

# International Association for Health and Preservation of Shepherd Dogs {ISA}

## Breeding Regulations

All ISA-registered breeders and kennels are expected to adhere to the Breeding Regulations as set forth within the most recent revision of this document.

To help make this project a success from the start, to decrease inbreeding and increase genetic diversity in the breeds accepted in ISA, we have set up a committee of breeders who presides over the routine breeding-related activities of the breeding population.

The association is very new and founded from not much more than hopes and dreams. Therefore items within these Breeding Regulations may change as the association matures, and as canine health knowledge and genetic resources evolve.

Compliance with these guidelines will be jointly overseen by the ISA committee of breeders as well as its board of directors, as appropriate. Members who do not abide by these regulations, or who violate clauses will face disciplinary action that includes expulsion from the ISA.

Disciplinary action of egregious offenses may result in the following:

- 1st Offense: Formal warning
- 2nd Offense: One (1) Year Suspension
- 3rd Offense: Two (2) Year Suspension
- 4th Offense: Expulsion

Egregious offenses are defined as:

- Intentional or repeated breeding of unapproved or incompletely health tested dogs
- Misrepresentation of lines, health, or puppy registration statuses/eligibility
- Misuse or misappropriation of registry resources
- Repeated or evident willful disregard of ISA Breeding Regulations

A breeder who is under formal warning or has had suspensions will have their records cleared after two litters that fully abide with the current ISA Breeding Regulations.

## **1. Breeder Requirements**

- 1.1. All breeders must abide by the rules set forth in the most current revisions of these Breeding Regulations. ISA shall make all aforementioned documents readily available on the ISA website, as well as by request.
- 1.2. If a breeder finds the need to exercise a condition (identified herein as underneath after an “UNLESS” clause) as specified within these regulations, a petition must be made to ISA’s Committee of Breeders prior to breeding. Failure to do so will result in a litter that may not be registered.
- 1.3. All breeders must report all health conditions on their dogs to the ISA Committee of Breeders. This includes puppies who may not have survived whelping, or ones who perished shortly thereafter. A Health Issues Report form is available on the ISA website.
- 1.4. All breeders must always take the health and welfare of the breeding dogs and their puppies into account, meaning;
  - They must care for their dogs like a responsible and loving dog owner.
  - The dogs must have free roaming space and receive human affection.
  - The dogs must always have access to adequate veterinary care.
  - The breeder will make sure their puppies are placed with responsible, loving owners.
  - The breeder will do everything in their power to prevent for the dogs they bred ending up in rescue and/or shelters.
  - The breeder will follow up on the wellbeing of the bred offspring during their lifetime.

## **2. Breeding Requirements**

### **2.1. General Requirements**

- 2.1.1. All breeding dogs must have a full DNA profile on file. This is currently executed through Slovgen. If a DNA profile is already available from a different lab a copy of this profile must be sent to the Committee of Breeders, so the mandatory parentage confirmation can be carried out when the dog produces a litter.
- 2.1.2. All breeding dogs must be DNA tested through Embarkvet. The full report of each breeding dog must be presented to ISA to go on file.
- 2.1.3. All dogs who are petitioning to join the ISA Breeding Program must conform to the White Swiss Shepherd Dog or German Shepherd Dog Breed Standard as recognized by ISA.
- 2.1.4. All breeding dogs must be fully health tested as stipulated in the sections describing health tests, below, prior to mating, UNLESS:
  - The incomplete health requirement is the DNA profile. DNA for genetic markers and parentage must be submitted prior puppies being ten (10) days of age. Registrations will not be issued until these results are completed and submitted.
- 2.1.5. An exact breeding combination of the same sire and the same dam may only be repeated once, UNLESS:
  - The total number of puppies from all previous litters of this combination is fewer than eight (8); or
  - The total number of active breeding puppies from previous litters of this combination is fewer than two (2), wherein “active breeding puppies” is defined as individuals who have produced at least one litter.
- 2.1.6. The expected litter inbreeding coefficient (eCOI) will have to be calculated through Embarkvet prior to breeding. The eCOI may not go above the percentage of the parent with the highest COI. E.g. sire of 16% breeds to dam 20%; the eCOI may not be above 20%.

- 2.1.7. The eCOI should never exceed 30%. If the eCOI of a litter is above 30% no registration will be submitted for this litter, UNLESS:
- The committee of breeders has given permission for this combination prior to the breeding. the pairing is petitioned to the Committee of Breeders, in writing, for case-by-case consideration.
  - The highest parent has already exceeded 30%. ISA strongly encourages breeders to breed dogs with a COI above 30% in outcross combinations.

## **2.2. Epilepsy**

- 2.2.1. Dogs affected by epilepsy shall not be bred. If a dog has bred prior to diagnosis, he/she shall be immediately retired.
- 2.2.2. Combinations producing offspring affected by epilepsy shall not be repeated.
- 2.2.3. Dogs who produce epilepsy with more than one partner shall be immediately retired.
- 2.2.4. Offspring of dogs affected by epilepsy will not be eligible to breed. If one is currently breeding, he/she shall be immediately retired.
- 2.2.5. Siblings and half-siblings of dogs affected by epilepsy shall not breed until a minimum of three (3) years of age. At that time, any pairings will need to be reviewed and approved by the Committee of Breeders prior to mating. No exceptions will be allowed.
- 2.2.6. Siblings and half-siblings of dogs affected by epilepsy may be retired by the Committee of Breeders upon review.
- 2.2.7. Grand-offspring of dogs affected by epilepsy may be issued breeding rights after three (3) years of age, upon review.
- 2.2.8. Effective January 2021, offspring of a dog who is affected by epilepsy at the time of breeding will not be registered.

## **2.3. Color Dilute Alopecia (CDA)**

- 2.3.1. Any blue colored dogs (d/d dilute) will need a qualified veterinary declaration that they are examined for CDA.
- 2.3.2. Any dog that is affected by CDA may only be bred to black based dogs that do not carry for blue (d/d dilute) being D/D.
- 2.3.3. Combinations of blue (d/d dilute) to a blue carrier (D/d) or another blue (d/d dilute) are permitted under the condition that both dogs are examined and found free of CDA by a qualified veterinarian. The ISA CDA form needs to be filled out and provided to ISA before breeding. It is possible the committee of breeders will ask a follow up exam at a later age. Registrations will not be issued until these results are completed and submitted.
- 2.3.4. Blue (d/d dilute) offspring of a dog affected by CDA will not be registered.

## **2.4. Panda white spotting**

- 2.4.1. The panda white spotting pattern is accepted to breed.
- 2.4.2. Any dog with the panda white spotting pattern will have to be verified to indeed have the KIT mutation via DNA. Any pups from dogs without DNA verification will be registered as piebald.

## **2.5. Breeding bitches**

- 2.5.1. A breeding bitch must be health tested and obtain a breeding license before breeding. Any litters produced before obtaining a breeding license will not be eligible for registration.
- 2.5.2. Any breeding license obtained from a different club before June 1<sup>st</sup> 2023 will be allowed. The dog will not need to receive a new license from ISA. It is possible the Committee of Breeders will ask for additional testing.
- 2.5.3. A breeding bitch must be at least eighteen (18) months of age at the time of mating.
- 2.5.4. A breeding bitch must be retired the day after she turns eight (8) years of age. If she is pregnant at this time the litter is eligible for registration. If the bitch is bred after eight (8) years and one (1) day of age the litter will not be accepted for registration.
- 2.5.5. A breeding bitch must whelp her first litter prior to turning five (5) years of age, UNLESS:
  - The breeding bitch is examined and cleared by a reproductive vet to be capable of supporting her first pregnancy, whelping, and litter.
- 2.5.6. A breeding bitch may whelp a maximum of four (4) total litters during her lifetime.
- 2.5.7. A breeding bitch may not be bred more than once within a span of twelve (12) months, UNLESS:
  - The breeding bitch is examined by a reproductive veterinarian to be cleared to have a second litter within a shorter time frame. A copy of the report of the veterinarian should be sent to ISA for the litter to be eligible for registration.
- 2.5.8. At least one (1) heat cycle must be between two (2) litters of a breeding bitch. If a breeding bitch is bred the first cycle after a litter (i.e. back to back breeding) the second litter will not be registered and the female will require a resting time of at least twelve (12) months. I.e. the next time she can be bred is twelve (12) months and one (1) day after the birth of the second litter. No exceptions will be made.
- 2.5.9. A breeding bitch must be retired after two Cesarean sections (C-sections).

## **2.6. Stud dogs**

- 2.6.1. A stud dog must be health tested and obtain a breeding license before breeding. Any litters produced before obtaining a breeding license will not be eligible for registration.
- 2.6.2. Any breeding license obtained from a different club before June 1<sup>st</sup> 2023 will be allowed. The dog will not need to receive a new license from ISA. It is possible the Committee of Breeders will ask for additional testing.
- 2.6.3. A stud dog must be at least eighteen (18) months of age at the time of mating.
- 2.6.4. A stud dog may produce a maximum of 4 litters in on calendar year.
- 2.6.5. A stud dog shall no longer be used once the surviving puppy count from the
- 2.6.6. sum of his litters reaches sixty (60) puppies, which averages as six (6) to eight (8)
- 2.6.7. litters, during his lifetime, within the ISA register, UNLESS:
  - The number of active breeding offspring from his litters is fewer than 4 (four), wherein “active breeding offspring” is defined as individuals who have produced at least one litter;
  - His bloodline is not represented in a sub-population (e.g., a different continent), whereupon he shall be permitted to sire an additional two (2) litters for the given sub-population.
- 2.6.8. An Outcross (Foundation Dog) stud shall no longer be used once the surviving puppy count from the sum of his litters reaches thirty-six (36) puppies, which averages as four (4) to six (6) litters, during his lifetime, within the ISA register, UNLESS:

- The number of active breeding offspring from his litters is fewer than four (4), wherein “active breeding offspring” is defined as individuals who have produced at least one litter;
- His bloodline is not represented in a sub-population (e.g., a different continent), whereupon he shall be permitted to sire one (1) additional litter for the given subpopulation.

### 3. Health Requirements

#### 3.1. Basic Requirements

Breeding dogs must minimally have “Basic” requirements completed to be accepted into the ISA Breeding Program, as discussed within this section.

3.1.1. **Hips and Elbows** – Any ISA breeding dog (male and female) must have passing hip and elbow scores in the form of an official certificate. Preliminary scores for dogs tested through OFA will be accepted as well if they are done at the age of at least 18 months. The following scores from their respective organizations are considered acceptable for the ISA Breeding Program.

- OFA passing hip scores are:
  - Excellent
  - Good
  - Fair
- OFA passing elbow scores are:
  - 0/0
  - 1/0 (should only be bred to 0/0)
  - 0/1 (should only be bred to 0/0)
  - 1/1 (should only be bred to 0/0)
- FCI passing hip scores are:
  - A
  - B
- FCI passing elbow scores are:
  - 0/0
  - 1/0 (should only be bred to 0/0)
  - 0/1 (should only be bred to 0/0)
  - 1/1 (should only be bred to 0/0)

Please note that the list above is not exclusionary. Using an organization that is not in the list above does not preclude the acceptance of the score.

3.1.2. **Spine** - Any ISA breeding dog (male and female) must have a passing spine report in the form of an official certificate. Certificates from OFA and FCI are accepted.

3.1.3. **Cardiac auscultation** - Any ISA breeding dog (male and female) must have a passing OFA cardiac certificate, as completed by a veterinary general practitioner (i.e., a specialist is not necessary), after the dog is at least twelve (12) months of age. If an issue or concern is detected during the exam, please contact the Committee of Breeders. In general, further follow-up with an appropriate specialist will be required.

3.1.4. **DNA testing** - Any ISA breeding dog (male and female) must submit proof of testing for at least MDR1, DM and Pituitary Dwarfism. A DNA health panel through Embarkvet as well

as a separate DNA test through Slovgen if necessary will be required in addition to proof of parentage.

- 3.1.5. **DNA profile** - Any ISA breeding dog (male and female) must submit a DNA profile carried out by Slovgen. If a DNA profile already exists from a different lab this will be accepted, however the dog will be required to store a DNA sample with Slovgen so parentage verification of their offspring can be carried out.
- 3.1.6. **Patellar luxation** – A test for patellar luxation is advised but not mandatory. Official certificates of passing scores from OFA or FCI are accepted.
- 3.1.7. **BAER-test** (Brainstem Auditory Evoked Response) – BAER-test is advised for all breeding dogs but not mandatory, UNLESS;
- A BAER-test is mandatory for dogs who are genetically AND physically piebald (S/sp or sp/sp), and/or have a lot of white on the head. No exceptions will be made.
- 3.1.8. **Dental** – Any ISA breeding dog (male and female) must submit a certificate of normal bite and dentition. The examination can be carried out by a judge at a FCI or ISA dogshow, or ISA breeding license day, or by a licensed veterinarian. Official OFA or FCI certificates are accepted, as well as the dental page of the pedigree given out by ISA. The pedigree page is accepted when it shows:
- Name of the licensed veterinarian
  - Signature of the licensed veterinarian
  - Stamp of the licensed veterinarian/facility
  - Stamp of the ISA
  - Name of the examiner of ISA
- 3.1.8.1. Only dogs with correct bites will be accepted as breeding candidates.
- 3.1.8.2. Only dogs with full dentition will be accepted as breeding candidates, with the exception of a maximum of two (2) missing p1 teeth OR a maximum on one (1) missing P2 tooth.
- 3.1.8.3. Dogs with dental trauma resulting in improper bite or incomplete teeth may be accepted as a breeding candidate if the owner can prove the dog has dental trauma. Proof should be submitted to the committee of breeders in form of a official OFA or FCI certificate if applicable, OR in form of a certificate filled out by a licensed veterinarian. The veterinarian must provide a separate statement that minimally contains:
- Name of the licensed veterinarian
  - Signature of the licensed veterinarian
  - Stamp of the licensed veterinarian/facility
  - The facility at which the examination occurred (letterhead is preferred)
  - Name of the dog's owner
  - Registered name of the dog
  - ISA registration number of the dog, or "Outcross Candidate" if applicable
  - Any other registration numbers (i.e. chip number) of the dog
  - A statement of the dental trauma of the dog

### **3.2. Stud-Only Requirements**

3.2.1. **Certificate of Entirety** – A ISA stud dog must be examined after the age of twelve (12) months by a licensed veterinarian to ensure that he has two fully descended, normal testicles within the scrotum. The veterinarian must complete the ISA Certificate of Entirety form that can be downloaded from the website, or provide a separate statement that minimally contains:

- Name of the licensed veterinarian
- Signature of the licensed veterinarian
- Stamp of the licensed veterinarian/facility
- The facility at which the examination occurred (letterhead is preferred)
- Name of the dog's owner
- Registered name of the dog
- ISA registration number of the dog, or "Outcross Candidate" if applicable
- Any other registration numbers (i.e. chip number) of the dog
- A statement of the entirety of the dog

### **3.3. F1 dog Requirements**

3.3.1. All F1 dogs must complete the following:

- ISA Conformation Evaluation, as executed and completed by a reasonably versed third-party evaluator, after the dog is at least twelve (12) months of age.
- ISA Temperament Evaluation, as executed and completed by a reasonably versed third-party evaluator, after the dog is at least twelve (12) months of age.

### **3.4. Outcross-Only Requirements**

3.4.1. An outcross ("foundation") dog must be presented to ISA's Committee of Breeders using the ISA Outcross Proposal Form.

3.4.2. Outcross Candidates must complete a temperament evaluation.

3.4.3. Outcross Candidates must complete a cardiac assessment.

3.4.4. Outcross Candidates must complete an eye exam.

3.4.5. In addition to the "Basic" tests listed above, an Outcross Candidate may be asked to complete further tests, depending on breed.

3.4.6. Proposed dogs with wolf content greater than ten (10) percent content will not be accepted.

3.4.7. Any proposed outcross should have a minimum three (3) generation paper pedigree available. If a proposed dog does not have a traceable three-generation pedigree, then minimally:

- The dog must have a genetic breed breakdown on file (e.g., Embark);
- The dog may not be bred prior to being three (3) years of age;
- The dog must be paired with a expected genetic coefficient of inbreeding (eCOI) of at most 8%, also;
- The dog shall only be allowed a maximum of two (2) litters, wherein the second litter may not be within twelve (12) months of the first, such that the puppies of the first litter may be evaluated.