ABOUT THE KENNEL CLUB

We are: The UK’s largest organisation dedicated to the health and welfare of dogs.

Our objective: The Kennel Club has the broadest remit to protect and promote the general wellbeing of dogs. At its heart are programmes and investments in education and health initiatives to help dog owners across the UK to have healthy, happy dogs living long lives with responsible owners. The list below shows how we invested our money last year in order to achieve this objective.

- Registrations and Healthcare = £5.5 million (Processing registrations, Petlog and insurance)

- Health, Welfare and Charity = £2.7 million (Including support for the Kennel Club Charitable Trust - making a difference for dogs)

- Education = £1.8 million (Good Citizen Dog Training Scheme, Safe and Sound for children, Young Kennel Club, Crufts and Discover Dogs)

- External Affairs = £1 million (Including lobbying Parliament at Westminster, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and the EU on issues of concern to dog owners)

- Canine Activities = £2.3 million (Processing licences, judges and awards for shows and the activity disciplines)
We believe: That together, working with breeders, owners, the government, other dog organisations and the veterinary profession, we can give all dogs the opportunity to lead healthy, happy lives.

History: Originally founded in 1873, the Kennel Club’s sole consideration was to regulate the conduct of dog shows and trials, and then later to register dogs to avoid the duplication of a name in the stud book. Whilst these functions remain, the Kennel Club has developed in ways that could not possibly have been imagined when it was established in Victorian times.

We do: We are a voluntary register for all dogs, whether crossbreed or pedigree, and we run an Assured Breeder Scheme whose members have agreed to follow our high standards for breeding puppies. The Kennel Club is accredited by UKAS to certify members of its Assured Breeder Scheme, which is the only scheme in the UK that monitors breeders in order to protect the welfare of puppies and breeding bitches. The Kennel Club runs Crufts, the world’s largest dog show and licenses over 4,500 dog shows and other events each year. It is also at the forefront of the development of many canine health initiatives and invests in education programmes and other campaigns to protect and promote the general wellbeing of dogs.

The Kennel Club is concerned with anti-dog legislation, promotes the positive place of dogs in society and actively represents the interests of responsible dog owners, whether their dogs are Kennel Club registered or not.
The Kennel Club also owns Petlog, the UK’s largest lost and found database for microchipped pets. Petlog is on hand 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, for pet owners to contact if their pet goes missing. It is also open to animal wardens, welfare and rescue centres, veterinary practices and local authorities, who can all scan for microchips in pets which come into their care and trace the owners through the Petlog database.

The Kennel Club’s objective is to ‘promote in every way the general improvement of dogs’. This means that we:

- Lobby the government on dog welfare issues including banning electric shock collars and campaigning for amendments to the current dangerous dogs legislation.

- Give grants to dog welfare charities and to scientific research to aid the development of health testing for canine diseases, through the Kennel Club Charitable Trust. For instance CLAD, a disease that caused early death in puppies, has been eliminated in Irish Setters and Irish Red & White Setters as a result of DNA tests that were developed with Charitable Trust funding.

- Are at the forefront of pioneering research into dog diseases through the Kennel Club Genetics Centre and the Kennel Club Cancer Centre at the Animal Health Trust. The Genetics Centre has identified genes responsible for ten inherited disorders across 29 different breeds and created DNA tests to help prevent their future spread.
- Work with the British Veterinary Association on eye testing schemes and screening programmes for hip and elbow dysplasia. In the last 20 years some 100,000 hip dysplasia x-rays have been assessed and overall hip scores for the twenty most affected breeds have all improved.

- Run the UK’s largest dog training programme, the Good Citizen Dog Training Scheme, and educational initiatives, such as Safe and Sound for children, to help them to stay safe around dogs.

- License clubs and run competitions for fun dog sports such as agility, which helps to keep both dog and owner healthy.

- Run educational events such as Discover Dogs, which helps people to make responsible dog buying choices.

- Established the Young Kennel Club in 1985, to encourage young people to take an interest in caring, training and activities with dogs.

- Run a Dog Health Group, which includes independent vets and scientific advisors, who work with the Kennel Club to improve breed health.