



GUIDANCE FOR BREEDERS: RESPONSIBLE DOG BREEDING GUIDELINES

About:

This document is a shorter version the [Responsible Dog Breeding Guidelines](#), produced in 2020.

This guidance will be regularly reviewed, for updates and more information view: [Eurogroup for Animals Cats & Dogs](#).

Related guidance:

Supplementary guidance for dog breeders on the socialisation of puppies.



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1. Introduction

Poor breeding practices have profoundly detrimental effects on dog welfare and on the well-being of owners; the consequences of poor breeding practices may lead to a lifetime of suffering, through poor health and poor suitability as pets, resulting in an untimely death, abandonment or relinquishment. Breeders, legislators, competent authorities, veterinarians, and owners have an ethical responsibility to work together to ensure dogs live a good life.

Dogs and puppies have the same need for a good quality of life regardless of breeding context and all breeders are required to act responsibly and with compassion to meet those needs. Good welfare results when dogs' experience positive physical and mental states, they are thriving – they are physically healthy, and living in a complex and interesting environment where they have choice over what they do and when they do things; they feel comfortable and secure; they have access to all necessary resources.

Breeders have a duty of care, to keep all dogs in a state of good welfare, to ensure puppies have a good start in life. Breeders are obliged to find responsible homes for puppies they have bred; ensuring new owners are a good match and understand their lifelong duty of care to their new dog. Breeders are required to take life-long responsibility for caring for puppies that do not sell, and dogs that are no longer used for breeding or home them to a responsible owner.

Breeders should be subject to legal controls by the local competent authority, including registration and where appropriate, licensing and inspection to ensure they meet the welfare needs of animals under their care.

2. Good breeding

- Breeders must avoid breeding from banned breeds and their hybrids, animals that are closely related, or with inherited disorders, or exaggerated features that compromise welfare; they should also avoid breeding dogs with temperaments that may produce puppies that will be unsuitable pets (e.g., overly reactive, fearful, or aggressive towards people or other animals).

	Guidance on what you should do
Breed-type	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prohibited breed-types (including their hybrids) must not be bred.
Age & frequency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dogs should not be mated before they are fully grown (reached sexual and skeletal maturity). • Bitches younger than 18 months should not be bred. • Bitches and studs should not be bred over 7 years old, unless certified by a veterinarian that it is safe to do so. Veterinary advice must be sought before breeding from larger/giant breeds if they are 6 years or older. • Bitches must not have a litter within 12 months of the previous litter and not more than 4 litters in her lifetime.
Avoid inbreeding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid breeding from individual dogs that produce a high coefficient of inbreeding (greater than 6.5%). • Avoid overusing stud dogs; studs should not sire more than 5% of the total puppies in the specific pedigree population during a 5-year period.
Physical health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dogs must be certified by a veterinarian as functionally fit and physically healthy before breeding. • Dogs should receive prophylactic health care under the direction of a veterinarian – regular clinical examination, treatment for internal and external parasites, and vaccinations. • Dogs with extreme conformation (or those who have had corrective surgery) must not be bred from. • Avoid breeding for extremes of physical types.
Disease screening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use all validated genetic screening tests relevant to the breed in conjunction with veterinary advice to inform on suitability for breeding. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ avoid breeding from affected individuals, and do not breed with two ‘carrier’ dogs, that are unaffected by the disease but carry the mutated gene. • Use an estimated breeding value to estimate the risk of development of complex inherited conditions and to guide assessment of suitability of an individual for breeding.
Vaccination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dogs should be vaccinated according to national animal health guidelines by a veterinarian before mating. • Homeopathic vaccinations are not acceptable. • An up-to-date vaccination certificate signed by a veterinarian should be kept for each dog/puppy. • Where appropriate a national health certificate or European passport should be provided.
Behaviour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dogs used for breeding should be friendly and confident around people and other animals and be comfortable with being handled. • Dogs that are fearful or aggressive towards people should not be bred from.
Caesarean	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bitches should be able to give birth naturally. • Bitches that have had a caesarean section must not be bred from unless certified by a veterinarian that it is safe to do so.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bitches that have had 2 litters delivered by caesarean section must not be bred.
Mating	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Both parents must be able to mate naturally. • Introductions between the bitch and the dog must be carefully planned and closely monitored to avoid injury, escape, or disease. • Incompatible dogs must not be mated (e.g., due to mismatch in physical size or temperament). • Mating pairs should be physically separated from other animals. • Both dogs should be carefully checked for signs of injury after mating.

Artificial insemination (AI)

- Must not be used as a default or to overcome problems due to the inability of dogs to mate naturally. It may **ONLY** be considered under exceptional circumstances, with strict justification, where:
 - it is demonstrated that it will lead to an improvement in the welfare of potential offspring through increased genetic variation;
 - parents have bred naturally without intervention before;
 - only manual semen collection methods can be used
 - Electroejaculation methods are NOT permitted.
 - surgical AI is not permitted.
 - only a suitably qualified, competent veterinarian, trained in semen collection and AI can be used.
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3. Competent human carers

- **Carers should be competent and treat animals well in all circumstances.**

	Guidance on what you should do
Animal care competency	Demonstrate evidence of competency: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dog welfare – recognise the signs of poor and good welfare. • Disease control. • Up-to-date understanding of breed-related disorders (where appropriate). • Recognition and first aid treatment of sick animals. • Dog behaviour, early development, and socialisation. • Welfare-centred dog handling and training. • Environmental enrichment. • Cleanliness and hygiene. • Feeding and food preparation.
Animal care qualification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Licensed breeders should undertake a recognised dog-appropriate animal care qualification and regular continuing professional development.
Carer-to-animal ratio	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have enough competent adult carers during the day (and where necessary night) to meet all care requirements for dogs and puppies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ at least 1 full time carer per 10 adult dogs kept during normal working hours, 7 days a week; ideally that ratio should be lowered to 1:5 (carer:dog) ○ the effectiveness of carer-to-animal ratio must be demonstrated in the delivery of animal care.



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4. Good feeding

- Dogs and puppies must be properly fed and supplied with water to avoid prolonged hunger and thirst to meet their need for a suitable diet.
- To ensure their needs are being met, regularly monitor food and water intake, body weight and body condition¹.

Guidance on what you should do	
All dogs	
Food	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feed a high-quality complete diet suitable to their individual needs.
Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Give <i>ad-libitum</i> access to clean water.
Hygiene	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep food and water fresh and uncontaminated. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Store food in a hygienic location in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions, and away from vermin. ○ Raw food should only be used where biosecurity methods are strictly followed – safe storage and separate preparation areas, with hot and cold running water. ○ Remove uneaten wet food by time of next feeding and replace dried food every 24 hours.
Presentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide one food and one water bowl per dog. • Site food bowls to avoid food aggression between dogs. • Puzzle feeders and feeding devices can be used for enrichment.
Monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor food and water intake each day. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Seek veterinary advice promptly if dogs do not eat or drink normally.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor dogs body weight and body condition regularly <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Seek veterinary advice promptly for any unexplained changes in body weight or condition.
Adult dogs	
Frequency of feeding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feed at least twice a day, as appropriate for the individual and follow veterinary advice.
Pregnant and lactating bitches	
Diet	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feed a high-quality diet, appropriate to stage of pregnancy, lactation, and body condition.
Presentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide bitches with food and water separate to her puppies.
Puppies	
Nursing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Puppies are dependent upon their mother's milk for the first 3 weeks of life. • Supplementary feeding, with a milk formula and bottles designed for puppies, will be required if the bitch is unable to nurse her puppies.
Monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Observe nursing to ensure puppies are feeding. • Weigh puppies daily for the first two weeks after birth, and weekly up to 6 months of age. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Body weights should be recorded. ○ Seek veterinary advice promptly if puppies are not feeding or gaining weight normally.
Weaning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Puppies should be gradually introduced to solid food from 3-4 weeks of age; weaning is generally completed by 6-8 weeks of age. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Weaning must not be completed in less than 7 days.

¹ Body condition scoring guide: <https://wsava.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Body-Condition-Score-Dog.pdf>



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Puppies should be weaned onto a good quality, puppy food, that is specifically formulated for weaning. Follow the manufacturer's instructions on quantity and frequency of feeding. Raw food must not be used for weaning.
Frequency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Puppies under 8 weeks old must be fed 4-5 times daily.
Presentation	Water should be provided in a receptacle that is shallow enough to prevent injury but large enough to allow puppies to drink at the same time.

5. Good housing

- Dogs and puppies must be housed in an environment that provides them with freedom of movement, physical comfort, and choice over access to resources without fear, risk of injury and illness to meet their need for a suitable environment.**
- To ensure their needs are being met, regularly monitor the health, behaviour and activity of dogs and puppies.**

	Guidance on what you should do
Light	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep dogs under natural lighting conditions. Natural daylight should be provided. Artificial light sources should be the same intensity as natural daylight. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> lights should follow a 10-12h light cycle. lights must be switched off overnight for 8 hours minimum. provide a broad/full spectrum (including UV), of at least 50 lux at the height of the animals.
Noise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Avoid excessive or continuous noise. Enclosures must be constructed, designed, and laid out to reduce levels of barking.
Ventilation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide adequate ventilation to avoid build-up of airborne pathogens, noxious odours, and damp.
Temperature	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adult dogs: Indoor temperature range: 10-26°C; optimal: 15-21°C. Whelping area: Temperature range: 22-28°C. Record temperature daily, using a max/min thermometer placed at the height of the dog, close to the main resting area. Additional heat sources must be used safely to prevent burns and fire risk. Provide a temperature gradient. Check animals are not too hot or too cold. Bitches and puppies should be kept draught free.
Type of accommodation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dogs kept in a kennel environment must have free access to an indoor sleeping area and adjoining run that exceeds minimum space allowances. Provide dogs in a home environment with at least one room that exceeds minimum space allowances, plus access to an outside area for exercise. Dogs must not be housed in tiered or stacked pens.
Quality of space	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide an enriched, complex physical environment large enough for dogs to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> walk, run, play, turn around, stand, stand erect on hind legs, wag their tail, lie down fully stretched out without touching another dog or walls of accommodation. Provide separate sleeping and activity areas. Provide a sleeping area with comfortable bedding.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Group living dogs should have access to resources without sharing with other dogs and must be able to move away from each other should they wish to do so.
Safe construction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All areas, equipment and furnishing must be safe, non-toxic, robust, durable, impermeable, kept in a good state of repair and suitable for disinfection.

Minimum space allowance - guidelines only.

	Weight (kg)	Minimum enclosure size (m ²)	For each additional animal add a minimum of (m ²)	Minimum height (m)
For adult dogs without litters	Up to 20	6.0	3.0	2
	20 - 30	8.0	4	2
	Over 30	These sizes must be scaled up accordingly and must be proportionate		
Bitches with litters must be provided with double these space allowances. The whelping pen should be designed to permit the bitch to move away from her puppies should she wish to do so. As puppies grow, the space available to them, must be increased accordingly.				

No side shall be shorter than 2m.

Dogs kept in a kennel environment must have an adjoining run or secure outside space *in addition* to the minimum space allowance above. Part or all the adjoining area should be outdoors; dogs must have constant access to shade and shelter to avoid extremes of weather.

6. Good health

- Dogs and puppies must be cared for in such a way as to keep them in a state of good physical health.
- Dogs and puppies must be treated well in all circumstances by their carers to meet their need to be protected from pain, suffering, injury, and disease.
- To ensure their needs are being met, regularly monitor the health of dogs and puppies and their behaviour towards their carers.

Guidance on what you should do	
Handling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Handling must not cause suffering, pain, injury, fear, or distress or pose and increased disease risk. Aversive training methods must never be used. Electric shock collars or fences must not be used. Dogs must be correctly fitted with, and walked using a suitable flat collar, harness or head collar. Interactions with people should be positive, consistent, and predictable and not forced. Perform husbandry with minimum disturbance to animals.
Regular inspection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Observe animals regularly throughout the day as often as necessary to protect their welfare, at least: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> at the start and end of each working day, and every 4 hours. Animals must not be left alone for more than 8 hours overnight.



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promptly address any abnormalities and follow advice provided by a veterinarian.
Surgical mutilations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are not permitted unless deemed necessary and certified in writing by a veterinarian for medical purposes.
Veterinary care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Register with a veterinary practice and ensure access to out-of-hours emergency veterinary care. • Follow a comprehensive veterinary health plan, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ regular clinical examination and vaccinations ○ treatment for internal and external parasites ○ keep certified health records. • Puppies should be microchipped (by a veterinarian or certified individual) and registered to the breeder before homing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ the transponder must comply with ISO standards 11784 & 11785. • Puppies should be examined and vaccinated by a veterinarian before homing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ a veterinarian should certify puppies' health status and identification in writing.
Safe and responsible use of medicines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use and safely dispose of medicines according to veterinary or the manufacturer's instructions. • Medication must be prescribed or authorised for use in the individual animal. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ a record of medicine use should be kept for each animal. • Store medicines safely and securely, and at the correct temperature.
Euthanasia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When deemed necessary, euthanasia must be performed humanely and only by a veterinarian. • Euthanasia records must be kept detailing: animal, reason for euthanasia, date, and name of veterinarian. • Animals must not be euthanised: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ because they do not meet a prescribed breed standard, or they cannot be sold, or they are retired from breeding. ○ when they have a conformational defect that does not affect their welfare or under veterinary advice the defect can be corrected without compromising animal welfare.
Cleaning and hygiene	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep accommodations, furnishings, bedding, or equipment, clean, dry and parasite free. • Perform effective daily spot cleaning; urine and faeces must be removed at least twice a day. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ wash, clean and disinfect bedding and toys when needed and on rotation. • Thoroughly clean and disinfect accommodation, equipment, and furnishings between different dogs. • Dogs must be removed from their enclosure whilst it is being 'wet' cleaned (e.g., power hosed) or disinfected. • Avoid disturbance and maintain the bitches' scent by only cleaning soiled areas and bedding, when necessary, in the whelping accommodation.
Waste disposal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide facilities for proper collection, storage, and disposal of waste. • Follow special arrangements for handling hazardous waste according to local or national guidelines.



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Food and water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clean food and water receptacles daily and disinfected at least weekly. • Keep food preparation and storage areas clean and free from dirt and dust, and minimise risk from rodents, insects, and other pests.
Safe cleaning products	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use products that are non-toxic to dogs and the environment. • Do not use products containing Benzalkonium Chloride. • Store and dispose of products safely away from dogs. • Ensure cleaned areas are fully dry before dogs have access.
Isolation facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide self-contained, isolation facilities to care for sick, injured or potentially infectious animals. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ an attending veterinary practice, with 24-hour care may provide isolation facilities for sick or injured animals. • Isolation facilities must be sited at least 5m away from other dogs. • Use separate feed and water receptacles, bedding, cleaning utensils and products for animals in isolation. • Follow good hygiene and biosecurity practices: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ only use designated protective clothing and equipment in the isolation facility ○ use a separate carer for isolated dogs or attend to isolated dogs after all other dogs have been attended to ○ change clothes and wash hands in an appropriate disinfectant before handling other dogs ○ completely disinfect the isolation facility between different dogs. • Follow veterinary advice on quarantining new dogs. • Dogs imported from abroad must be health tested by a veterinarian before they are introduced to other dogs.
Emergency planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep a fully stocked and maintained animal first aid kit: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ consult a veterinarian on the contents of the first aid kit. • Have a practical and usable emergency evacuation and contingency plan in place for animals and care staff.

7. Appropriate behaviour

- **Dogs and puppies must be provided with a complex and stimulating environment, company of their own kind, and opportunities for positive human-animal interactions, that supports normal behavioural development to meet their need to perform appropriate behaviour.**
- **To ensure their needs are being met, regularly monitor the behaviour and activity of dogs and puppies, including their interactions with people.**

	Guidance on what you should do
Meet dogs' environmental needs:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a safe, enriched environment that meets the needs of animals. • Regularly evaluate the safety and effectiveness of enrichment.
Safe place to rest and retreat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide areas to retreat out of sight of other dogs if they wish to do so: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ raised platforms provide somewhere to hide underneath or climb on – provide comfortable bedding and a platform large enough to accommodate more than 1 dog. ○ a dog crate can provide similar rest areas and vantage points – dogs must not be permanently housed in a crate. The crate must be large enough for each dog to stand, turn around, and lie flat out. Provide comfortable bedding.



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Exercise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide dogs with daily (supervised) outdoor exercise away from their enclosure for at least 30 minutes. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ dogs must be given opportunities for free running ○ exercise areas should be furnished with additional enrichment items (e.g., toys, paddling pools, agility equipment and raised platforms) ○ outdoor areas should have covered areas and shelter to protect against inclement weather ○ carers should positively interact with dogs during exercise. • Dogs that cannot be exercised on veterinary advice must be provided with additional enrichment.
Positive human-dog interaction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide positive, predictable, consistent, and frequent interaction with people: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ interaction with people should occur throughout the working day during husbandry ○ provide additional daily opportunities for interaction with people, including during daily exercise ○ dogs must not be forced to interact with people. • Dogs must be trained using positive reinforcement methods <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ dogs should be trained to walk on a lead, come when called, sit and stay when requested and to accept physical examination.
Toys and feeding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide toys and use them in rotation, and in combination with interactive play sessions with people to help maintain their interest. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ toys must be non-toxic and indestructible, size appropriate and checked at least daily to ensure they are safe ○ toys should be specifically designed to encourage chewing. • Provide puzzle feeders and scatter feed dried kibble to encourage exploration and problem-solving behaviour. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ take care to reduce competition and food aggression between dogs.
Behavioural problems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promptly address behavioural problems: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ seek and follow advice from a certified veterinary behaviourist or applied animal behaviourist.
Social interaction with other dogs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dogs that are not behaviourally compatible with other dogs must not be used for breeding and should be retired. • Dogs must not be housed alone unless for short periods under veterinary advice. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ whelping bitches and neonatal young puppies should be housed away from other animals. • Provide dogs with companionship; dogs should be housed together in compatible, stable pairs or small groups: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ dogs housed together must have enough space and resources to avoid competition; companions should be able to comfortably rest or sleep together or apart should they wish to do so. ○ carefully monitor the compatibility of dogs. ○ dogs must not be muzzled to facilitate group or pair housing or exercise.

8. Good rearing

- Bitches must be provided with a quiet, safe area away from other animals to give birth.
- Puppies should be reared with their littermates and mother until at least 8 weeks of age and must be well socialised and habituated to experiences they will encounter in a domestic home environment.
- To ensure their needs are being met, regularly monitor the behaviour and activity of dogs and puppies, during socialisation and habituation to the household environment.

	Guidance on what you should do
Whelping accommodation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7-10 days prior to birth, introduce bitches to the whelping accommodation and whelping bed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ bitches must be accessible to breeders, so help can easily be provided in the event of an emergency ○ whelping accommodation must provide all the environmental resources the bitch needs until puppies are homed ○ the whelping bed must have sides high enough to prevent puppies from falling out, and large enough to accommodate the bitch at full stretch during nursing ○ whelping beds should be impermeable and easy to clean ○ provide soft, absorbent bedding. • As puppies become more mobile, their mother's will need respite and can be exercised for periods away from their puppies. <p>Note: Keep other animals away from the bitch and her puppies for the first two weeks of life. Litters of puppies from different bitches must not be housed together, unless bitches are already kept in compatible social groups and their litters choose to mix.</p>
Regular inspection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bitches and puppies in the whelping area must be checked more frequently than non-breeding adult dogs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ find a balance between too much interference vs. not being able to identify the bitch and her puppies in distress ○ use video cameras for remote monitoring if appropriate ○ puppies should be checked soon after birth and their details recorded.
Socialise puppies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See <u>Supplementary guidance for dog breeders on the socialisation of puppies.</u> • Follow a socialisation plan and dedicate additional carer time to ensure puppies are well socialised and habituated to the home environment. • Ensure that the bitch and her puppies can cope with interactions. • Use appropriate infection control measures when introducing puppies to new experiences.
Rear puppies with their littermates and mother	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Puppies must not be permanently separated from the bitch until they are fully weaned and not before they are 8 weeks of age unless certified by a veterinarian.
Hand-rearing puppies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek veterinary advice on the welfare considerations and appropriateness of hand-rearing puppies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ puppies must not be hand-reared unless it is deemed absolutely necessary (e.g., if the mother is unwell or unable to nurse). ○ puppies must be kept with other puppies in their litter or with puppies of a similar age.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ carefully plan the early experience of hand-reared puppies to mitigate for the deficits in social learning in the absence of their mother.
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9. Good record keeping

- **Keep accurate and complete records for dogs and puppies. Records should provide a complete account of the dog or puppy's life history with the breeder, and include:**

Owner/breeder details

- Unique registration number
- Name and address of where the dogs or puppies are kept.
- Name and address of the owner if this is different to the keeper.

Animal details

- Name and date of birth.
- Permanent identification number - dogs should be permanently identified by a microchip, both the microchip number and date of implant should be recorded. Dogs and puppies should be registered to the breeder on the national microchip database.
- Breed (or known breed cross) where appropriate.
- Sex, colour and other distinguishing marks.
- If dogs are registered with a breed association these numbers must also be recorded.
- Date of acquisition (when applicable).
- Body weight.
- Date and reason for death (if not euthanised).

Details of veterinary treatment

- All veterinary treatment, including regular clinical examinations, vaccination, deworming and flea treatment, any other routine or emergency treatment received, any surgery to correct exaggerated conformations, date and reason for euthanasia and the name of the veterinarian who performed the euthanasia,

Breeding information

- Results of all performed tests for inherited disorders and dates of the tests.
- Details of animals mated (as above).
- Dates of mating and outcome.
- Date and time of whelping.
- Number of puppies born, sex, colour, distinguishing marks, weight and other significant events, identification.

Rearing information

- Date and age of weaning.
- Outline of early rearing conditions and socialisation process. Include details of any periods spent isolated from mother and siblings, and reasons for isolation (e.g., disease, injury, treatment etc.)

Homing/sale details

- Dog/puppy identification
- Leaving date and age of dog/puppy.
- Name and contact details of the new owner.
- Breeders/new owners must ensure that the puppies microchip number are registered to their new owners as required by national legislation.

Licensed breeders, who care for several dogs, should keep records of:

- All care and husbandry provided.
- All daily checks on the animals.
- Body weight and body condition score of dogs and puppies, on a monthly basis for dogs and weekly for puppies (body weight should be checked against annual veterinary records kept for each dog/puppy).
- The oestrus dates of each bitch.



- Stud dogs – the number of visiting bitches or bitches visited, number of mating's, number of successful pregnancies.
- Where dogs are under a breeding arrangement the details of such dogs and their whereabouts should be recorded.
- The number of breeding bitches and stud dogs that are retired, their identification and fate after retirement (including date of rehoming and the new owner's details).
- Details of any isolation cases and the management regime in place.
- Specific information must be recorded for dogs that have come from abroad in-line with animal health legislation (e.g., obligatory blood tests and vaccinations).

All breeders should regularly review their records to inform breeding practices and ensure good welfare of dogs and puppies.

For new owners

The new owner must be given a written copy of all relevant records of the dog or puppy, including:

- Treatment records.
- Vaccination certificate or European Pet Passport if this is appropriate.
- Veterinary health check results, including the results of health and genetic screening tests.
- Microchip certificate and instructions for changing ownership details on the register.
- Breed association registration certificate (when applicable).
- Five-generation pedigree information (when applicable).
- Details of the breed of each parent where different breeds have been crossed.

Written information must also be provided on dog/puppy care:

- The dogs/puppies' feeding regime.
- Temporary health insurance in countries where this is available.
- Advice on habituation, training, and socialisation.
- Advice on integration into the new household.
- Advice on animal welfare needs.
- Contact details of the breeder – for advice and warranty.

10. Responsible homing

- **Breeders have an obligation to protect the future welfare of puppies by finding good homes with responsible owners. They should:**
 - make reasonable efforts to ensure the new owner is a good match for their puppies; that the new owner understands and can meet the future welfare needs of the puppy and requirements for lifelong care. Breeders must not home a dog or puppy to anyone under the age of 18 years.
 - make reasonable efforts to ensure that the prospective new owner is not acting on behalf of a third party.
 - microchip and register each puppy or dog in the official or recognised database before homing. The breeder should be registered as the first owner of the puppy.
 - provide prospective new owners with accurate and comprehensive written information about the welfare needs of puppies, including the results of parental genetic health screening, conformation issues and breed predispositions to disease/disorders.



- provide a two-weeks supply of the puppy's current diet to the new owner to allow a gradual change over of food by the new owners.
- prospective new owners are required to visit puppies with their biological mother, and littermates, in the environment where they are kept.
- All breeders must include their unique registration codes on all advertisements, and sale or transfer documentation, so that it is clearly visible to prospective new owners.

Warranty

- Breeders should provide new owners with a written warranty, about the puppy:
 - The breeder warrants that the puppy:
 - is at least 8 weeks of age when homed;
 - has received good care and been socialised;
 - is in good health unless otherwise stated;
 - is microchipped and registered on the official or recognised database.
 - Where appropriate, the breeder warrants that the pedigree information/breed registration is correct.
 - Assured breeders must demonstrate they meet all the requirements of assured breeder schemes as outlined by the governing breed association.

The breeder warrants to reduce or avoid distress and inconvenience caused to the new owner in the event that the puppy suffers poor welfare as a result of poor breeding practices.

The breeder is required to use information about any health or behavioural issues of puppies/dogs to inform future breeding, rearing and socialisation practices.

- The new owner warrants that:
 - they will take the puppy to their veterinarian soon after homing for a clinical examination and advice on preventative health treatments;
 - they will register their details as the new owner of the puppy in the official or recognised database;
 - they will be able to meet the puppy's future welfare needs based upon the information they have received from the breeder;
 - they are not purchasing or obtaining the puppy on behalf of a third-party;
 - If they find themselves unable to provide for the welfare needs of the puppy, they will contact the breeder for advice including the option to return the puppy to the breeder.