

# Supplementary Materials: Selection of breeding stock among Australian purebred dog breeders, with particular emphasis on the dam

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## Breeder Survey questions

### Breeder Choices Survey

*(Please circle your answers)*

#### About you

1. Gender:            Male    Female
  
2. Age: \_\_\_\_\_
  
3. Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_
  
4. Highest level of education:  
 High School    TAFE    Undergraduate    Post-graduate  
 Other? \_\_\_\_\_
  
5. What breed (/s) of dog (/s) do you breed?  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
  
6. How long have you owned your breed/s?  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
  
7. How long have you bred dogs for?  
 \_\_\_\_\_ years
  
8. How many litters of puppies do you normally breed per year?  
 \_\_\_\_\_ litters
  
9. Do you show dogs?  
 Never            Seldom    Often
  
10. Do you participate in other ANKC recognised competitive dog sports?  
 Never            Seldom    Often
  
11. Are you a member of your state or territory canine council, which is a member of body of the Australian National Kennel Council (ANKC)?  
 Yes            No
  
12. Are you a member of an ANKC recognised working dog association?  
 Yes            No
  
13. Are you a member of a breed club, or a group if no breed club exists?  
 Yes            No

14. How many bitches do you currently own that you breed from or hope to breed from in the future?

\_\_\_\_\_

15. How many dogs (male and female) in total do you currently own?

\_\_\_\_\_ dogs & \_\_\_\_\_ bitches

16. Where do you advertise the puppies when they are ready to be sold? *Please tick as many as applicable.*

- ☐ Gumtree                      ☐ Trading Post                      ☐ DogzOnline  
☐ Other website (please list) \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Word of mouth  
☐ Newspaper                      ☐ Other (please list) \_\_\_\_\_

**About the dam (/s)**

17. On average, how often will you breed from each bitch?

\_\_\_\_\_ times in their life

18. At what age do you usually first breed from your bitches?

\_\_\_\_\_

19. At what age do you usually last breed from your bitches?

\_\_\_\_\_

20. Do some of your bitches usually live with somebody else?

Yes      No

21. Where do your bitches usually live?

Outdoors      Indoors      Both

## 22. How important are the following in your decision to breed from an ideal dam?

*Please tick once for each statement*

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
My ideal dam has outstanding conformation according to the breed standard					
My ideal dam is within the accepted size according to the breed standard					
My ideal dam has an optimal temperament for the breed					
My ideal dam has passed all required and recommended health tests for her breed					
My ideal dam comes from a line of healthy, long lived relatives					
My ideal dam is friendly to dogs, other animals and people					
My ideal dam is excitable					
My ideal dam is obedient					
My ideal dam is confident					
My ideal dam has a strong bond to humans					
My ideal dam is trainable					
My ideal dam has an outstanding pedigree					
My ideal dam has naturally conceived with ease					
My ideal dam has whelped with ease					
My ideal dam has an excellent maternal instinct towards her puppies					
My ideal dam produces sufficient milk to raise her puppies					

## 23. Are tests available for genetic disorders within your breed/s?

Yes      No

## 24. Do you undertake DNA testing of your breeding animals for any genetic disorders? If yes, which ones?

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## 25. Do you undertake physical testing for genetic disorders, such as heart and eye examinations? If yes, which ones?

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## 26. How important are the following in your decision to remove a dam from your breeding stock?

*Please tick once for each statement*

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
I would not breed from a dam if conception and whelping were difficult					
I would not breed from a dam if her maternal behaviour was not ideal					

I would not breed from a dam if her puppies did not conform closely to the breed standard					
I would not breed from a dam if the temperament of her puppies was not ideal					
I would not breed from a dam if she had rejected her puppies					
I would not breed from a dam if some of her puppies had a significant genetic fault					
I would not breed from a dam if she was aggressive towards strangers					

**About the sire**

27. Where are you most likely to access a sire?

Own sire              Local sire owned by someone else

Distant sire owned by someone else

28. If the sire is sourced from elsewhere (not own sire), do you personally spend time with the sire observing his temperament and structure before mating him to your bitch (/es)?

Yes      No      Not possible

29. Rate the following factors for their importance in choosing a sire to breed to your dam?

*Please tick once for each factor*

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
My ideal sire lives conveniently close to me					
My ideal sire has outstanding conformation according to the breed standard					
My ideal sire is the accepted size according to the breed standard					
My ideal sire has an outstanding pedigree (desired ancestors in common with the dam)					
My ideal sire has an optimal temperament for the breed					
My ideal sire complements my bitch's virtues and does not share her faults					
My ideal sire has produced puppies which are healthy and conform closely to the breed standards when mated to other bitches					

30. How important is the coefficient of inbreeding (COI) of the litter when determining which bitch and dog will be mated? *Please circle one*

Very important      Slightly important      Neutral      Slightly unimportant      Not important

I do not know what COI is

