

PEOPLE FOR
THE ETHICAL
TREATMENT
OF ANIMALS

February 28, 2023

Dear Mr. Seiler:

I'm writing on behalf of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) regarding breathing-impaired breeds (BIB). Breeding brachycephalic dogs, including pugs, boxers, and English and French bulldogs, has been banned in other countries because their purposely bred, grotesquely flattened faces leave them struggling to walk, play, and even breathe, and bans are being contemplated in this country now, too. We urge you to get ahead of the curve: Stop trying to undo some of the horrific damage done by other breeders by attempting to breed out these cruel traits yourself, which involves more dogs who are born with health problems as you work on the issue, and instead, just help dogs in a major way *by no longer breeding them at all*.

You must be fully aware of the health problems that bulldogs suffer from and of the premature deaths of previous "Ugas": Uga VI died of congestive heart failure at 9 years old, Uga VII died from a heart attack at only 4 years old, and Uga VIII died of lymphoma before he reached 17 months of age. The [New York Post](#) broke the story about a recent PETA investigation that caught a worker at a pet store that sells English bulldogs explaining that there's no lifetime warranty on BIBs because of the serious health issues that they inevitably suffer from. For flat-faced dog breeds like English bulldogs, bred for a certain look regardless of resultant chronic discomfort and poor health, breathing through what's left of their nasal passages is like breathing through a straw. Veterinarians worldwide are sounding the alarm on BIBs: In 2018, the British Veterinary Association [called on companies to stop using them](#) in products and advertisements. PETA is doing the same thing in the U.S., successfully.

As a result of repeated, selected breeding for certain features, most bulldogs' hips are now too narrow to allow them even to mate, so breeding them requires forcible insemination—in other words, they are sexually manipulated and assaulted. When a breeder uses their finger or a syringe to insert semen into a dog's vagina or performs sexual acts on dogs to encourage and facilitate breeding, they are engaging in what may constitute a form of bestiality—the sexual abuse of animals—in many states.

Our nation's animal shelters are overwhelmed with unwanted and homeless dogs. Petfinder currently lists 600 English bulldogs for adoption, not to mention that an estimated 70 million dogs and cats are homeless right now in the U.S. Please, stop playing with bulldogs' lives and stop breeding deformed dogs who can't enjoy the simple things dogs enjoy, like running

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and playing, and who struggle to breathe every second of every day. May we please hear from you that you will no longer contribute to this suffering?

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ingrid Newkirk". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent loop at the end.

Ingrid Newkirk
President