

Central Breeding Policy of the Dutch Kennel Club (DKC)

1. Introduction

The Dutch Kennel Club (DKC) is the leading body in Dutch dog breeding. For this reason it is called upon to regulate all forms of dog sport and to guard against all activities that may be detrimental to the interests and image of the sport.

In the Bylaws for its new structure the DKC has stipulated its responsibility regarding the breeding of (mentally and physically) healthy pure-bred dogs as objective. In doing so, the DKC also responds to social and governmental concern with the breeding and keeping of pure-bred dogs. This concern is evident from the attention devoted to it in the media and the policy proposals regarding the Law for Animal Health and Well-being.

Recently, five breeds were identified in the context of the 'Regulation Aggressive Animals'. The effects of the results from various behaviour and aggression tests cannot yet be anticipated, but they are sure to affect breeding with these dogs. Here too, the DKC, in collaboration with the breed clubs involved, would accept its responsibility concerning the breeding of mentally and physically healthy dogs.

To gain insight into how the various breed clubs regulate their breeding policy, an inventory focused on breeding regulations in 95 breed clubs was conducted in 1998. The various breed clubs display a wide variety of rules, ranging from none to highly elaborate regulation. In part, this can be seen as due to existing differences with respect to the seriousness and nature of the problems encountered in the various breeds. In addition, (work) demands required from specific breeds play a role as well. Then too, the popularity of the breed and the financial interests that are part of dog breeding affect the nature and scope of the breeding policy pursued by a breed club.

It can be concluded that most breed clubs are serious about safeguarding their breed's specific traits and health. In spite of all effort though, this is not in every case equally productive, for reasons explained below.

To spell out the responsibility the DKC intends and ought to accept regarding the breeding of healthy pure-bred dogs, the DKC proposes a number of lines of policy in the present memorandum that should be determined centrally. These can however attain optimal effect only if the necessary – government provided – instruments are available to implement this policy.

2. Objective

Breeding policy should focus on the breeding of healthy dogs and dog populations. In the DKC's view the preservation of the breeds and their purity is an essential part of this. In this connection the following components merit attention:

- 2.1. Health
- 2.2. Behaviour
- 2.3. Appearance and Conformation
- 2.4. Working characteristics
- 2.5. Well-being

The history of the dog as our companion goes back more than ten thousand years. In the course of centuries breeds originated because humans began to make use of specific traits found in certain dogs and the subsequent selection of these. Thus emerged groups of breeds in a variety of disciplines, hunting dogs, shepherds and drovers, watchdogs etc. Naturally, even then exterior characteristics such as colour and appearance played a role, but the emphasis was on working traits.

When toward the end of the nineteenth century studbooks were set up for many breeds, standards were formulated and the working purposes diminished, appearance gained importance and the breeds were cultivated to their present form.

Every breed has its own identity, developed in the course of years, ages often, so that a degree of predictability regarding their specific characteristics exists. We appreciate them because of both their appearance and their character traits, and it is the singularity of the various breeds which makes it worthwhile to preserve them.

Breeding of pure-breds occurs in a world marked by respect for and attention to the individual, not only on the level of dogs but also on the human level. Breeders tend to be 'well-intentioned amateurs,' acting the part of 'small-scale entrepreneurs' who, in terms of the knowledge and insight available to them, seek to achieve their ideals in the breed to which they are dedicated. All these contributions from individual breeders together constitute the result which 'outsiders' experience as a specific breed.

The problem now arises that the accumulated choices and priorities of the individual breeders are not always the same as the choices and priorities that should be entertained for the population (for the breed). There is continuous sub-optimalisation, whereby the breeder makes an eminently acceptable choice in terms of his individual responsibility for the next generation, but where at the same time (for instance because all breeders turn in the same direction) the long-term interests of the breed collectively are jeopardised.

Breeding policy should be oriented to the interests of the population far more than to those of the individual. It is only then that also the long-term interests of the breed can be rendered secure.

2.1 Health

The health component in a breeding policy should be focused on two aspects:

- Problems arising through exaggeration of exterior characteristics indicated in the breed standard.

In a number of cases this involves health or well-being, or else the dog is hampered in its normal physiological functioning.

- Emergence of hereditary disorders, independent of exterior characteristics.

Regarding this point the following comment can be given.

Genetic deviations and disorders are inherent to life and will always continue to occur to a degree. After all, every living organism, plant or animal, carries a large number of genes (genetic factors) contributing positively to life and more or less assuring survival of the species, but also possesses negative or even lethal genes.

Within sport breeding, and especially breeding pure-bred dogs, a breeding method has been in use over the past decades in which, in order to achieve the greatest possible phenotypical similarity in a breed, genotypically closely related animals were used for breeding. For many breeds this led to the desired result. There is a large degree of predictability for the offspring of a mated pair regarding appearance and for instance character traits.

As a result of this phenotypical (and genotypical) similarity, the closed population, which a dog breed is because of closed studbooks, has suffered loss of genetic material. Genetic variation diminished. Chances increase that negative genes in parents will be passed on to offspring and become manifest in them. Moreover, at some point the vitality of the population will decline too.

This is the reason why in a large number of dog breeds various disorders occur with excessive and unacceptable frequency. There is a tendency that per breed the number of distinct disorders decreases while their frequency increases, various disorders become more or less breed specific.

It is also clear that mechanisms such as the degree to which the disorder becomes manifest and the manner in which it is inherited differ per breed.

Accordingly, the approach to the problem varies per breed, and a thorough inventory of the problems within the breed is essential. One-sided selection on one or a few characteristics can result in further reduction of the still available genetic material in the breed (the population).

2.2 Behaviour

Every breed has its own specific character traits. They are an essential part of the 'singularity' of the various breeds. The behaviour associated with this should be acceptable in the present and future society, for both the owner and in particular for the non-owner.

It is evident that the breeding and keeping of pure-bred dogs is attended to increasingly critically by society at large and by government. Recent articles in newspapers and magazines concerning biting incidents with serious consequences are examples of this.

To ascertain behaviour as aggressive a test additional to the aggression test was developed, the so-called MAG test (Socially Acceptable Behaviour). Implementation of this test in breeding policy can contribute to combat intolerable behavioural deviation.

2.3 Appearance and Conformation

The breed standard stipulates the (exterior) requirements the ideal representative of the breed should meet. Breeders seek to attain this ideal as closely as possible. This defines one of the goals of breed clubs. The aim is not only to preserve the breed, but to 'improve' it as well.

As such, there is nothing wrong with the attempt to improve (i.e. embellish) (breed) characteristics; it is inherent in and one of the attractions of breeding as sport. But it entails a danger, too – sufficient reason to fit into breeding policy selection criteria regarding appearance with due caution. Both for the individual dog and for the breed (population) as a whole excessive attention to appearance can have negative consequences.

In the first place things can go wrong if we do not take into account the effects such embellishments can have on the physiology of the animal.

It is a human propensity to beautify still more what is beautiful already. Rounded becomes dome shaped, short becomes too short and wide becomes broader still. Exaggeration lurks.

In fact, in a number of breeds the critical limit where health and/or well-being is at stake has been reached and sometimes even crossed.

There are breeds where birth is via caesarean section as a matter of course. Other breeds have enormous pelts, the hair covering the head so richly that the dog is unable to see.

There are breeds whose frame is bred so squat and stocky that the respiratory system is literally being squeezed.

For the sake of health and well-being the current breed type will have to be adjusted for a number of breeds. As a matter of fact, the existing breed standards provide enough room for this.

In the second place things can go wrong if in the quest for what is, in the eyes of many, the ideal image of the breed, the interests of the breed (the population) as a whole are neglected.

To attain the ideal there is a tendency to breed to animals that are as similar as possible, both phenotypically and genotypically, and related to each other to a greater or lesser degree. A 'line' is being established.

In itself, if the population is large enough and every breeder sets up his own inbred line, inbreeding need not cause big problems for the quality and future prospects of the breed. Such problems arise especially when for example breeders begin to make wide use of the same (champion) sires. This interrelates all inbred lines and those few champions spread both their good genes and their harmful ones throughout the entire breed. Thus it can happen that 'suddenly' there is an explosive increase in the manifestation of genetic disorders.

2.4 Working characteristics

In the course of the process of domestication humans discovered that dogs can be of use in many ways. Humans discovered their ability to watch and defend, their talent for hunting and, probably much later, their qualities relative to the care of cattle. All these characteristics were developed in distinct groups of dogs.

And so (behaviour) specialisms arose; sub-populations that were marked by their working behaviour, by their specific talents for certain behaviours and their reduced disposition to express other behaviours. We can call these dogs with their specific working behaviour the first, 'primitive' breeds. They constitute the basis for modern breeds. In a process of many generations the current 'working dogs' were derived from these primitive breeds.

As breeding objectives changed, the accent in the selection in our dog breeds changed as well. Because formerly working characteristics were of crucial importance the accent of selection lay especially on soundness and the behaviour traits of the dog. When breeding focused increasingly on appearance and for some breeds work opportunities shrunk or virtually ended, those original selection criteria lost much ground. First of all because, lacking comparison under working conditions, it was no longer possible to 'rank' the dogs mutually for this aspect and to choose the best on that basis. And, of course, in part because the attention of breeders was, rather one-sidedly, directed to that which is in fact 'quantifiable' and comparable: appearance. For some breeds this led to the rise of more or less separate work lines and show lines.

Actually, for various breeds the opportunity to demonstrate their talent with respect to their appropriate work still exists (working dogs, hunting dogs, drovers, hounds and sleigh dogs); other breeds can show their aptitude in the various branches of dog sport or for example rescue work.

If the specific work characteristics of the various breeds are to be preserved they will have to be taken into account (again) in breeder selection.

2.5 Well-being

This aspect has to do with conditions attending the keeping and housing of breeding animals. This matter has already been given due attention by the DKC and in part is effected already

via intensive inspections, as among breeders who submitted an application for a kennel name. The relevant criteria were tightened, so that a degree of schooling is required for breeders who intend to breed on a regular basis (i.e. more than one litter per year). In future, these criteria will be checked also among breeders who obtained a kennel name in the past. In addition, breeders operating without a kennel name are inspected on litter situation and the well-being of dam and pups by the identifiers (officials) of the DKC.

3. Breeding bylaws

As noted in the Introduction a large number of breed clubs are seriously and positively active in breeding healthy pure-breds and have determined a policy in this respect. But the goal is not attained in all cases.

To bind breeders to the breeding policy they can participate in their breed club's pup information. The degree to which a pup information service can be used effectively by a breed club in order to force adherence to the established policy on the part of member/breeders varies per breed. It is, after all, quite easy for breeders of very popular breeds to find customers for their pups other than through the breed club's pup information.

Moreover, in the breed clubs and in the boards of these clubs expertise in the area of breeding varies over time.

Furthermore, competent management and continuity on the part of the board plays a role as well. It appears that the General Meeting and the breed club's Board are not always in agreement and that boards, if they are to achieve a given purpose, must take vulnerable positions. The resultant policy formation is often rife with compromise and inadequate to attain the stated objective. It is also conceivable that a laboriously produced policy is toned down again at a subsequent general meeting or a change of board members, or perhaps is abandoned altogether.

In the recent past it has happened a number of times that well-intentioned officers, pressed by the General Meeting grouped around one or more breeders, resigned in view of the proposed breeder policy.

It can also be the other way around, of course. It may be that a board, as (part of) the General Meeting sees it, does not go or does not want to go far enough. If unsuccessful in convincing the board and a majority at the meeting, these breeders will turn their back upon the breed club and go their own way, as a group or individually.

If an established breeder policy is to be genuinely and entirely effective it has to be adhered to by as many breeders as possible. This means not only those who are member of the breed club but also those who are not. The breed club has no jurisdiction over the latter.

4. Role of breed clubs

One might ask whether responsibility for a breeding policy, certainly with respect to health and behaviour, can be laid in its entirety on the doorstep of the breed club.

Expertise is uneven, in terms of management it is a touchy topic and the possibilities to impose sanctions are limited to barring from pup information services or termination of breed club membership.

Furthermore, in the current system the policy applies only to those who have joined the breed club. A (breed) club cannot bind people if there is no membership link between the club and these persons.

The breed club can and should play a role in implementation. Policy should be dynamic, so that an important role accrues to the breed club regarding arrangements, evaluation and adjustment.

Ultimately this could lead to a somewhat different position of the breed club in the broader framework of dog sport. The managerial barb – which breeding policy proves to be in many breed clubs – is removed to a large extent so that breed clubs have more room to pay attention to other matters.

It could also mean that breeders and owners now outside of the breed club join the ranks again, adding strength to the whole.

5. Central breeding policy

In a central breeding policy – determined by the DKC – a number of the above objections are countered. Obviously, the expertise residing in breed clubs in determining the policy remains indispensable. A centrally established breeding policy can only be a basic model, a kind of framework that has to be elaborated per breed, depending on the problems there.

6. Binding breeders to the policy

We must prevent that breeders duck the centrally established policy. This means that there has to be a link between DKC and breeder. The only currently existing linkage is the issue of pedigrees and (for part of the breeders) the possession of a kennel name.

If we want to reach all breeders the issue of pedigrees should imply more requirements than merely a check of purity of the parents and a correct administrative and financial procedure. It may be that this will lead to a (temporary) reduction in the issue of pedigrees, but this is a risk we simply have to face. It is inevitable that in the future quality will be placed far above quantity.

The effect of this quantitative reduction can be made good to a large degree by an extensive and intensive publicity campaign and increased public awareness.

There are two ways in which pedigrees can be given greater weight. Both should be used simultaneously.

First, the issue of pedigrees can be made to depend on the manner of breeding and on the animals that are being bred. To this end basic norms should be included in the General Terms of Delivery.

Secondly, one can think of pedigrees with a 'surplus value' – on account of more stringent requirements – for dogs bred according to the breeding standards that – in consultation with the breed club – are determined centrally.

7. Issue of Certificates of Pedigree and Certificates of Descent

This means that there will be two kinds of documents; one kind with surplus value – the Certificate of Pedigree, for pure-breds bred in conformity to the centrally determined breeding policy – and a document without surplus value, the Certificate of Descent (hence no more than a proof of descent). Issue of these documents involves three facets.

7.1.1. Breeding-prohibiting rules in Bylaws and General Terms of Delivery

Breeding with dogs that indeed meet the current regulations regarding pedigree issue (breed purity), but suffer to a serious degree from disorders such that offspring is likely to have the

same disorders to the same degree, should be prohibited. To this end basic norms should be formulated. These basic norms should be included in the Bylaws and the General Terms of Delivery, so that transgression of them can be disciplined.

An obligation to inclusive testing of the parent animals, however desirable, is not immediately necessary in the framework of the basic norms. In the case of occurrence of a disorder of this kind in one or more descendants a specific testing obligation for the parents with respect to the genetic disorder in the pup(s) can be demanded. If this requirement is not met (by one or both parent animals) or if one or both parent animals suffer from the same disorder breeding with them may be prohibited and disciplinary measures may result. A pure-bred dog that does not meet the basic norms is excluded from breeding within the organised dog sport. Accordingly, no descent or pedigree certificates will be issued for its offspring.

The basic norms relate to:

- a. deviant behaviour
- b. health-limiting characteristics
- c. frequency of use for breeding
- d. environmental conditions

These items, and the standards for them, should be defined and measurable in advance. They are independent of the breed or should refer to norms applicable to the breed (such as frequency of use for breeding). For a number of items implementation should be phased.

a. Breeding-prohibiting deviant behaviour is behaviour that in our society gives rise to danger to humans and animals and hence is socially unacceptable. This applies, irrespective of how this behaviour arose or to what degree the environment, next to genetic factors, may have played a role in it. This kind of dog should not be used for breeding. A behaviour test, recognised by the DKC, pertaining to anxiety and/or aggressive biting, should therefore be the standard for this basic characteristic.

b. Breeding-prohibiting health characteristics should be related to characteristics possessed by one or both parent animals to a serious degree, entailing unacceptable health risks in the descendants. Examples are serious Hip Dysplasia, Elbow Dysplasia, blindness and deafness. These characteristics should be defined.

c. Restrictions on the number of times that a breeding animal is used for breeding will lead, when demand for pups remains the same, to a more evenly spread use of potential breeding material and thus to the preservation of genetic variation. Per breed the frequency of use will have to be determined and periodically readjusted. In the DKC Bylaws for breeding regulations such restrictions must be incorporated.

d. Environmental conditions need to include the minimum criteria regarding housing, opportunity for socialisation and the like of the pups, in terms of which the DKC considers breeding warranted. These are expressly not the criteria as currently applied in evaluation of an application for a kennel name.

7.1.2. Additional considerations regarding breeding prohibition in the context of the basic norms

These relate to:

- a. exterior characteristics limiting well-being
- b. reproduction techniques

a. Although exterior characteristics that limit well-being can have serious consequences both in the individual and in the descendants, and such animals should not really be used for breeding, measurability and supervision is a restricting factor here.

b. In connection with reproduction techniques rules should be formulated in which among other things restrictions are laid down for artificial insemination, caesarean section and possibly embryo transplantation. Regulation of caesarean surgery requires a phased transition period. Here again, in particular supervision on the use of artificial insemination seems a restricting factor.

At this point therefore, airtight breeding-prohibiting rules in the Bylaws and the General Terms of Delivery cannot be formulated, other than a reference to agreements made with the breed club and specification in the central breeding policy. The breed club will have to carry out effective supervision.

7.2. Certificate of Descent: the pedigree document without surplus value

Offspring of dogs not subject to breeding-prohibiting rules and meeting the current demands regarding purity of breeding are in any case registered in the NHSB stud book and are eligible for the issue of a Certificate of Descent, the pedigree without surplus value. The procedures of application and issue of this document is no different from the current arrangement. Dogs with a Certificate of Descent can – if not disqualified by breeding-prohibiting rules – be used for breeding; offspring is eligible for a similar descent document and are registered in the stud book.

7.3. Certificate of Pedigree: the pedigree document with surplus value

On behalf of responsible breeding the breed clubs will, in consultation with the DKC, formulate breeding regulations per breed. A basic model will be supplied by the DKC. Revision proposals over time can be submitted by both DKC and breed club. The final version, and revisions, require DKC approval.

Dogs bred from parents meeting the requirements as laid down in the breeding regulations and of course meeting current requirements (of purity) will be entered in the Dutch Stud Book (NHSB) and a Certificate of Pedigree, the pedigree with surplus value, can be issued for them.

Concretely this means that both dogs with a 'Certificate of Pedigree' and dogs with a 'Certificate of Descent' can be used for breeding. If both parents meet the requirements laid down in the breeding regulations, the offspring is eligible to receive a Pedigree-plus (even if one or both parents are pure-breeds with only a Certificate of Descent).

Inspection of compliance with these rules is, as far as the general regulations are concerned, an activity conducted by the DKC. The burden of proof, where not emanating from data available to the DKC or easily ascertained there, lies with the breeder. Where specific (complementary) rules are concerned, inspection is the task of the breed club if the breeders are members. Breeders who – for whatever reason – are not members of the breed club must provide proof of compliance with the regulations themselves. The breed club can, on the basis of membership, be held to compliance with the inspection referred to above.

With respect to a number of breed-specific rules (behaviour, appearance, work) appropriate test facilities have to be created.

8. Breeding value assessment

The centrally determined breeding regulations must pay attention to a variety of aspects, such as health, well-being, character/temperament, behaviour and appearance. These aspects should relate not only to individual animals but should be directed especially to the interests of the breed as a whole.

Over the past decades breeding pure-bred dogs, not only in the Netherlands, was directed mostly in terms of the individual approach. In consequence of this, selection (against genetic disorders and in favour of desired genetic characteristics) meant 'individual selection'. The population approach, as applied in farm animals, was neglected.

Individual selection is an instrument that can be used with some success for characteristics with a high heritability. As the heritability diminishes the response to selection dwindles and ultimately reaches zero. The phenomenon is most evident in the selection on Hip Dysplasia. During the initial phase, some decades ago, successes were achieved. If at present there is any response to this individual selection at all, it is mostly realised in areas outside of observation.

The time has come for the introduction of other methods and techniques. Most obvious is the introduction of family selection, an approach that for many characteristics in farm animals has led to genuine genetic progress over the past twenty-five years.

Selection of parent animals should be based on genotypical quality and less on phenotype. In dogs tested for specific disorders on the level of DNA the genetic status for that disorder can be assessed with reasonable accuracy. For other disorders this assessment should occur in terms of phenotypical data of both the dog concerned and its relatives. Techniques like 'breeding value assessment' and 'genetic risk assessment' can (and should) play a major role in future breeding policy and will therefore be strongly promoted by the DKC.

Central Breeding Policy of the Dutch Kennel Club (DKC)

Breeding Bylaws for

(insert name of breed)

These Bylaws contain the regulations applying to the registration of dogs belonging to the breed

Name of breed

in the Dutch Kennel Club Stud Books (NHSB).*

1. Purpose

These Breeding Bylaws aim to preserve, secure and promote the breed's health, character/temperament, well-being and breed-specific characteristics.

2. Scope and restrictions

- 2.1 These Bylaws apply to dogs bred in The Netherlands. They stipulate the conditions for registration in the Dutch Kennel Club Stud Books and for the issue of the appropriate Certificate of Pedigree c.q. Certificate of Descent.
- 2.2 Dogs bred in conformity with the regulations set out in these Bylaws are registered in the Dutch Kennel Club Pedigree Books or the appropriate Supplements or Initial Registers (Waiting Lists). These dogs are issued a Certificate of Pedigree.
- 2.3 Dogs bred in conformity with at least the regulations set out in articles 4.3, 4.4, 4.5 and section 5 of these Bylaws, except as noted under 2.5, are registered in the Dutch Kennel Club Descent Books or the appropriate Supplements or Initial Registers (Waiting Lists). These dogs are issued a Certificate of Descent.
- 2.4 Dogs not bred in conformity with at least the regulations set out in articles 4.3, 4.4, 4.5 and section 5 of these Bylaws are excluded from registration in the DKC Stud Books.
- 2.5 Offspring of parents having breeding-prohibitive characteristics or of parents used in transgression of the breeding-prohibitive regulations as specified in appendix 1 and as stipulated in the Bylaws for the Disciplinary Board are also excluded from registration in the DKC Stud Books.

3. Definitions

- 3.1 Dutch Kennel Club (DKC): the association '*Raad van Beheer op Kynologisch Gebied in Nederland*', having domicile at Amsterdam, Emmalaan 16-18.
- 3.2 NHSB: Dutch Kennel Club Stud Books, comprising the Dutch Kennel Club Pedigree Book and the Dutch Kennel Club Descent Book, including their Supplements and Initial Registers (Waiting Lists). Kept by the Dutch Kennel Club, these are the stud books for Netherlands-bred dogs of the various breeds on the basis of which the Dutch Kennel Club can issue documents certifying the descent and purity of the registered dogs.
- 3.3 FCI: the *Fédération Cynologique Internationale*, the international canine umbrella organisation of which the Dutch Kennel Club is a member.
- 3.4 The Breed Club: the association

Insert official name of Breed Club

* To avoid confusion it should be pointed out that under the new arrangement, the term Dutch Kennel Club Stud Books is the general term. It comprises (a) the Dutch Kennel Club Pedigree Book, including the Pedigree Supplements and Initial Registers (Waiting Lists), and (b) the Dutch Kennel Club Descent Book, including the Descent Supplements and Initial Registers (Waiting Lists).

member of the Dutch Kennel Club and having domicile at

- 3.5 The breeder: the owner of the NHSB-registered bitch used or to be used for breeding.
- 3.6 Stud-owner: the owner of the NHSB- (or foreign equivalent recognised by the F.C.I) registered dog that has mated with or will mate with the bitch.
- 3.7 Breeding-prohibitive disorders, deviations or actions: listed in Appendix 1 are the disorders, deviations and actions on the basis of which offspring of the dog or bitch concerned are denied the right to both a Certificate of Pedigree and a Certificate of Descent.

4. General

- 4.1 These Breeding Bylaws are approved by the Breed Club and the DKC and hence constitute DKC Bylaws to which all other DKC Bylaws apply. Moreover, for registration in the DKC Stud Books the DKC's General Terms of Delivery are applicable.
- 4.2.a Breeders seeking to be eligible to receive a Certificate of Pedigree for the products of their breeding shall express written agreement with, and act in accordance with the regulations laid down in these Bylaws.
- 4.2.b Breeders seeking to be eligible to receive a Certificate of Descent for the products of their breeding shall express written agreement with, and in act in accordance with the regulations laid down in articles 4.3, 4.4, 4.5, 4.6 and in section 5 of the present Bylaws.
- 4.3 Both sire and dam shall be of the same breed and be registered in the NHSB (i.e. the Pedigree Books or the Descent Books). In the event that the sire's owner lives abroad the sire must be registered in an FCI-recognised foreign canine registration.
- 4.4 The breeder and the conditions under which breeding takes place shall at least conform to the criteria stated in Appendix 2.
- 4.5 The breeder and the stud-owner shall, whether requested or not, submit all known available data relevant for breeding. They shall sign a statement expressing their approval of registration of such data and the distribution of the registered information to interested parties.
- 4.6 If, in view of the health or behaviour of the offspring, it must be assumed that the dam or sire suffers or transmits a disorder or deviation, that dam or sire can be excluded from breeding. In case the disorder or deviation is 'breeding-prohibitive' as intended in the Bylaws for the Disciplinary Board, the owners of the parent animals can be obliged to have their dogs tested for this disorder or deviation. A breeding stop is in force for these parent animals until the DKC, in consultation with the Breed Club, has decided that the test results do not warrant definitive exclusion.
- 4.7.a Applications for Certificates of Pedigree shall be accompanied by documents certifying conformity to the regulations formulated in article 4.2a and the requirements stated in sections 5, 6, 7, and 8.
- 4.7.b Applications for Certificates of Descent shall be accompanied by documents certifying conformity to the regulations formulated in article 4.2b and the requirements stated in section 5.
- 4.8 Responsibility for the breeding and delivery of pups lies with the breeder exclusively. Neither the Breed Club nor the DKC accept any liability whatsoever regarding possible shortcomings in a pup procured from a breeder, even if the latter observes the stipulations of these Breeding Bylaws.

5. Breeding

- 5.1 At the time of mating the bitch shall be no younger than YY months. The bitch shall no longer be served after the day she attains the age of YY months. Moreover, at the birth of its first nest the dam shall be no older than YY months.

At the time of mating the stud shall be at least YY months

5.2 A bitch shall produce no more than one litter per YY months, whereby the period between the birth of the most recent litter and the subsequent service shall be at least YY-2 months.

In the course of her life a bitch may have at most YY litters. (If a differentiation is introduced between the use of 'Pedigree' bitches and 'Descent' bitches this will always involve a restriction for the latter group, never a relaxation for the first group). Birthing should be a natural process. If on two occasions the birth of a litter has required surgery (caesarean section) the bitch shall not be used for further breeding.

5.3 Per calendar year a dog shall produce no more than YY litters, and the total number of litters sired during his life shall not exceed YY. (If a differentiation is introduced between the use of 'Pedigree' dogs and 'Descent' dogs this will always involve a restriction for the latter group, never a relaxation for the first group).

Mating should be a natural process. Artificial insemination is allowed only upon permission obtained on the basis of a motivated request. Said request shall be submitted to the DKC bureau no later than one month prior to the intended insemination.

5.4 Sire and dam shall not be mutually related as parent-offspring or as (half)brother/(half)sister.

5.5 The combination of the same stud and the same bitch (the same parents) shall not be repeated more than YY times.

6. Health

6.1 Both parent animals shall be in good health, both physically and mentally.

[Optional : breed-specific 'general' evaluations and admission criteria (via examinations, tests, etc.)]

6.2 The breeder shall ensure proper worming and vaccination of the pups in accordance with current veterinary practice, and have at hand a vaccination document completed by the veterinarian. Pups shall not be less than seven weeks old when delivered. If applicable, the breeder will subject the pups to the health and/or behaviour tests relevant for the breed and relay the results to the future owner.

6.3 Health tests

Prescribed tests - carried out by agencies appointed by the DKC or, for dogs registered abroad, agencies recognised by the FCI
- including prescribed age at examination (prior to first mating and/or prescribed frequency of repetition)
- including clear admission criteria for stud animals

6.3.a.
6.3.b.
6.3.c.
etc.

7. Behaviour

7.1 Both parent animals shall conform to the requirements of character/temperament and behaviour as indicated in the breed standard or as is expected for this breed.

[Optional : breed-specific 'general' evaluations and admission criteria (via examinations, tests, etc.)]

- 7.2** (Prescribed in the event of proven or assumed problems of anxiety and/or aggression in the breed)
Prior to mating breeding animals registered in the Netherlands shall have passed a behaviour test recognised by the DKC, pertaining to anxiety and/or aggressive biting behaviour.
- 7.3** (Prescribed if the Breed Club considers this desirable or necessary)
Both parent animals shall have met the requirements of a behaviour test developed for the breed and recognised by the DKC.
- 7.4** (Prescribed if the Breed Club considers this desirable or necessary)
Both parent animals shall have met the requirements of a work aptitude test developed for the relevant work purpose and recognised by the DKC.
(For the breeds concerned: a low-threshold test measuring whether the dog is aptitudinally *unsuitable* for the work)

8. Appearance and Conformation

- 8.1** Both parent animals shall generally conform to the relevant breed standard, except for some imperfections that detract from the ideal picture.
(Prescribed if the Breed Club considers this desirable or necessary)
They must have obtained at least the qualification **YY** at an exposition regulated by the DKC or the FCI

[Optional : breed-specific 'general' evaluations and admission criteria (via examinations, tests, etc.)]

- 8.2** (Only if prescribed by the breed standard)
If both parent animals belong to the same breed but not to the same variety of that breed, their offspring shall be excluded from registration in the DKC Stud Books.

9. Purchase agreement

- 9.1** Sale of pups shall be documented in writing, with the use of a purchase agreement prepared by the DKC or by way of a Breed Club's purchase agreement recognised by the DKC. On the basis of this purchase agreement both the breeder and the purchaser of the pup have the right to turn to the Arbitration Committee in the event of disagreement concerning its observance and/or interpretation.
- 9.2** If the sale of the pups is not documented in writing or if the purchase agreement is not recognised by the DKC, the breeder loses the right to turn to the Arbitration Committee in the event of disagreement. The purchaser of a dog with a Certificate of Pedigree or Certificate of Descent can turn to the Arbitration Committee at all times.

10. Sanction regulations

- 10.1** For procedures of application, notification and registration and all other regulations included in these Bylaws it is prohibited to submit incorrect data or suppress data.
- 10.2** Whosoever transgresses the prohibition mentioned in the above article or the regulations of any of the other articles can, in accordance with the Bylaws for the Disciplinary Board, be punished in one or more of the following ways:

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- reprimand;
- fine, as fixed in the current 'Fee Schedule' of the DKC;
- temporary or permanent personal disqualification
- temporary or permanent disqualification of one or more of the dogs owned by him or her;
- deprivation of the right to carry a kennel name;
- temporary or permanent deprivation of the authority to act as judge;
- temporary or permanent deprivation of the authority to act as official.

11. Concluding regulations

- 11.1** In special cases the DKC can, in consultation with the Breed Club, deviate from these Bylaws, if strict application of these Bylaws leads to unreasonable or inequitable results, on condition that such deviance is in the breed's interest and does not cause disproportionate damage to the interest of third parties.
- 11.2** In all cases not provided for in these Bylaws decisions are taken by the DKC in consultation with the Board of the Breed Club.
- 11.3** Decisions by the DKC can be objected to and appealed in accordance with the Bylaws for the Arbitration Committee.
- 11.4** If more comparable cases are to be expected, the DKC, in consultation with the Board of the Breed Club, shall propose amendment of these Bylaws.
- 11.5** Both the DKC and the Breed Club can propose revisions of these Bylaws. All revisions require approval of the Breed Club and the DKC.

12. Transition regulations

- 12.1** These Bylaws take effect immediately upon publication in the Breed Club's periodical of approval by the General Meeting of the Breed Club and by the DKC.

Optional : transition regulations ensuring that no inequity will arise because rights derived from earlier regulations are abrogated or unreasonably restricted.
12.2
12.3
etc.

These Bylaws are approved by the General Meeting of the Breed Club, on

Name,
Chairperson

Name,
Secretary

Appendix 1

Grounds for exclusion from breeding as intended in article 2.5 of the Breeding Bylaws of the Breed Club and the DKC

A. Breeding prohibition upon breeder's request

Dogs excluded from breeding by decision of the DKC on the basis of a motivated request on the part of the breeder when applying for registration in the NHSB. The dog concerned will then be eligible for a Certificate of Pedigree c.q. Certificate of Descent bearing the DKC indication: 'Breeding prohibition'.

B. Breeding-prohibiting characteristics and regulations

1. Lame dogs
2. Dogs deaf in both ears
3. Dogs blind in both eyes
4. Dogs with extreme anxiety and/or aggressive biting behaviour
5. Dogs kept under conditions such that the breeder does not meet the criteria referred to in Appendix 2.
6. Dogs of which one or both parents do not conform to the criteria and regulations as laid down for the breed in section 5 of the Breeding Bylaws of the Breed Club and the DKC
7. Dogs of which one or both parents suffer from a disorder or deviation as listed in section 6 of the Breeding Bylaws of the Breed Club and the DKC, and/or do not meet the (for this disorder or deviation) relevant criteria for participation in breeding.

Ad 1:

- a) Dogs of which a veterinary surgeon, registered in the Dutch Register of Veterinary Specialists, has ascertained, on the basis of an identified X-ray, that the lameness is the result of Hip Dysplasia, Elbow Dysplasia or Legg Perthes.
- b) Dogs which have been operated upon by a veterinary surgeon, registered in the Dutch Register of Veterinary Specialists, after it was ascertained, on the basis of an identified X-ray, that the lameness was the result of Hip Dysplasia, Elbow Dysplasia or Legg Perthes.
- c) Dogs whose X-ray indicates Hip Dysplasia, degree E, determined by an FCI-recognised diagnostic agency.
- d) Dogs whose X-ray indicates Elbow Dysplasia, degree III, determined by an FCI-recognised diagnostic agency.

Ad 2:

Deafness in both ears, ascertained by means of a BAER test.

Ad 3:

Blindness in both eyes, regardless of the cause, ascertained by a veterinary surgeon, member of the national eye panel.

Ad 4:

Dogs with extreme anxiety and/or biting behaviour, ascertained by means of a DKC-recognised test for anxiety and/or aggressive biting behaviour.

Appendix 2

Minimum criteria for the conditions under which breeding takes place, as intended in article 4.4 of the Breeding Bylaws of the Breed Club and the DKC.

A breeder does not conform to the criteria intended in article 4.4 of the Breeding Bylaws of the Breed Club and the DKC, if one or more of the following situations is encountered by or on behalf of the DKC:

- a. the dogs present are in poor condition;
- b. not all dogs present are registered in a recognised Stud Book;
- c. facilities are inadequate to separate bitches in heat from the dogs;
- d. housing conditions (for the litter) do not meet the minimum criteria c.q. the envisioned housing conditions are such that these criteria cannot and will not be met;
- e. insufficient measures are taken to ensure proper socialisation of the pups;
- f. the dam has insufficient space to move about in the whelping area, cannot relieve herself outside the whelping area and has no opportunity to lie down out of the pups' reach.