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The Kennel Club January 2016

Dear Sirs

I have been asked by the Bull Terrier Club and the West of England Bull Terrier Club to write to you with regard to your correspondence to judges concerning Fit for Function/ Breed Watch, under the heading Bull Terriers and Bull Terriers (Miniature) with Points of Concern being "Misplaced lower canines".

The consensus of opinion from the above clubs is that all-rounder judges seem to interpret your guidelines in this particular instance as being a disqualification and we have seen dogs being dismissed from the show ring who have misplaced canines. In the Kennel Club Bull Terrier Breed Standard under "Mouth" there is no mention of canines.

Although our clubs wholeheartedly support the Kennel Club's Breed Watch scheme from the point of view of gathering information as an early warning system, it has not been proven that misplaced canines are hereditary or that it causes discomfort/pain, indeed feedback from breeders indicates that normally when the canines are misplaced the soft tissue in the roof of the mouth accommodates the teeth as they develop. Personally over the years I have been to quite a few seminars on the subject of dentition/jaws and spoken to specialists in genetics and mandibles and there appears to be no definitive answer as to why this particular mouth variation occurs. Having said the above of course we would rather not see misplaced canines, but as your own former geneticist Dr Jeff Sampson once said in a seminar I attended "don't throw the baby out with the bath water".

Therefore we would like to see an amendment under Points of Concern, with the wording being "Misplaced lower canines, please note this is not a disqualification".

I trust the above will be given your consideration and look forward to hearing from you.

Yours faithfully
Linda McGregor – Bull Terrier Breed Liaison Council Representative

THE KENNEL CLUB
Making a difference for dogs

4th July 2016

Dear Linda

Re: Misplaced Lower Canine Teeth – Bull Terrier

The Breed Standards and Conformation Sub-Group at its meeting on 8th June 2016 decided that the condition, misplaced lower canine teeth will remain on Breed Watch for the Bull Terrier. The condition is still being recorded as present in the breed by Judges as shown on the attached Annual Summaries for 2014 & 2015. The group have provided additional comments below.

"Breed Watch serves as an 'early warning system' to identify points of concern for individual breeds. Its primary purpose is to enable anyone involved in the world of dogs, but in particular dog show Judges, to find out about any breed specific conformational issues which may lead to health problems.

Guidance to judges is that no matter how outstanding an exhibit appears in relation to the breed standard, in general terms prizes should never be awarded to dogs which are visibly suffering from any condition which would adversely affect their health or welfare. However KC breed standards are clear in that there are no faults which should serve as a disqualification.

The decision on how to place dogs must remain with the judge who is expected to make such decisions based on their extensive experience of dogs as owners and breeders. They are also made aware that decisions made by them in the show ring may strongly influence future breeding plans, and are expected to make placements once considering all these factors."

Yours sincerely

Charlotte McNamara
Health Education & Engagement Manager
The Kennel Club
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FIT FOR FUNCTION
BREED WATCH

Bull Terrier

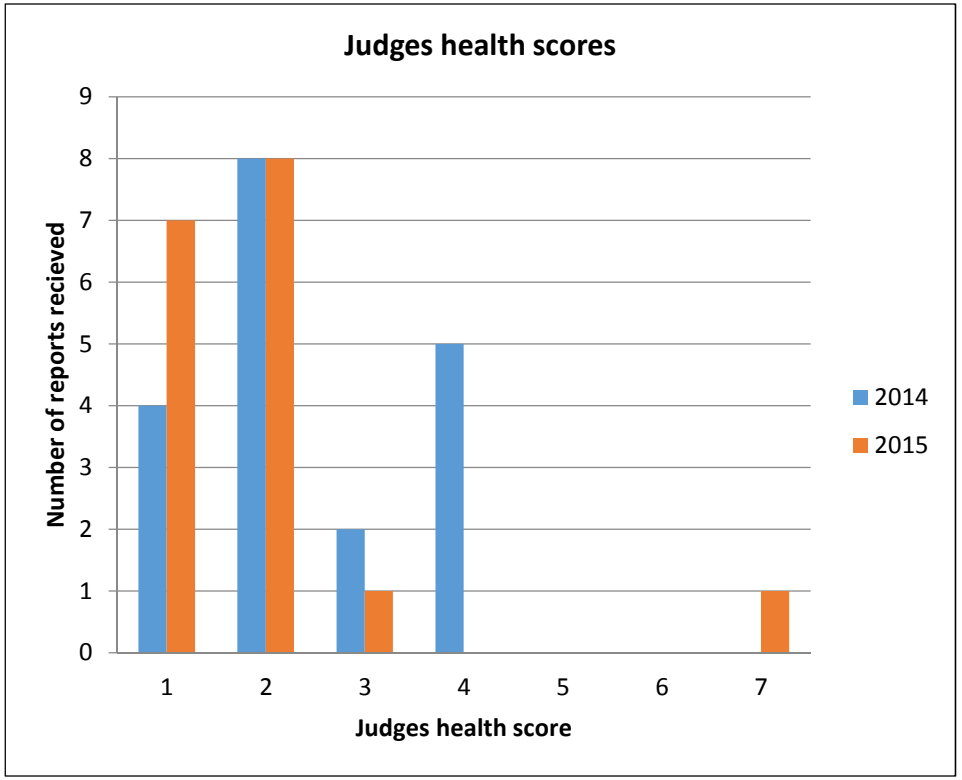
The following list of BreedWatch Points were collated from Judges Health Monitoring Forms between 01/01/2014 to 31/12/2014. Points may appear more than once as they have been highlighted at different shows. The below displays points of concern in alphabetical order from individual shows, the Total number of dogs affected by the point of concern listed, compared to the total number of dogs exhibited. Please note that some dogs may be present at several shows.

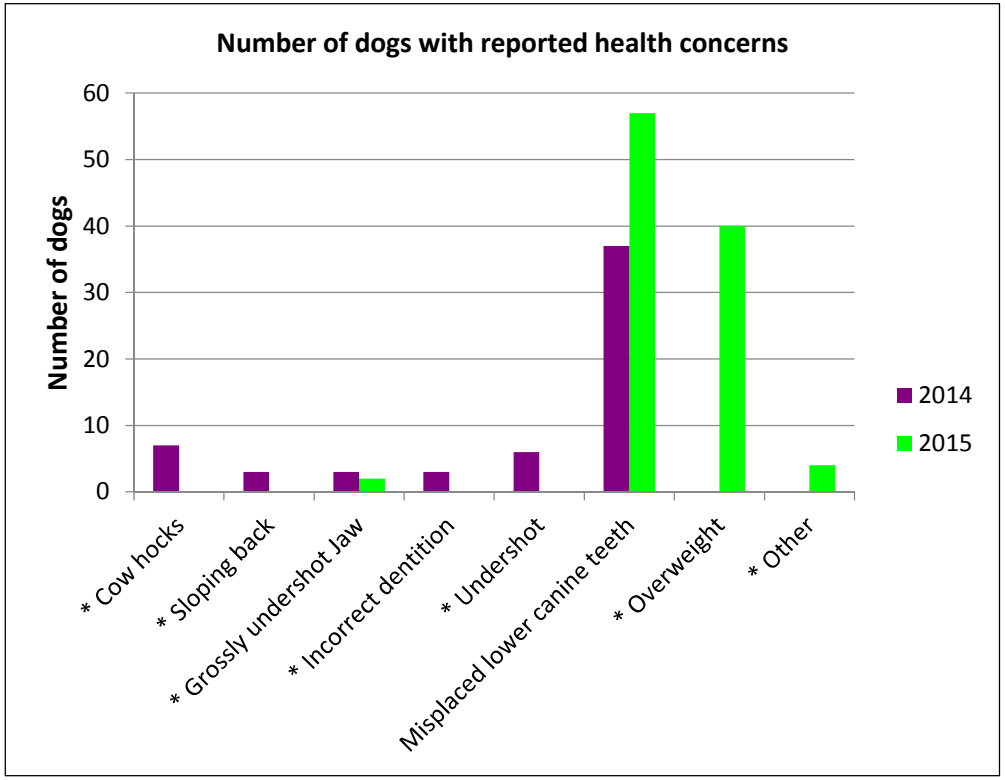
Description type	BreedWatch Point	Judges Additional Reason	Number of affected dogs exhibited at the show	Total number of dogs exhibited
Teeth	Misplaced lower canine teeth		4	32
Teeth	Misplaced lower canine teeth		2	39
Teeth	Misplaced lower canine teeth		1	22
Teeth	Misplaced lower canine teeth		4	34
Teeth	Misplaced lower canine teeth		1	23
Teeth	Misplaced lower canine teeth	3 with both canines misplaced, 3 with one canine misplaced	6	35
Teeth	Misplaced lower canine teeth	1 instanding canine. 4 with tight canines touching the outside of the gum.	5	41
Teeth	Misplaced lower canine teeth		4	32
Teeth	Misplaced lower canine teeth		2	35
Teeth	Misplaced lower canine teeth		4	31
Teeth	Misplaced lower canine teeth		3	32
Teeth	Misplaced lower canine teeth		5	37

FIT FOR FUNCTION
BREED WATCH

Bull Terrier

The following list of BreedWatch Points were collated from Judges Health Monitoring Forms between 01/01/2015 to 31/12/2015. The below displays the points of concern and the judges breed health monitoring score. Please note that some dogs may be present at several shows.





Breed Watch Points of Concern
Misplaced lower canine teeth

Information/Commentary	Numbers
Total Dogs shown in 2014	708
Total Dogs shown in 2015	682
Judges Reports Received	20
Average Dogs Shown	34.1
Newly Reported Issues by Judges	Grossly undershot Jaw and Overweight

THE KENNEL CLUB
Making a difference for dogs

4th July 2016

Dear Linda

Re: Misplaced Lower Canine Teeth – Bull Terrier (Miniature)

The Breed Standards and Conformation Sub-Group at its meeting on 8th June 2016 decided that the condition, misplaced lower canine teeth will remain on Breed Watch for the Bull Terrier(Miniature). The condition is still being recorded as present in the breed by Judges as shown on the attached Annual Summaries for 2014 & 2015. The group have provided additional comments below.

"Breed Watch serves as an 'early warning system' to identify points of concern for individual breeds. Its primary purpose is to enable anyone involved in the world of dogs, but in particular dog show Judges, to find out about any breed specific conformational issues which may lead to health problems.

Guidance to judges is that no matter how outstanding an exhibit appears in relation to the breed standard, in general terms prizes should never be awarded to dogs which are visibly suffering from any condition which would adversely affect their health or welfare. However KC breed standards are clear in that there are no faults which should serve as a disqualification.

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Yours sincerely

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FIT FOR FUNCTION
BREED WATCH

Bull Terrier (Miniature)

The following list of BreedWatch Points were collated from Judges Health Monitoring Forms between 01/01/2014 to 31/12/2014. Points may appear more than once as they have been highlighted at different shows. The below displays points of concern in alphabetical order from individual shows, the Total number of dogs affected by the point of concern listed, compared to the total number of dogs exhibited. Please note that some dogs may be present at severa shows.

Description type	BreedWatch Point	Judges Additional Reason	Number of affected dogs exhibited at the show	Total number of dogs exhibited
Teeth	Misplaced lower canine teeth	not severe	6	63
Teeth	Misplaced lower canine teeth	Instanding canines	2	46
Teeth	Misplaced lower canine teeth		1	37
Teeth	Misplaced lower canine teeth		13	26
Teeth	Misplaced lower canine teeth		1	22
Teeth	Misplaced lower canine teeth		1	22
Teeth	Misplaced lower canine teeth	One was still a puppy so could come true	2	34
Teeth	Misplaced lower canine teeth		2	27
Teeth	Misplaced lower canine teeth		2	22
Teeth	Misplaced lower canine teeth		3	30

FIT FOR FUNCTION
BREED WATCH

Bull Terrier (Miniature)

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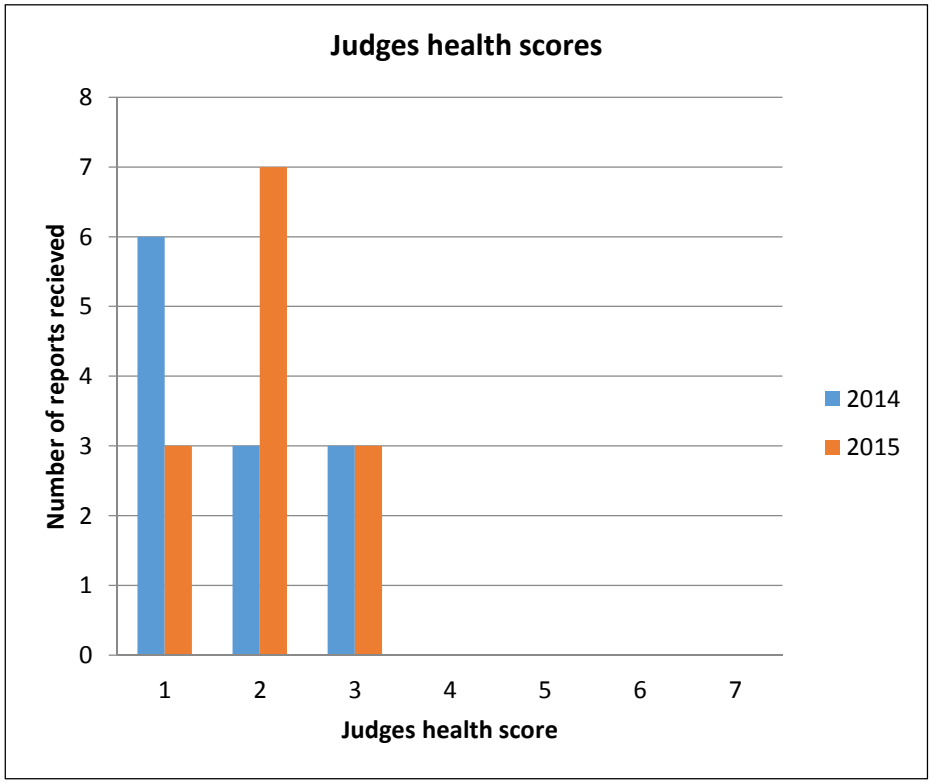

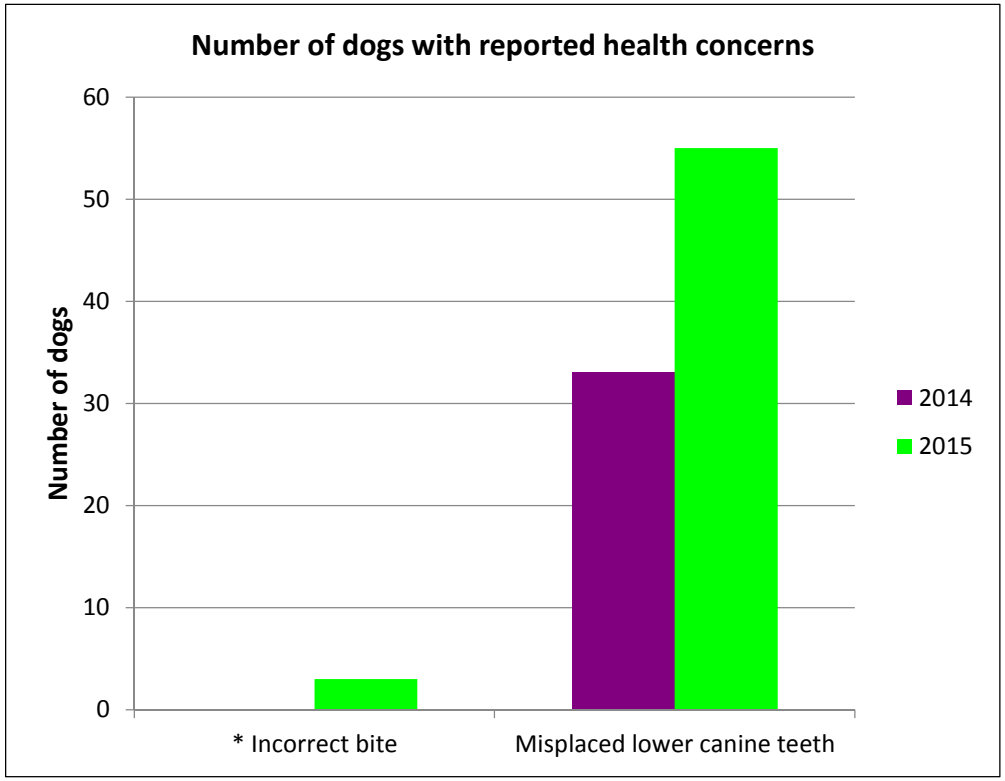

Breed Watch Points of Concern
Misplaced lower canine teeth

Information/Commentary	Numbers
Total Dogs shown in 2014	421
Total Dogs shown in 2015	465
Judges Reports Received	13
Average Dogs Shown	35.77
Newly Reported Issues by Judges	Incorrect bite