

Introducing APGAW's Innate Health Assessment for Dogs

For over a century, we have been changing the way our dogs look to suit trends and our perception of what is cute.

Many types of dogs have been deliberately bred to have extreme physical characteristics and, as a result, we have created a huge welfare problem for dogs and an extreme conformation crisis. These extreme conformations carry a high risk of significant health and welfare issues ranging from respiratory issues, painful eye conditions, skin infections, spine and joint issues, neurological defects, blindness, deafness and a significant reduction in life expectancy.

The All-Party Parliamentary Group for Animal Welfare's Innate Health Assessment (IHA) has been created to tackle this and to start a breeding revolution to lead to physically healthier dogs.

The IHA tool is a visual checklist of 10 key conformational criteria which can be rapidly and reliably assessed by every breeder, dog owner or prospective dog owner to check a dog's innate health characteristics and their suitability to breed. No equipment or veterinary assistance is required and the IHA tool, which is free to use via the newly launched IHA website (innatehealthassessment.org), guides users step-by-step through each of the 10 criteria with full instructions on how to assess.

APGAW believes that no dog should suffer in order to look a certain way and all dogs should be bred to have the basic physical characteristics needed to lead a healthy and happy life.

Quick Five-Point Innate Health Checklist

- ✓ *Can your dog breathe freely? No noisy breathing at rest, no narrow nostrils, no shortened muzzles.*
- ✓ *Does your dog have smooth skin with no folds on face, body or legs?*
- ✓ *Are your dog's eyes properly positioned and able to blink effectively?*
- ✓ *Are your dog's front and back legs straight and long enough for good ground clearance?*
- ✓ *Does your dog have a tail long enough to wag?*

Find out more about the IHA and join the breeding revolution at innatehealthassessment.org, launching 18 November.

APGAW's Innate Health Assessment is endorsed and supported by the following organisations:





IHA

The 10-point checklist for a healthier dog

