

# KCA Breeding Strategy



*December 2016*

## **KUWAITI CYNOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION (KCA)**

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## **Provision (1): Introduction**

The goal in dog breeding is functionally healthy dogs with a construction and mentality typical to the breed, dogs that can live a long and happy life for the benefit and pleasure of the owner and the society as well as the dog itself. Breeding should be carried out in such a manner that it promotes the health and well-being of the progeny, as well as the welfare of the bitch. Knowledge, honesty and cooperation, both on national and international level, is basic in healthy dog breeding. Breeders should be encouraged to emphasize the importance of the combination of dogs as well as selection of the individual dog to be used for breeding.

The KCA plans to conduct education programs for breeders, preferably on an annual basis. Education of breeders is to be recommended rather than strict breeding regulations and stringent demands in breeding programs, which can easily result in reduced genetic diversity in the breed as well as exclusion of excellent breed representatives and reduced cooperation with conscientious breeders. Breeders and later with breed clubs should be encouraged to cooperate with scientists in genetic health issues, to prevent combination of dogs from lines that will result in unhealthy offspring.

Any dog used for breeding or screened for inherited diseases, must have identification (microchip).

The breeders should keep the breed standard as the guideline for the breed specific features; any exaggerations should be avoided.

KCA is raising the slogan of "Responsible Breeding" since KCA sees that it's so important that breeders must breed based on a purpose and qualified mates in order to bring exactly the desired progenies which are able to live and enjoy their lives healthy clear from any genetic problems or disabilities and be able to do their tasks which they have been created for.

## **Provision (2):**

Only functionally and clinically healthy dogs, with breed typical conformation, should be used for breeding; i.e. to only use dogs that do not suffer from any serious disease or functional disabilities.

2.1 If close relatives of a dog suffering from an inherited disease or functional disability are used for breeding, they should only be mated to dogs from bloodlines with low or no occurrence of the same disease or disabilities. If a DNA-test for the disease/functional disability is available, the breeding stock should be tested in order to avoid mating of two carriers (see point 5).

2.2 Mating combinations which from available information increase the risk of serious diseases or functional disabilities or impairment in the progeny, should be avoided.

2.3 Only dogs having a sound temperament, typical for the breed, should be used for breeding. That is to only use dogs that do not show signs of behavioral disturbance in the form of excessive fear reactions or aggressive behavior in unprovoked situations or situations that can be considered as everyday situations for the dog.

### **Provision (3):**

To preserve, or preferably extend, the genetic diversity of the breed, heavy inbreeding should be avoided. Mating between siblings, mother to son or father to daughter should never be performed.

### **Provision (4):**

Screening results (positive or negative) for phenotypic appearance of polygenetic diseases should be available in open registries. The results should be used to aid the selection and combination of breeding dogs.

4.1 Breeding values based on screening results should be computerized when it's possible to facilitate selection of the breeding stock not only on the phenotypic appearance but also by indicated genotype. As a general rule the estimated breeding value for a combination should be better than the average for the breed.

4.2 Screening should only be recommended for diseases and breeds where the disease has major impact on the dogs' functional health.

### **Provision (5):**

Results from DNA tests for inherited diseases should be used to avoid breeding diseased dogs, not necessarily to eradicate the disease. Dogs shown to be carriers (heterozygote) for a recessive inherited disease should only be bred to a dog that is proven not to carry the allele for the same disease.

### **Provision (6):**

Any dog should be able to mate naturally. Artificial insemination should not be used to overcome physical inabilities of the dog. A bitch should be excluded from further breeding if she is unable to give natural birth, due to anatomy or inherited inertia, or if she is unable to take care of the newborn puppies, due to mentality or inherited to agalactia (no milk production).

### **Provision (7):**

Health issues that cannot be diagnosed by DNA-tests or screening programs should have equal impact in the breed specific breeding programs.

### **Provision (8):**

As a general rule, a breeding program should not be run on the whole dogs; the breeding stock should be selected from the best half of the breed population.

### **Provision (9):**

As a general rule, in order to raise the slope of breeding, the matting future minimal requirements is obtaining a dog show marking for both matting parties, male & female (Excellent or Very good) not less.

### **Provision (10):**

The raising of puppies, with correct feeding, environmental exposure, stimulation by their mother, breeder and others to develop social sense and response, must be basic in every breeding.

**Secretary-General (Secretary)**

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