

Conclusion

It is evident from the research that although the domestic dog has proved useful over the years as a working animal, the change in culture and rise in demand for a desirable appearance has had catastrophic effects on the welfare of the dog. One of the main causes for the problem is thought to be competitive dog showing, and the Kennel Club breed standard (BBC, 2008). Loss of genetic diversity has given rise to a plague of diseases and anatomical deformities. Caboli et al (2008) found that in 10 different breeds of dogs 90% of genetic diversity has been lost. In order to rectify these problems it is vital to outbreed dogs, however this can only be done at the discretion of the owner. If the Kennel Club does not alter the standard in order to improve the welfare of dogs, pedigree owners are likely to continue to breed their dogs on cosmetic grounds.

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