

**Position Statement: Policy on responsible breeding practices to ensure quality of life and promote overall health and well being.**

The AVDC recognizes that many breeds in each species (e.g., canine, feline, and lagomorph) have particular genetic tendencies that predispose them to potential maxillofacial or respiratory irregularities. While this is not a total representation of each breed, one must consider all aspects of either genetic or acquired pathology when choosing a pet. It is recommended that any future pet owner consider discussing potential breed-related problems with their family veterinarian or specialist. While these recommendations may be beneficial in the overall understanding of a breed with either a genetic or acquired tendency, the AVDC as an organization does not have a general policy regarding this topic.

The AVDC has relied on individual Diplomates to provide valuable evidence based medical recommendations for current and future pet owners to consider. The AVDC does encourage responsible breeding practices that result in anatomy and conformation that limits impediments to the animal's quality of life and promotes overall health and well being.

*Adopted by the Board of Directors, January 2019*