dog. But removing breeds prone to deformity and suffering from this highly publicized event is the least that the Westminster Kennel Club could do. We ask for your consideration, for dogs’ sake.

Very truly yours,

Ingrid Newkirk  
President

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