

GUIDELINES FOR MEMBERS ON THE BEARDED COLLIE CLUB BREEDERS' CODE OF ETHICS

For the sake of convenience, the male personal pronoun has been used throughout this statement, but its provisions apply to members of either sex. Stud dog owners should also take responsibility for any puppies produced.

Before breeding a litter, equal weight should be given to type, temperament, health and soundness. All breeding should be aimed at the improvement of the breed.

No bitch should be mated before she is two years of age and should not whelp more than one litter in a twelve-month period. It is recommended that due to the late maturity of the breed and the number of puppies Beardies may produce in each litter, no bitch should be required to have more than three litters. It is also therefore recommended that stud dogs should not be used on bitches that have already had 3 litters.

1. Before considering having a litter or allowing someone to use your stud dog, please consider the following to the best of your knowledge:

Do you, or the person concerned:-

- Have the time to devote to a litter until the puppies are old enough to go to their new homes, which is usually eight weeks
- Have the knowledge to advise new owners about the various aspects of caring for their puppies, including rearing, diet, training and health problems?
- Afford to pay for the recommended health tests for the bitch prior to mating her and, where necessary, her litter?
- Know enough to help the bitch during the whelping, if necessary?
- Afford to pay for a caesarean should the dam have difficulty whelping the litter?
- Could cope with a very large litter of, say, 10 or 12 puppies?
- Have sufficient knowledge to rear the litter correctly, including worming, vaccinations and socialization?
- Are able to find good homes for the puppies?
- Are in a position to take back or re-home any puppies if it becomes necessary?

2. Breeders may wish to take a deposit when accepting a firm booking. No puppy for which a firm booking has been obtained from one individual should be sold to another individual without obtaining a definite cancellation of the booking by the first individual.
3. Breeders who wish to place the following KC endorsements on their puppies – Progeny not for exhibition, progeny not for registration, not for export MUST do so whilst the dog is IN THEIR POSSESSION. They MUST inform the prospective purchaser of this fact prior to sale and have written agreement from the purchaser that they have agreed to the endorsement.
4. It is inadvisable to sell two puppies to the same home. Puppies will bond with each other and will be much more difficult to train and socialise.
5. It is recommended that Bearded Collie Club Membership forms and a copy of Club's General Code of Ethics and Breeders Code is issued to all new owners.
6. All owners to be made aware of their responsibility to report to the nearest Rescue & Welfare co-ordinator or member of the Bearded Collie Club Committee, any dog/owner they consider requires help or support.
7. When finding good homes, as a guide, always consider:
 - Has the potential owner done their "homework" on the Bearded Collie?
 - Try to meet the whole family, including any children if possible.
 - Ask potential owners if they have any other dogs /pets to consider.

- Find out whether the dog is wanted purely as a pet, or whether they may be interested in breeding at a later stage. You may have placed endorsements on the puppy's registration certificate and these will need to be explained to the new owner before or at the date of sale.
 - Ensure that prospective owners are aware of the lively, boisterous nature of the breed and do not mislead people regarding the characteristics of the breed and the care a Bearded Collie requires (particularly of the coat). Incomplete information for the new owner may result in the puppy being returned to you, or being sold on.
 - Find out if the potential owner has the time and inclination to groom an adult dog.
 - Find out how much time they spend at home. It is not necessarily a bad thing if they are out all day, **provided** they can make provisions for the dog.
 - Find out more about where they live, for example do they have a fenced garden? Some breeders like to conduct a home check before selling a puppy (you could always ask for photographs if it is not possible for you to visit the house in person). Do not automatically rule out flat dwellers - as long as they are willing and able to walk the dog regularly they may be able to offer a suitable home. It can even be the case that the dog is better off as it cannot just be put out in the garden for exercise!
8. It is recommended that close relative matings are discouraged. To help identify how close a potential mating would be, the Kennel Club provide an online 'Mate Select' service. This is currently the only official service that provides guidance and allows for test matings to be considered. The service will identify the extent of inbreeding for the suggested mating by providing the breeding co-efficient figure.
9. It is strongly recommended that all breeding stock are tested for CEA and that all results are made public for the benefit of the breed as a whole. Dogs that have been genetically tested for CEA and found to be affected should not be used for breeding and ideally neither should carriers. However, should carriers be used then they must be mated to clear dogs, any resulting progeny should be endorsed so that progeny are not eligible for registration until such time they have been DNA CEA tested and results made public (some breeders may wish to CEA test prior to the pups being sold and we would recommend blood testing at this stage as cheek swabs may result in cross contamination whilst pups are together and still with Mum).
- NB: The BCC will make every effort to provide, promote and support CEA testing clinics.
10. It is strongly recommended that all breeding stock have been BVA/KC Eye Tested prior to being mated.
11. The BCC do not currently have a policy with regard to the testing for Elbow Dysplasia but would encourage members to submit x-ray results to the BVA. It is recommended that members who have had Elbows scored prior to the current KC scheme share the results with the Breed Health Co-ordinator.

FINALLY, IF YOU ARE NOT SURE THAT THE HOME IS RIGHT FOR THE PUPPY, THEN DO NOT SELL IT.