

# FEDERATION CYNOLOGIQUE INTERNATIONALE (AISBL)

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## INTERNATIONAL BREEDING RULES OF THE FCI



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## PREAMBLE

1. The International Breeding Regulations of the Fédération Cynologique Internationale (FCI) are binding on all **Members and Contract Partners**.

- These FCI breeding regulations apply directly to all FCI **Members and Contract Partners**. This means that **for the purpose of breeding puppies recognised by the FCI**, breeding may only be carried out with pedigree dogs which have a sound temperament, are healthy in functional and hereditary terms and are registered with a studbook or register (appendix) recognised by the FCI. In addition, they have to fulfil the requirements specified by the relevant FCI Members or Contract Partners.
- The only dogs which are considered to be healthy in hereditary terms are those transferring breed standard features, breed type and temperament typical of that breed without displaying any substantial hereditary defects which could impair the functional health of its descendants. The Members and Contract Partners of the FCI are required in this regard to prevent any exaggeration of breed features in the standards which could result in impairment of the dogs' functional health.
- Dogs with eliminating faults such as e.g. unsound temperament, congenital deafness or blindness, hare-lip, cleft palate, substantial dental defects or jaw anomalies, PRA, epilepsy, cryptorchidism, monorchidism, albinism, improper coat colours or diagnosed severe hip dysplasia may not be bred.
- It is not beneficial for a healthy dog population to rule out too many dogs from breeding; the goal is healthy offspring. Results from DNA tests for inherited diseases should be used to avoid breeding diseased dogs. Dogs shown to be carriers of a monogenic recessively inherited severe disease should only be bred to a dog that is proven not to carry the allele for the same disease
- With regard to surfacing hereditary defects, e.g. HD or PRA, the FCI **Members and Contract Partners** are obliged to record affected animals, combat these defects in a methodical manner, continuously record their development and report to the FCI on this matter when requested. If a DNA test is performed, the identification (chip or tattoo) of the dog must be checked and certified by the veterinarian who collects the sample as is the case with any health protocol; the test result certificate from the laboratory must include the dog's identification.
- The FCI, its **Members and Contract Partners**, are supported by the Scientific Commission in relation to evaluation, assistance and advice in combating hereditary defects. In case the Scientific Commission would issue a catalogue of measures, the same shall be binding on being adopted by the FCI General Committee.
- Competence and responsibility for breeding rests with the **Members and Contract Partners** of the FCI and includes breeding guidance, breeding advice and monitoring breeding as well as the keeping of the studbook.

- The FCI **Members and Contract Partners** are under the obligation to draw up their own breeding regulations based on the FCI Breeding Regulations, in which the breeding objectives are laid down. Such regulations must take appropriate and reasonable account of the specific working characteristics of the respective breeds.

Dog traders and puppy farmers are considered to be people who focus on buying and selling dogs in order to get economic profit without taking appropriate care of the dog's individual welfare. Dog traders and puppy farmers are not permitted to undertake breeding under the patronage (responsibility) of a Member or Contract Partner of the FCI.

2. The reciprocal rights and obligations of bitch and stud dog owners are principally governed by national laws, regulations established by the national Kennel Clubs, their breed clubs or associations and private agreements. In the event that such regulations and agreements do not exist, the FCI International Breeding Rules will prevail.
  - Breeders and owners of stud dogs are strongly urged to negotiate a written contract before each breeding wherein the financial obligations of both parties are clearly defined.
  - The "owner" of a dog is the person who has legally obtained the animal, who is in possession of the dog and who can prove it through the legal possession of a valid official registration and pedigree.
  - The "agent of the stud dog" is either the owner of the stud dog or the person who has been authorised by the owner to make this stud dog available for stud service.

## **TRANSPORTATION AND MAINTENANCE COSTS OF THE BITCH**

3. It is recommended that the owner of the bitch or a person whom he can rely on takes the bitch to and from the male. If a bitch is boarded for several days by the agent of the stud dog, the owner of the bitch will be financially responsible for feeding costs, boarding fees, if necessary veterinary care and any damage to the residence or kennel of the stud dog agent as well as return transportation costs.

## **LIABILITY**

4. According to the laws of the different countries, the person boarding and taking care of an animal is held legally responsible for any damage caused to third parties during that period. The owner/agent of the stud dog must take this into consideration when applying for personal liability insurance coverage.

## **DEATH OF THE BITCH**

5. Should the bitch die while in the custody of the stud dog agent, the latter will undertake to have the death and the cause of it certified by a veterinary surgeon. He will inform the owner of the bitch of the death and the cause it as soon as possible. Should the owner of the bitch wish to see the dead bitch, the stud dog agent may not deny this request.

Should the death appear to have been caused by negligence of the stud dog agent, the latter is liable to compensate the owner of the bitch for the loss.

Should it be determined that the stud dog agent was in no way responsible for the death of the bitch, the owner of the bitch is required to reimburse the stud dog agent for all expenses incurred as a result of the death.

## **SELECTION OF THE STUD DOG**

6. The stud dog agent is obliged to mate the bitch only with the dog referred to in the contract. Should this stud dog be unable to mate, no other dog may be substituted without the prior consent of the owner of the bitch.

## **ACCIDENTAL BREEDING**

7. In the event that the bitch is unintentionally mated by a dog different from the one agreed upon, the stud dog agent who has the bitch under his custody must notify and reimburse the bitch's owner for all the expenses resulting from this accidental breeding.  
In case of accidental breeding, it is forbidden to carry out another mating with the stud dog originally foreseen.  
In such cases, the stud dog agent cannot charge any stud fee.

## **STUD SERVICE CERTIFICATION**

8. The stud dog agent will declare, in writing, on a stud service certificate, that the mating took place with the agreed stud dog. By his signature, he certifies that he was an eyewitness of this mating.  
If the organisation which keeps the stud book with which the litter is to be registered requires the use of particular documents, it is up to the owner of the bitch to get them, fill them in correctly and request the stud dog agent's signature.

It is compulsory that this stud service certificate contains the following information:

- a) Name and stud book registration number of the stud dog.
- b) Name and stud book registration number of the bitch.
- c) Name and address of the agent/owner of the stud dog.
- d) Name and address of the owner of the bitch at the time of the mating and, possibly the date when the bitch was bought.
- e) Place and date of the mating
- f) Signature of the agent of the stud dog and of the owner of the bitch
- g) If the organisation which keeps the stud book with which the litter is to be registered requires a certified photocopy or excerpt of the pedigree of the stud dog, it is up to the stud dog agent to give these documents, free of charge, to the owner of the bitch.

## **PAYMENT OF STUD FEE**

9. The owner of the stud dog may refuse to sign the stud service certificate before the stud fee which was agreed has been paid. He is not permitted, however, to hold back the bitch as security.
10. If the agreed stud dog does not perform the mating for whatever reason or if the bitch does not want to be mated, whereby no mating can take place, the owner of the stud dog is entitled to the payment of the fees as described at article 2. However, he may not claim payment of the stud fee.
11. Apart from the stud fee, which was agreed, the owner of the stud dog has no further rights concerning the litter towards the owner of the bitch. Specifically, he has no right to get a puppy from the litter.  
However, if there is a mutual agreement that the stud fee will be a puppy, it must be made in writing prior to the mating. The written agreement must include the following provisions which have to be observed:
  - a. the date when the owner of the stud dog may choose the puppy.
  - b. the date when the owner of the stud dog will actually get the puppy which was chosen
  - c. the date by which the owner of the stud dog must choose a puppy (after which date his rights to choose the puppy will expire)
  - d. the date by which the owner of the stud dog must come to take the puppy (after which date his rights to obtain a puppy expire)
  - e. an agreement concerning the transportation costs.
  - f. special provisions in the event of a stillborn litter, a single living puppy or in case the selected puppy dies before the owner of the stud dog gets it.

## **THE BITCH REMAINS BARREN**

12. After a mating has been correctly performed, the stud dog is considered to have fulfilled its duty and the stud dog owner is therefore entitled to the agreed stud fee. This does not necessarily imply that the bitch will be pregnant. If the bitch remains barren, it is up to the stud dog owner either to offer a free stud service at the next oestrus cycle or to refund a percentage of the stud fee. Such an agreement must be made in writing and included in the breeding contract before the mating takes place.  
The time limit for a free mating expires at the death or transfer of ownership of the stud dog or at the death of the bitch.  
In case it can be proved (by a semen analysis) that the stud dog was infertile at the time of the mating, the owner of the bitch has to be reimbursed the stud fee.

## **ARTIFICIAL INSEMINATION**

13. Dogs should be able to reproduce naturally. Artificial insemination should not be used on animals which have not reproduced naturally before. Exceptions can be made by the national canine organisations to improve the health of the breed, for the welfare of the bitch or to preserve or increase the genetic pool within the breed.

In the event the bitch is to be artificially inseminated, the veterinary surgeon collecting the stud dog's semen must provide a written certificate to the organisation which keeps the stud book with which the litter is to be registered stating that the fresh or frozen semen was indeed produced by the agreed stud dog. In addition, the stud dog agent has to give, free of charge, the documents listed at Art.8 (a-g) to the owner of the bitch. The costs for collecting the semen and performing the insemination are charged to the owner of the bitch. The veterinary surgeon performing the insemination has to confirm to the organisation which keeps the stud book that the bitch has been artificially inseminated with the semen of the stud dog originally foreseen. This certificate should also include the place and date of the insemination, the name and studbook registration number of the bitch and the name and address of the owner of the bitch.

The owner of the stud dog from which the semen was taken must provide a signed stud service certificate to the owner of the bitch in addition to the veterinary surgeon's certificate.

The stud dog itself as well as its semen are both legally considered as a property. When collecting semen for processing the ownership of the semen needs to be specified by a written document. The document should also state the date of collection, the doses of sperm, identification of the doses, place of storage and identification of the stud dog.

It is strongly advised to make a DNA profile from every dog for which the semen is stored. When the stud dog is sold or the dog's breeding rights are transferred, the dog owner must provide the information about the already collected frozen semen to the other party.

The semen itself may be the subject of a sales contract, or it may be sold together with the stud dog. The precise details should be arranged by a contract between the parties. The semen can only be used if the national rules for mating are fulfilled, especially securing that the semen may only be used for bitches registered in the FCI recognized studbooks.

The owner of the semen is entitled to sign a stud service certificate. The owner of the semen must provide the information about the date of semen collection, identification of the doses, place of storage and identification of the stud dog.

## **TRANSFER OF BREEDING RIGHTS – LEASE AGREEMENT**

14. As a rule, the owner of the bitch at the time of the mating is considered to be the breeder of the litter.

The right to use the bitch or the stud dog for breeding may be transferred to a third party by contract.

It is compulsory that such a transfer of breeding rights/leasing agreement be executed in writing before the breeding takes place.

The written agreement transferring the breeding rights must be recorded in due time with the appropriate organisation which keeps the stud book and, if required, with the breed club.

The lease agreement must be enclosed with the application to register the litter. It must clearly outline the rights and obligations of the two contracting parties.

The leasee of the bitch is considered to be its owner, as understood by these rules, from the date of the whelping until the litter is weaned.

## **BASICS**

15. Puppies from dogs of the same breed holding FCI recognised pedigrees without any objection or restriction on them from the national canine organisation, i.e. without a limited registration which does not allow them for breeding, are considered to be pedigree puppies and are therefore entitled to be issued FCI recognised pedigrees.

A limited registration can only be rescinded by the national canine organisation that has established it.

As a rule, puppies are to be sold and transferred to a private individual in whose name the export pedigree must be issued.

16. FCI recognised pedigrees are a certification of parentage rather than of quality of the dog registered

## **STUD BOOK REGISTRATION OF A LITTER**

17. In the absence of other agreements, the new owner of a pregnant bitch automatically becomes the breeder of the expected litter.

18. Each dog bred in and registered with a FCI Member or Contract Partner is to be provided with permanent and falsification-proof identification; this identification is to appear on its pedigree. If parenthood testing is performed, international standard markers should be used and the results should be available in the national canine organization registry. The identification of the dog (chip or tattoo) must be certified if DNA is collected. A litter is registered with the Member or Contract Partner of the country where its breeder has his Legal residence and the litter was born. Exceptions can be made by mutual agreement between the Members or Contract Partners involved. The litter will bear his/her kennel name. Should the owner of the kennel name move to **the country of** another FCI Member **or Contract Partner** for a (un)determined period, it is up to him/her to transfer his/her kennel name in due time before the litter is born. He/she has to apply for the transfer to the new national canine organization and this organization has to inform, then, the FCI. Further to this transfer, the owner of the kennel name is allowed to breed exclusively in the country where he/she transferred his/her kennel name. Further exceptions are granted in cases where the breeder resides in a country which does not have an FCI recognised stud book. This breeder may register the litter **with the studbook of a national canine organisation** recognised by the FCI.



Breeders must apply for registration of every litter of puppies ***in order for them to be recognised by the FCI***. All litters are to be fully registered at the same time; this includes all puppies reared to the date of application for registration.

Pedigrees, which are in fact birth certificates, must be issued for correct parentage only. Normally, a female is to be mated by only one male for the same litter. In cases of deviations, the kennel clubs are obliged, at the breeder's costs, to have the parentage proved by DNA testing.

## **BREEDING RULES OF THE MEMBERS AND CONTRACT PARTNERS**

19. The breeding regulations of the ***Members and Contract Partners*** can go beyond those of the FCI in their requirements but may not be (inconsistent) in conflict with the FCI International Breeding Regulations.

## **CONCLUSION**

20. These FCI International Breeding Regulations of 1979 supersede the Monaco International Breeding Rules of 1934. In the event of difference of opinion regarding the legal interpretation of the text, the German version of this document will take precedence.

The German text is the authentic one.

- Approved at the FCI General Assembly on June 11 and 12, 1979 in Bern.
- Translation revised by the legal commission in Winterthur on January 22nd, 1990.

***The changes in bold and italic characters were approved by the FCI General Committee/FCI Head Office in Madrid, June 2022.***