



Ian Katz
Chief Content Officer, Channel 4

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Dear Mr Katz:

Hello from People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA). Given Crufts has always put dogs last, it came as little surprise to learn that Mr Lee Cox, the breeder behind 'Best in Show' winner Bruin, has been convicted for cruelty to animals. Still, crowning a dog abuser is a new low, and we're again writing to urge Channel 4 to stop airing Crufts.

The Kennel Club, which organises Crufts, has brushed off Mr Cox's crime as an 'isolated incident', but Channel 4 should act now. There appears to be no robust system in place to ensure that individuals with histories of animal cruelty are prevented from being celebrated at the dog show. Viewers also have no way of knowing the extent of the suffering of dogs bred and exhibited within this system. Adam – the spaniel who was repeatedly used by Mr Cox for breeding and then neglected to the point that his ear was so chronically infected it had to be removed – was only discovered after inspectors visited his 'putrid' kennels. That's one of the key problems: dogs bred for profit and applause often suffer in silence, alone and in pain, and shows like Crufts glorify it. Any act of cruelty to animals should end a person's involvement with animals for life. Mr Cox's conviction alone should be enough to end Channel 4's promotion of Crufts, especially given the channel's reputation for programming that celebrates dogs and the human-dog bond, with shows such as 'The Dog House' and 'Peter Wicks For Dogs' Sake'.

Bruin's win also highlights another fundamental problem with Crufts. Clumber Spaniels are prone to numerous health issues affecting their eyes, ears, joints and digestive systems. Yet year after year, the competition promotes dogs deliberately bred to conform to exaggerated, arbitrary 'breed standards', ensuring that breeders continue to create a slew of dogs with physical features that cause everything from breathing difficulties and deformities to chronic health problems. Crufts also ignores that when people rush to buy the 'breed *du jour*', dogs in shelters go begging, puppy mills prosper, and dogs suffer.

With Mr Cox's win, Crufts compounds its role in promoting unhealthy breeding practices and fuelling animal homelessness by celebrating a man convicted of neglecting a dog after exploiting his body for breeding. PETA will continue to oppose Crufts until dogs are no longer forced to breed for human greed at the expense of their health and welfare. In the meantime, we urge Channel 4 to stop airing this spectacle of canine cruelty.

Sincerely,



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Senior Campaigns Manager

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