

***Kennel Club* may welcome puggles and labradoodles**

- 1 The *Kennel Club* – founded in 1873 as the governing body for all canine activities, including breeding and shows – is considering setting up a register of designer dogs to go alongside its one of purebreds. It says this would provide it with a way of regulating the health and sale of crossbreeds, while allowing it to respond to the changing tastes of dog owners. But the proposals have been met with anger from *Kennel Club* members who fear it will serve to encourage unscrupulous breeders to charge exorbitant prices for non-pedigree dogs.



- 2 Gerald King, of the *Kennel Club*'s general committee, said: "If the *Kennel Club* is to represent all dogs and have credibility with the Government and the wider public, it must consider the cultural shift and large increase in crossbred dogs over the last few years." Recognising crossbreeds would allow the *Kennel Club* to provide detailed information about the ancestry and health test results of the animals, as it currently does for pedigrees.
- 3 Some cross breeding is done to help eradicate problem characteristics and health defects, such as hair shedding or joint and bone disorders. 25, it can also introduce new problems into the resulting breed. The behaviour of crossbreeds can be harder to predict and they can carry inborn defects if both parents are carriers of one or more of the same genetic problems.
- 4 Opponents of the idea say the *Kennel Club* should be encouraging the public to buy purebreds, rather than spend money on dogs whose health and characteristics are less easily controlled. Jean Lanning, a former breeder and leading dog show judge, said: "A register of crossbreeds will only encourage unscrupulous breeders to charge even greater sums than they do already on the basis that what they are selling is a designer dog. The *Kennel Club* should really be going out to reassure the public that the best thing to do is buy a purebred which has had all the health checks, instead of a crossbreed which is unlikely to have undergone such rigorous testing."
- 5 Other *Kennel Club* members have criticised plans for a crossbreeds register. Sharon Robson, a breeder of long-coat Chihuahuas, from Newcastle upon Tyne, said: "It makes a mockery of everything most reputable pedigree breeders try to do."

6 The *Kennel Club* said it is considering the register precisely to tackle some of the problems raised by its members. Caroline Kisko, *Kennel Club* Secretary, said: “Our primary concern is to ensure that all dogs live healthy, happy lives, and if the *Kennel Club*, as a not-for-profit organisation, registers crossbreeds we can help to encourage responsible breeding.”

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