

## RECORD OF CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN STUART THOMSON AND MR GREG EVA, KUSA PRESIDENT

**Editors Note:** This e-mail string is a record of correspondence between myself (Stuart Thomson) and Mr Greg Eva, current President of the Kennel Union of South Africa. As my frustration with lack of progress in this matter grew, so I added more recipients to the address field, as my way of exposing the level of resistance to reform. My final measure in this regard is putting this record in the public domain as one means to expose the callous indifference shown by the KUSA and breeders to the plight of pedigree show-dogs, whose fundamental right to not have their genome repeatedly violated by the KUSA's archaic rules and standards and to live healthy lives free of afflictions and suffering as a result of forced closed studbook conformation to the KUSA's, and breeder's/owner's interpretation of the breed standards.

The odd font sizing, colouring and underlining of the basic e-mail text arises as a result of my attempting to place emphasis on the main issues, reduce the carry-over of less important issues and emphasise the importance of carry-over material of unresolved issues. The original correspondence is at the end of this string remains importance as a legal document. Essentially, read from the beginning at the bottom to the present at the top of the page, the more the text fades or grows in prominence, is an indication of this process. In the end, nearer the top of the page, this process falls away as I attempt to simplify matter to the bare essentials in the hope of a response to what has admittedly become a challenge to answer to, but still to no avail. The slippery Mr Eva has given me but a drop in the ocean of what I believe the KUSA has to answer to, and even that drop turns out to be contaminated and begs further explanation.

This string will be occasionally updated if the dialogue moves significantly beyond the current impasse.

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----- Original Message -----

**From:** Stuart Thomson (director@gaiaresearch.co.za)

**To:** gregeva@kusa.co.za

**Cc:** kay@skyafrica.co.za

**Sent:** Tuesday, March 09, 2010 6:28 PM

**Subject:** My Objections to a Moratorium on the Implementation of Revised English Bulldog Standard in SA

Mr Greg Eva

President Kennel Union of South Africa

Thank you for your belated and reluctant 9 March reply to my e-mails of 29 January and 5 March 2010.

Let's try to make this even easier.

1) Why was the amended Bulldog Standard not discussed at the December 2009 meeting?

2) Had you not yet received confirmation of the finalisation of the amendments from the U.K. Kennel Club by the December meeting, i.e. 2-months after it was already enforced in the U.K.?

3) If not, have you received confirmation subsequent to that meeting: when, in what form and have the KUSA processed it through the structures?

4) What is the mechanism by which you will formally relay my comments and objections to a) the FEDCO and b) the EXCO?

I am preparing a literature review to motivate the expedient implementation of the amendments. Will this be formally circulated and placed on the agenda in support of my objections to the delay in the adoption of the amendments?

5) I hope to deliver and discuss with you my submission when I am in Cape Town for the Cape Bulldog Club Show in mid-April this year. Will you facilitate this as a counter-balancing gesture of goodwill on the part of the KUSA at this time?

To be brutally honest with you, you do not inspire me with much faith in your intentions and that of the KUSA in this matter. A further indication of the politics favouring a delay in the implementation of humanitarian reform of the

English Bulldog Standard came a fortnight ago in the form of Neil Kay's pathetic article in defence of the status quo in the February 2010 issue of "KUSA Dogs in Africa". This propaganda, attempting to diminish the argument for urgent reforms to that of emotional fervour without substance by the media is really pathetic, yet quite revealing of the ignorance of not just the breeders, but also the judges and office bearers of the KUSA, in particular Mr Kay, for writing this crap and also yourself, for vetting it.

I have abstracted the repetition of his theme to make my point. I have not been able to take anything from his piece as even a single positive example of his actually putting the dogs before the breeders and administrators in this matter.

*"Newspapers of course love a (sic) animal story, and so often print emotional and totally untrue accounts of the lives endured by so-called exaggerated breeds of dogs" ... "No breed is immune, **Bulldogs of course are the prime target**" ... "All very sad, and **in the majority of cases untrue**. This illustrates that breed features ... can be **pounced on by an uninformed press and condemned in lucid terms**" ... "I mention this to emphasise that we must be aware of **public opinions fuelled by sensational newspaper articles and by various 'anti' organisations**" ... "Having seen **a 'new' standard proposal for Bulldogs, which quite frankly is horrendous**, the NJSC (which has been instructed by the president [of KUSA] to investigate the whole matter of breed standards and possible exaggerations caused by interpretation of the standards by judges) realize just how important judges education is in facing up to the **irrational emotions** regarding breed features". (Neil Kay, 'The Future of Pedigree Dogs, A Cause For Concern', KUSA Dogs in Africa, February 2010)*

My report, if this degree of ignorance or arrogance is anything to judge by, will serve to turn the world upside down for such ignorami and/or spin doctors and I suspect that there will be many a red bum bared when the truth is finally revealed.

I shall disregard your final remark and your cautioning me as just plain silly, since there are real issues competing for our constructive engagement. If however you disagree with my characterisation hereof, I shall be willing to debate this too.

I propose that we allow your responses to the above five questions to serve as one last opportunity to provide a reasonable response to my main outstanding queries in this matter and so put this issue on a reciprocally constructive footing.

Yours sincerely

Stuart Thomson

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----- Original Message -----

**From:** Greg Eva  
**To:** Stuart Thomson  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 09, 2010 2:50 PM  
**Subject:** BULLDOG STANDARD AMENDMENTS  
GRE/ch/10193  
**MESSAGE**

Dear Mr Thomson

**NOTE: 3-LINED MESSAGE DELETED BY STUART THOMSON DUE TO THE APPARENT COPYRIGHT NOTICE (in the fine print below)**

Yours sincerely

*Greg Eva*

**G R EVA**  
PRESIDENT  
KENNEL UNION OF SA  
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CAPE TOWN, 8000  
SOUTH AFRICA  
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----- Original Message -----

**From:** Stuart Thomson

**To:** gregeva@kusa.co.za ; Kasselmann ; davfra@xsinet.co.za ; Julia van Rooyen ; mervander@telkomsa.net ; wolgemuth@webmail.co.za ; jenbarton@cannings.co.za ; jacqueray@telkomsa.net ; sezerkennel@absamail.co.za ; hendrik@wessenhof.com ; Marc Denton

**Cc:** karize@karizebulldogs.co.za ; claud@claudinibulldogs.com ; Dr. E.J.Bester ; mihanlo@iway.na ; keithsmith@iafrica.com ; esmari@telkomsa.net ; pammyr@tiscali.co.za ; info@barmeco.co.za ; Reinke, Louis

**Sent:** Friday, March 05, 2010 7:41 AM

**Subject:** My Objections to a Moratorium on the Implementation of Revised English Bulldog Standard in SA

Mr Greg Eva  
President, Kennel Union of South Africa

It is now more than a month since you rudely ignored the last in my string of attempts to communicate meaningfully with you on this topic.

Is this considered acceptable protocol by you and the KUSA Fedco and Exco and the KUSA membership?

In an attempt to simplify and refine the larger correspondence string, I have bolded and coloured in red the parts of my last communication that I expect you to provide a clear honest response to within the next week, failing which I shall regrettably have to consider you to be in contempt and to have tacitly accepted my allegations to be a fair reflection of events and circumstances and that you consequently consent to my communicating these as facts to a broader audience outside of the KUSA, including the local and international media and professional veterinary, animal protection and legal fraternities.

Sincerely

Stuart Thomson

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----- Original Message -----

**From:** Stuart Thomson

**To:** gregeva@kusa.co.za ; Kasselmann ; davfra@xsinet.co.za ; Julia van Rooyen ; mervander@telkomsa.net ; wolgemuth@webmail.co.za ; jenbarton@cannings.co.za ; jacqueray@telkomsa.net ; sezerkennel@absamail.co.za ; hendrik@wessenhof.com ; Marc Denton

**Cc:** karize@karizebulldogs.co.za ; claud@claudinibulldogs.com ; Dr. E.J.Bester ; mihanlo@iway.na ; keithsmith@iafrica.com ; esmari@telkomsa.net ; pammyr@tiscali.co.za ; info@barmeco.co.za ;

Louis.Reinke@dcs.gov.za

**Sent:** Friday, January 29, 2010 5:34 PM

**Subject:** Fw: Bulldog Standard Amendments

Greg Eva, President, KUSA

Dear Greg

Thank you for your brief reply to my last e-mail, where you state *"many thanks for your comments which I will relay to other members of FEDCO and we will see where this goes"*.

I still would like some sort of response to several issues in my last two letters of 8 & 13 January 2010 in the string below, so as before, I have rendered to light silver text, issues that have been either rendered redundant or have been answered by subsequent developments, or were of such a nature as to be intended only as imparting information or ideas and not requiring answers. I have left contextually relevant text in dark gray and unanswered questions, heads of argument, objections and protest statements in black, where these remain pertinent to the unresolved topic at hand.

However, if there are any issues now grayed-out over and above those that I have subsequently specifically stated that I accept as redundant, then I am, in lieu of a timely reply thereto, forced to consider that these issues are tacitly accepted by you as being a fair assumption by me of the correctness thereof, unless timeously challenged by you to the contrary. I am accordingly, not going to repeat these here, save for those impeding progress and conflict resolution.

I need to emphasise that neglecting to alert me to the contrary or to correct same by timeously contesting any such assumptions so relegated to dormancy, to allow me to at least make some progress in this matter, even without your express participation, shall not later stand as a defence against my hereafter necessary assumptions of the correctness thereof and my right to build on those assumptions going forward with this matter.

I have since accessed the agenda for last year's May and December and the minutes of the May, September and December FEDCO meetings. There is however, apparently no agenda posted for the September meeting and I would appreciate you or your staff making this available timeously, directly or via the Union's download page.

**What additionally concerns me now, arising from the agenda and minutes perused, is that although item 11 of the May minutes list the dates of future meetings as 18/19 September 'and 4/5 December'; and the 19 September FEDCO minutes record, under item 4.4.3 that: "On re-examination *it was decided not to wait for a period of three years after a change has been made. We will continue the consultation with breeders by placing any changes on 'the following' Fedco agenda. It was agreed that there was no need to panic or rush into any changes 'until it was established that any such changes have in fact been upheld' by The Kennel Club*", and this was duly "noted", there is chillingly no mention of the matter at that critical May-scheduled 5 December FEDCO meeting, by which time the English Bulldog was already being judged in the U.K. against all 60 amendments to the revised Standard.**

**Why this oversight, and your insistence that in October, the Bulldog Standard was still "subject to further review" by the Kennel Club, when by 1 October it was already common knowledge, indeed a matter of fact, that "such changes have in fact been upheld by The Kennel Club" insofar as the Bulldog was concerned? I need to know, against this, precisely why we now find ourselves not judging by the amended standards for 2010.**

I also need to know the precise mechanism and time-frame by and in which you "*will relay (my comments) to other members of FEDCO*" and how and when these objections will make its way to the EXCO. I cannot accept that it will just be business as usual this year for the breeders and owners of bulldogs, as a result of what appears to me to be either tardy administration, or deliberate delays so as to extend the status quo for at least another year, whilst the U.K., as national country of the Bulldog, already judges to a health and welfare reformed breed standard, which should have occurred years ago when veterinary scientists first started blowing the whistle on the progressive ruination of the pedigree/purebred English Bulldog at the hands of conformation show breeders (and also judges), and in particular, the line-breeders, who I suspect are the very culprits also responsible for the delay in adopting and implementing the reformed Standard.

**Apparently neither you, nor the general administration from Club and KUSA members through to the EXCO, realise just how serious, even criminal, the underlying problem is, that has lead to the radical revisions of so many of the Breed Standards. Now that the extent of the problems and also just how long they have been allowed to persistently degenerate, are becoming known to those that care to investigate and face the realities, it is inconceivable to me that the breeders and owners of such concentrated genetic disease-ridden and long-suffering animals, and especially bulldogs, could possibly continue to be rewarded for their crimes with challenge certificates, conformation show awards and especially champion status, all of which shall serve to encourage, rather than discourage, the continuation of what is in effect, the progressive genetic destruction of these once vigorously variable breeds. The judges too, cannot escape responsibility.**

**If anything, failing the immediate adoption of the amended standards, the conformation championships should in fact be 'suspended' until the amendments are adopted and implemented. Furthermore, all judge's who have awarded challenge and champion certificates to genetically diseased dogs (which I estimate to be somewhere between 90 and 100% of all dogs awarded) should have their licences revoked, and the worst offenders banned from judging for life!** In fact, I would go so far as to argue that it is appropriate, at some stage in the not to distant future, to outlaw the continued breeding of certain bloodlines, in particular the short-legged line-bred purebreds that should receive priority scrutiny by independent veterinary authorities. For the immediate future, though, we need to work systematically to reform our fraternity and hopefully thereby, avoid over-reacting to resistance to change.

**The ethical and legal ramifications of delaying the immediate adoption and implementation of all revised Standards where the amendments have been completed are so profound, that I stand aghast witnessing the callous degree of inaction to rectify what amounts to serious crimes against pedigree dogs of the past, present and future.**

Come on Greg, you need to smell the smoke at the door and deal urgently with this crisis as is becoming of your position as President.

I look forward to a timeous, encouraging and appropriate response to this communication.

Yours sincerely

Stuart Thomson  
Director, Gaia Research  
[www.gaiaresearch.co.za/bygonesebulldogs.html](http://www.gaiaresearch.co.za/bygonesebulldogs.html)

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----- Original Message -----

**From:** Greg  
**To:** Stuart Thomson  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 28, 2010 3:03 PM  
**Subject:** Re: Bulldog Standard Amendments

Dear Stuart - many thanks for your comments which I will relay to other members of FEDCO and we will see where this goes.

sincerely

**Greg**

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----- Original Message -----

**From:** Stuart Thomson  
**To:** gregeva@kusa.co.za  
**Cc:** Kasselmann ; Julia van Rooyen ; mervander@telkomsa.net ; wolgemuth@webmail.co.za  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 13, 2010 5:20 PM  
**Subject:** Bulldog Standard Amendments

Mr Greg Eva  
President, KUSA

Dear Greg

I thank you for your enlightening e-mail last Friday afternoon.

I am indeed pleased that you have put the record straight and also quickly, after Julia van Rooyen had misinformed me in writing and you initially erroneously confirmed her view telephonically and now corrected your error in writing after checking the facts, which sets a good example that others might do well to emulate when off the cuff errors such as this occur.

If I am reading the current situation correctly, then putting it bluntly (and please correct me, with substantiation, if I am wrong on any point):

a) Julia van Rooyen was incorrect in her understanding of this issue and so also to inform me that *"in SA we have successfully placed a 3 year moratorium on any changes to the breed"*, in that an earlier (05-09) FEDCO decision for a 3-year delay before any future changes to the Kennel Club Breed Standard was in fact rescinded by a subsequent (09-09) FEDCO decision to the effect that the delay would not be 3-years, but only until it was established that such changes had been upheld by the Kennel Club.

b) I reacted (I believe correctly and certainly with no regrets other than the waste of my time) to a combined input of incorrect information from Julia and yourself, which I need now to partly retract in as far as this was based on misinformation to the effect that a 3-year moratorium was in effect and the reasons you put up for the need thereof, namely that neither the Kennel Club, nor their revisions were ready for implementation. With respect to the reasons, I am going to afford the Clubs, Prov Councils, Fedco and yourself the benefit of the doubt, due to the close timing of developments in the UK to developments locally, where we were always a step, then two, then three and are now most likely going to be an entire year, behind the times.

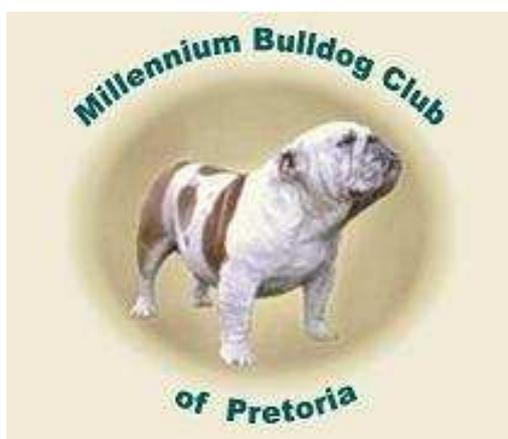
I don't know how often FEDCO meetings are scheduled, but will in fairness to all concerned, on the face of it, concede that the September meeting did not give the FEDCO much option other than to either commit on the spot, to what they had likely had no sight of, or defer a decision. Given the understandable vested interests involved and the resultant anxiety of all concerned, I can also understand why instead of expressing advance due faith in the integrity of the U.K. Kennel Club, the matter was instead held over *"until it was established that any such changes have in fact been upheld by the Kennel Club"*. What I don't understand, however, is how you went from this position to your now expressed belief that *"it was correct for KUSA to wait until the Kennel Club & FCI had finalised their work before we put in place amendments"* and I would accordingly appreciate addressing this apparent inconsistency.

Already back in January 09, the General Committee of the U.K. Kennel Club had approved interim changes to the Bulldog Breed Standard and by 3 September, the Breeders Council had received a letter from the Kennel Club with their final version of the revisions to the Standard and were advised that these would be published and constitute the official Standard for the English Bulldog henceforth from 1 October 2009. Against all of this, I can't help wonder why, according to you, this is only scheduled for a FEDCO meeting in May 2010, given that the amendments would have been gazetted in October 2009 and the KUSA FEDCO September 09 resolution appears to have been that *"we will continue the consultation with breeders by placing any changes on the following FEDCO agenda"*.

Has there been a subsequent meeting to discuss and finalise this and why are we waiting until May 2010 (7-8 months down the line), if the 09-09 FEDCO resolution was only to wait until *"it was established that any such changes have in fact been upheld by the Kennel Club"*? This duly occurred in October and these amendments could timeously have been put in place by KUSA in October or December, as has been the case in the U.K. and which, in my view, sends a signal to the World that we are either rebels, or laggards when it comes to animal rights, a sad indictment given our perceived position as a leader in human rights, and as a member of KUSA, reflects negatively on me personally. If the excuse for inaction is now FCI matters, why are we entertaining their administration, when the country of origin of the Bulldog is the United Kingdom and the rightful administration in that country has seen fit to make and implement the amendments?

I am not trying to be troublesome, but I cannot avoid being disturbed by the alarmist rebellious rumblings (I am a rebel myself, but for the greater good) amongst our local Bulldog fraternity and in particular the breeder's influence therein and as a logical consequence of this, I cannot help being concerned as to what degree the breeders have been allowed to and have succeeded, for their own vested interests, in ambushing what should and could have been the timeous adoption of the amendments to the Bulldog Standard and as an extension of this concern, to wonder to what degree KUSA have pandered to the breeders and in doing so, neglected the health and welfare of the dogs themselves who should rightfully have been the first and only priority in all of this. I fail to understand how KUSA have allowed the breeders to dominate the structures, knowing that they would clamber to positions of influence within the Clubs, Provincial Councils and FEDCO.

When Mervander, on their website state: *"We totally reject the new interim standard approved by the Kennel Club"* [ <http://www.mervander.co.za/NewStandard.htm> ] and the Millenium Club of Pretoria similarly state: *"The Committee and members of the Pretoria Millenium Club totally reject the new interim standard approved by the Kennel Club"* [ <http://www.millenniumbc.co.za/newStandard.htm> ] then KUSA ought to have some idea of the vested interests and closed minds that it is up against via the Bulldog Clubs, or rather their breeder members and supposedly their general, but obviously uninformed, brainwashed or non-canvassed membership and the KUSA structures being abused to further the breeder's interests, which contrary to all the claims to breed to the Standard to improve health, movement and conformation, are in fact entirely responsible for the monstrosity below exemplifying the English Bulldog and proclaiming its KUSA affiliation.



Affiliated to the [Kennel Union of Southern Africa](#)

This brings me to the reason for my involvement in this matter, namely my realisation that show breeders, having so f---d up the Bulldog to the point that it cannot reproduce without risk of heart failure, back injuries and veterinary intervention; cannot breath properly; cannot run and jump properly with its excessive weight, in spite of having lost some of its useful length and its now ever shorter stump remnants of its once magnificent, but now joint displaced limbs; and more recently, cannot even, with its long-suffering entropic, ectropic and/or cherry eyes, see straight ahead without constantly straining throughout its pathetically short life, to look beyond its bulging over-nose roll, which further compresses its already pinched nostrils, the modern and especially the show Bulldog, is not by any stretch of the imagination, 'fit for function'. This is not to say that every show Bulldog suffers from all of these afflictions, but all suffer from some permutation of these. The ultimate insult is that these breeders now lament that their malcreations will no longer be tolerated by society at large, nor by the powers that be and are feeling victimised, whereas their dogs are the real victims at their very own hands.

My further concern is that this is by no means the end of the reform backlash and that the more arrogant resistance there is, the more intervention and regulation there will be in turn and that this will prejudice everyone, rather than just the perpetrators. With the November 2009 British Associate Parliamentary Group for Animal Health (APGAW) report "A Healthier Future for Pedigree Dogs" calling for "*an independent advisory body to be set up to make recommendations to breeders through the Kennel Club*" and stating that: "*If there is a failure to implement the changes set out by the Kennel Club over the next year, the independent body would be well placed to advise the Government on the need for further action*" and "*there may be a case for Government legislation enforcing certain standards*", then you might understand that we are headed for loss of our independence and will be dictated to by others who might care, but know less and less.

Let us not fool ourselves with complacency, KUSA included, with the measures currently in place, such as the KUSA Accredited Breeder Scheme. In the U.K. APGAW has already expressed concerns over the Kennel Club's largely self-regulated accredited breeder scheme, stating: "*The inquiry has heard that low standards of breeding practice have been discovered by some breeders registered under the Accredited Breeders Scheme and a belief that it is totally inadequate*". (*Written evidence supplied to the inquiry by the Dogs Trust [Jan 09] and Veterinary Surgeon Pat Morris BVM&S M.R.C.V.S [Jan 09] and others*). APGAW also quotes RSPCA Chief Vet, Mark Evans as arguing that "*the gene pool is becoming increasingly concentrated, which makes abnormalities even more likely to be passed on and that welfare is seriously compromised by this*", echoing a point I made previously in correspondence with you.

In this regard the APGAW report recommended that: "*The Kennel Club should do random checks on breeders registering dogs and should enforce such schemes much more robustly*". Already, judges in the show ring are now subjected to random monitoring to ensure that they are implementing the new, healthier breed standards (*Peter Wedderburn, Daily Telegraph, 8 January 2010*). What will be next, if we do not do everything in our power, individually and collectively, to self-regulate responsibly. I am not the enemy. The Kennel Club, with its amended Bulldog Standard is not the enemy. We are in fact taking the initiative to ward off an otherwise full-scale attack on pedigree dogs, by for example the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, who the Kennel Club, in turn, claim have adopted an extreme stance that would not be shared by the vast majority of pedigree dog owners who want their chosen breed to look like their chosen breed.

The enemy are the breeders already within our ranks who caused the problems with their gross exaggerations and refuse to accept the need to undo their malcreations, starting with immediate urgency and who instead wish to delay the inevitable with a moratorium and another few years of championships using the very monstrosities that initiated the backlash. There were few such monstrosities a century ago and the few that did exist were mostly as a result of the horrendous use of deforming harnesses throughout their early development and as a result were severely crippled. Their success in dog-shows however set in motion a down-spiraling trend of selection for exaggerations that have led to the present crisis. The APGAW and RSPCA want to drastically change the character of dog shows by placing near exclusive emphasis on the health of dogs over appearance, and their being 'fit for purpose', which represents the opposite extreme.

Next week sees the release of an additional report arising from another collaborative inquiry, namely the "Independent Inquiry into Dog Breeding", headed by Professor Sir Patrick Bateson FRS, of Cambridge University, whose terms of reference are "*To consider whether the health and welfare of dogs, and particularly pedigree dogs, is affected and/or can be improved by reference to the registration, breeding and showing of dogs*". The Review Board has taken evidence from a wide field including dog breeders, dog show representatives, members and officials of the Kennel Club, veterinary organisations, governments, animal welfare charities, and other appropriate bodies. The Review has taken account of the available evidence, including the amendments to the Standards and will advise on the practical aspects of implementation and enforcement of the its recommendations. The Review Board has determined in relation to the breeding of all dogs:

- a) *Whether there should be compulsory registration of all dogs used for breeding and if so how the minimum standards should be set and enforced for those who breed dogs, for the dogs used for such breeding and for those organisations that maintain such registers.*
- b) *Whether current breed standards for pedigree dogs are appropriate to protect the health and welfare of pedigree dogs;*
- c) *What is currently being done to improve the health of dogs being bred and by whom;*
- d) *How efforts to research and control inherited disease should be led and how these should be paid for;*
- e) *Whether specific government legislation or other mechanisms are required to protect the welfare of all dogs being bred from (these);*
- f) *Whether registries should be obliged to refuse registration in the event that required minimum standards are not met and recommend actions to be taken.*

Also gaining momentum is the European Convention for the Protection of Pet Animals, adherence to which treaty is open and not limited to member countries of the Council of Europe and will eventually apply reciprocally to most, if not all countries trading in pet animals, which includes show animals and effectively outlaws unnecessary animal suffering, passing on of genetic defects and cosmetic surgery. The Convention is based on the principle that pet animals should not be caused unnecessary pain, suffering or distress. It stipulates minimum standards to which

governments should give effect to pet animals (as opposed to food- or any other commodity-producing farm animals) kept in households, or any establishment for trading or commercial breeding, boarding or sanctuary. The main factor holding back its wider adoption is the issue of tail-docking of national dogs, but this reservation is giving way to wider acceptance, as KUSA well knows.

More personally, back home, by way of example of my own activism, in 1990 I lead a delegation to and was responsible for putting animal rights on the policy agenda of the environmental group Earthlife Africa for the first time through the agency of the Garden Route branch I established for that purpose, succeeding against what was a dominating group of environmental lawyers lead by the organisation's chairman, who were opposed to what they characterised as the "bunny hugger" faction that they were purging from the organisation. The rumpus I caused at the National Convention had the chairman in tears and split the organisation, but the end justified the means. By way of another example, in March 1997, the NSPCA featured my company, Gaia Organics (Earth, People & Animal Friendly) and my Institute's campaign against cosmetic testing on animals in the March 1997 edition of the Consumer Watch section of their publication, 'Scenario'.

South African consumers and activists now have a very potent weapon in the form of the Consumer Protection Act No. 68, 2008, signed into law 29 April 2009, and in particular Section F: *Right to fair and honest dealing*, especially clause 40 *Unconscionable conduct* and 41 *False, misleading or deceptive representations*, are going to be powerful tools in the hands of consumers, including those acquiring Bulldogs, i.r.o. which the problems afflicting Bulldogs will be a nightmare for breeders, since there will be no escaping comebacks for months, even years, via any form of indemnity against any likely defect that the buyer might not have been specifically warned about. The ramifications are far-reaching, in that responsibility extends throughout the chain from producer to advertiser to supplier to the eventual consumer, so the breeder, veterinarian, Club and even KUSA affiliated magazines and websites advertising breeders share legal responsibility.

I have now perhaps spent far too much time making my precautionary points and shall leave it here for now.

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Greg, I have changed the title to that chosen by you to show that I sense some progress in the right direction. I now just need to know why the next FEDCO meeting is scheduled only for May 2010, ie 8-months after the resolution only to wait until *"it was established that any such changes have in fact been upheld by the Kennel Club"* when this occurred but weeks later? This administrative strategy effectively guaranteed a 1-year moratorium to the breeder's cause. Further to this, I need to ask you for an assurance that as a member of KUSA, my viewpoint will be articulated as expressed by myself in this string of correspondence (minus sections edited out by me via light gray print in my 28 January e-mail prior to and at that meeting and so be duly taken into account. In exchange, I will await the decision of that meeting before deciding on a further course of action, in the hope that the breeders, general club membership, provincial councils and FEDCO will pass and that you will ratify a decision to fully implement the Kennel Club's amended standard effective as from January 2011, whereupon, all breeders and Bulldog owners would have had 6-months formal notice and a 1-year reprieve before having their dogs judged and awarded thereby. Hopefully all roleplayers will accept this as an equitable working compromise and so avoid a showdown over the continuous ruination of the English Bulldog, or retire their monsters to pet bulldog status.

I have waited for and received word from my Club Chairman, Mr Kassie Kasselmann, who still ever the honourable gentleman, after establishing the full facts for himself, and without my having appraised him of the fact, conceded that he was unaware of the September 2009 FEDCO decision overturning the prior decision to wait 3-years. As for the rude Mrs Julia van Rooyen, dishonourable Chairlady of the South African Bulldog Club, she could not condescend to a requested simple confirmation of receipt of the last communication copied to her as a courtesy.

Greg, as an animal rights activist, I am offering my services to KUSA, with no obligation whatsoever, to review agenda and sit in on FEDCO meetings when issues such as this arise, merely as an observer and consultant, starting with the May meeting if possible and with no need of voting rights or any other privileges whatsoever and I hope that you can consider this as a bold leadership strategy to hedge against the inevitable future challenges of this nature.

I remain yours sincerely

Regards

Stuart Thomson

<http://www.gaiaresearch.co.za/bygonesbulldogs.html>

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----- Original Message -----

**From:** Greg

**To:** 'Stuart Thomson'

**Sent:** Friday, January 08, 2010 3:16 PM  
**Subject:** RE: Bulldog Standard amendments

Dear Stuart

Some-thing has been worrying me ever since you were on the phone and today I have figured out what it is :

05-09 meeting of FEDCO under item 4.4.2.(right at the end) it is recorded:

“that any future changes to Kennel Club Breed Standards will be tabled at the following meeting of the Federal Council and , if approved , will stand for three(3) years after that meeting before being implemented”

Subsequently at the 09-09 FEDCO meeting it was again discussed and the following is recorded in those minutes:

“On re-examination it was decided not to wait for a period of three years after a change has been made (to a country of origin b/standard) We will continue the consultation with breeders by placing any changes on the following FEDCO agenda. It was agreed that there was no need to panic or rush into any changes until it was established that any such changes have in fact been upheld (in this case) by The Kennel Club”

The way in which we handle these kind of matters is as follows”

The Kennel Club issues a monthly magazine in which they print any Standards which they have agreed to amend (the FCI follow this as well) we take note of any such confirmed changes and these appear on the agenda of the next FEDCO agenda. This agenda is not only printed for circulation to all Affiliated Clubs but is also sent to the Provincial Councils (these cover the entire country) for discussion at their meetings (all Clubs have the right to be represented at these meetings). Following this each PROVCO is represented by it’s Chairman on FEDCO where a decision is made on whether such amendments are acceptable based on feed back at the various PROVCO meetings from the clubs who represent both breeders and members of KUSA. It has been held for many years that the Breed Standards are in fact the property of KUSA but KUSA under-took to both advise and take notice of any concerns expressed by the foregoing. This system should protect the various breeds from tampering based on local or other alteration made to the whim of interested parties.

In the February gazette it is recorded that The Kennel Club was doing a review of 78 standards and then in the October it is recorded that interim changes to 29 standards were subject to further review – the other standards alterations as advised in January 2009 to remain in place. In the case of the Bulldog it was included in the 29. The gazette then goes on to quote the change which relates to General Appearance and also to Head & Skull. Following the above the changed Breed Standard for the Bulldog will now appear on the agenda for the May meeting of FEDCO together with many other ones in conjunction with the FCI who have altered their lay-out.

I feel sure that following from the above you will see it has not been a cut & dried situation and I believe that it was correct for the KUSA to wait until the The Kennel Club & FCI had finalised their work before we proceed to put in place amendments.

Yours sincerely

*Greg Eva*

*President of KUSA*

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----- Original Message -----

**From:** Stuart Thomson

**To:** gregeva@kusa.co.za ; sheila@kusa.co.za

**Cc:** Julia van Rooyen ; Kasselmann ; greva@iafrica.com

**Sent:** Friday, January 08, 2010 9:17 AM

**Subject:** My Objections to a Moratorium on the Implementation of Revised English Bulldog Standard in SA

Mr Greg Eva  
President, KUSA

Dear Greg

Many thanks for taking my call Wednesday afternoon.

It is indeed refreshing to witness your open-door policy, following my heretofore somewhat negative experiences on this issue at club-level.

I am going to start with some contextual background information to explain why I have approached you directly with this matter at this stage (in gray) and follow this with my objections and heads of argument (in black).

In the interests of transparency, I have copied the two Bulldog Club Chairpersons mentioned and quoted hereunder and I trust that your and my lead in handling this issue openly will be reciprocal in future communications by all roleplayers on this topic. I respectfully request your patient indulgence herein, in the hope that with this perspective having been openly recorded, we can thereafter proceed to the primary issues at hand.

As mentioned, I was frustrated at having had the phone put down on me by Mrs Julia van Rooyen, Chairlady of the SA Bulldog Club, who had in previous correspondence arising from an unrelated matter, let slip that they had secured a 3-year moratorium on implementation of the Revised Bulldog Standard, but who subsequently rudely ignored my many follow-up e-mail appeals to provide the requested details after the holiday season as promised. However, instead of communicating with me further, Julia just passed on my correspondence to my local Cape Bulldog Club, without informing me of her decision to do so, nor of her decision not to assist me as promised. As of today, I have not received feedback from the CBC.

My most recent communication with the CBC Chairman, Mr Kassie Kasselmann (a true gentleman, who unlike van Rooyen, is at all times cordial and honourable) on 23 December 09 (prior to any knowledge by me of a moratorium having been granted) read as follows:

*"Regarding the revised Bulldog Standard, which no-one seems to wish to discuss with me, and iro which I am becoming increasingly frustrated, I note with interest that the U.K. Breeder's Council, following their member clubs, have decided to accept the U.K. Kennel Club's revisions. I would like to know where the CBC now stands on this issue. As you know, I am forthright in my support for change where it improves the health and wellbeing of bulldogs and as a member, I would appreciate my position being taken into consideration and possibly being openly discussed to this end."*

Mr Kasselmann's prompt reply on 24 December, with no mention of adoption of a moratorium, read as follows:

*"The Sourmug is/was already printed, but because of the changes to the Breed Standard, I've held back on posting it. I wanted to see how the Breed Standard issue develops and then do a supplement to be posted with the Sourmug to inform all members about the Breed Standard changes and effects. This supplement is now completed and will be posted with the Sourmug within the next few days. I hope that this answers your enquiry adequately."* Having not yet received this supplement, nor any feedback from van Rooyen's referral, I remain none the wiser on this issue via the CBC.

On 30 December, as part of an e-mail communication with Julia van Rooyen on an unrelated matter, I did raise the issue of *"written or verbal critiques at Specialist Club Championship Show level in South Africa"* as follows:

*"I cannot but think that such a suggestion should be given serious consideration now, not only for the sake of novices, but across the board, especially as the revised U.K. Kennel Club Bulldog Standard seems certain to be adopted, following eventual acceptance thereof by the U.K. Breeder's Council, following their Member Club's decisions to this effect. In essence, virtually all Bulldogs will now be out of Standard and given demonstrated strong resistance to the revisions, all breeders and exhibitors now need to be re-educated, re-orientated and disciplined to the new Standard"*.

It is in response to this opinion that van Rooyen, on 31 December, remarked as follows:

*"Regarding the new breed standard - **in SA we have successfully placed a 3 year moratorium on any changes to the breed** (I hope she meant the Standard, rather than the Breed) - whether this will hold good - only time will tell. The Australians are going their own way, and as you will see from some of the comments on the UK Bulldog Breeders web-sites they are totally adverse to any changes, but will accede to some of the important health issues, inter alia, small over nose wrinkle, better breathing and such like. However, how long can you go against the requirements of the UK Kennel Club, short of forming a Bulldog Federation, which would mean Bulldogs cannot be shown at the Crufts Show - a very thorny issue and we will have to wait to and see how this all pans out in the very near future."*

My second most recent communication with the CBC on the issue of adoption of the revised Standard was on 23 November 09, where I enquired:

*"What are your thoughts on the final wording of the Kennel Club's revised Standard for bulldogs and what are the prospects of its wider adoption, including South Africa?" and was immediately advised that: "Locally, we (Bulldog Clubs) have asked the KUSA to put a 3 year moratorium on implementing any changes to our Standard. By that time we should have a clearer picture on the whole issue and should be able to make a more informed decision on how to proceed."*

At this stage however, we already had the 24 September press statement by the Kennel Club's Communications Director that: *"All judges will be expected to use the revised Standards from October 2009"* and the news, on 29 September, that the Chairman of the U.K. Bulldog Breed Council had resigned, after expressing his disappointment that: *"The Breed Council has 'simply accepted the KC's changes in the Standard"*. With these developments, coupled with the Revised Bulldog Standard having already been finalised and posted on the Kennel Club's website at the beginning of October 2009 as scheduled, it was, and still is, inconceivable to me that a moratorium could be placed by the KUSA on the immediate implementation of the Revised Bulldog Standard.

In any event, as a member of the CBC and the KUSA, I was never canvassed for my opinion and as such, I fail to see how my viewpoint, along with that of all the other registered members of all the clubs similarly not canvassed was taken cognisance of and represented in deliberations through the various structures leading to the eventual negotiation of a moratorium with the KUSA. It is for this reason that, on learning from Julia van Rooyen, that a moratorium was in place, that I insisted on written answers to the following three out of five questions, since she had now suggested that I telephone her instead of corresponding:

*1) How, might I ask, has the 3-year moratorium for South Africa come about? In particular who are the parties to said moratorium?*

*2) Without wide consultation ...*

*a) who spoke for whom in negotiating a moratorium? and*

*b) by what authority, given that said arrangement affects so many others not party to such an arrangement?*

To this, I added an additional logical question:

*5) How and when were bulldog breeders and owners such as myself going to be informed of this development?*

Surely this was not too much to ask of the person who inadvertently let the cat out of the bag and who just also happens to be the Chairlady of what claims to be *"the parent Bulldog Club in South Africa"* and *"our connection to the KUSA"*. The entire string of this communication, which ended from van Rooyen's side at this point, is secure, should any dispute arise over what was, with the exception of my being ignored, a cordial exchange until I telephoned van Rooyen on Wednesday 6 January 09 to enquire and had the phone put down on me. Unfortunately, this futile telephonic exchange is not on record.

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**Greg, my main concerns are three-fold and I shall elaborate just enough here to communicate and motivate my intention to challenge the moratorium, starting herewith with a formal request for the minutes constituting said resolution by the KUSA and also submitting my preliminary heads of argument as they stand now without having had sight of said minutes and which, in my humble opinion, are in themselves sufficient grounds for an urgent review of the resolution to adopt said moratorium and indeed, the rescinding of the resolution to adopt said moratorium, with immediate effect:**

**My three main objections are as follows:**

**1) the manner in which this matter was deliberated and decided without the necessary wider consultation, to democratically include and so represent the views of all interested members of the bulldog clubs and of the KUSA, such as myself.**

2) the apparent misrepresentation of the essential facts by some, if not all the Bulldog Clubs or their structures, at this stage merely based on your clearly exclusively mentioning in support of the moratorium, their claims that:

- a) the U.K. Kennel Club are 'not' ready with the Revised Standard; and
- b) that the Standard itself is 'not' ready to be implemented;
- c) leading to the need for a 3-year moratorium;

3) the direct conflict of said moratorium with the declared aims/objectives of the various Bulldog Clubs involved and especially the KUSA as stated in its Constitution and related presentations, in essence rendering said resolution on a moratorium invalid on the grounds of unconstitutionality, let alone matters of severe prejudice of the rights of excluded members and even damages resulting herefrom.

Let me deal briefly, but definitively, with my heads of argument regarding each of these objections in turn.

I) If there is no evidence, which I believe is the case, of all of the valid registered current membership of the affected Breed Clubs and of the KUSA itself having been formally canvassed for their position for or against the adoption of a moratorium and this based on the facts, rather than emotional vested interest appeals and misrepresentations witnessed on their websites, then **there was in fact no valid representation that might reasonably lead to legitimate negotiations for the adoption and subsequent imposition of a moratorium upon those members, or even a single member, willing to accept the Kennel Club's Revised Standard and expecting the legitimate right to have their and every other contending dog judged thereby.**

Gandhi wisely once posed a powerful axiom thus: ***"Even if you are a minority of one, the truth is still the truth"***, so even if I were utterly alone in opposition to this moratorium, because I have no vested interest, apparently alone hold the high moral ground and because I have taken it upon myself to represent our beloved bulldogs in this matter, I in fact represent the largest legitimate constituency of all and as such, I ought to hold at least equal, if not greater sway over the question of whether the moratorium should stand, or fall. Let us be mindful of the need to unselfishly serve the greater good in this matter, rather than our own interests.

Those members unwilling to timeously accept the revisions, are in fact the ones rebelling against and defaulting on the adoption of the Revised Standard undertaken in the interests of the health and welfare of the affected breeds themselves, which is the primary objective of the U.K. Kennel Club and supposedly, also of the Kennel Union of SA, via its reciprocal agreements with the Kennel Club and its own stated objectives.

KUSA is in essence, by its adoption of a moratorium on the Kennel Club's Revised Standard, putting the vested interests of the show breeder members above those of the Bulldogs and thereby opposing, indeed, dishonouring the considerable efforts made by the Kennel Club to their noble end. I cannot speak for any breed other than the Bulldog, but in so doing, I am acting on behalf of a breed which has clearly come off the worst in terms of criticism of the health and welfare aspects of the breed, and I believe, rightly so.

II) The two reasons (a & b) furnished by you as **the motivations put forward by the Bulldog Club structures for the claimed need for a 3-year moratorium, are in fact not even misrepresentations, but now, in retrospect, lay exposed as blatant lies, or at the very most, a callous blind eye turned towards developments that were rapidly changing the earlier U.K. landscape from outright rebellion to one of reluctant acceptance**, which is the very least that I would expect from our structures back home, given the stated aims of these Clubs.

Regarding claim number 2) a) above, I submit that **as of 24 September 09, there was already an unambiguous press statement by the Kennel Club's Communications Director, Caroline Kisko to the effect that:** "*There is absolutely no question that a dog should be able to see, breathe and walk freely and that it should be fit enough to have the ability to perform its original function. The final Standards make it clear to all that the exaggeration of features for aesthetic reasons, when this is to the detriment of a dog's health, is unacceptable. All judges will be expected to use the revised Standards from October (2009)*"

[<http://www.dogworld.co.uk/News/39-new-standards>] and also as of 29 September 09, the news that the Chairman of the U.K. Bulldog Breed Council, Robin Searle, had resigned after speaking of his disappointment with his own Council, stating: "**Now, after making the running, the Breed Council has accepted the Kennel Club's changes in the Standard**" [<http://www.birminghamandmidlandcountiesbulldogclub.com/standards.htm>], as well as the fact, shortly thereafter, that **the Revised Bulldog Standard was finalised and posted on the Kennel Club's website** [<http://www.thekennelclub.org.uk/item/155>] **at the beginning of October 2009 as scheduled back in September.** All of this must have occurred before the resolution for a moratorium was formally adopted and no-one appears to have come forward to make this contrary information available prior to you ratifying said resolution, which was therefore essentially fraudulently motivated and as such should be rescinded.

Regarding claim number 2) b) above, I submit as additional proof of the readiness of the Standard to be implemented, the fact that **the first U.K. challenge certificates for bulldogs under the revised Standard took place successfully in the U.K. last year already on 1 October 2009** at the Junior Bulldog Club (founded 1912) under Judge Alison Gunson. Full details, including photographs as published in a report at the following URL [<http://www.ourdogs.co.uk/News/2009/Oct2009/News231009/jrbulldog.htm>] which is worth a view for its historical significance and for the fact that the winner is nothing at all like that so widely predicted by the breeders and clubs in their petitions.

Regarding claim number 3) above, it is, even on the minimal evidence already presented above, **absolutely unnecessary to have a moratorium on the implementation of the Kennel Club's Revised Bulldog Standard, especially given that the Bulldog Clubs in the U.K. have already been successfully running with the new Standard since its inception in October last year.** It is ludicrous to assume that a judge would be unable to apply the revisions in his or her judgements. It is not a new standard and no changes have been made to the Bulldog breed. All that has changed is that the Standard has been made more specific on aspects previously adversely affecting the health of the dogs due to the lack of specific limitations of some descriptions, which allowed some aspects to be exaggerated to such extremes that they, in far too many instances, impacted significantly negatively on the health of the dogs, especially the showdogs, which is the sector directly responsible for these excesses and also the most vigorously opposed to these reforms made necessary by their very own breeding trends. Accordingly, the show dog sector should quite correctly be penalised, rather than pandered to, to the extent that they have strayed from the Standard, which was previously ignored to a large extent by both breeders and judges. **The more specific revisions to the Standard have in fact now made judging easier. That so many breeders now have 'stock' that is at such variance with the previous and/or the revised Standards, is almost entirely of their own making.**

III) My third objection relates to the fact that **the moratorium is in serious conflict with the declared aims/objectives of the various Bulldog Clubs involved, the KUSA and the U.K. Kennel Club.** It is undeniable that the Revised Bulldog Standard is intended to and will serve to restore health to the breed, if breeders implement the stricter limitations and judges abide by these, which is why I want to see points awarded or subtracted on standardised scorecards accompanied by written critiques. The degree to which a moratorium conflicts with the aims and objectives as stated by the KUSA in its Constitution and related presentations, is also sufficient to render the resolution for a moratorium invalid on the grounds of unconstitutionality, let alone

matters of severe prejudice of the rights of excluded members and even possible damages resulting herefrom should the moratorium be upheld.

The most obvious areas in which **the moratorium is in conflict with the proclaimed objectives of the KUSA**, and again, even on their own, are sufficient to invalidate the resolution, are as follows:

- a) Article 3.1, namely: **"To promote the improvement and general well-being of dogs"**;
- b) Article 3.2, namely: **"To encourage the responsible breeding and showing of pure bred dogs"**;
- c) Article 3.3, namely: **"To suppress and abolish any forms of fraudulent or discreditable conduct in canine affairs"**; and
- d) Article 3.7, namely: **"To maintain classifications of recognised breeds of dogs and to approve breed standards"**.

I shall leave it here for now and trust that the abovementioned fundamentals will suffice to invalidate and have the resolution adopting the moratorium rescinded, without protracted argumentation.

I look forward to your response in due course and trust that this matter will be resolved without the need to take this public by calling on external animal rights movements and animal lovers for support.

The current conservative and as yet impersonal extent of my campaign may be accessed from my Gaia Research Institute homepage [www.gaiaresearch.co.za](http://www.gaiaresearch.co.za) via the Animal Health Research Bulldog icon, or directly at [www.gaiaresearch.co.za/bygonesbulldogs.html](http://www.gaiaresearch.co.za/bygonesbulldogs.html) . The latter and the associated Perfect Bulldog page [www.gaiaresearch.co.za/bbtheperfectbulldog.html](http://www.gaiaresearch.co.za/bbtheperfectbulldog.html) are currently completely non-commercial (my Gaia Organics products fund my research) and without any vested pecuniary interests in competition with the Show Bulldog fraternity, since I don't expect to be breeding bulldogs with any available for sale as showdogs within the next few years, if indeed at all, though I do reserve the right to do so. The registration of a kennel is to avoid a situation that I found myself in, where a bulldog was supplied to me without timeous preparation of the necessary paperwork, which subsequently took a year to rectify with the kind assistance of the CBC's Mr Dave Franks.

Yours sincerely

Stuart Thomson  
Membership No. 1002111

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Stuart Thomson, Director, Gaia Research Institute and Bygones Bulldogs. 6 April 2010

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