



SUMMARY

Dog shows are detrimental to dog welfare, both in the short and long term. Lots of dogs are taken to several shows a year, for years on end. That means that welfare implications are continual and not just a one-off event.

Acute welfare problems: transportation (often over large distances – weeks of travelling in a camper van and staying in a small space), being confined to a bench, the washing and grooming, the actual show – these are all factors that have severe implications for a dog's welfare. At shows there are loud noises, a lot of unfamiliar dogs in close proximity, dirty dog toilet areas and dogs are subjected to touching, all of which causes stress in the participating animals. That stress is clear from the dogs' behaviour at shows.

Long-term health issues in pedigree dogs. Dog shows contribute to increased inbreeding within one breed, and thus to hereditary diseases and a reduction of vitality, fertility and lifespan. The winning male will go on to sire many offspring which further reduces the genetic variation in the breed. Often animals who are directly related are mated to ensure the strict breed standard is met. In addition, the breed standard rules out dogs with a deviating coat colour, type of coat or build, resulting in even fewer dogs available to ensure genetic diversity.

Dogs with medical issues (harmful breed traits and hereditary diseases) are ranked high. High scores are misleading to consumers. Dogs winning high scores at dog shows are usually losers when it comes to health. There are plenty of examples of winning dogs with respiratory or joint problems.

Dier&Recht wants a ban on dog shows