



"A Dog Loving Society: Best Practices and Perspectives" Vilnius 2017

Mandatory education for professional breeders and dog keepers in Denmark

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DKC and Danish dog breeding

- The Danish Kennel Club (DKC) was founded in 1897
 - ~ 33.000 members
 - ~ 30 employees
- Around 4.500 breeders within the DKC
 - Some more active than others
 - ~ 20.000 puppies each year
- In 2010, new legislation
- “Commercial Dog Breeding Act”
- Includes a demand for education



Education of breeders

- Important group to focus on
- Producing the pedigree dogs of "tomorrow"
- Responsible for the development of our breeds
 - Health, behavior and utility traits (hunting, herding etc.)
- Responsible for the welfare of dogs used for breeding
- Counselling the future dog owners
 - "Window" to the outside world
 - Knowledge of DKC's rules & recommendations is important



Education of breeders

- DKC has had a voluntary education for breeders for ~ 20 years
- 2010: mandatory for breeders applying for a kennel name in DKC
- Routine inspection of all DKC kennels
 - Several hundred visits per year
 - DKC educated “Kennel contacts”
 - Checking the physical and “mental” environment of the dogs



New Danish legislation in 2010

- Defines “people working with dogs at a professional level”
 - Commercial dog trader (buy and resale dogs)
 - Commercial dog breeder (breed ≥ 3 litters with ≥ 3 bitches per year)
 - Commercial boarding kennel or dog shelter (boarding \geq four dogs at a time)
- Has nothing to do with the economic outcome
- Specific for dogs (all dogs – not just DKC)
 - Similar regulations for pet shops etc.

Danish legislation

- Apply for approval and registration in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture
- Fulfil specific standards regarding the physical environment etc.
- Order inspection by a vet four times a year
 - In addition to random checks by the authorities
- Keep protocols of all dogs including information about vaccinations and other treatments
- Responsible person must have an approved education

Approved education

- DKC already had the experience and infrastructure
- Applied for approval to offer an education for commercial breeders according to the legislation
- Ready to offer the education soon after the law was implemented in 2010
 - Open to everyone – not just DKC breeders
- Two levels
 - For breeders applying for a kennel name
 - Supplementary courses for commercial breeders



Basic breeder education – two days

- Applying for a kennel name:
 - DKC module and general legislation about dogs including the Danish Sale of Goods Act
 - DKC representative (often the managing director) and a lawyer
 - Behavior (1) including early development and socialization
 - Behavior consultants
 - Genetics
 - Veterinarians with specific knowledge in the field
 - Reproduction
 - Veterinarians with specific knowledge in the field



Commercial breeder education – two days

- In addition to the modules of the basic DKC breeder education (except the DKC module):
 - Specific legislation for commercial breeders/dog keepers
 - DKC educated kennel contacts
 - Behavior (2) including flock behavior, stress response, breed knowledge and behavior problems
 - Behavior consultants
 - General health including anatomy, nutrition, preventive treatments (vaccinations, deworming etc.) and first aid
 - Veterinary nurses

Statistics

- ~ 2.300 persons have completed the basic DKC education for breeders
- ~1.100 persons have completed the mandatory education for commercial breeders as well
 - Mainly DKC breeders and owners of boarding kennels
- The majority of the 4.500 DKC breeders are educated
- Trend: Education before the first litter



Examples from the legislation

- Physical environment
- Indoor equipment, floor etc. must be easy to wash and disinfect
- Isolation room for sick dogs
- Temperature, ventilation, light



Physical environment

Size of dogs	Number of dogs	Size of rooms or indoor boxes	Size of box + run with permanent acces to outdoor run
Up to 40 kg	1	6 m ²	3 m ² + 3 m ²
	2	9 m ²	4,5 m ² + 4,5 m ²
41 kg – 60 kg	1	8 m ²	4 m ² + 4 m ²
	2	12 m ²	6 m ² + 6 m ²
Above 60 kg	1	10 m ²	5 m ² + 5 m ²
	2	15 m ²	7,5 m ² + 7,5 m ²

Stimulating surroundings inside and outside "Enriched environment"



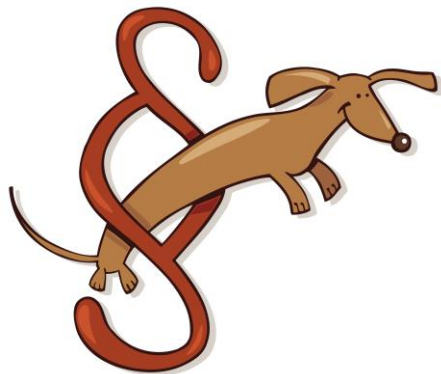
”Human ressources”

- All dogs > 4 weeks old must have at least 15 minutes of individual contact
 - Besides the time spend on feeding, cleaning etc.
 - With ten dogs: 2 hours and 30 minutes



Written instructions

- Detailed and approved instructions must be handed out to buyers of a puppy/dog
 - Estimated adult size
 - Demands for exercise, grooming etc.
 - General advise about health, feeding etc.
- DKC has prepared instructions for 12 breed groups
- Approved by the authorities
- The breeder can add things but not remove anything
- <http://www.dkk.dk/side.asp?ID=2611>



Challenges

- As a principle – good to have legislation that covers all dogs – not just the “organized dog world”
- In reality – the authorities do not have the resources to follow up
- Many commercial dog traders and breeders manage to “stay in the dark”
- Very few breeders order the visits by the vet



Sad cases pop up from time to time – the last is less than a month old

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Fandt 19 vanrøgtede hunde

Politiet rykkede i dag ud til en adresse, hvor der tidligere på måneden blev fundet 27 vanrøgtede hunde

AF: [Linette K. Jørgensen](#)



Dette billede er fra tidligere på måneden, hvor 27 vanrøgtede hunde blev fundet omkring samme adresse, hvor 19 hunde i dag blev fundet. Foto: Dyrenes Beskyttelse.

1/2 NÆSTE »



Some politicians proposed “Smileys” for kennels – as an equivalent to the Danish system for commercial food producers and restaurants

Vanrøgt: DF ønsker smiley-ordning på hundekenneler



I sidste uge blev 27 vanrøgtede hunde fundet på en adresse nord for Randers. Foto: TV 2 | ØSTJYLLAND / Dyrenes Beskyttelse

For at komme kummerlige forhold for hunde til livs på landets kenneler foreslår Dansk Folkeparti nu øget kontrol og en smileyordning

AF MADIS OTTE

17. feb 2017 kl. 09:52

→ Østjylland

→ Samfund

DEL ARTIKLEN



Seminar in September 2016

- DKC hosted a seminar funded by the Animal Welfare Foundation (~50 participants)
 - Danish Kennel Club
 - Danish Veterinary Association
 - Ministry of Food and Agriculture
 - The Police
 - Two animal welfare organizations
- Roundtable discussions
 - Present practice for inspection
 - Common guide and check list
 - <http://www.dkk.dk/side.asp?ID=34499>

Guide til
det gode hundehold



POLITI

DYRENES
BESKYTTELSE

Education of breeders

- The breeders are very important
- Legislation does not solve all problems
- There will probably always be “unscrupulous” breeders
- Puppy buyers are important as well
 - Huge task – but absolutely necessary
 - Benefit from cooperation with other organizations and authorities



Thank you for Your
attention

