



# NORSK BOXERKLUBB

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## The Boxer Standard, FCI 144 and boxers with excessive white markings.

The Norwegian Boxer Club has learnt that you will discuss boxers with white markings covering more than 1/3 of the body in a meeting on May 24th. Based on our previous correspondence with the Boxer-Klub E.V, Sitz München regarding this, we would like to clarify the Norwegian Boxer Clubs position.

The Norwegian Boxer Club regrets that boxers with white markings exceeding 1/3 of the body surface is not recognized as breeding animals the same way as other boxers are. The gene behind the white markings is very prevalent in our breed, as all boxers with white markings have one copy of the gene, and all boxers with white markings covering more than 1/3 of the ground colour have two copies. As long as we want the white markings on our boxers, puppies with white markings covering more than 1/3 of the ground colour will inevitably be born. We have two variations of the gene in our breed, S and sw, and when they work together in a boxer, they give us three variations of white markings: solid SS, flashy Ssw and boxers with white covering most of the ground colour ssw.

We know from studies that the sw gene, the gene that will give white markings covering more than 1/3 of the ground colour in a boxer with two copies (ssw) does not cause any health problems. In many other breeds this combination of genes is the only existing colour, so it is a common colour, with no known diseases linked to it. The only health issue that may be linked to the large amount of white markings is deafness. In boxers there are almost no studies done, but one study shows a frequency of 2% bilateral deafness, on the other hand – deafness on boxers with smaller white markings has not been studied, so we really don't know if the frequency is increased in the boxers with more than 1/3 white.

Having white markings covering more than 1/3 of the ground colour is a very obvious fault among all the faults mentioned in the standard. However, there is a big difference between this fault and many of the other faults the standard describes, because individuals with this fault can be used for breeding without the fault being passed on to the offspring. This is easily achieved by combining it with a partner without the gene for white markings.

The Norwegian Boxerclub does obviously recognizes Germany as the "owner" of the boxer standard FCI - 144. We are aware of and support this statement from FCI:

The 'owner' countries of the breeds write the standard of these breeds (detailed description of the ideal type of the breed), in co-operation with the Standards and Scientific Commissions of the FCI. The translation, updating and publication of the standards are carried out by the FCI. These standards are THE reference for the judges at shows held in the FCI member countries, but also for the breeders in their attempt to produce top-quality dogs.



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There is no dispute that Germany, as the country of origin for our breed, sets the standard for our boxer. The FCI standard is, as FCI describes breed standards: "A blue print for correct breed type as well as the tool to use when assessing the outcome of pedigree dog breeding" The boxer described in the FCI standard is the aim of our breeding in Norway as in all other countries. How we reach this goal is not described in the standard, but is delegated to the different countries, and to the national breed clubs. The national breed clubs set their own ethical guidelines and decide on the frames for breeding in their country in order to produce healthy, sound and well-adjusted boxers that adhere to the standard. We would like to emphasize that the Norwegian Boxer Club has no intention of trying to change or influence the standard – that is the privilege and responsibility of the Boxer-Klub E.V, Sitz München. What we have done, is to apply to the Norwegian Kennel Club to discontinue the automatic breeding ban on puppies with more than 1/3 white. On top of that we discourage breedings resulting in puppies with white markings covering more than 1/3 of the ground colour, as it is a fault according to the FCI standard.

The genes responsible for the ground colour as well as the distribution of white markings in boxers is well known among breeders. The Norwegian Boxer Club does not promote the breeding of boxers that will result in boxers with faults described in the FCI standard, such as white markings covering more than 1/3 of the ground colour.

In September 2016 the Norwegian Kennel Club decided that it would no longer be possible for breed clubs to set a breeding ban on dogs of a disqualifying colour, unless the colour has serious health consequences (such as the Merle gene). This decision was in line with the politics of the Norwegian Boxer Club, but a decision applying to many other breeds as well. The Norwegian Boxer Club has, as a consequence of this decision changed our ethical rules for breeding to ensure that any breeding with a boxer with white markings covering more than 1/3 of the ground colour would only produce boxers adhering to the standard by combining it with a partner without the gene for white markings. It is well known that such a combination will only produce fawn or brindle puppies with the correct amount of white markings

To ensure that as few as possible puppies with excessive amount of white is being born, the Norwegian Boxer Club will continue our education program for breeders.

All boxer puppies that are born will still be welcomed by the club, regardless of the amount of white markings covering their ground colour.

Kind regards

The Norwegian Boxerclub

Attachments

1. [Reference 1: Karlson et al. \*Efficient mapping of mendelian traits in dogs through genome-wide association\* \(pdf. Of article\)](#)
2. [WHITE MARKINGS IN THE BOXER, CAUSES AND INHERITANCE: A SUMMARY by DR. BRUCE M CATTANACH](#)



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3. <https://www.bk-muenchen.de/aktuelles/aktuelles-detailansicht/article/Weisse-Boxer-Zucht.html>
4. **Three articles:**
  - a. ***Analysis of the Inheritance of White Spotting and the Evaluation of KIT and EDNRB as Spotting Loci in Dutch Boxer Dogs***
  - b. ***Heterozygote Advantage: The Effect of Artificial Selection in Livestock and Pets***
  - c. ***Localization of White Spotting Locus in Boxer Dogs on CFA20 by Genome-Wide Linkage Analysis with 1500 SNPs***
5. ***Presentation about the genetics of the white marking pattern in boxers***