

English Bulldog in need of 'new blood'
英国斗牛犬需通过杂交改善健康

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科学家认为将英国斗牛犬与其它犬种杂交可能是保证其生存的最佳途径。数百年来，为保留其特定的外貌特征，斗牛犬一直沿袭同系间交配。然而一项基因研究表明，如果没有“新鲜血液”的帮助，该品种将面临一系列健康问题。请听报道。

The **English Bulldog** was one of the most popular **breeds** across Britain and America last year. But during the **latter** part of the last century, many bulldogs were bred to have **exaggerated physical features**, which led to health issues including **breathing difficulties**.

Researchers at the University of California say popularity can no longer **excuse** the health problems that the average bulldog **endures**. And they say the **gene pool** has become so small, it could be difficult to improve the health of the English Bulldog without **cross-breeding**.

The Head of Health and Research at the Kennel Club, Aimée Llewellyn-Zaidi, said they continue to look at ways to ensure the **sustainability** of a breed if it is at risk, and they're working with **breed clubs** and researchers in order to do this.

词汇表

English Bulldog	英国斗牛犬
breeds	品种
latter	(一段时间) 后半期的
exaggerated	(体型) 过大的
physical features	外貌特征
breathing difficulties	呼吸困难
excuse	是……的正当理由
endures	承受, 忍受 (病痛)
gene pool	(某一物种的) 基因库
cross-breeding	(动、植物) 杂交配种
sustainability	持续性
breed clubs	(为喜爱同一种狗设立的) 养犬俱乐部

测验

请听报道并回答下列问题。

1. When did many bulldogs start to develop exaggerated physical traits?
2. True or false? *The popularity of the breed might be a reason why its health issues have been allowed to develop.*
3. What could be a way to improve the health of the English Bulldog, according to text?
4. Which prepositional phrase in the text means 'exposed to a dangerous situation'?

答案

1. When did many bulldogs start to develop exaggerated physical traits?

In the latter part of the last century, many bulldogs were bred having exaggerated physical traits.

2. True or false? *The popularity of the breed might be a reason why its health issues have been allowed to develop.*

True. Researchers say popularity can no longer excuse its health issues, which means that being popular used to be a reason why the English Bulldog's health problems were previously ignored.

3. What could be a way to improve the health of the English Bulldog, according to the text?

Cross-breeding could be a way to improve the health of the English Bulldog.

4. Which prepositional phrase in the text means 'exposed to a dangerous situation'?

At risk.