

20th February 2022

Statement from the President of ACA

A meme posted on the ACA Facebook page on 7th February 2022 was removed following feedback claiming it implied ALL breeders of brachycephalic animals were to blame for the health issues highlighted by the Australian Veterinary Association (AVA) and a ban in Norway of certain breeds. Others felt ACA was supporting the ban in Norway.

That was not the intention of the meme and post.

ACA's goal is to ensure the long-term future of the brachycephalic breeds named by the AVA.

To be clear – ACA exists to protect BOTH the animals we keep AND the owners/breeders – BUT the welfare of the animals MUST come first, if the animals are lost then so too are all owners and breeders.

ACA represents ALL dog breeders not just those within registered organisations, as such we call on everyone to take notice and responsibility for the welfare of their dogs and cats.

Some facts...

FACT 1: Brachycephalic breeds are extremely popular – and rightly so – they have some wonderful traits and personalities. It would be a shame to lose them.

FACT 2: There is scientific and veterinary research supporting the fact SOME brachycephalic breeds do suffer more from unnecessary breathing, brain-related and some spinal (vertebrae) medical conditions. These CAN BE reduced and potentially eradicated through responsible breeding.

FACT 3: All breeders are responsible for the health and well-being of their animals – regardless of any standards that may be suggested, or lack of standards.

For the continuation of these breeds in Australia, ACA encourages all breeders to improve their breeds by utilising up to date advances in technology to health check their breed through regular relevant health testing to improve the welfare, health and well-being of your dogs. Higher welfare outcomes must always be paramount.

Extinction or banning of these breeds in Australia must be resisted at all costs – “it is not my problem” is no longer a viable response – we must all do our part. Continue to improve where you can and set the bar for others to follow.

Sadly the animal rights movement was successful in Norway. It's only a matter of time for it to happen in other countries and then Australia.

Australia now has the AVA, RSPCA Aust (and all states) and the Australian airlines all pushing for bans/restrictions of some form or another - if the animal rights groups jump on that bandwagon then the reality is a ban could easily be achieved here, which will ultimately affect registered and responsible breeders and not the unethical breeders.

Ultimately - the gate (precedent) has now been opened for a full ban on these breeds and that includes within Australia - we can't allow that to happen. Such a ban will open the floodgates to the Animal Rights extremists who look to ban all dog, cat and other species breeds.

As breeders, owners and buyers we must all take ownership of our responsibilities or else these breeds WILL be banned and become extinct in Australia.

We want to thank and applaud those breeders and organisations who are already reviewing their standards to ensure animal welfare is never compromised.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "M Donnelly". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'M' and a long, sweeping underline.

Michael Donnelly
President, Animal Care Australia.
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