

The 2nd Int Workshop on Enhancement of Genetic Health in Purebred Dogs, 14-15 February 2015, Dortmund

**The dog show sport - a breed quality guarantee
or just an other attractive competitive sport ?**

**Interventions for anatomical soundness and
avoidance of extreme phenotypes**

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Do dogshows really lead to breeding of unsound dogs?

Are exaggerations in breed type rewarded by show judges so development towards defects is promoted?

YES!



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Basic assumptions

- The phenotype (what the judge can observe in the ring!) is basically genetically determined!
- The dog show winners are the preferred breeding stock.
- The genotype is influenced by the selections by show judges.



Areas of risk and "defect genes"

- The specific breed type characteristics described in the standards are often determined by genes which do not occur in nature – thus by definition "defect genes"
- At best breeders and judges should agree on the risk that "defect genes" can cause problems if unblanced... and together define the "areas of risk" manifested in the typical looks.





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teddy

**How to create an international
unanimous language and respect
for the deleterious effects of
exaggerations in showdogs?**



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Can internationally accepted breed standards improve the protection?



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Breed standards never ask for exaggerations

But are the standards good enough to protect breeds against type exaggerations? Often based on "oral traditions" – vague with unprecise adjectives - and lists of faults but rarely Lists of merits!

Standards are easily misused and overinterpreted -



The boxer breed standard is "international" and explicit enough

The muzzle shall be one third of the length of the head



Perfekt

INCORRECT

1:3



But do judges sufficiently respect the standard or are the extremes preferred?



1/3



1/4



<1/4



1/5

These four dogs are all champions



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- Standards need complements that define the "areas of risks" = The vulnerability of the breed type characteristics which have their genetically determination in genes not viably existing in nature (defect genes)



BSI is a **complement** to the breed standards for the listed breeds

The present NKU BSI document contains:

1. 39 high profile breeds
2. Detailed description of **areas of risk** related to the breed specific type characteristics: the information is formulated in agreement with the breed club
3. The attitude of BSI is recommendations and not rules! And is not a list of faults nor a manual.
4. The judges make written reports reports of the observations

The document also contains general information about breed types: Chondrodystrophics, brachycephalics, mollossoids, dwarfs. Instructions about assessing respirations and eye problems.



The BSI-instrument is based on five pillars.

- A group of experienced judges select a number of high risk breeds
- The pertinent breed clubs are approached for initiating a (continuous) dialogue
- Veterinary expertise and insurance statistics are consulted and this information is updated
- The national judges collective - general conferences for commenting on the selected breeds.
- Compiled information from the judges' BSI reports.



The BSI routines

- Written detailed BSI information before the show
- BSI briefing at the show
- Judges are contracted to make a report/evaluation after each assignment of any of the listed breeds, based on the judges general experience of the breed and what was observed
- The BSI-reports are compiled and statistically worked through and also sent to the breed clubs
- The list of breeds and the text are regularly updated based on the four basic pillars and the compiling information from the reports.

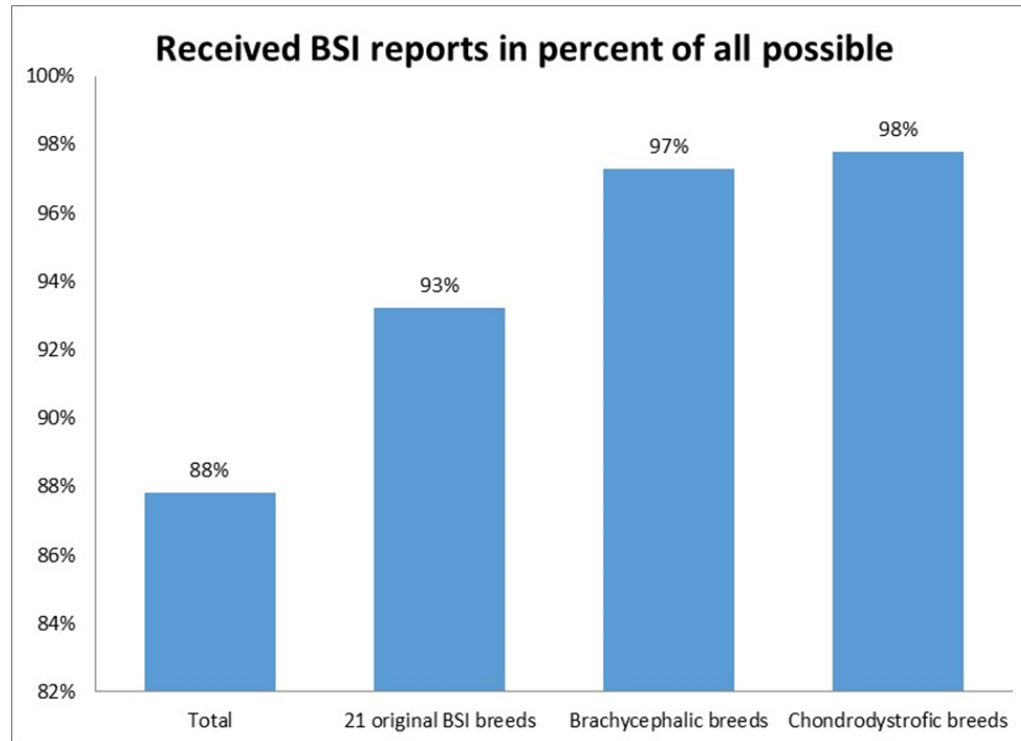


Swedish experiences 2009-2013

- BSI routines are working without problems and were surprisingly easy to introduce. Not complicated nor expensive!
- The general awareness of areas of risks due to type exaggerations was quickly raised. **In both judges and breeders.**
- The results are reliable and relevant only if the choices of areas of risk for each breed are adequate and the judges are able to use the instrument.
- The project is not strictly scientific but "good enough" for its purpose?
- The effect on the breeding of pedigree dogs can not be evaluated presently at this early stage (or ever??)



Received BSI reports 2.113 of 2.406 possible year 2013



BSI reports 2013- All BSI breeds

Breeds evaluated 2011- 21 original BSI breeds now evaluated 2009-13

Brachycephalic breeds: Dogue de B, English Bulldog, French Bulldog , Jap Chin, King Charles sp, Pug, Pekinese.

Chondrodystrophic breeds: Bulldog, French Bulldog, Pugs Pekinese



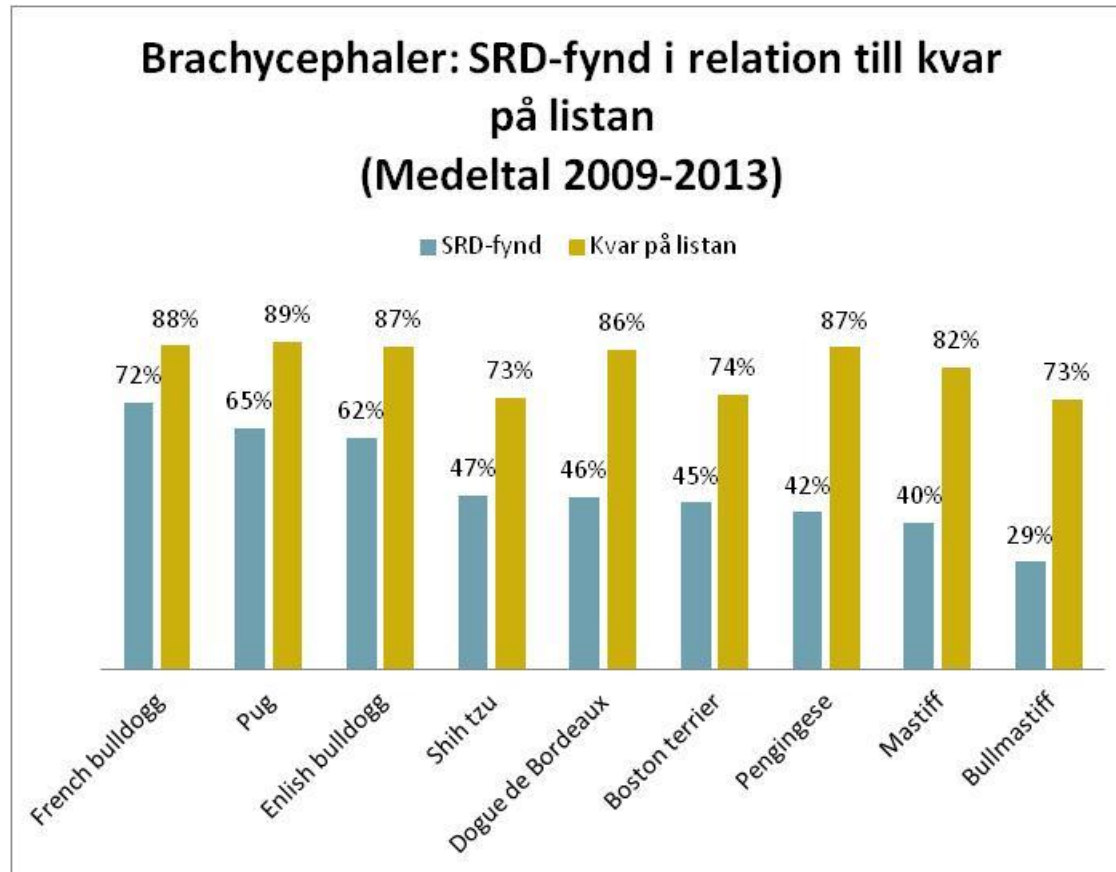
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Some important findings

- General and significant*** diminishing of reported BSI issues in the ***show population*** of the listed breeds.
- But judges still want to keep the risk breeds listed although show population improves. Good or Bad? Reflecting an increased awareness?
- Judges increasingly want the high profile breeds kept on the list (2009: 78% - 82% - 2012: 84% -) inspite of reporting diminishing number of faults in the areas of risk.
- Instruction: Use your general and international knowledge of the listed breed – not only what you observed at this show.



BSI-observations in brachycephalic breeds versus staying on the list



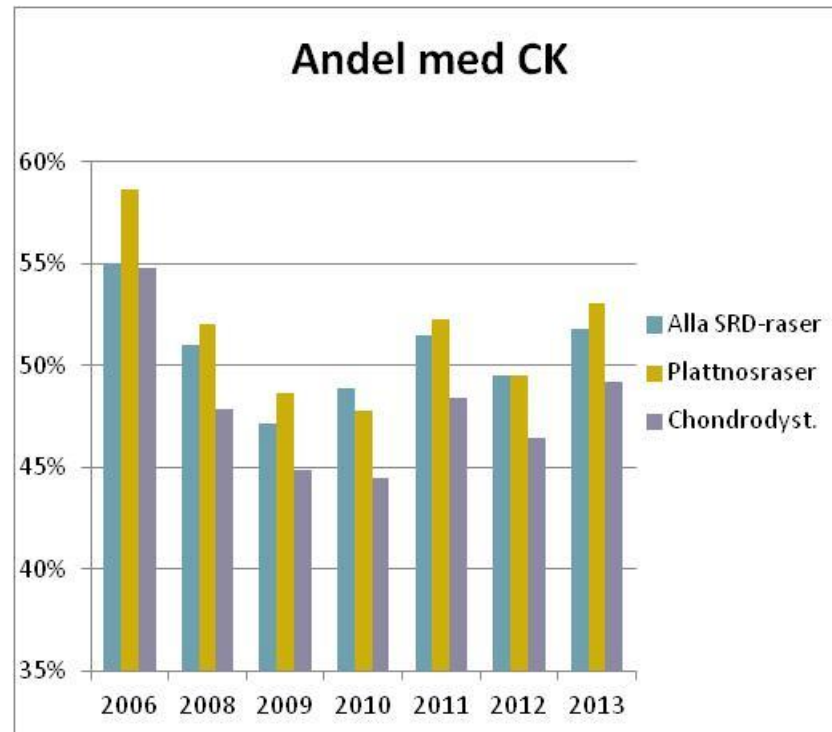
Does BSI influence the quality gradings?

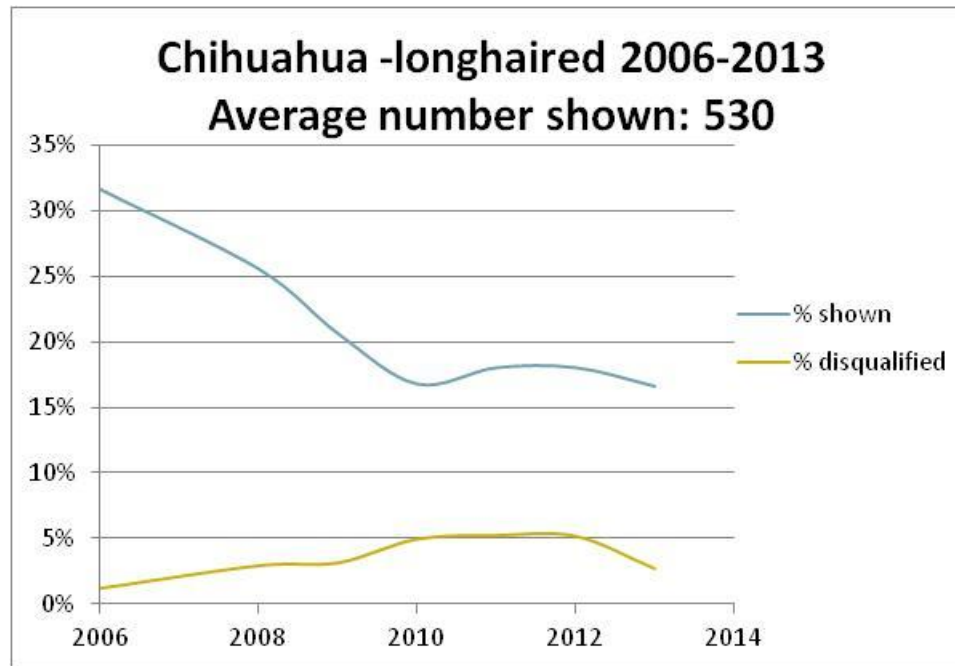
There is a significant** drop in CK:s for all listed breeds the first years - NOW A CATCH UP!

There was also an *increase* in numbers of awarded "Disqualified"



Percentage shown BSI dogs awarded champion-quality grade (CK)





%Shown = number shown in a year / number registered in previous 3 years
% disqualified = are calculated as rolling average



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The best and fastest ways?

- The dog show sport is global and is thus principally offering a fast and practical channel for consensus ambitions?
- Is internationally valid breed standards completed with a BSI concept a way?
- **Breed Specific Instructions (BSI)** for judges to observe the breed specific areas of risk and creating a consensus with breeders.



**Is BSI working? – Is this now a historic picture seen
inspite of the standard saying:**

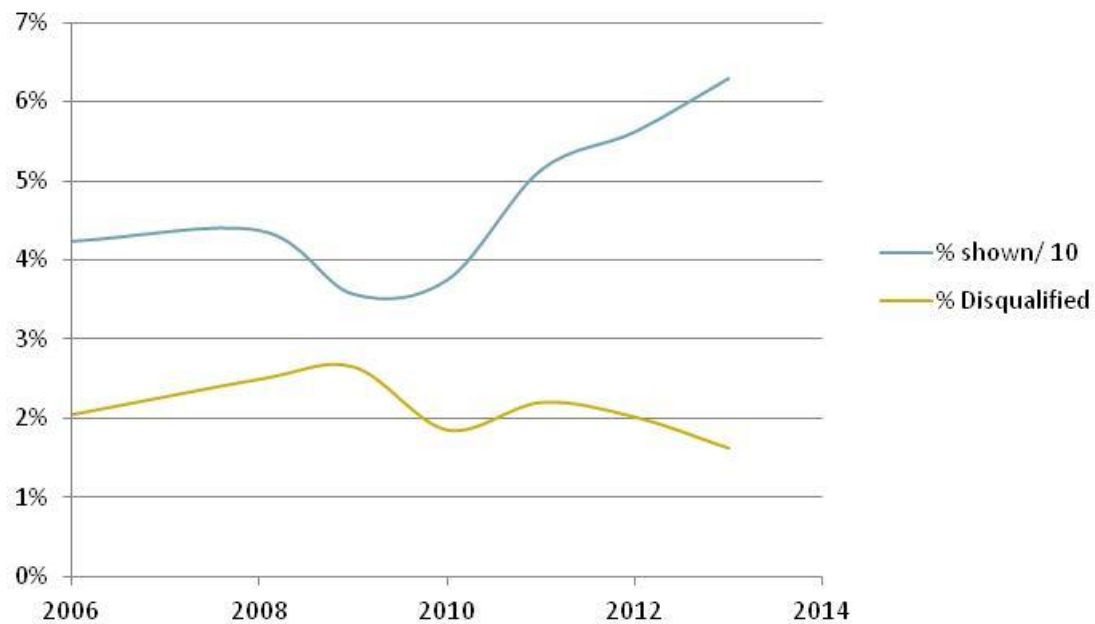
”Skin is supple and elastic without any exaggeration”.

*”en viss mängd löst liggande hud är
önskvärt”*



Basset hound 2006-2013

Average number shown: 118



%Shown = number shown in a year / number registered in previous 3 years, divided by 10

% disqualified = are calculated as rolling average



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Any risks with a BSI program?

- Encouraging judging for "medical correctness" – risks for impoverish true breed type? Harming the cynological cultural tradition?
- Stigmatisation of breeds by listing them?
- Increased administrative and economic burden?
- Further ?



Is this a modern sound "BSI basset" or is this a poor-typed compromise? A treachery against cynologic cultural history?



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BSI does not always work..... a BoB 2014



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Could a new quality grade ("Excessive" with value equal to "good"?) conceptualize the respect for exaggeration of type?



Insufficient



Good



Very good



Excellent



Excessive



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