

Rebuttal to the CKC Statement on the Proposed Amendment to the Breed Standards Process

CKC tells us when urging a no vote that our Breed Standards reflect *“the collective expertise of CKC recognized breed clubs, breeders, CKC members and the CKC Breed Standards Committee.”* We respectfully disagree. The latter two are not appropriate guardians of a breed.

- CKC **members in general** should not, and most likely do not even want to have input in any other breed standard but their own.

Breed Standards Committee

- The CKC Breed Standards Committee is made up of 5 appointed individuals consisting of 3 CKC members, 1 board member, and a 5th person who is a paid employee of CKC who may not have ever bred a dog and who has no strong background in any breed standards.
- Breed standards are traditionally written and guarded by National breed clubs. In Canada, the CKC has taken away the National Breed Clubs ability to monitor and keep the standards safe, and has turned them over to a committee of 5 who do not even belong to the Breed club for that breed.

What does this mean for breeds in Canada:

- A 5 man “breed standards committee” has the exclusive right to change any breed standard without the consent or knowledge of those breeders most expert in that breed. A group such as this, has neither the knowledge nor the stake in the breed’s standards that they seek to control. It is dangerous, and foolish to put all the standards into the hands of these few.
- The CKC has already attempted to change many breed standards, and has told many Breed Clubs that if they do not comply with the changes proposed by the CKC, the CKC will initiate the changes themselves, without the clubs input. This is not right!

What you need to consider:

- The CKC is the only dog registration body that uses this approach to the sacred standards of our breeds.
- The breeders know their breed best, and many breed club members have spent their lifetime learning about their breed.
- All members have a keen interest in seeing their breed continue to survive, and evolve in the best possible way. Breed clubs have a well established process that is embedded in their CKC approved bylaws that allows changes to their standards with a 2/3rd majority vote of their membership. You can not get more transparent than that. Those same bylaws also refer to approval of those changes by CKC. That approval should be limited to oversight on the proper process having been followed on something so important.
- If the CKC wants to publish for comment any changes petitioned by a National Breed club, they are welcome to do so. There would not be any loss of transparency, as CKC approves all Breed club’s bylaws, which require a 2/3rd majority vote for any breed standard changes....therefore as per CKC rules governing breed club bylaws, all people with a vested interest in the breed standard would be involved and it would be an educated membership vote on any changes presented by the National breed clubs. Persons with no stake might be left out, but that is as it should be.

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Closing Thoughts

The decisions the purebred dog needs, is for the breed clubs to be able to control their own breed standard and theirs alone. National Breed clubs membership would become stronger and would help to bring all of the people together to promote and protect their breed. By joining a National Breed club you will be ensuring that you have a say in the future of the breed you have chosen. To allow someone to steer the ship when they aren't even on it, is asking for a ship on the rocks.

The CKC is using scare tactics on its membership. If you are afraid that something bad can happen to your standard by a National Club holding the breed standard in its hands, just remember that the CKC has been trying to derail many standards for several years now. What you are afraid of has already happened, and it was perpetrated by the CKC against its own members and the standards that we hold sacred.

An Example of CKC Changing a Breed Standard

- The CKC changed the Doberman standard by removing the height range in our standard and replacing it with a single height requirement.
- We did not approve this change, nor were we consulted.
- When we inquired with CKC as to how this change occurred no one could provide an answer nor could they provide information on when this change to our standard occurred.
- We used our own bylaw process to change it back which requires 2/3rds of our members to vote in favour, and we had a member approval of over 90%.
- We have since identified other recent changes to our standard, most of them to our Origin and Purpose statement. **All changes made without consultation, or any notice.** For any breed blueprint, changing even a comma can change the meaning and should never be undertaken lightly.

Arrogance like this should no longer be rewarded with that kind of power.

This referendum is not about destroying the breed standards, but about protecting them. The CKC has not told you that they have been trying to change standards without your knowledge. **Be advised that** they have already crossed that line, the line they accuse this referendum of crossing.

As a CKC member, we ask that all of you exercise your right to regain this fundamental member right and duty. VOTE FOR the proposed bylaw amendment and put control of breed standards where they belong.

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