



BULLDOG CLUB OF AMERICA

Position Statement

CANINE POPULATION ISSUES

The Bulldog Club of America (BCA) commends experienced breed enthusiasts who educate the public and other breeders about the need for long-term commitments and responsibilities. We encourage them to help new owners address issues that could result in the relinquishment of pets. National research organizations have reported that the majority of unwanted dogs in the United States come from owners who are unable or unwilling to train, socialize, and care for their dog.

Education to prevent relinquishment should include tenets of responsible pet ownership, including appropriate selection, the importance of spaying and neutering, keeping pets indoors or in restricted environments, preventing or solving behavioral problems, and consulting with veterinarians for information on these issues. Schools of veterinary medicine and veterinary technology should emphasize the prevention and/or solution of behavioral problems and other factors leading to dog relinquishment.

The BCA supports the efforts of the National Animal Interest Alliance Shelter Project to determine the true number of unwanted dogs and to develop reporting mechanisms to evaluate the degree this is a significant national issue. The BCA also encourages pet owners to spay or neuter their dogs if they do not want to participate in AKC conformation events or engage in responsible breeding programs.

The BCA opposes the practice of pediatric spay-neuter. Early spaying and neutering of dogs can produce detrimental hormonal changes that result in dogs dying earlier and create dogs who do not exhibit the characteristics for which they are bred. Recent studies have demonstrated that early spay-neuter's health benefits from reducing some illnesses are more than offset by other factors which reduce overall longevity.

The BCA further supports programs dedicated to teaching the pet-buying public how to find a responsible breeder and how to make well-informed decisions when buying a dog rather than buying on impulse. Such programs help ensure that pet purchasers find a puppy or dog that is a good match for their lifestyle, at an appropriate time in their lives, thereby increasing the likelihood that the animal will stay with the owner for its entire life. The BCA encourages owners and potential dog owners to visit our website at <http://thebca.org> to find BCA Breeder Referral members who adhere to our Breeder Code of Ethics. BCA welcomes the commitment and cooperation of state and local governmental agencies, humane organizations, and veterinary associations in these educational efforts.

The BCA believes that breeders have a duty to assist in rehoming dogs they have sold and that euthanasia should be employed only as a last resort when all reasonable efforts to place adoptable dogs have failed. At the same time, the BCA recognizes that not all dogs are adoptable due to temperament and health issues. Therefore, the BCA does not oppose the euthanasia of unwanted animals or those unfit for adoption, when conducted by qualified personnel, using appropriate humane methods as described in the AVMA Guidelines on Euthanasia.

The BCA opposes importing rescue dogs from other areas into the United States for resale while dogs in shelters and rescue cannot find loving homes. Importing a dog merely leads to the potential euthanasia of a dog already in need of a home.