Recommendation 3: In companion animals, neutering should be encouraged as a means of preventing the perpetuation of extremes of conformation.

Recommendation 4: Animals showing extremes of conformation that negatively affect their health and welfare should not be used for breeding.

Recommendation 5: Breed Standards for animals with extreme conformation should be reviewed according to eviTm/GS6 gs0 g/GS9 gs0 G[ )]TETQ0.0-3(n)-3(f)25(o)-3(r)4(m)-33(a)-58(t)25(i)-23d 594.75 8

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conditions.[9] [10]

Scottish Fold Cats -The genetic mutation that causes the characteristic ear cartilage fold in Scottish Fold Cats also causes severe cartilage and bone abnormalities, often resulting in severe arthritis and painful degenerative joint disease.[11]

Brachycephalic (flat-faced) dogs eg. Pug, Bulldog, French bulldog - As a consequence of selective breeding for their appearance and to cater for their high demand, a substantial proportion of dogs with brachycephalic conformation are predisposed to suffer from a range of health problems associated with their extreme conformation. These problems include: Anatomical defects of the upper airway causing breathing difficulties often associated with overheating, sleep apnoea and regurgitation (eg. Brachycephalic Obstructive Airway Syndrome (BOAS))[12] [13] [14]; eye disease[15] [16] [17] [18];

'**Cartoon' Arabian-colts-** Arabian horses are often selected for their 'dished' or concave facial conformation, however there has recently been an emerging breeding practice whereby extreme concave facial features of Arabians have been selected for, resulting in a flattened, cartoon-like nose which may negatively impact on the horse's ability to breathe and exercise normally.[40] [41]

Poultry

Tibial dyschondroplasia in broiler chickens – In some broiler chickens that have been bred for fast growth rates, the tibial cartilage does not mature enough to turn into bone, affecting the growth of bone and cartilage. Tibial dyschondroplasia has historically led to lameness in broilers, however significant welfare progress has been made over a number of years by genetics breeding companies that have used genetic improvements to reduce incidence of this condition. The BVPA and poultry industry in the UK continually strive for optimal bird welfare, whilst producing high quality and safe products for consumers. The industry selects breeds which suit the production systems to which they are reared and cared for, working closely with veterinarians, and in consultation with consumers, retailers and farm assurance schemes. Examples of where significant welfare progress has been made over a number of years by genetics breeding companies through genetic improvements are the reduction in the incidence of tibial dyschondroplasia in broilers (as above) and reduction in incidence of broiler ascites, which had historically led to lameness and cardiovascular disease respectively in broiler chickens.

Last updated November 2018.

40 Veterinary Record, 2017. Meet El Rey Magnum Veterinary Record 181, 390. Available at: https://veterinaryrecord.bmj.com/content/181/15/390

41 Knapton, S, 2017. "Extreme horse breeding leaves animals looking like cartoons, warn vets" Available at: https://www.telegraph.co.uk/science/2017/10/13/extreme-horse-breeding-leaves-animals-looking-