





# PHENOTYPE AND FASHION IN DOG BREEDING





# Agenda

1. Aims
2. Evolution
3. Relevant Domains
4. Causes
5. Countermeasures
6. Short Outlook



1.

**Aims**



# Goals

- **Share my concern and my indignation**
- **Informal discussion**
- **Joint search for opportunities for improvement**



# Initial Information

- „Form follows fashion“ =
- **Dog populations under the influence of popular attitudes and habits**
- „Across breed groups“ =
- **Consideration of general processes and not those that are highly associated with individual breeds**



## What should we focus on

- **Groups of dogs with common features**      **Which ones?**
- **One or more trends**      **Which ones?**



2.

**Evolution**















# Survival of the fittest

- **Individuals that are most adapted to the environment have the highest likelihood to bring their genes in the next generations**
- **Wildlife**
- **Domesticated Animals**



# Paradox

- **Some dogs are so to say fit for function, but the function is strange**
- **Or in other words: Sometimes the dogs have a questionable function in human society (see next picture)**







3.

**Relevant Domains**



# Brainstorming

**Breeds**

**Results in Dog Shows**

***Results in Action events***

**Species**

***Function Types***

***Local Types***

**Breed Standards**

**Genetic and genomic information**

***Body Structure Types***

***Positive Presentations in Social Media***

**Attitudes of Buyers**

***Variability of Appearance***

**Varieties within Breeds**

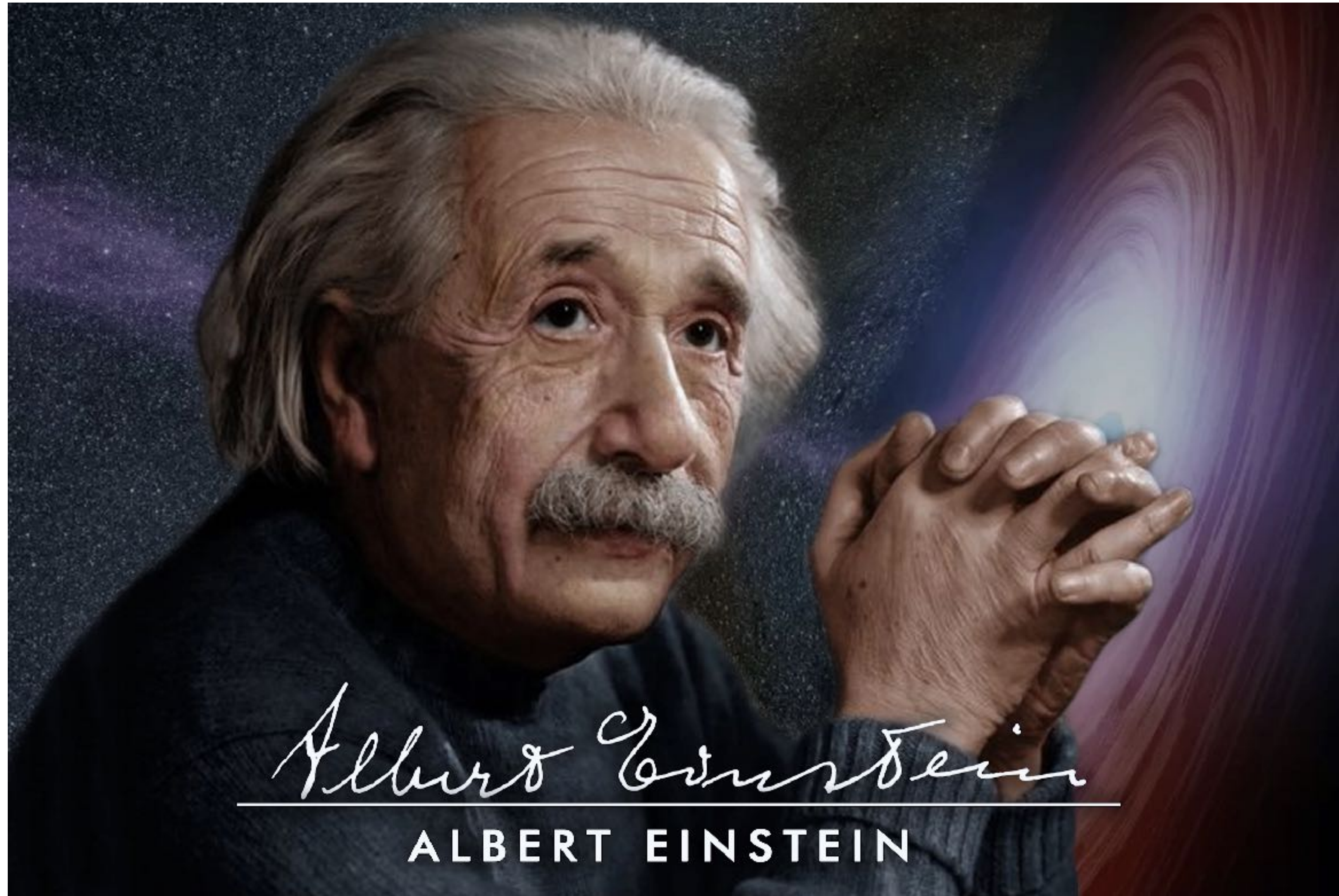
***Results of Behavior Samples***



## Problem

- **We need a logical structure to achieve reliable conclusions.**





**So we need an expert,  
but this one is not available anymore.**



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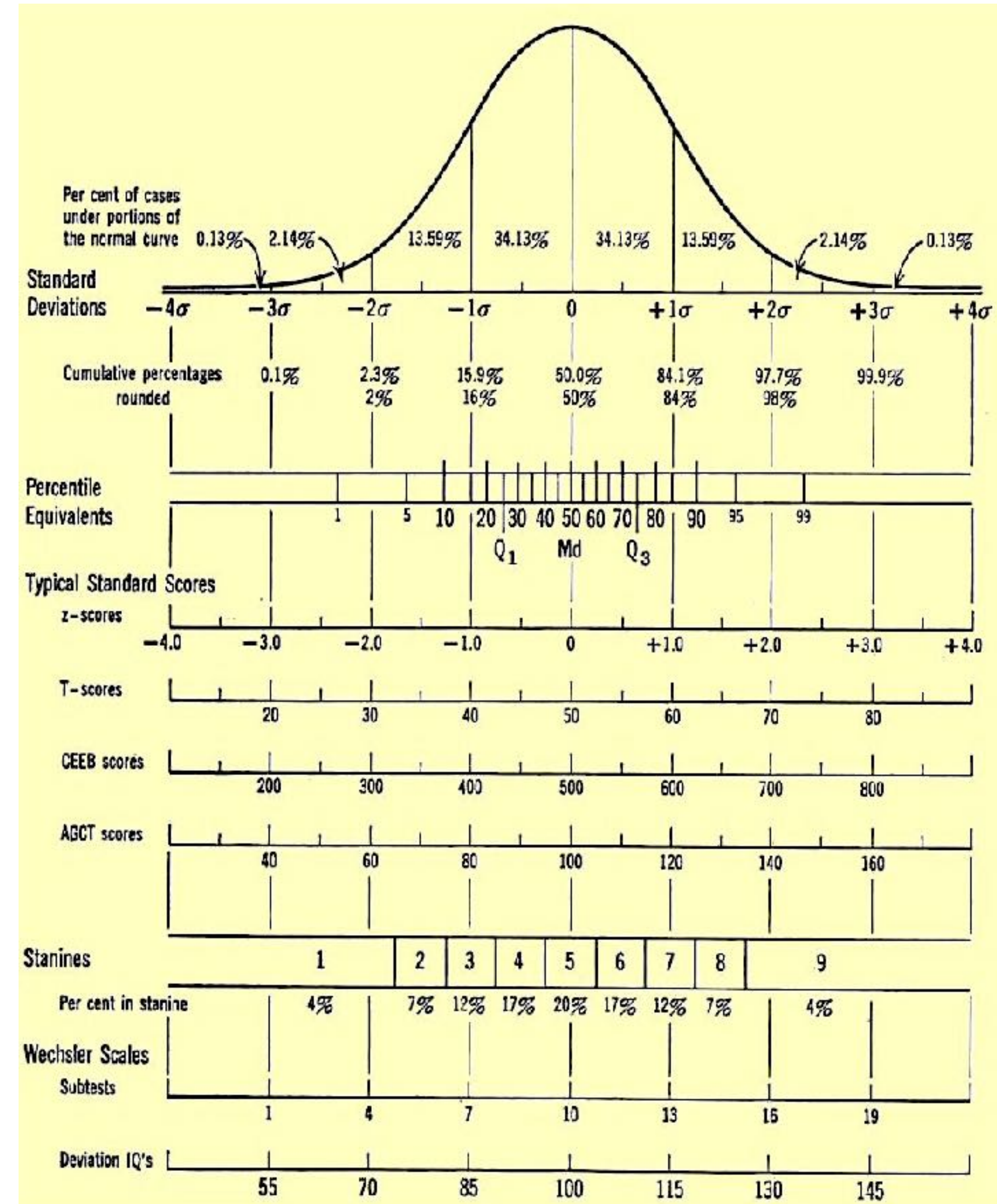








# Breeding Extreme Phenotypes



- Can happen gradually and go unnoticed for some time







# Breed Standards





# Legitimate claims regarding health







# Results in Events



# Variability of Appearance







# Genetic Characteristics





# Attitudes of Buyers



# Breed Standards

**Legitimate claims  
regarding health**

**Variability of  
Appearance**



**Results in  
Events**

**Genetic  
Characteristics**

**Attitudes of Buyers**



**Breed Standards**

**Sheriff Rony  
will surely take  
these six domains  
into consideration**

**Legitimate claims  
regarding health**

**Results in  
Events**

**Variability of  
Appearance**

**Genetic  
Characteristics**



**Attitudes of Buyers**



Breed Standards

# Contradictions

Legitimate claims  
regarding health

Results in  
Events

Variability of  
Appearance

Genetic  
Characteristics

are an  
alarm signal  
and can occur  
between each pair  
of the six domains

Attitudes of Buyers



**Contradictions  
are an  
alarm signal  
and can occur  
between each pair  
of the six domains**

**These contradictions must be the subject of our analysis.**



**Contradictions between  
breed standards and  
results in events**











## **Possible Domain of Breeding too Extreme Phenotypes #1**

**Very upright posture,  
very long neck  
and very strongly angulated hindquarters**







## **Possible Domain of Breeding too Extreme Phenotypes #2**

**Topline curved upwards  
or almost kinked in appearance**







## **Possible Domain of Breeding too Extreme Phenotypes #3**

**A great amount of hair  
that needs a lot of care,  
in many cases only a subjective problem**



**Contradictions between  
breed standards and  
legitimate claims  
regarding health**







# **Possible Domain of Breeding too Extreme Phenotypes #4**

**Hipbones  
at much higher level  
than withers**



**Contradictions between  
results in events and  
legitimate claims  
regarding health**







## **Possible Domain of Breeding too Extreme Phenotypes #5**

**Overly molossoid appearance  
and very much skin and wrinkles**



To Charlie  
With Best  
Wishes













## **Possible Domain of Breeding too Extreme Phenotypes #6**

**Very short head  
and / or very short muzzle**







## **Possible Domain of Breeding too Extreme Phenotypes #7**

**Height at withers very low,  
sometimes together with  
childlike appearance (Kindchenschema)  
and weight very low  
or height at withers very high**







## **Possible Domain of Breeding too Extreme Phenotypes #8**

**Very short legs and very long body**











# Possible Domain of Breeding too Extreme Phenotypes #9

## Locomotion



**Contradictions between  
attitudes of buyers and  
legitimate claims  
regarding health**







## **Possible Domain of Breeding too Extreme Phenotypes #10**

**Very strong excitability  
and very low ability to calm down,  
in many cases only a subjective problem**



# Contradictions between breed standards and genetic characteristics







## **Possible Domain of Extremist Breeding #11**

**Ignoring individual  
genetic impoverishment**







# Possible Domain of Breeding too Extreme Phenotypes #12

**Ignoring low life expectancy**



**Contradictions between  
variability of appearance  
and legitimate claims  
regarding health**





**The Saluki  
is a positive  
example**



# Possible Domain of Breeding too Extreme Phenotypes #13

## Uniformity within a breed



**Contradictions between  
standards and the  
variability of appearance**



















# Possible Domain of Breeding too Extreme Phenotypes #14

## Working type and show type







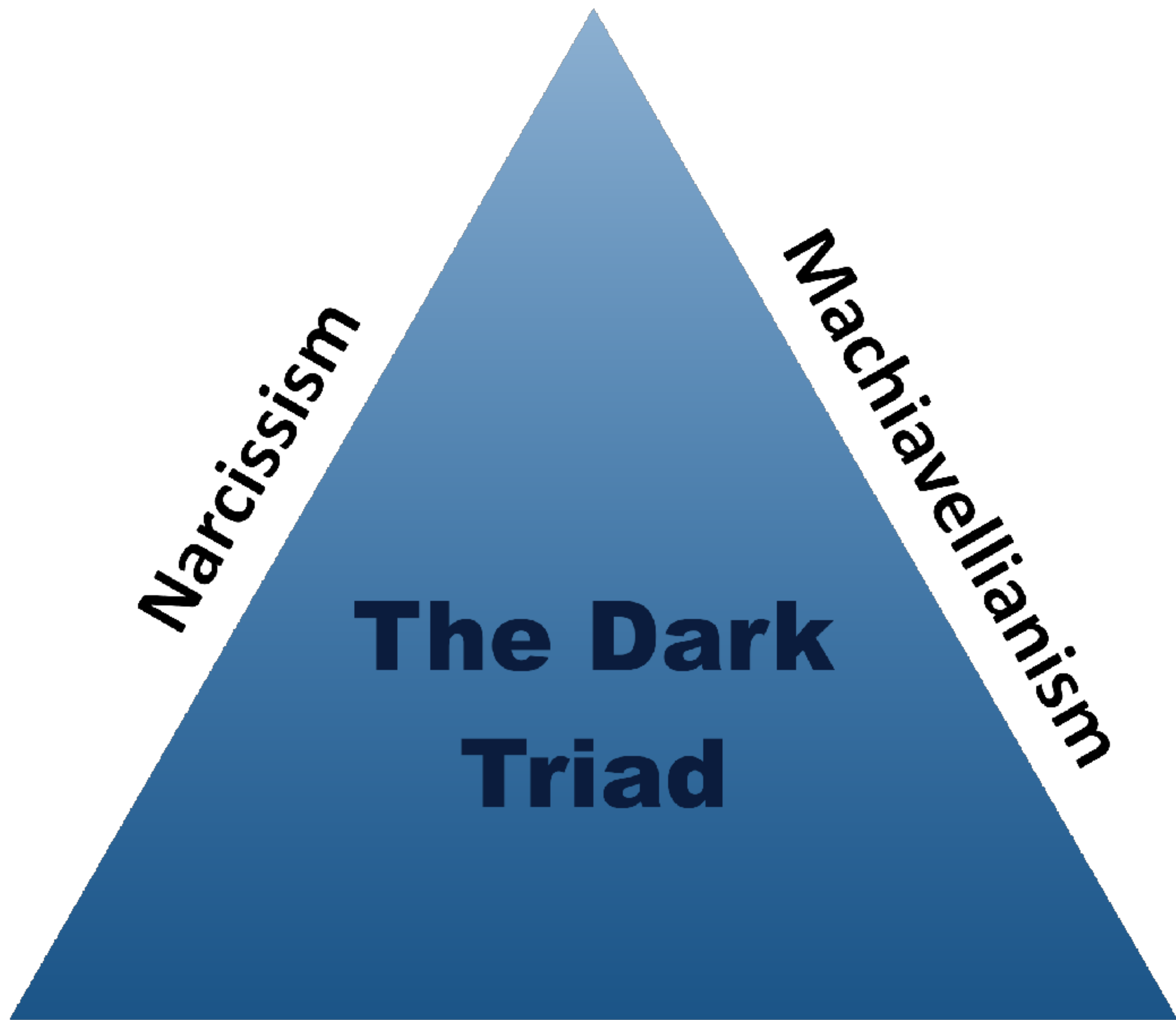
4.

Causes









*Narcissism*

*Machiavellianism*

**The Dark  
Triad**

**Psychopathy**





LE PENSEUR  
DE RODIN OFFERT  
PAR SOUSCRIPTION  
MUSEE D'ART MODERNE



Mat  
Pat  
Ra  
Har

$$2 + 2 = 7$$

$$3 + 3 = 9$$

$$2 \times 2 =$$











## **The Dark Quadrille of Breeding and of Politics with Influence on Breeding**

- 1. Strong orientation towards competition**
- 2. Simplistic, short-term thinking**
- 3. Alibi action instead of compassion**
- 4. The feeling of some of the powerful people that they belong to an elite with exceptional rights**



# Conclusion

- **In many of these problem areas dog judges are involved and could effectively contribute to improvement**
- **The FCI system should work in a way that the judges are encouraged to work for improvement in the field of animal well-being**
- **We all have to think about strategies how we can deal with those forms of wrong decisions of judges that are connected to animal well-being and that can lead to very negative consequences**



5.

# Countermeasures



**Winners**





# Proposal for Action #1

- **Review of champions and title winners**
- **Internal procedure**
- **Only checking for extreme or health-related characteristics**
- **Comparisons**



## One-to-one meetings





## Proposal for Action #2

- **One-to-one meetings to discuss questionable judging and questionable results**
- **Cooperation**
- **Not connected to punishment**
- **Confidentiality**



# Popular Breeds





## Proposal for Action #3

- **Working towards equal opportunities for different breeds at international dog shows**
- **Different classification system?**





**Structures in  
breed standards**



## Proposal for Action #4

- **Different structuring of faults in breed standards**
- **Breed-specific areas of risk in the standard**
- **Health-related and exaggeration faults (serious and disqualifying)**
- **Exterior faults (serious and disqualifying)**



# Inspecting and Judging





## Proposal for Action #5

- **First inspecting then judging**





**Africanis**



## Proposal for Action #6

- **Standard for the dog as a form of a species  
(Canis lupus forma familiaris),  
not only standards for dog breeds**
- **Essential characteristics**
- **Non-tolerable characteristics**
- **Ranges (from .... to ....)**



**Moderate Dogs**





## Proposal for Action #7

- **New forms of rewarding dogs with definitely moderate characteristics**
- **Maybe not in the show ring, but in different types of events and publications**
- **(More or less) Alternative concept**





**Measuring**



## Proposal for Action #8

- **Assessments by specially trained, tested and certified judges (or, in the extreme, external experts)**
- **Only in some breeds**
- **Characteristics that are difficult to record**
- **Characteristics for which biased results must be worried about**
- **Examples:**
  - **Cranio Facial Ratio**
  - **Skin**



## Breeding Programs

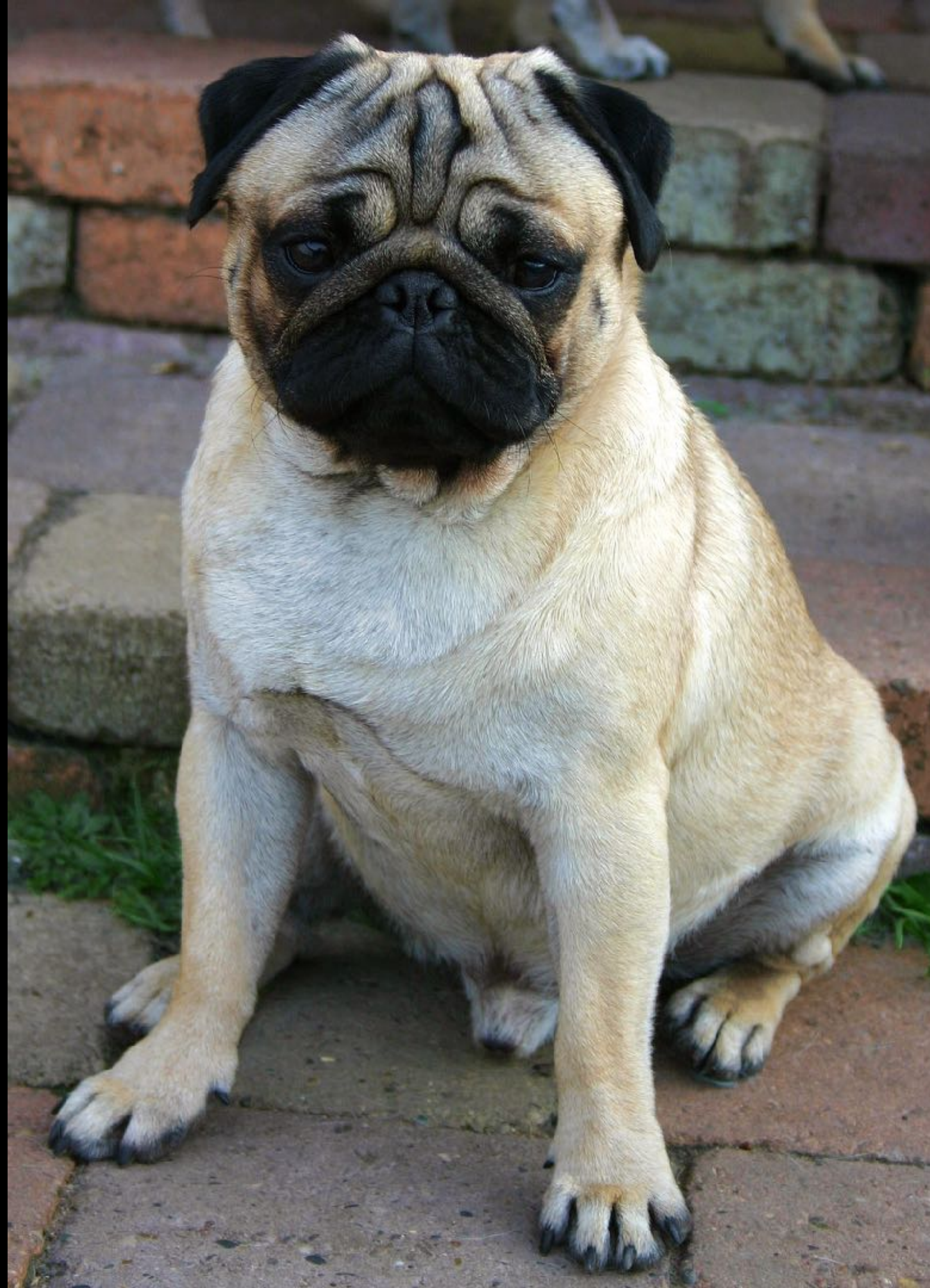




## Proposal for Action #9

- **Worldwide certification of breeding programmes**
- **Voluntary participation**
- **High level (but not extreme) criteria for selection and control**







**Revising  
breed standards**





## Proposal for Action #10

- **Revising breed standards**
- **Different opinions**
- **Example Bulldog: „Elbows low and standing well away from ribs.“**
- **Example Pug: „Head: round.“**



**Healthy old dogs**





# Proposal for Action #11

- **Rewarding healthy, vital and cheerful dogs with still excellent locomotion that are six years or older**
- **Problems with disorders that usually become manifest for the first time at an advanced age (for example at five to six years)**
- **Identification, including health checks (as many of them as possible)**
- **Premium Class (six years or older)**
- **Positive Selection instead of contraselection**
- **Frozen semen**







# Proposal for Action #12

- **Activities with less competition**





**Extreme Cases**



## Proposal for Action #13

- **Disciplinary measures only in extreme cases with frequently repeated misconduct**







6.

# Short Outlook



# How good is our capacity for reform?

- + Big dog populations still exist.
- + Scientific methods can be better integrated.
- How good is our capacity for reform?
- What will happen without reforms?



**If you don't agree with my argumentation,  
please do not criticize me too hard.**

**Otherwise**

**my typical German bodyguard might get angry:**



