



AUSTRALASIAN BOSDOG[®] SOCIETY INC.

Guidelines for Breeding

Why Breed?

Breeding dogs is a venture which should not be embarked upon without full and proper consideration to the many important facets and requirements involved.

High on the list of essentials is TIME. Puppies need feeding very regularly and will need someone on hand to monitor the ambient temperature, whether it is too hot or cold and to adjust the temperature of the puppies accordingly. If there is nobody available to attend to the puppies during the day please forget about breeding.

The common concept that puppies are a means of making money is in a reality a misconception and not a valid reason to bring otherwise unwanted dogs into being.

As members of the ABS Inc. we should all be well aware of the Health Policy, Registration Policy & Code of Ethics which all members are required to follow of which point 3 is "I shall breed for the improvement of the breed and not knowingly breed from any dog with a flaw that is life limiting or expected to cause chronic disability or disease throughout the dog's lifespan".

Without very clear ideas and goals set for what you wish to achieve in breeding a litter of puppies there can be no truly valid reason for doing so if within the breeding stock you have under your control the ability to produce your aim does not genetically exist.

If you wish only to produce a litter of puppies for sale as pets there are still very clear guidelines and demands in the end product. It is therefore your responsibility to provide for the market a dog which is typical of its breed in appearance, has a reliable temperament, and will not be requiring veterinary attention as a result of unsoundness or heritable problems like hip dysplasia or any of a number of abnormalities which may make the ownership of such a dog a hardship.

Quite simply the reasons for breeding a litter must be clearly perceived and set down as goals for achievement prior to breeding any litter of puppies and there should be a good chance of achieving these goals from the stock we use based on known factors. It is our responsibility to ascertain that these factors are indeed present before embarking on a breeding venture. Therefore we must make an effort to educate ourselves in order to set our aims and achieve them.

Age Health and Care of Breeding Stock

If you have decided to have a litter of puppies you must first adhere to the Code of Ethics.

Your bitch's health is paramount. Do not breed with an immature bitch. Let her enjoy being a puppy herself and

let Mother Nature mature her so that she will be confident both mentally and physically in the role she is about to play.

All animal species (including humans) have genetic defects. By having all breeding stock checked for specific problems before mating will lessen the chances of these problems occurring. Doing homework before launching yourself and your dogs into creating life is your highest priority. You are legally bound to offer the pups in the best of health.

The demands of producing and feeding a litter of healthy puppies are very exhausting on your bitch. Your bitch should be in the peak of condition, not only during her pregnancy but also before she is mated. Make sure her vaccinations are up to date and that she has been wormed regularly. Roundworms are the most common worms passed from bitch to pups through the milk supply and through the placenta while the pups are still in the bitch. Correct procedures for worming of puppies should be carried out. Your bitch should be totally free of any parasites, especially fleas.

Because overweight bitches may have problems both conceiving and whelping keep her in good physical condition. Exercise the bitch regularly. A fit and healthy bitch will cope much better with the demands of whelping.

If natural matings are going to be done some stud owners will require the bitch to be swabbed before mating. This is a precaution against any foreign bacteria that may be inside the bitch. Swabbing a bitch at the first sign of the vulva swelling will allow time if necessary to clear up any infections before mating.

The stud dog himself should also be in the peak of physical condition before mating. An overweight stud dog may find it difficult to mate naturally. Artificial insemination is now very common for a variety of reasons. The dog and bitch may not like each other and may harm each other if brought together. There may be a risk of infection. The stud dog may live interstate. Frozen and chilled semen is transported easily with maximum safety these days.

Hereditary Diseases

Hereditary disease is only one of the factors to consider in selection of breeding stock but it is an important one. Hereditary diseases are due to random gene alterations (mutations) occurring as accidents in nature. Once the gene mutations occur they may be passed on from parent to offspring, sometimes hidden but sometimes becoming apparent resulting in the unfortunate animals. Because these mutations occur naturally one may ask why we should be concerned about them? Natural selection has been replaced by breeder selection within the limited gene pool of any one breed. As well as taking control of selecting for good traits the breeder must accept responsibility of selecting against hereditary diseases.

Concerns about Hereditary diseases

There are real reasons for concern about hereditary diseases

a) They affect the health and welfare of the unfortunate dogs that are affected.

Some hereditary diseases are life threatening eg heart and kidney diseases and many are debilitating eg hip/elbow dysplasia and blindness

Others are at least discomforting and aggravating eg entropion, distichiasis

For the sake of future generations we should aim to breed dogs that are not likely to pass on defective genes causing hereditary disease.

b) Concern for future buyers of puppies.

It is distressing to see the effects of an inherited disease of a loved pet.

Cost of treatment is often high.

Buyers become disillusioned when their puppies develop hereditary disease

c) Financial risk to the breeder.

A breeder who produces a puppy that subsequently becomes affected with an inherited disease must act responsibly with dealing with the buyer on the matter.

Breeders are prone to risk of litigation if an affected puppy is produced; a defence is to be able to show that all reasonable care has been taken to avoid hereditary diseases in the breeding program.

Obligations under the Code of Ethics

The ABS Inc has a Code of Ethics and a Health Policy for hereditary diseases that provide solid guidelines for breeders in relation to hereditary diseases. Breeders are obliged to conform to both of these. These have three main thrusts directed at:

Reducing the incidence of hereditary disease

Protecting the purchaser of the puppy

Protecting the breeder who has made all reasonable efforts to minimise the risk of hereditary diseases.

Legal advice is that the Code of Ethics and the Health Policy should be adhered to for the protection of the buyer and seller. Provided the information given is not misleading or deceptive the adherence to these should substantially reduce members exposure to claims such as breach and negligence.

Recommended action for breeders in relation to hereditary diseases

The ABS Inc is recognised as the guardian of the Australasian Bosdog for the long term benefit of the breed. Breeders should participate in all disease control programs set out by the ABS Inc.

Ignorance is no excuse.

Find out what hereditary diseases are known to be problems – ask responsible, experienced people within the breed.

Find out if there are any known incidence of these diseases within the lines of your dogs, particularly among their parents and siblings

Before breeding from your dogs find out what testing should be done in relation to hereditary diseases.

Comply with the requirements of the Code of Ethics and Health Policy.

Select against hereditary diseases for the benefit of the future generations of the breed to protect prospective puppy purchasers and to reduce the financial risk to you as a breeder.

Producing a puppy affected by an inherited disease is not a crime provided you have made all reasonable efforts to avoid hereditary diseases. The offence is in doing nothing before and after. Act responsibly for the future of your breed.

The Brood Bitch

All the best books and all the best breeders will tell you without hesitation that the most valuable asset any kennel can have is a good brood bitch.

This basic concept cannot be doubted. What makes a good brood bitch?

Basically all the general things that have been touched upon previously. Namely health, temperament, freedom from hereditary diseases and of good quality and be within or very close to the height and weight set down by the breed standard and not depart from any breed requirements to a large degree which could be considered a serious fault.

Most of all she will have the ability to pass on the desired features to her offspring and she will have the temperament to transmit to her brood by example that all is well with the world.

The temperament and disposition is of paramount importance. Until the pups leave home they will learn from and mimic their mother. Both good and bad. It is virtually impossible to breed mentally sound and stable puppies from a bitch with a bad temperament.

Her puppies will as a result have the best possible start in life. They will be well formed, well fed, healthy and well adjusted.

The bitch that panics, is a fussy feeder and has a history of ill health cannot do these things for her puppies or for you no matter how beautiful she may be. She is best avoided as a prospect for the whelping box.

In short we aim to produce puppies which are sound both physically and mentally.

There is more to breeding dogs than producing pretty looking specimens. The brood bitch is the key to the immediate future because she has too much influence on her puppies beyond her contribution to their genetic makeup.

Selecting a stud dog

The stud dog should conform to some very basic criteria before he is used to pass along his genes to the next generations just as the dam of the proposed litter should conform.

Firstly the dog will need to be sexually mature, entire and sound of health both physically and mentally. Ideally he should be mature in growth and development

The choice of stud dog should result from exhaustive talking to people within the breed. Stud dog owners may offer a rose tinted opinion that their dog is suitable for every bitch. Such a dog has still to be bred.

Seek opinions from the breeder of your bitch, from anyone who has already bred from siblings of your bitch or from anyone else who can show success in their breeding program. From all of this information attempt to distil the necessary pearls of wisdom that will point you in the right direction of the most appropriate dog for your bitch.

You owe it to the future generations of dogs you intend to breed to check back on the parents of the dog and probably more importantly the grandparents. Basically satisfy yourself that none of these close ancestors died at a young age or from any known serious hereditary defect. That's a good start. Longevity is a very good sign of health and vigour.

If one is sincere in their endeavours to breed very good stock then there is no escaping that the bitch must be appraised for her adherence to the breed standard and her faults isolated and recognised. Most importantly the stud male chosen should on no account be the bearer of the same faults but should be capable or better still proven to overcome these faults in his progeny.

The above points are the basis for stud dog selection. The very word stud implies that the animal concerned is superior or at least of very high quality. For that reason the dog should not be offered at stud unless he can be held in this light.

Responsibilities of the Breeder

Be aware that there are serious considerations which bear thinking about beyond the natural mechanics of reproduction. They are the moral and practical obligations

- ✓ To yourself and family
- ✓ To your dogs
- ✓ To your neighbours
- ✓ To the eventual recipients of your puppies

You owe it to yourself and those around you to be fully conversant with the amount of time the properly raised litter of pups will require. Puppies need to be fed little and often during the first 3 months of their life. The dam of your litter will require close observations her whelping time draws near to be sure that all is going normally and after whelping to see that she is carrying out her maternal duties normally. The new puppies will require close observation on a constant basis to ensure that none are accidentally crushed by their dam or able to move away from her and lose body heat. The first 10 days are crucial for the survival of a normal litter.

From 3 to 4 weeks the weaning of the pups will require attention at minimal intervals and as they become less dependent on their dam they become more dependent on their breeder for food, cleanliness and warmth or cooling. Whichever is appropriate.

It is therefore not satisfactory to take on the venture of breeding dogs unless full time care of the animals will be available. If you cannot be spared from other commitments to tend the litter and you cannot have on hand a responsible person who can do so it is better to wait until the time will be available.

Constant supervision will ensure that there is no reason for a litter of puppies to become noisy or create other nuisance to the surroundings.

As the puppies grow and are offered for sale you will need to be available to show your puppies with pride in clean, sweet smelling surroundings and answer queries from would be purchasers. To do this you will need to make yourself conversant with proper care requirements for your breed. Or have access to someone who can answer any questions you are unable to answer. It is not enough to call an end to responsibilities with the departure of the puppy with its new owner.

You must be timely and meticulous with paperwork. Litter registration should be lodged along with fees as soon as practical after the birth of the puppies.

No puppy should leave your establishment without its new owner receiving full instructions of the rearing and care of the puppy, certificate of vaccination and further information in the event that one day this puppy may be bred from. For instance the need to register a kennel prefix before mating takes place and the need to be well acquainted with information on responsible breeding practices.

You need to be in a position to replace the puppy or to give a part or full refund of the purchase price if the dog develops a serious hereditary defect in the first year of life. You need to educate yourself sufficiently to be aware and conversant with major research on any such defects which may affect the breed.

Facilities

Cost Factors

Time and Labour

Veterinary Attention

After Sale Availability

Think again on all of the above subjects. Assess your own position to attend to them. Only if you are absolutely sure that you can provide all of the required finance, time and obligatory services should you embark on the journey to breed dogs.

If you are certain that you have what it takes to be a responsible dog owner and breeder of the future then enjoy your pastime.