

WHITE SWISS SHEPHERD DOG CLUB OF AUSTRALIA INC.

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Bylaws

28th December 2019

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The White Swiss Shepherd Dog Club of Australia Inc. ("the Club") is a non-profit organization devoted to the protection and improvement of the White Swiss Shepherd Dog.

GENERAL CLUB RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR ALL MEMBERS

ALL MEMBERS AND BREEDERS AGREE TO:

Always act in the best interests of the breed and the WSSDCA Club, that the health and welfare of the breed must always take precedence over financial or personal gain.

MEMBER BEHAVIOUR/ETHICS:

ALL members of the Club are to represent themselves, their Kennels, and the Club in a fair and proper manner at all times and in all forms of media. Including but not limited to websites, forums, e-mails, newsletters and social media etc.

Any Member or Kennel found to be misrepresenting themselves, another Member, or the Club in any way are to be disciplined by the Committee in accordance with the Club Rules, Bylaws and Constitution.

BREED STANDARD:

All members accept the FCI Breed Standard for the White Swiss Shepherd Dog as published by the Club on the WSSDCA website.

Members and Breeders are Not to refer to, or advertise their dogs as 'RARE'.

LIVING CONDITIONS:

Ensure that all dogs and/or puppies receive proper daily care and attention, supplied with sufficient quality food, water, shelter and adequate exercise. That Kennels and run or living area is to be in a clean and healthy condition.

HEALTH CARE

All dogs and/or puppies are to be immunized with the standard vaccinations as advised by your veterinarian. A copy of all dogs' vaccination certificates are to be submitted to the club if / when required by the WSSDCA committee. Keep all dogs free of worms and parasites.

COUNCIL/COMMUNITY LAW:

Conform to local Council and/or community laws pertaining to dogs.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS/DETAILS:

Notify the Club in writing of any changes of address and/or contact details of either the Member and/or the dogs. A change of details form is available on our website.

CHANGE OF OWNERSHIP:

When a dog is sold or re-homed, a Transfer of Ownership form is to be completed and submitted to the WSSDCA Registry so that the club does not lose track of the dog and the new owners are able to access benefits with the club. If required, a Complimentary or New membership form is also to be given to the new owner. A replacement Pedigree Certificate or Letter of Registration will be issued to the new owner, whichever is appropriate.

NOTIFY WSSDCA OF GENETIC DISEASE/DEFORMITY/ILLNESS:

Notify the WSSDCA should your dog develop any genetic disease, deformity, or illness in a timely manner. Veterinary confirmation must be provided. These details are to remain confidential as per all club health results.

IDENTIFICATION OF A DOG/MICROCHIP FAILURE:

All puppies must be microchipped prior to leaving the breeders premises by law. This microchip number is provided on the litter registration for recording in the WSSDCA Registry for the individual identification of the dog.

If the microchip fails or is not found (eg. has fallen out), a statutory declaration must be provided by a person with direct knowledge of the dog to identify the dog, along with a Veterinarian letter of microchip failure and replacement to state the new microchip number to the WSSDCA Registrar as soon as practicable.

WEBSITE, NEWSLETTERS & SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS:

All information and advertising on the WSSDCA Club website, newsletters and social media platforms is for financial members of the Club and Club sponsors only. Any information on the web site must have written approval from the Committee. There is to be a fee set to cover the cost of these sites.

All Forums, Chat groups and member pages that are set up are to display a list of guidelines and rules of conduct that all agree to abide by before any forum is launched and members are accepted into the groups or pages.

If a breeder/stud owner does not wish to be listed on the breeders/stud listing, they must notify the WSSDCA Club in writing.

Members that have a page or link on our Website pay a yearly fee, as set out in the scale of fees and charges.

MEMBERS USE OF CLUB LOGO:

Permission is required for use of the Club logo by a member. Anything other than official Club correspondence and requirements for advertising of events is to be approved by the Executive Committee. Permission is not to be unduly withheld.

Breeding Rules and Regulations

BREEDING RULES:

Members agree to follow all WSSDCA Rules and Regulations for breeding as outlined in this Section.

CO/JOINT OWNERSHIP or WHELPING:

If using Co / Joint ownership or syndicate agreement, copies of the completed and signed pages of the contract/ agreement along with administration fees and all other required paperwork are to be forwarded to the WSSDCA Registrar immediately following the purchase of a dog/bitch or whelping agreement with the litter registration or placements of all puppies.

LEASING OF BITCHES/STUD DOGS, CONTRACT OF SALE/MATINGS/LEASING:

The WSSDCA strongly recommends a Contract of Sale, Contract of Leasing or Contract of Mating be written between breeders and owners to protect the dogs, owners and the registration process for resulting pups.

A Breeder is required to supply a copy of the agreement to the Club, signed by both parties.

In the event of a disagreement between both parties where a resolution cannot be reached, the Executive Committee of the WSSDCA Club reserves the right to allow for the processing of litter registrations and the issue of pedigree papers or letters of registrations as seems appropriate for the new puppy owners to maintain the integrity of the club. The agreement should allow for:

- the sharing of confidential health information with all parties,
- all appropriate paperwork for litters,
- stud dog service documents to be processed without interruption.
- protect the interest of all parties,
- protect the health and well-being of the Bitch/Stud Dog.

REGISTER A KENNEL NAME/PREFIX:

A Registered Kennel name is required by the person responsible for registering a litter.

To register a Kennel Name/Prefix, the form is available on the club website. Members can apply for a Kennel prefix with three preferred names.

An applicant must successfully complete an open book test of the WSSDCA breeding rules and sign their agreement to abide to the WSSDCA breeding rules before a Kennel certificate can be issued.

A completed test and Kennel application Form are to be submitted to WSSDCA committee for approval. A Kennel Certificate will be issued and recorded in the Registry at the address on your application.

Financial Members are eligible for Website listings and social media support from club pages and forums.

RESERVING KENNEL NAME/PREFIX:

Financial Members are entitled to reserve Kennel Names for future breeding purposes. A Kennel name will not be officially activated (i.e. included in the breeders listing) until all breeding requirements have been fulfilled in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Club and appropriate fees are paid.

KENNEL NAME/PREFIX – Naming your puppies

The registered Kennel Name / Prefix of a breeder must be attached to every animal bred by them. The Kennel Name/Prefix is part of the name:

- ONLY ONE Kennel Name/Prefix is to be associated with each pup.
- Each name must be unique to the Kennel Prefix on the WSSDCA Registry.
- The complete name, including the Kennel Prefix is not to exceed 30 Characters.

TO UPGRADE A DOG or BITCH TO ‘APPROVED FOR BREEDING’ STATUS:***APPROVAL FOR BREEDING *MUST BE* CONFIRMED PRIOR TO MATING***

If mating is time sensitive, please contact the Registrar for assistance.

Your application must be accompanied by Hip/Elbow scoring and Genetic/Health Results, details are listed below:

SUMMARY: X-RAYS, DNA GENETIC TESTS AND APPROVAL FOR BREEDING:

X-rays should not occur before 12 months of age, for either male or female. Approval for Breeding can be granted after 12 months of age, if the upgrade requirements are met.

Male Dogs may commence breeding at 12 months.

Female Bitches *MUST NOT* be mated until after 18 months of age or their 2nd heat whichever is the latter. (see Breeding Age/Frequency)

DNA TESTS REQUIRED TO UPGRADE TO ‘APPROVED FOR BREEDING’ STATUS:

Breeders must follow the mating guidelines in regards to the genetic testing results for Autosomal recessive diseases listed in this guideline. All results will be entered into the WSSDCA Registry for future reference and shown on ‘Approved For Breeding’ Pedigree Certificates.

Tests currently required by the WSSDCA Registry are:

- Multi Drug Resistance (MDR1),
- Degenerative Myelopathy (DM)
- Von Willebrands
- and Haemophilia in some circumstances. (See below)

2.1 HAEMOPHILIA TESTING:

Only Dogs imported to Australia and those who’s Dam has been imported are to be tested for Haemophilia (Factor VIII), this includes frozen semen. Results of all tests are to be forwarded to the WSSDCA Registrar for certification and approval prior to the commencement of breeding. Results of Haemophilia must be within normal limits.

**Orivet Genetic Pet Care offer members a discount on all tests, contact the Secretary or Registrar for instructions on how to access this service.*

GENETIC RESULTS USED TO DETERMINE A SUITABLE MATING:

Clear x Clear Preferred.

Clear x Carrier: Allowable, the breeder is to provide new owners with details of parent's status and information on this condition.

“NOT ALLOWED”

Clear x Affected: NOT ALLOWED

Carrier x Carrier: NOT ALLOWED

Carrier x Affected NOT ALLOWED

Affected x Affected NOT ALLOWED

DNA COLLECTION IS TO BE DONE BY AUTHORISED PERSON ONLY:

DNA SAMPLES ARE NOT TO BE COLLECTED BY OWNERS, BREEDERS OR A PERSON WITH A CONFLICT OF INTEREST IN THE MATING OR UPGRADING OF THE DOG/BITCH.

It is ONLY to be collected by an approved, independent, trained collector including a Veterinarian.

A) DNA COLLECTION METHOD:

DNA sample collection is usually via a non-intrusive buccal swab, if a blood sample is required, a registered veterinarian should perform the collection.

B) VERIFIED IDENTIFICATION:

Positive Identification by microchip must be sited and verified at the time of collection by a veterinarian or authorised collector and noted on the form.

C) PARENTAGE VERIFICATION/CLEAR BY PARENTAGE:

Parentage Testing – For verification of parentage, both Sire, Dam and Progeny must have DNA profiles for comparison.

D) Clear by Parentage (CBP) – for specific diseases.

Where both parents are clear of these diseases, their offspring may be assumed to be clear of the same diseases. Proof of parentage is required for this to be entered in the WSSDCA Registry.

ORIGINAL/COPY OF DOCUMENTS:

If a document is unclear as to its authentic origin, for example; Results from Genetic Laboratory or from Hip/Elbow scoring professional, the original document must be certified by a Justice of the Peace or equivalent to be accepted by the WSSDCA Registry.

CONFIDENTIALITY OF HEALTH RESULTS:

Confidential information relating to results of hip/elbow scores and the DNA genetic tests in bloodlines are NOT be disclosed to any other member without the written permission of the owner and breeder of the dog. **A Breeder is required to supply a copy of parent's scores and test results prior to, or at the time of hand over of the pup to the puppy buyer.*

HIP/ELBOW X-RAYS & SCORING:

The breeder must have all breeding stock X-rayed for Hip and Elbow Dysplasia, with all scoring to be done by an industry recognised association either in Australia or Internationally.

e.g. Australian Veterinary Association [AVA],
Federation Cynologique Internationale [FCI],
British Veterinary Association [BVA],
Orthopaedic Foundation for Animals [OFA],
New Zealand Veterinary Association [NZVA],
(but not limited to these organisations),

Scoring must be provided in the format used by the Australian Veterinary Association [AVA]. If scoring is in another format approximate equivalent documentation should be provided.

HIP/ELBOW SCORE REGULATION:

AS OF THE 30th DECEMBER, 2019, any Dog/Bitch applying to Upgrade for Breeding will need to comply with:

HIP SCORE:

To be Approved for Breeding, a dog or bitch must record a score of no more than eight (8) on either hip, (a total of 16), with no more than three (3) in any one area.

ELBOW SCORE:

Elbows must score no more than 2 on either elbow, with a total of no more than 3, with NO UAP on either elbow.

MATING DOGS OVER CURRENT BREED AVERAGE:

Dogs / Bitches - over the current breed average score (11.2 – as of 2014-2017) MUST BE mated to registered dogs / bitches that have a much lower hip score. The dog with the lower hip score must not have a score of more than six (6) on any one hip, or a total of twelve (12) and no more than three (3) on any one area.

***MATING INCOMPATIBLE HIP SCORES WILL INCURR A BREACH OF BREEDING RULES:**

- See Breach of Breeding Rules

CHOOSING A MATING:

Only breed with WSSDCA Registered dogs/bitches that:

- that have been 'Approved for Breeding' having met all breeding requirements, -
- are physically, structurally and temperamentally sound.
- conform as closely as possible to the Club's Breed Standard,

**Approval for Breeding status should be confirmed with the Registrar if the AFB Pedigree Certificate is not available for inspection.*

MATING CONTRACT:

It is recommended that all Registered Breeders and Stud Dog owners, entering into an agreement to mate stud dogs and bitches use a form of contract to protect the dogs, resulting pups and owners.

IMPORTED DOGS, SEMEN & BITCHES:

Breeders wanting to import Dogs, semen and bitches to enter them into the WSSDCA breeding register must have a pedigree from a recognised/equivalent organisation.

A WSSDCA Registration number will be allocated alongside their international registration number for database search purposes. Both numbers will be recorded against the dog/semen/bitch's pedigree.

A Semen Registration Form is to be submitted to registry.

BREEDING AGE/FREQUENCY:

A Breeder is to NOT allow his/her female White Swiss Shepherd to be bred from before the bitch's second (2nd) heat/season or before the age of eighteen (18) months- whichever is the latter.

Not to breed any female more than twice (2) in any eighteen (18) month period;

Not to breed any animal after the age of seven (7) years without a Veterinary certificate stating 'Fit to Breed'.

See Below: Breeding Dog/Bitches 7 years or over.

BREEDING DOG/BITCHES 7 YEARS OR OVER:

ALL Breeding dogs/bitches 7 years or over that **hold a current 'APPROVED FOR BREEDING'** Pedigree Certificate are to provide a '**Veterinary certificate of health for fitness to breed**'.

A copy is to be forwarded to Registrar with the Litter Registration.

Dogs/Bitches 7 years or over, **NOT YET approved for breeding**, that are applying for Approval for Breeding status are to comply with all relevant Health testing and X-rays for Hip/Elbow scoring.

These dogs shall NOT be provided with an Approved for Breeding Certificate.

If all health results comply with these regulations, A '**Letter of Approval**' will be issued.

It will state a specified mating, outlining the dog and bitch involved along with information contained.

Imported dogs over 7 years of age need to comply with importation rules.

See above – Imported Dogs/Semen & Bitches.

BREEDING PROHIBITED WITH SERIOUS GENETIC CONDITIONS: See Breach of Breeding Rules.

Breeders should not knowingly breed with dogs that are known to be affected by a diagnosed serious genetic condition (where medication or specific requirements are needed to ease/treat condition).

Any resulting puppies are required to be sterilised (Tubal ligation or vasectomy) **PRIOR** to going to their new homes and veterinary evidence is to be supplied of such. The resulting litter is ineligible for puppy listings / referrals.

A litter registration is to be lodged, at no cost. A letter of Registration will be issued showing 'STERILIZED - CANNOT BE UPGRADED FOR BREEDING'.

INELIGIBLE FOR BREEDING:

The Club will not approve any unregistered dog for breeding that has been sourced from a pound, animal shelter, rescue organisation or pet store / outlet.

BREEDERS DUTY OF CARE TO PUPPIES & BUYERS:

At initial contact with potential puppy owners/buyers, we recommend the Puppy Questionnaire available on our website

REAR DEW CLAWS:

Rear dew claws are to be removed, consultation with their Veterinarian as to the appropriate age for the procedure is required. (Usually noted at birth, contact your Vet as soon as practicable. Procedure can be less intrusive in the first few days).

MICROCHIPPING:

Puppies are to be microchipped prior to leaving the Breeders care and/or premises, according to national laws. This is usually done at 6 weeks of age along with the first vaccination.

PUPPIES TO BE RETAINED UNTIL 8 WEEKS:

Puppies must remain at the Breeders premises until 8 weeks of age, or with their mother, according to national laws.

DUE DILIGENCE, WHOLESALING OR RETAILING PUPPIES:

Breeders are to maintain 'due diligence' during the selling/placement of pups to ensure that the connection between the pup and its WSSDCA registration and pedigree is not lost.

Breeders and members are not to sell or dump puppies to commercial dog wholesalers/retail pet dealers or shelters.

Registered Breeders ARE NOT to sell pups on behalf of, or act as an Agent for, Breeders in Breach of Club Breeding Regulations & Bylaws or refer puppies for unregistered Breeders. (22/07/06)

PRIOR TO A PUPPY LEAVING THE PREMISES: Breeders must to supply puppy buyers with-

- 1) WSSDCA complimentary membership form,
- 2) Genetic health tests and Hip/Elbow score documents relating to their puppy's parents,
- 3) Vaccination certificates,
- 4) Worming regime required,
- 5) Feeding guidelines,
- 6) Microchip re-assignment of ownership/change of ownership form,
- 7) Notification of any other special needs the puppy may have,
- 8) Club information eg. Website and Facebook links for support.
- 9) Educational publications eg. Growth charts, toxic plants/foods along with any other relevant publications.

*In the event that documents are not provided or lost, the Registrar may supply appropriate documents to the new puppy owners.

BREEDING RECORDS:

Breeders are to keep accurate records of all mating's, births and all data related to their breeding dogs and resulting puppies.

Breeders are NOT to falsify any medical records; breeding records; or other documentations.

LITTER REGISTRATION:

Breeders are to complete a litter registration for every pup alive at 8 weeks of age and pay the relevant fees. Online form and PDF form are available on the club website.

LATE FEES:

If litter registrations are NOT paid by the time the pup(s) are 12 weeks old, the breeder will incur an extra charge as per our schedule of fees listed on our litter registration form and the WSSDCA website.

PEDIGREE CERTIFICATE/LETTERS OF REGISTRATIONS:**“STATUS: NOT APPROVED FOR BREEDING”.**

Pedigree papers that are issued for puppies/dogs that have not yet been approved for breeding, in accordance with these Rules and Regulations are to contain these words. “STATUS: NOT APPROVED FOR BREEDING”

“STATUS: APPROVED FOR BREEDING”

When a dog has been assessed and approved for breeding purposes, new papers are to be issued with the wording “STATUS: APPROVED FOR BREEDING” purposes by the WSSDCA”.

The Health status of a Dog/Bitch will be shown on Approved for Breeding Pedigree Certificates including MDR1, DM, Hip/Elbow scores. As more tests are required in the future, these will also be added.

LETTER OF REGISTRATION: BREACH LITTERS

A “Letter of Registration” is issued to litters when a Breeder has breached the breeding regulations. It is a ‘Restricted’ registration and an ‘R’ is placed in front of the puppy’s registration number.

Pedigree Papers can be issued at a later date in two instances:

1. A successful application to upgrade to ‘Approved for Breeding’ status that meets the stricter criteria listed below; or
2. A certificate of sterilization/de-sexing is submitted to the Registry.

Criteria for Restricted registration upgrade to “Approved for Breeding” status.

- i. Hip Score: No more than 3 on any area with a total score under 12.
- ii. Elbows: 1 each or under with no UAP
- iii. Clear or Carrier status on MDR1, DM and other relevant DNA results.

BREACH OF BREEDING REGULATIONS:***‘CONTACT THE REGISTRAR FOR ASSISTANCE IF YOU ARE CONCERNED YOU ARE IN BREACH’***

Members and Breeders registered with the club who deliberately, knowingly or unknowingly breach breeding rules; without fulfilling the breeding requirements may;

- First time offenders where the mating is determined to be a genuine accident shall be given a written warning.
- A ‘Puppies available’ banner cannot be attached to the Breeders listing.
- the club will not refer any potential puppy buyers to the litter.
- be reviewed by committee for possible suspension, expulsion, de-registration, etc.
- may be de-listed as a registered breeder from our website and breeder listing.
- be penalised by the Committee as per the severity of the breach.
- Pedigree papers may not be issued in most cases.

A litter registration is to be submitted by the breeder; normal litter fees do not apply. *Breach litter penalties may apply in some cases.*

A ***Letter of Registration*** where ‘Restricted’ registration applies, will be sent to puppy owners advising of the breach and their registration number for future reference.

A BREACH TO BREEDING REGULATIONS: Including but not limited to the following-

MATING INCOMPATIBLE HIP SCORES:

If a Breeder breeds a dog and bitch with Hip/Elbow scores that do not comply with the above regulations.

BREACH OF THE FREQUENCY RULE:

A bitch may only breed twice (2) in any eighteen (18) month period. If a third litter occurs (Accidental or deliberate), A Certificate of Health Status from a Veterinarian is to be attached to the third litter registration form confirming all puppies and bitch are in good health and condition.

A fine will be incurred as per our scheduled fees for pups to be papered in addition to the current registration fee per pup.

If the breeder is fined and breaches this rule again, the Committee must meet to discuss further action.

SIRE AND/OR DAM NOT YET 'APPROVED FOR BREEDING':

If a Sire and/or Dam are not yet Approved for Breeding at the time of the mating, then a Breach will be incurred.

IF YOUR MATING IS TIME SENSITIVE, PLEASE CONTACT THE REGISTRAR FOR ASSISTANCE.

MEMBER BREEDING AS 'UNREGISTERED' BREEDER:

That any member, who is not a registered breeder, who breeds their dog and has not complied with club Breeding Rules & Regulations, will incur a fine as per our scheduled fees in addition to litter registration fees.

The member must:

Submit a litter registration form once all pups are sold,

Provide a Veterinarian certificate of health status for puppies and the bitch.

BREEDING KNOWN, DIAGNOSED GENETIC CONDITIONS IN AFFECTED DOGS:

Breeders **SHOULD NOT breed with dogs that are known to be affected** by a diagnosed serious genetic condition (where medication is required to ease/treat condition)

FAIR AND EQUAL RECOMMENDATION OF ALL DOGS BY WSSDCA CLUB:

All dogs / bitches 'APPROVED FOR BREEDING' and WSSDCA Registered Kennels are to be given equal recommendation by the club without bias.

NEW BLOODLINES NOT ON WSSDCA REGISTRY.

When a White Swiss Shepherd dog is from a new bloodline (where the club does not hold any pedigree information) it will only be considered to be placed on the White Swiss Shepherd Dog Club of Australia registry if said dog/bitch already holds a written pedigree from a registry known and acceptable to the White Swiss Shepherd Dog Club Inc. committee at time of submission.

LINE BREEDING & IN BREEDING

Genetic Charts and Veterinary reports will be taken into account if approval is given.

LINE BREEDING – IS NOT RECOMMENDED BY THE WSSDCA.

(i.e. – nephew to auntie, mating cousins, grandmother to grandson etc.)

A Breeder must get written approval from the committee before breeding. Written Veterinary advice can be provided to the Club to assist in this discussion.

IN BREEDING: WILL NOT BE ALLOWED UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCE. (Mother to Son, Father to Daughter, Brother to Sister mating's)

REGISTER A NEUTERED DOG FOR SOCIAL & SHOW PURPOSES:

To register a neutered White Swiss Shepherd dog for social purposes e.g.; to gain access to social events and club shows. The Dog (or clear photos, as per Foundation rules) are required to be viewed by a panel of no less than 3 committee members to ascertain that the dog is indeed a White Swiss Shepherd as per the current breed standard, inclusive of minor and major faults. DNA tests are not required. A Letter of Registration will be issued.

FOUNDATION STOCK- REGISTRATIONS ARE NOW CLOSED (Listed here for reference only)

A “Foundation Stock” register is to be established separate to the Main register for White Swiss Shepherds for the purposes of registering new dogs that conform to the breed standard, but come from bloodlines that are not known to the Club.

a) Dogs with eliminating faults as per the accepted breed standard will not be allowed. These dogs are to be assessed in accordance with rule 2.16.

b) Any pedigree papers for the animals on the foundation stock register are to be clearly marked with the words FOUNDATION STOCK

2.38 Where a White Swiss Shepherd is bred with a “Foundation Stock” registered dog and the resulting puppies conform to the breed standard in every way except colour then these puppies are to be automatically registered on the “Foundation Stock” register rather than the Main register. Such animals are not automatically approved for breeding and any papers issued are to contain the same statements as those of a dog on the Main register in regards to approval being required prior to breeding. Any such “Foundation Stock” registered bloodlines are only to be bred to Main registered White Swiss Shepherds approved for breeding by the Club.