



Master Dog Breeders & Associates
Rules 01/07/2024

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1 Rules

- a) MDBA Members agree to be bound by the MDBA Rules, Codes and Policies.
- b) At any time and at our sole discretion, the MDBA may amend, revise, or modify the Rules. This may result in additional rules being included or some existing rules being amended or terminated.
- c) Although the MDBA may notify Members of any amendment, revision, or modification, to our Code of Ethics, Policies or Rules, it is every Member's responsibility to review those documents periodically.
- d) MDBA Members agree to be bound by such changes, modifications or revisions as made by the MDBA from time to time.
- e) These Rules apply to all financial members who are bound by all requirements relating to their membership class.
- f) The interpretation of the Code of Ethics, Policies and Rules are at the sole discretion of the MDBA Board and all Board decisions are final.

2 Definitions

- a) A **Member** is a person who has a current membership subscription and is in good standing,
- b) A **person of good standing** is a person who has not had any MDBA privileges suspended or terminated.
- c) A **First-degree mating** is a mating with dogs that are very closely related - a Mother and Son, Father and Daughter, or Brother and Sister.
- d) **Disrepute** is the state of not being respected or trusted. Anything that lowers the reputation of a person or the MDBA in the eyes of MDBA members or members of the public

3 Membership

3.1 Types of Membership

- a) Membership of the MDBA consists of the following membership classes:
 - i) Breeder Member.
 - ii) Associate Member.
 - iii) Dual Members in each of the above classes.
- b) An application for membership shall be in such form as the Management Team may from time to time prescribe and shall be signed by the applicant with a declaration that they will comply with the MDBA Codes, Rules, and Policies.

3.2 Common Membership Rules

- a) A member must have their priority and focus on what is best for their dogs and the breed.
- b) A Member's access to services and member benefits provided by the MDBA is conditional upon acceptance and ongoing compliance with the Rules, Policies and Codes relevant to their membership type.
- c) Membership fees are non-refundable.

- d) Members must agree they have read, understood, and will comply with all MDBA Rules, Codes and Policies pertinent to their membership type.
- e) Members will be held accountable for any activities that identify them as MDBA members.
- f) Members must not:
 - i) Use any of the MDBA's intellectual property or imagery without prior approval from the MDBA.
 - ii) Use the MDBA's name or logo without approval or in a way that would result in a negative impact on the MDBA or its members.
 - iii) Share material that brings, or risks bringing, the MDBA or any person associated with the MDBA into disrepute.
 - iv) Disclose any information that the MDBA would consider confidential, including but not limited to information that is not publicly accessible or widely known or is not expected by the MDBA Board to be shared at this time outside of the MDBA.
- g) Members cannot give responsibility for their membership or dogs to any other person. The ultimate responsibility for their actions and dogs lies with the member.
- h) Members are responsible for any penalties or service fees that are outstanding after; their membership subscription has expired; the Member has terminated their membership; or the MDBA has terminated the member's membership.
- i) Members must permit any person authorised in writing by the MDBA Board entry to any premises owned or occupied by the Member to inspect or conduct a virtual inspection.
- j) Members must communicate with MDBA staff members in a polite, fair and reasonable manner and must avoid displaying behaviour towards staff that would offend community standards or are against the law.
- k) Members must not conduct themselves in any way that may bring the MDBA or themselves as an MDBA Member into disrepute.
- l) Members must comply with the MDBA Compliance Policy in any MDBA investigation.
- m) Members must update their contact details within 7 days whenever those details change.
- n) MDBA membership is not transferable.
- o) MDBA Members must comply with all local laws and codes of practice related to their membership type.
- p) Members must inform the MDBA immediately if they are under investigation or have been found guilty of any animal cruelty or welfare offences prior to or during the term of their membership subscription.
- q) Members must ensure that any dog in their care receives immediate professional attention should it become ill.
- r) Members must ensure that all dogs in their care will be adequately housed in clean, comfortable, and weatherproof accommodation with off-lead and exercise time, mental and physical stimulation, companionship, and socialisation that meets their breed needs and/or exceeds any local regulations.
- s) Members must ensure that all dogs in their care are under their control at all times, their housing and exercise areas are kept clean, and all care is taken to limit possible disturbance to neighbours.
- t) Unless prior approval is received from the MDBA Board, members must not permit any of their MDBA registered dogs to be mated to:

- i) A dog of a different breed
- ii) A crossbred dog
- iii) A dog that is not registered with the MDBA.
- iv) A dog with an MDBA-restricted pedigree
- v) A dog not permitted to be registered on an MDBA register.
- u) **Victorian Members must also abide by the following rules:**
 - i) MDBA Code of Ethics Victoria
 - ii) MDBA Code of Practice for the Keeping of Dogs Victoria
 - iii) MDBA Code of Practice for Breeders Victoria
 - iv) MDBA Code of Practice for Heritable Conditions Victoria
 - v) MDBA Code of Practice Sales Victoria
 - vi) Animal Welfare Victoria Planning requirements for dog and cat breeding
 - vii) Victorian Breeder Members with more than 10 Fertile Female dogs must comply with all MDBA codes AND the Victorian Code of Practice for the Operation of Breeding and Rearing Businesses 2014

3.3 Membership Subscriptions

- a) Membership subscriptions terminate at midnight on the date specified on the MDBA member card and membership certificate.
- b) Membership renewal subscription fees are determined by the MDBA Board.

3.4 Single and Dual Breeder Membership.

- a) Breeder membership is open to anyone who:
 - i) Has been approved by the MDBA Board as a suitable MDBA Breeder Member
 - ii) Breeds or wishes to breed pedigreed pure-bred dogs or MDBA-recognised breeds in development
 - iii) Has never been found guilty of any animal cruelty or welfare offences.
- b) Breeder members must complete any relevant MDBA Induction courses prior to membership activation.
- c) Breeder members must comply with any MDBA mandatory health testing for their breed/s and any other health or DNA testing the MDBA deems appropriate.
- d) All breeder members must register all live progeny with the MDBA within six months of the date of birth of the litter.
- e) Members must understand and comply with local laws and MDBA Rules, Codes and Policies.
- f) **Breeder members must not use the MDBA logo, their MDBA Member status or number or their MDBA prefix to promote, advertise, sell or giveaway any dog or their offspring that cannot be registered with the MDBA.**
- g) Dual breeder membership:
 - i) Is a single breeder membership number shared by two people.
 - ii) Can be applied for by two people if they:
 - a. Qualify individually as a breeder member
 - b. Both reside at the same physical premises.
 - c. Agree to be held equally accountable for the actions of the other member.
 - d. Inform the MDBA immediately of any circumstances that would change their status as a dual Breeder member.

- iii) Can be converted into single memberships with the payment of the appropriate membership subscription, completion of the appropriate paperwork and the approval of the MDBA Board.

3.5 Dog Breeding

- a) When breeding dogs, a Breeder Member must:
 - i) Not allow any first-degree mating without obtaining written approval from the MDBA Board.
 - ii) Not mate a bitch prior to her being one year of age
 - iii) Give due consideration to the wellbeing of the bitch and her offspring before any mating and ensure they have the time and facilities to devote proper care and attention to the rearing and placement of the puppies.
 - iv) Keep accurate and timely breeding and health records for all dogs in their care for a minimum of three years and in accordance with local legislation.
 - v) Have a veterinary practitioner complete a general health check and fill out the MDBA-prescribed Breeding Dog Vet Health Check form for any potential breeding dogs when they reach maturity and prior to their first mating.
 - vi) Have a veterinary practitioner complete a general health check as required or as determined by local laws.
 - vii) Have a written agreement with one or more veterinary practitioners that describes arrangements for providing veterinary breeding and pet services.

3.6 Heritable Diseases

- a) If managing heritable diseases or defects a member must:
 - i) Co-operate in any MDBA measures aimed at eradicating hereditary diseases or genetic defects known or suspected in their breed.
 - ii) If they become aware that a dog they have bred, own or owned has been diagnosed by a veterinary practitioner, DNA results or are provided with reasonable evidence that a dog is affected by a heritable disease or defect, take the following actions:
 - i) If they still own the dog or have offspring from that dog:
 - a. Do not breed from the affected dog or offspring until the dog or offspring has been tested where an acceptable test is available;
 - b. Have the affected dog or offspring assessed by a veterinary practitioner for the disease or defect if an acceptable test is not available.
 - c. Do not mate the affected dog until genetic counselling is obtained from the MDBA and a veterinary practitioner;
 - d. Inform the owner of the sire and dam of the disease or defect where the member does not own the dam or the sire.
 - e. Develop a sale or euthanasia plan for the affected dog or offspring in conjunction with a veterinary practitioner;
 - f. Inform the MDBA of the dog being affected by a heritable disease or defect by email and supplying veterinary evidence.

3.6.1 Health Management Plan

- a) A member must have a written Health Management Plan

- b) When developing a Health Management Plan a Member must:
 - i) Either adopt the MDBA Model Health Management Plan or develop, in conjunction with their veterinarian, or their own written health management plan. This Plan must be reviewed annually in consultation with a veterinary practitioner if the plan has been developed by the member.
 - ii) Send to the MDBA their Health Management Plan if requested.
 - iii) Allow MDBA Field Officers to inspect their breeding and rearing premises and records to ensure compliance with their Health Management Plan.
- c) Have the following in their Health Management Plan:
 - i) Assessment/Evaluation programs for:
 - a. The health and welfare of dogs being reared for sale or kept as breeding dogs
 - b. The admission of new breeding dogs into the kennel
 - c. Breed appropriate behavioural, welfare, health and socialisation of dogs and puppies
 - ii) Processes for:
 - a. Determining the suitability of breeding dogs to continue breeding
 - b. Retiring breeding dogs, their long-term management, de-sexing and/or assessing suitability for rehoming
 - c. The process of admitting new or visiting dogs into the kennel.
 - iii) Requirements for breed appropriate:
 - a. Nutrition
 - b. Grooming
 - c. Exercise
 - d. Environmental enrichment and socialisation programs
 - iv) Breed appropriate programs to suitably manage breeding dogs:
 - a. Behaviour, welfare and socialisation
 - b. Vaccination/titre testing, parasite and pest control
 - v) Protocols for:
 - a. Vaccination/titre testing, internal and external parasite prevention
 - b. General disease outbreak response
 - c. Quarantine and movement of dogs, including for any new dogs introduced
 - d. Management of isolation facilities (where isolation facilities are constructed at the breeder's premises)
 - e. Consideration of appropriate responses to foreseeable emergencies for both humans and dogs, including evacuation procedures
 - f. Approved methods of euthanasia for emergency situations consistent with the MDBA position on euthanasia described in these rules.

3.6.2 Euthanasia

- a) Where euthanasia is necessary, it must be carried out by a veterinary practitioner, except in emergency situations.

3.7 Sale of Puppies.

- a) Once an MDBA certificate has been issued for a dog, that MDBA certificate will follow the dog regardless of any contractual conditions placed on the sale or transfer of that dog.

- b) Breeder Members must:
- i) Sell a dog with a microchip and provide a signed transfer of ownership of the microchip.
 - ii) Only sell puppies and adult dogs if, to the best of the member's knowledge and belief, they are in good health at the time of sale.
 - iii) Not sell a puppy or adult that has any apparent physical defects unless the buyer is made aware of in writing of such defects and their possible consequences.
 - iv) Screen prospective buyers for suitability and must fully advise them of the characteristics of the dog as a breed stressing the necessity for appropriate diet, care, grooming and exercise.
 - v) Not allow a puppy to leave their premises to go to a new home before the age of 8 weeks.
 - vi) Not sell or rehome a puppy without it having its first vaccination and regular worming treatments and documented evidence of this being provided to the buyer.
 - vii) Supply all relevant breed appropriate information to the buyer which must include
 - a. A diet sheet,
 - b. A full and accurate puppy care sheet,
 - c. Appropriate health care information,
 - d. A parasite control regime,
 - e. The puppy's microchip information, and
 - f. Any other information that will be helpful to the buyer and the puppy.
 - viii) Provide a written health guarantee for every puppy or dog sold, which must include details of what a purchaser must do if the dog becomes ill during the guarantee period.
 - ix) Provide ongoing support and advice where possible for the life of the dog.
 - x) Not sell any puppy or adult dog:
 - a. As a prize
 - b. As an auction item
 - c. At public market places
 - d. To laboratories, pet shops, dealers or agents in dogs or to persons known to sell dogs to any of these places or people.
 - xi) Impress on the buyer that they should contact them immediately in the event of any problem arising with the puppy or adult and make every effort where possible and practicable to be of assistance in these circumstances.
 - xii) Ensure advertising is strictly factual and must not promote their dogs as something they are not.
 - xiii) Fully disclose to the potential purchaser, prior to any sale, any heritable disease or fault detected in the dog and the likely outcomes for the dog.
 - xiv) Provide a contract of sale to all purchasers that states the dog described in the sales agreement is the dog being purchased. The MDBA registered name of the Dam and Sire. The sales contract must be provided and agreed to by the purchaser in writing before any money changes hands.
 - xv) Provide a health declaration for all dogs sold
 - xvi) Provide a health guarantee and return policy which includes:

- a. A statement that the dog described in the sales contract has been bred and sold by the MDBA Breeder member.
- b. A vaccination certificate signed by the veterinary practitioner
- xvii) Provide a veterinary health certificate and a vaccination certificate which will be given to the purchaser when the purchaser takes possession of the dog.
- xviii) Clearly set out in the sales agreement the breeder's return policy.
- xix) Include instructions for what the buyer must do if the dog becomes ill in the guarantee period.
- xx) **For breeder members in Victoria, the sales agreement must have a return policy that includes:**
 - a. If the purchaser decides to return the dog within three days of the sale for any reason not supported by a statement from a veterinary practitioner, the member will take the dog/puppy back and refund 75% of the purchase price.
 - b. If the purchaser returns the dog/puppy to the breeder within 21 days of sale accompanied by a statement from a veterinary practitioner that the dog/puppy is unacceptable for health reasons, the breeder will take the dog/puppy back and refund 100% of the purchase price.
 - c. If the dog/puppy is diagnosed with, suffering from, dies or is euthanised from a disease that is traceable to the breeder, within three years of the purchase of the dog/puppy, the breeder will refund 100% of the purchase price of the dog/puppy where the owner of the dog/puppy provides statement/s supporting the diagnosis of the disease from a veterinary practitioner.
 - d. The Breeder member must sign the sales agreement and declare that the health statement provided is a true and correct declaration of the health of the dog/puppy on the date of sale.
 - e. The purchaser must be provided with the legal requirements for owners of dogs and cats in Victoria.

3.8 Associate Membership.

- a) Associate membership is open to all dog owners regardless of the breed of dog they own, as long as the person applying is 18 years of age or older.
- b) Associate Members must not breed a dog unless they upgrade their MDBA membership to a Breeder Membership.
- c) Associate Members must not use their MBDA credentials for any advertising or sales transactions relating to dogs.
- d) Associate Members must ensure they are familiar with and adhere to all local laws regarding the keeping of dogs. Members are responsible for understanding and complying with local laws, MDBA Rules, Codes and Policies.
- e) The MDBA requires that all dogs have their needs met by:
 - i) a nutritionally appropriate diet for the age and size of the dog.
 - ii) Being regularly groomed to ensure the dog's ears, eyes, teeth, coat and nails have no issues
 - iii) Being housed appropriate to the dog's comfort and the local climate
 - iv) The exercise provided is appropriate to the dog's age and activity level.
 - v) Environmental enrichment and socialisation being provided to ensure the dog is a good Member of the community

- vi) Having vaccination or titre testing, parasite and pest control undertaken according to veterinarian advice.

3.9 Cessation of Membership

- a) Membership of the MDBA shall cease immediately when:
 - i) A member does not pay their membership renewal subscription fee before their membership subscription expiry date
 - ii) A member pays their renewal subscription fee but does not complete other membership renewal requirements within 14 days of the subscription fee payment
 - iii) A member resigns by written notice addressed to the MDBA Board.
 - a. Resignation is effective from the date and time the MDBA receives the written notice.
 - b. Resignation does not relieve the member from payment of overdue subscriptions, service fees, penalties or other monies owed by the member to the MDBA at the time of resignation.
- (b) A member dies
- (c) A member is terminated from membership by the MDBA Board.
- (d) The MDBA may terminate a member's membership where:
 - i) A confirmed breach of legislation occurs – For Victorian members, this is specifically the Domestic Animals Act 1994 and the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1986 and their associated regulations.
 - ii) A Member has failed to comply with MDBA Rules, Codes or Policies.
 - iii) A breeder member no longer holds a valid MDBA prefix in their name.
 - iv) A Member has been found guilty of any animal cruelty or welfare offence.

3.10 Membership Suspension

- a) Members may be suspended by the MDBA board if:
 - i) The MDBA Board determines the member should be suspended as part of the disciplinary policy.
 - ii) The member fails to respond to written communication from the MDBA.
 - iii) A member is under investigation for breaches of the MDBA Rules, Codes or Policies.
- b) A suspension for failure to respond can be removed when:
 - i) The MDBA Board receives a response to the initial communication with an acceptable explanation as to why the suspended member did not initially respond.

4 The Registers.

- a) **General Stud Register.** The General Stud Register accurately documents and records all MDBA-recognised pure breeds. Purebred dogs, with MDBA recognised pedigrees, born anywhere in the world, can be accepted in the General Stud Registry.
- b) **Preservation Register.** The Preservation Register records all approved preservation breeding programs for which record keeping is vital to the outcome of the results and history of the breed.
- c) **Foundation Register.** The Foundation Register provides a third-party arm's length service for recording pedigree information and maintaining stud books for a new breed as it completes its journey toward breed recognition. It is utilised solely as a registry system for new breeds in development as defined by the MDBA Board. At this stage of a breed in development the register is primarily for ancestry, health and temperament tracking purposes. The MDBA does not register cross-bred litters with no goal of reaching pure breed recognition.
- d) **Intermediate Register.** This register provides a transitional register as breeds advance from the Foundation Register on the journey toward breed recognition. This register identifies dogs that meet the advanced development criteria for qualification into the final phase before acceptance of the Foundation breed as an MDBA recognised pure breed and entry into the MDBA General Stud Register.
- e) **Extension Register.** The Extension Register documents and records dogs that fit the criteria as a purebred dog of a recognised breed but have no pedigree details or are missing some pedigree details in any of the last 4 generations.
- f) **Companion Register.** The purpose of the Companion Register is to enable dogs that are unable to be registered in any other MDBA register and who are desexed for the purpose of participation in MDBA activities other than those events that are breed specific events.

4.1 Kennel Prefix

- a) Applications for the use of a kennel name in the registration of dogs must be made to the MDBA on a form that will be supplied, and a fee must accompany all applications. The MDBA Board will then consider the application and grant the right to use that name if it approves of the name selected.
- b) Any kennel name granted by the MDBA may be transferred by its present owner or owners to another only by consent and approval by the MDBA Board, which may include conditions and payment of a fee as determined by the MDBA Board.
- c) All MDBA breeder members must hold a current prefix. If the member's prefix is transferred or removed, the member's breeder membership will be changed to Associate membership.
- d) A kennel prefix name must:
 - i) Be at least five letters, and must NOT be more than 18 letters, including spaces
 - ii) Consist of letters only. No symbols, brackets, numbers, apostrophes etc will be allowed
 - iii) Not have a name incorporating that of any established breed, a breed in development or any name the Board deems offensive or inappropriate. (As of June 2014)

- iv) Consist of letters only. No accented letters (é), symbols (\$,#,@), numbers or punctuation (commas, hyphens, dashes etc).
- v) Must not incorporate the name or nickname of an established breed, a breed in development or a crossbreed. (Such as oodle, doodle etc.) or any name the Board deems offensive or inappropriate. (As of June 2014)

4.2 Applications for inclusion into a register

- a) Members must apply to have a dog or a litter registered using the prescribed process. The MDBA Board will determine into which registry the dog will be entered.
- b) No dog will be eligible for registration in any Register where the dog has had any procedure prohibited by legislation in the breeder's place of residence unless full documentation confirming that such a procedure is in accordance with the legislation of the country or state current at the time of that dog's whelping. This documentation must be provided at the time of application for the dog's registration.
- c) Any MDBA breed-specific mandatory tests must be completed prior to the time of the registration application.
- d) No dog will be entered into any MDBA Register unless it is identified by a microchip number.
- e) The MDBA Board may accept the results of DNA testing as conclusive evidence of parentage for the purposes of registering a dog.

4.3 Requirements for naming a dog

- a) An MDBA-generated number shall be allocated to each dog when registered with the MDBA and that number will form part of the dog's name.
- b) A member must refer to a dog with its full registered name in any correspondence, communication, application or event entry form to the MDBA.
- c) Any name or part of the name may be refused by the MDBA Board if it believes the name is objectionable or likely to confuse.
- d) When a name is not acceptable, and the owner of the dog does not choose another name when requested to do so, the MDBA Board will name the dog.
- e) Once a name has been registered and accepted, it will not be altered unless under exceptional circumstances only if an application is made in writing to the MDBA Board and the application is approved. Under no circumstances will the name of a dog be changed once the dog is over 9 months of age.
- f) For dogs registered on the Companion Register only the dog's common name is entered.
- g) For all other Registers the following is required:
 - i) The name of a dog will include the member's kennel prefix plus the name, and once a name is registered, that name will not be registered again.
 - ii) No dog's name will be registered if it contains the prefix name of another member or with a name so similar to that of another registered dog, which, in the opinion of the MDBA Board, would be likely to mislead or confuse.

4.4 Applying to Register a Litter

- a) The breeder member must own the dam at the time of whelping the litter.
- b) The dam of a litter must be registered with the MDBA prior to or at the same time as the litter registration application.

- c) Breeder members must register all live puppies from all breeds that can be registered in MDBA Registers
- d) The breeder member must apply to register all live puppies in a litter at the time of the litter registration application and all puppies in that litter must be listed on the same prescribed form.
- e) A litter will not be registered unless all MDBA mandatory tests have been completed on the dam and sire of the litter or the MDBA mandatory tests have been completed on the puppies in the litter registration application.
- f) All litter registrations must be applied for within six [6] calendar months from the date of whelping. Any applications for litter registrations after six (6) months of whelping require MDBA Board approval.
- g) The MDBA Board may refuse, cancel or suspend a litter registration or part of the litter registration if the criteria for registration in the appropriate Register has not been met or if the validity of the registration application is in doubt.

4.5 Applying to Register a Single Dog

- a) A dog can be registered in an MDBA Register if:
 - i) The application is made using the prescribed process.
 - ii) The criteria for the register are met.
 - iii) The member is the owner of the dog.
 - iv) All MDBA mandatory tests for the breed are completed and the results are provided to the MDBA at the time of the registration application.

4.6 Cancellation, Suspension, Refusal or Variation of Registration

- a) The registration of any dog may be cancelled, suspended, refused or varied by the MDBA Board. Any Register entries impacted by a decision to cancel registration may be stricken from the Register records for any period.
- b) The registration of a dog may be suspended, either temporarily or permanently as the case may be, in any of the following circumstances:
 - i) The member has not fully paid the administration fee for the registration or transfer of the dog.
 - ii) The member has provided incorrect information during the application for registration or transfer process.
 - iii) The MDBA Board determines that the suspension is in the best interests of the particular breed or the integrity of the register.
- c) If a dog's registration is suspended the dog shall be deemed for all purposes to be unregistered until the suspension is lifted.
- d) Upon the cancellation, suspension or variation of the registration of a dog, the MDBA Board may cancel, suspend or vary the registration of any descendant of the affected dog.
- e) If a dog's registration is varied from restricted registration to open registration, then the dog will be considered a breeding dog.
- f) If a dog's pedigree is varied from open registration to restricted registration the dog will no longer be considered as a breeding dog.
- g) A member can apply to have a cancelled, suspended or variation of a pedigree reinstated by applying in writing to the MDBA Board.

4.7 Registration or Ownership Disputes.

- a) The MDBA will only accept the registrant as the dog's owner unless there is a court order determining another person is the legal owner.

4.8 Stud Service Certification.

- a) A member must not, under any circumstances, include any contractual or conditional provisions on the supply or release of a Stud Service Certificate. Regardless of any contractual conditions on the Stud service, the Stud service certificate must be provided to the Dam's owner at the time of mating.
- b) Both the Dam owner and the Stud dog owner must sign the Stud Service Certificate at the time of the mating.
- c) If the Stud Dog Owner is an MDBA member:
 - i) The responsibility for signing and providing the Dam's owner with a completed stud service certificate at the time of mating is the responsibility of both parties, who will both be in breach and held accountable and disciplined jointly if they fail to adhere to this rule.
- d) If the stud dog owner is not an MDBA member:
 - i) The responsibility of having the Stud form signed and retained by the Dam's owner is the full responsibility of the Dam's owner. Failure of the Dam's owner to secure a signed Stud service certificate will result in a breach of this rule and they will be held accountable and disciplined for failure to adhere to this rule.

4.9 Artificial Insemination

- a) When using fresh, chilled, or frozen semen for Artificial Insemination, a breeder member must get the inseminating veterinarian to sign the MDBA-approved certificate at the time of the inseminating procedure. The dam's owner must retain that form and submit it to the MDBA when applying to have the litter registered.

4.10 Rectification of Errors

- a) A member may request to have their dog's certificate changed if the rectification is minor and:
 - i) The MDBA is notified in writing of the error within seven (7) days of receiving the pedigree:
 - a. If the error was caused by the MDBA, there will be no cost to the member.
 - b. If the error was caused by the person submitting the litter application, then an administration fee will be charged to the member.
 - ii) If a breeder member reports an error to the MDBA in writing after seven (7) days of receiving the certificate:
 - a. Regardless of who caused the error an administration fee must be paid by the member.
 - b. Should the error be discovered by a new owner, the member who submitted the litter application will be charged an administrative fee.

4.11 Registration Status

- a) A dog can have one of three registration status':

- i) Open Registration
 - ii) Restricted Registration
 - iii) Certificate of Registration
- b) A dog will have open registration if:
 - i) A breeder member at the time of litter registration application marks a puppy's registration as registers a dog with an open registration when applying to register the litter.
- c) A dog will have a restricted registration if:
 - i) A breeder member registers a dog with a restricted registration when applying to register the litter.
 - ii) The MDBA Board determines a dog has restricted registration based on MDBA Rules.
- d) A dog will have a certificate of registration when:
 - i) A dog of any breed is registered in the Companion Register.
 - ii) When dogs in the dog's ancestry are not known.
 - iii) When the breeder provides a registration certificate rather than a full pedigree certificate.

4.12 Changes to Registration Status

- a) A member may apply in writing to the MDBA Board to change a dogs registration status as follows:
 - i) To upgrade a dog from Restricted Registration to Open Registration the breeder must give approval in writing with a signature for the upgrade.
 - ii) To downgrade a dog from open Registration to restricted registration the registered owner must agree in writing with a signature.
- b) Any application for changes to a dog's registration status must be approved by the MDBA Board.

4.13 Transfer of Ownership.

- a) Any transaction that changes the registered status or ownership of a dog will only be processed upon the MDBA receiving the original dog's Pedigree or Certificate of Registration with the reverse filed in with the new owner details.
- b) The MDBA Board may approve or disallow any application for transfer depending on the facts and may impose conditions on the transfer as it deems necessary.
- c) The new owner of a dog is responsible for applying for the transfer of ownership. The application for the transfer of ownership of the dog must be made on the reverse of the original Pedigree or Certificate and sent to the MDBA for processing with the applicable transfer fee.
- d) In the event that a dog's original Pedigree or Certificate of Registration has been lost or destroyed, a duplicate may be provided on application to the current registrant of the dog. Should the current owner not be the registrant, the request for a duplicate must be accompanied by a statutory declaration describing the events of the loss or destruction.
- e) A dog that is under a lease agreement cannot be transferred until the termination of the lease, without MDBA Board approval

- f) A member who sells or disposes of a dog to another person must provide to the new owner, at the time of sale or within two (2) calendar months of the sale or disposal, the original Pedigree or Certificate of Registration
- g) Once a pedigree has been issued for a dog, that pedigree will follow the dog after the sale regardless of any contractual conditions placed on the sale of that dog.

4.14 Leasing a Dog

- a) A dog can be leased to another member if:
 - i) The current owner has completed the reverse of the pedigree or certificate of registration of the dog
 - ii) The pedigree or certificate of registration is lodged with the MDBA within sixty (60) days of the start of the lease
- b) A lease may be terminated at any time if:
 - i) The Lessor and Lessee jointly inform the MDBA in writing that the lease has been terminated.
- c) Members who are parties to a lease and the lease contract are solely responsible for managing that lease, and the MDBA will not intervene in any contractual matters.

4.15 Disputed/Unknown Parentage

- a) In the event of disputed or unknown parentage, The MDBA Board will require a member to provide DNA evidence from a specific DNA laboratory to determine the parentage
- b) Where the MDBA Board directs that DNA testing be carried out, the MDBA Board shall determine who is liable for the costs incurred.
- c) The MDBA Board shall direct what action is to be taken regarding registration based on the evidence of DNA testing.
- d) Where DNA evidence indicates that the registered sire or dam is incorrect, then all progeny shall be immediately suspended from the Register.

4.16 Pedigree Acceptance Criteria

- a) For pedigrees to be accepted for inclusion in MDBA General Stud Register it must contain the following information:
 - i) The name of the issuing organisation, with their logo
 - ii) Contact details and address of the issuing organisation
 - iii) The name and signature of the Registrar or other authorized person
 - iv) The name of the breeder defined as the owner of the dam at the time of the dog's conception or birth.
 - v) The full Registered name of the dog
 - vi) The full Registered number of the dog
 - vii) The date of birth of the dog
 - viii) The gender of the dog
 - ix) The dogs microchip number
 - x) The names and registry numbers of other ancestors, to the number of generations required by the issuing organisation
 - xi) Each dog on the pedigree, with the exception of those in the General Stud Registry or recognised as purebred, must be notarized as to how many generations the dog is past any infusion.

- xii) Each ancestor of the dog on the pedigree must have a registered name issued by the registry that has produced the pedigree.
- xiii) Each ancestor of the dog on the pedigree must have a unique number issued by the registry that has produced the pedigree.

4.17 General Stud Register

- a) Conditions required for a dog to be accepted into the General Stud Register are:
 - i) The member registering the dog must be a breeder member
 - ii) The sire and dam of the dog must have an MDBA-issued pedigree with an open status
- OR
- iii) The dog must be of a breed accepted by the MDBA and have a pedigree issued by an MDBA-approved Registry with a four-generation pedigree.

4.18 Preservation Register

- a) Only dogs that are part of an MDBA approved preservation breeding program can be registered in this Register
- b) Preservation breeding programs must be approved and certified by the MDBA Board prior to the program starting.
- c) Breeders wishing to join or start a preservation breeding programme must:
 - i) Have held their MDBA prefix for a minimum of three years and have registered at least 5 litters. This rule may be waived at the sole discretion of the MDBA Board.
 - ii) Apply in writing to the MDBA Board using the prescribed process.
 - iii) Gain approval from the MDBA Board for all matings prior to the mating occurring.

4.18.1 Registration Requirements

- a) After approval of the preservation breeding program, the following applies:
 - i) All dogs used for breeding in the preservation register must be identified by microchip and DNA profile.
 - ii) All preservation dogs will have a registration number allocated, preceded by the letter's PR and a Generation number, to be included as part of the dog's registered name.
 - iii) A dog may not move from the Preservation Register into the Intermediate Registry or the General Stud Register unless it is at least four generations past an infusion and is assessed by the MDBA Board as to its suitability to do so.
 - iv) All progeny not intended for breeding as part of the preservation breeding program must be issued with restricted pedigrees, marked "Not for Breeding", and the breeder must have a de-sexing contract with the puppy buyer.
 - v) Reports of results and progress of the preservation breeding program must be submitted to the MDBA Board on an annual basis or more often as advised
 - vi) The MDBA Board can, at their discretion, at any time cancel a Preservation breeding program

4.19 Foundation Register

- a) Breeds listed in this Register are those for which the MDBA Board has agreed to provide registration facilities during the development of the breed. The goal of breeder

members of Foundation breeds is to move their breed towards purebred status by following the MDBA process.

- b) Breeds and breed names listed in this Register will not automatically be recognised in the future or accepted by the MDBA when the breed reaches purebred status.
- c) This Register is an open stud book that will remain open until such time that the breed is recognised by the MDBA as a pure breed.
- d) As the breed journeys towards purebred status, when it qualifies for the Intermediate Register, it will be transitioned into that register.
- e) No dog will be accepted into the General Stud Register from the Foundation Register unless it has first qualified for inclusion in the Intermediate Registry.

4.19.1 Application Process for a Foundation Breed

- a) Groups of people or individual breeders must apply in writing to the MDBA Board before a new breed will be considered for acceptance into the Foundation Register
- b) The application must include:
 - i) A description of the proposed breed that clearly identifies it as distinct from all other MDBA-recognised breeds.
 - ii) A breed description that outlines the breed characteristics and proposed breed standard.
 - iii) The proposed breeding program goals.
 - iv) The proposed breed name must be unique and adhere to the MDBA breed name rules. The name used for registration in the Foundation Register will not be considered the final official MDBA breed name, as the MDBA Board may change, remove or revoke the name at any time.
 - v) The MDBA Board will review the application with consideration of whether the goal of establishing the breed is sufficiently different from any existing MDBA-recognised breed.
 - vi) The MDBA Board will not approve or accept any breed into this Register if there is sound scientific evidence that there are inherent genetic problems deleterious to the health of the dogs in question which cannot be eliminated through selective breeding.
 - vii) The breed name may not :
 - viii) Be derogatory or inappropriate in nature
 - ix) Duplicate the name of a different breed already accepted and recognized by the MDBA or by any other established registering association.
 - x) Be a composite of two or more established purebred names
 - xi) An application to the MDBA Board can be made to alter or amend the breed's name between acceptance onto the foundation register and acceptance into the General Stud register when the breed is formally recognised by the MDBA Board

4.19.2 Registration Requirements for Foundation Register

- a) All dogs accepted for breeding in this Register must be identified by microchip
- b) All Foundation Register dogs will have a registration number allocated, preceded by the letter F and a Generation number to be included as part of the dog's registered name.
- c) All progeny not intended for breeding as part of the foundation breeding program must have a restricted pedigree status.

4.19.3 Approval for an infusion of a new dog in the Foundation Register.

- a) An application for an infusion into this Register must be made in writing to the MDBA Board with as much detail as possible.
- b) The application must include the following:
 - i) A copy of the dog's pedigree if available
 - ii) The name of the dog being considered
 - iii) The breed of the dog being considered if known
 - iv) Photographs of the dog from the front, side and back
 - v) A detailed explanation as to why you want this dog to be included in the Register rather than using a dog already listed in the Register
 - vi) A detailed explanation as to what this dog will introduce to the breed gene pool that no other dog on the Register can provide
 - vii) A detailed explanation as to the desired outcome of the infusion and why you think this infusion will produce the desired outcome that no other dog in the Register can provide
 - viii) Detail the potential advantages and disadvantages for the breed overall if this infusion is approved.
 - ix) A detailed description of your current and future breeding program with this infusion if it is approved.
- c) Financial breeder members of the breed may be surveyed for their comments on whether they think the proposed infusion is desirable.
- d) The MDBA Board will assess the application and any survey results and will make the final decision.
- e) Should the MDBA Board grant approval for an infusion into the Register, the dog may be graded and have restrictions placed upon it regarding; what dogs it can be mated to, how many times it can be used in any breeding program and whether the progeny should have an open or restricted pedigree.

4.20 Intermediate Register

- a) The purpose of the Intermediate Registry is to provide a transitional registry as breeds advance on their journey toward breed recognition.
- b) A breed will not be transferred from the MDBA Foundation Register to the MDBA Intermediate Register unless:
 - i) One thousand or more dogs with at least 4 generations past an infusion are registered in the Foundation Register
 - ii) There has been a continuous registration of litters and dogs in the Foundation Register, reflecting an ongoing interest in the breed and a commitment to maintaining accurate pedigrees
 - iii) The MDBA Board has approved an application based on the suitability of that breed, taking into account breed-specific variables, to become part of the Intermediate Register.

4.20.1 Breed Recognition

- a) For a breed to move from the Intermediate Register to the General Stud Register the following criteria must be met:

- i) There has been continuous registration of litters and dogs in the Intermediate Register reflecting ongoing interest in the breed and the maintaining of accurate pedigrees.
- ii) The breed has been entered in the Intermediate Register for a minimum of one year before the application is made to the MDBA Board for acceptance of the breed to enter the General Stud Register
- iii) The breed must have:
 - a. At least two hundred MDBA breeder members who are actively breeding towards the breed standard.
 - b. At least one hundred dogs that fit the breed criteria for breeding true and have been awarded an MDBA Certificate of Merit in both Conformation and Temperament.
 - c. Two hundred entire dogs registered in the Intermediate Registry.
 - d. Two hundred dogs of the breed have been registered from parents which are in the Intermediate Register.
 - e. Have at least ten family lines with no common ancestors in at least 4 generations.
 - f. **The Breed Standard finalised and completed in accordance with the breed standard policy of the MDBA at the time of application for final breed approval.**
- b) The application must first be approved by
- c) An application in writing must be submitted to the MDBA Board for its consideration. The MDBA Board will seek guidance from the MDBA Genetics and Rules Committees and **may determine that other breed-specific variables are required.**
- d) Once the MDBA Board approves a breed application and therefore recognises a breed, the breed will be entered into the General Stud Register and formal MDBA breed recognition will be announced.

4.21 Extension Register.

- a) Only MDBA breeder members can apply for a dog to be included in this Register.
- b) For a dog to be included in the Extension Register:
 - i) It must have microchip identification and the applicant must provide proof of ownership.
 - ii) It must be accompanied by a photo of both sides of the dog, the front, head and rear of the dog.
 - iii) The breeder member must provide a written statement explaining:
 - a. The circumstances that prevented the dog from having a certified pedigree
 - b. The positive qualities the dog will bring to the breed
- c) All Extension Register dogs will have a registration number allocated, preceded by the letters E and a Generation number which is to be included as part of the dog's registered name.
- d) Dogs included in the Extension Register must be mated to dogs on the General Stud Registry unless prior approval is received from the MDBA Board.
- e) Extension Register dog's progeny can be eligible to move from the Extension Register to the General Stud Register under the following conditions:
 - i) The progeny have reached at least four generations from entry

- ii) The breeder member has applied in writing to the MDBA Board for the dog to be transferred to the General Stud Register
- iii) The MDBA Board has assessed and approved the dog's suitability

4.22 Companion Register

- a) To register a dog in the Companion Register, the person registering the dog must be:
 - i) A financial MDBA associate or breeder member.
 - ii) The legal owner of the dog.
- b) Dogs on the Companion Register must be desexed or neutered if the dog is over 12 months old
- c) Dogs on the Companion Register will be issued a Certificate of Registration
- d) The Certificate of Registration will document the following: -
 - i) Breed Type, which will be listed as Companion
 - ii) The common name of the dog
 - iii) The allocated registration number preceded by the letter "C" identifying it as being registered in the Companion Register.
 - iv) Sex
 - v) Colour
 - vi) Date of Birth
 - vii) Date of registration
 - viii) Member's name and membership number

4.23 Accepted Pure Breeds

- a) The MDBA will not register any dog that is restricted by local legislation.
- b) The MDBA Policies and website list the breeds accepted into the MDBA Registers and are the only breeds that the MDBA will enter into the Registers
- c) Members can apply in writing to the MDBA Board for consideration of a breed not on the list to be recognised for inclusion into the MDBA Registers.

4.24 Breed Standard Revision

- a) A revision consists of any change, deletion, interpretation, or clarification to a breed description.
- b) Any breed standard revisions must, at the forefront, take into account the health of the breed and must not in any way encourage extremes in conformation or temperament.
- c) Only approved MDBA Breed Advisory Committees can apply for Breed Standard revisions for their related breed.
- d) The Breed Advisory Committee will within 14 days of the start of any revision of their breed standard, notify the MDBA Board that the committee is in the process of reviewing the breed standard
- e) A Breed Advisory committee must submit breed standard revisions to MDBA Staff as they occur so that MDBA Staff can assist in developing the revisions and preparing the report to the MDBA Board.
- f) Once the revisions are finalised and the report is written, MDBA Staff will present it to the MDBA Board.
- g) The MDBA Board will assess the report and make necessary comments on the proposed revisions. The MDBA Board, if it is satisfied the revisions are appropriate, will authorise

MDBA Staff to undertake a survey seeking comments from all breeder members of that breed. MDBA staff will as part of the survey, inform the survey participants that there will be a five-year moratorium on further changes if the surveyed revisions are approved.

- h) MDBA Staff will prepare a report on this survey for the MDBA Board. Proposed revisions must receive 75% of the surveyed breeder member's agreement.
- i) Should the survey results show less than 75% support for the revisions MDBA Staff will inform the MDBA Board and the MDBA Board will not approve the revisions.
- j) Survey results that support the revision to the breed standard will be scheduled for inclusion in the MDBA Board agenda for consideration.
- k) The MDBA Board will consider the breed standard revision report and the survey results at the next most convenient meeting.
- l) If the MDBA Board approves the proposed breed standard revisions:
 - i) The MDBA Board will notify the Breed Advisory Committee that their revisions were approved and they can announce the changes to all breeder members involved in the breed.
 - ii) At the time of notification, the Breed Advisory Committee must remind breeders of that breed that there is a five-year moratorium on any further revisions to the breed standard.
 - iii) The approved revised breed standard will be published on the MDBA website.

4.25 Breed Registration Requirements

- a) The MDBA Board, in consultation with veterinary and genetic experts and in conjunction with the Breed Advisory Committee for each recognised breed, will set the breed registration requirements.
- b) The final decision for acceptance of any registration requirements is at the discretion of the MDBA Board.
- c) Registration requirements are determined by what is in the best interest of dogs on science-based evidence, the breed's welfare and in the best interest of future generations of each breed