



The Shih Tzu Club of Finland  
24 May 2020

We are deeply concerned and upset about the situation in the Netherlands at the moment regarding the breeding regulations implemented for Shih Tzu and other brachycephalic breeds.

These new restrictions regarding the muzzle length on breeding brachycephalic breeds are contrary to the actual facts and scientific evidence. The causes of BOAS (Brachycephalic Obstructive Airways Syndrome) are much more complex and wide ranging than simply the length of the muzzle.

We have made veterinary supervised tests here in Finland to find out do we have respiratory problems in pedigree Shih Tzus, and the results so far have been, that we do not. We take every health issue seriously and have taken actions to investigate and prevent them.

Shih Tzu is an ancient breed which has recorded history going back 1000 years. Shih Tzu has been successfully bred across the world for decades and it is a known fact worldwide that the Shih Tzu is a long-lived breed with few health issues. There is no scientific evidence that we know of that proves a longer muzzle would improve the life of Shih Tzus. Therefore, Shih Tzu is not a breed which should even be subject to this regulation.

This kind of regulation is only going to lead to more puppy farming and that way to more suffering for the dogs that are bred only to make money for their owners. These backyard breeders and puppy mills that make puppies without any concern about the health, temperament or even basic wellbeing of the dogs are the real problem.

The responsible breeders of the pedigree dogs in the Netherlands can be assured they have our total support in the campaign to reverse this wrongly justified and inconceivable regulation. We will plead also to the authorities around the world not to be misled by thinking they are doing something good for the dogs by regulations like this.

On behalf of the Shih Tzu Club of Finland

Jennika Orpana  
chairwoman