

THE DUTCH KOOIKERHONDJE ASSOCIATION BREEDING REGULATIONS 2007

Drawn up and Approved by the General Meeting held at 06 May 2007 in Maarsbergen.

Article 1 – definitions

A. The Supervisory committee

The committee is responsible for monitoring the correct application of these regulations.

B. Committee for information, breeding, health and behaviour.

Hereafter to be called the Information committee, is responsible for maintaining, collecting and supplying information about the dogs.

C. Effective breeding

A breeding is valid the moment puppies are born. The year of birth is the calendar year in all cases.

D. ENM

Hereditary Necrotising Myelopathy, also known as ENM, Kooikerparalysis or leukodystrophy. ENM is considered to be present if the dog shows the clinical manifestations, according to a vet, as described in the article 'Hereditary Necrotising Myelopathy in Kooikerhondjes' (by Mandigers, P.J.J.), and the disease has been proven through biopsy, performed in an institute approved by the Dutch government.

E. Epilepsy

Epilepsy is a disease in which the dog suffers repeated epileptic attacks or 'fits'. Fits may be described as recurrent abnormal behaviour with various characteristics depending on the type of epilepsy.

Categories of epileptic attack

1. Classic generated attack

This is the type of epileptic fit most commonly known and recognised. It is a major attack in which the dog usually shows signs of restlessness and fear immediately before the onset of the attack. This stage can last from a few minutes up to several days. During the actual attack the dog shows loss of consciousness, periods of cramps, slavering, breathing difficulties and single or double incontinence. This stage usually only lasts a few minutes. During the recovery stage, the final stage, the dog shows muscle relaxation and regaining of consciousness. The dog can be either extremely restless or extremely tired. This stage may last several hours or days.

2. Partial epileptic fits.

During these attacks shows the dog only 1 or 2 characteristics of a major seizure. For example: the dog loses consciousness for just a moment, only cramps his/her fore legs..

3. A-typical epileptic fits

This is the group characterized by fits that cannot be placed in either of the other two groups. Behaviours include fly-catching, tail-chasing and ear trembling. These attacks are

often very minor and hard to identify, therefore this form of epilepsy is often not recognised as a fit. Signs of a fit are hardly ever present.

In the veterinary world, epilepsy is only diagnosed if epileptic fits, in whatever form, manifest themselves repeatedly (i.e. twice or more).

Epilepsy can be divided into two types:

(i) Primary epilepsy: no direct cause for the disease can be found. The fits may occur in all forms.

(ii) Secondary epilepsy: this is the type of epilepsy in which the cause of the attacks has a demonstrable variation or cause.

The diagnosis of primary or secondary form has to be made by an independent veterinarian investigation. The owner of the dog has to provide information on the type of epilepsy from which the dog suffers.

F. Behaviour

The character of the Kooikerhondje is described as follows:

The Kooikerhondje has an attractive, friendly appearance. Yet this breed also has considerable self-confidence and ability to react quickly. To perform its original work in the duck-decoy, a steady, self-assured behaviour was essential.

Outside the hunting season the dog was used to kill vermin. Hence, it had to possess a certain amount of fierceness, swiftness and hardiness. Co-operation with the decoy-man was essential for all work in the duck-decoy so the dog had to be attentive and show the will-to-please.

Apart from this, the work also demanded perseverance and stamina. Today's Kooikerhondje should still possess all these necessary qualities. Fear induced aggression or overly dominant behaviour towards people and/or other dogs is definitely undesirable. The dog must present itself freely and with sufficient self-confidence in the ring and allow the judge to touch him whilst remaining friendly and unconcerned during examination.

G. Declaration of behaviour

This is the Declaration issued by the Information committee based on the dog's valid examination reports. A declaration of behaviour is issued when:

- a. There have been only two valid examinations, neither of which includes a negative remark about behaviour
- b. There have been more than two, but less than five, examinations and in no more than 1 of them has a negative remark been made about behaviour.
- c. There have been more than five examinations and in more than two of them negative remarks been made about behaviour.
- d. There have been more than five examinations and in more than two of them negative remarks have been made about behaviour, but the owner, by means of two reports drawn up by two different behavioural experts of the Association Alpha (affiliated with the Dutch Kennel Club), can demonstrate that the dog possesses a sufficiently steady character.
- e. Negative remarks include: "cannot be touched", "fearful behaviour", "lunges", "bites", "disqualified due to behaviour".

H. Deviant behaviour

Deviant behaviour means that the dog does not show normal fear and/or aggression.

I. Valid examination

An examination performed by a judge appointed by the Dutch Kennel Club for the Kooikerhondje during a judging organised by the Club, and/or during a (inter) national show, either in The Netherlands or abroad.

J. Kinked tail

Due to a congenital deformity in which two or more caudal vertebra grow together, the tail is kinked.

K. Hereditary ocular dysfunction

An hereditary eye dysfunction means that dysfunction of the eye(s) has been proven by an approved veterinary ocular specialist according to an ECVO (European College of Veterinary Ophthalmologists) examination or an equivalent professional organisation abroad.

L. Eye/Ocular examination

This is an examination for ocular dysfunctions conducted by a veterinary specialist approved by the ECVO or an equivalent professional organisation abroad. The examination may be performed from 12 months onwards and is valid for a maximum of 24 months.

M. Patella luxation

Patella luxation means the abnormal (re)movability of the kneecap either to the inside or the outside. The examination must be performed by an approved orthopaedic specialist.

N. Patella examination / Knee examination

This is an examination for patella luxation performed by an orthopaedic specialist approved by the Royal Dutch Veterinarian Club or an equivalent professional veterinary organisation abroad. This examination should take place once the dog is at least 12 months old. The evaluation of the patella joint must be in accordance with the qualifications/ gradations agreed by the specialists concerned.

O. Dutch Kennel Club

The Dutch Kennel Club (Raad van Beheer op Kynologisch in the Dutch language) is an umbrella organization for dog clubs in The Netherlands. It was founded on 1 January 1902 and is a member of the F.C.I.

P. Height

This is measured as the length of the perpendicular line from the shoulder-joint to the ground.

Q. Von Willebrand Disease

Von Willebrand Disease (VWD), occurs when the dog does not carry the Von Willebrand factor (vWf).

A blood test using DNA analysis shows if the dog is a “sufferer”. This test must take place according to the methods used by the haematological or biochemical laboratory of the University for Veterinary Diseases in Utrecht (The Netherlands).

DNA analysis can also be used to establish whether or not a Kooikerhondje is a “carrier” of VWD.

Article 2 – Introduction

2.1 The breeding regulations are formulated according to article 17 of the “Dutch Kooikerhondje” Club general regulations.

2.2 The regulations are intended to realize the Club’s goal as specified in the regulations as per article 2.1

2.3 The norms for breeding are laid down in the following articles.

2.4 There is to be an Information committee, with the following aim:
to encourage the improvement of the quality, health, character and the exterior of the Kooikerhondjes.

This aim is realized through the collection and dissemination of information on dogs to breeders and owners.

2.5 There is to be a Supervisory committee with the following aim:
The monitoring of members breeding Kooikerhondjes, to assess whether they are acting and have acted according to the rules set down in the breeding regulations of the Club. This aim is also valid in those cases where one or more of the owners of a dog involved in a current or planned mating is not a member of the Club.

Article 3. Breeding standards

The breeding standards are met if:

3.1 General standards

- a. the stud dog is at least 15 months old at the time of mating.
- b. the bitch is at least 18 months old at the time of mating.
- c. the bitch is no more than 9 years old when she is mated provide that she has had a litter before; if not, she must be no more than 6 years old when she is mated for the first time.
- d. the bitch has not bred a litter within the previous 10 months.
- e. the stud dog sires no more than 3 litters per year, and a total of no more than 15 litters during his lifetime.
- f. the combination of the dogs concerned has not produced more than 12 offspring from earlier mating(s).
- g. the combination of the dogs concerned are not closely related with each other (e.g. parent/child; (half) brother / (half) sister).
- h. both dogs have been examined and approved “free” for VWD before mating.
- i. both dogs have had a valid eye test in which no hereditary eye deviations were found before mating.
- j. both dogs have undergone a patella luxation examination before mating.
- k. both dogs have met with the exterior standards before mating.
- l. both dogs have a positive declaration of behaviour before mating.
- m. both dogs are in good health at the time of the mating.

3.2 Exterior standards

- a. The stud dog and the bitch must both have been awarded the qualification ‘Very Good’ at least twice at valid shows, by different judges appointed by the Dutch Kennel Club for Kooikerhondjes. Both dogs must have been at least 9 months old at the time of the first qualification, and at least 12 months old at the time of the second qualification.
- b. The breeder aims to breed the ideal size for this type of dog, which is shoulder height 40 cm for the male and 39 cm for the bitch. To achieve this goal, it is recommended to use only male dogs with a shoulder height of between 37 and 42 cm for breeding. Bitches that are bred from should have a shoulder height of between 35 and 40 cm.
- c. The standard as stated in article 3.2.a applies to dogs born after 31 December 2002. Dogs born before this date must have had at least two exterior qualifications from different judges appointed by the Dutch Kennel Club, and only one qualification may be regional.

3.3 Behavioural standards

- a. Dogs manifesting deviant behaviour, as described in Article 1.H, are excluded from breeding.
- b. Dogs used for breeding must have a declaration of behaviour.

3.4 Standards for Hereditary Necrotising Myelopathy (ENM)

- a. Dogs suffering ENM and their direct offspring are excluded from breeding.
- b. Parent dogs that have produced two or more direct offspring suffering from ENM, are excluded from breeding
- c. Direct offspring of parent dogs as described in b above, are also excluded from breeding.
- d. It is recommended not to breed from a full brother or full sister of a parent dog identified in b above.

3.5 Standards for Epilepsy

- a. Sufferers from epilepsy and their direct offspring are excluded from breeding.
- b. Parent dogs that have produced two or more offspring, in which epileptic-type fits have been observed, are excluded from breeding, unless veterinary examination proves that the attacks are due to secondary epilepsy.
- c. Direct offspring of the same combination of parent dogs identified in b above, are excluded from breeding.
- d. It is recommended not to breed from direct offspring of parent dogs nor a full brother or full sister of one of those parent dogs identified in b above.

3.6 Standards for hereditary eye dysfunctions

- a. Sufferers from a hereditary eye dysfunction and their direct offspring are excluded from breeding.
- b. Parent dogs that have produced two or more offspring, in which a hereditary eye dysfunction is observed, are excluded from breeding.
- c. Direct offspring of the same combination of parent dogs, as identified in b above, must be free of all hereditary eye dysfunctions in accordance with the EVCO examinations, before they can be considered suitable for use in breeding.
- d. Dogs declared to be “temporarily not free” are excluded from breeding. After 6 to 12 months a re-examination may take place; a test result of “not free” is final. If the result is “free” at a re-examination, then a panel has to be consulted, in accordance with the protocol of the ECVO veterinary ocular specialists, since this creates two different end results which must be reconciled. The opinion of the panel is final.

e. Parents of dogs declared “temporarily not free” are temporarily suspended from breeding if they have two or more direct offspring with hereditary eye dysfunctions. If at a subsequent re-examination the dog is tested “free” and the panel has been consulted, as described in d above, the suspension is lifted. If on re-examination the result is still “not free”, the parent dogs are excluded permanently from breeding.

3.7 Standards for the Von Willebrand’s disease (VWD)

- a. Dogs suffering from VWD and their direct offspring are excluded from breeding.
- b. Parent dogs that have produced direct offspring suffering from VWD are excluded from breeding.
- c. Dogs who are identified by testing as “carriers” of VWB are excluded from breeding.

3.8 Standards for patella-luxation (PL)

- a. Dogs suffering from clinical complaints of PL and/or have been operated for PL are excluded from breeding.
- b. Dogs who during a PL examination turn out to have PL grade 2, are excluded from breeding
- c. The combination of parent dogs, having produced direct offspring suffering from PL, may not be used again.
- d. Dogs who during a PL examination turn out to have PL grade 1, may be used for breeding, but only if they are combined with a dog with correct patellas, proven by official examination.
- e. It is recommended to that dogs diagnosed with “loose/slipping” patellas be mated only with dogs with correct patellas .

3.9 Standards for kinked bend tails

- a. Dogs with a kinked tail are excluded from breeding.
- b. The combination of parent dogs that have produced direct offspring with a kinked tail, is not to be repeated.
- c. A stud dog or bitch that has in 3 different litters (with different mates) produced offspring with a kinked tail, is excluded from breeding.

3.10 Standards for the use of male dogs abroad

Notwithstanding the rules set down in article 3.1.e. a stud dog, registered in The Netherlands, may sire up to 10 litters abroad, with a limit of 3 litters per country.

Article 4. Responsibilities of the breeder

4.1. A breeder is required to ensure that:

- a. the puppies are given the vaccinations normal for their age, in accordance with current veterinarian recommendations.
- b. the puppies are not released over to their new owners before they have been microchipped, on behalf of the Dutch Kennel Club, and are at least seven weeks old.
- c. the new owners are provided with information with regard to the pedigree of the puppy and the hereditary diseases/ deviations- if any- which could be of relevance to the litter. This should also include information on whether the breeder has used dogs referred to in article 3.4.d and 3.5.d
- d. the new owner must be informed of all known problems with the puppies regarding health, character and breed standard.

4.2 The breeder is also expected to take good care of the litter until the puppies are handed over to their new owners. This includes:

- a. socializing the puppies, in an enriched environment, preferably within a family
- b. de-worming the puppies when due
- c. providing the new owner with advice on socializing and raising the puppy
- d. advising the new owner on the proper food for the puppy
- e. in principle only handing over healthy puppies.

4.3 Breeders and owners of Kooikerhondjes are expected to co-operate with the Information committee, both to make use of the knowledge gathered by the Information committee and to enhance this knowledge as promptly as possible. This co-operation should be mutual.

4.4 The breeder is most advised to use a written sales agreement (e.g.. the sample sales agreement drawn up by the Club)

Article 5 Rights and obligations of breeders with regard to the Club and breeding information

5.1 Breeders who are members of the Club and meet the regulations of Articles 3 and 4 are entitled to:

- a. obtain information regarding health, character and exterior of the dogs he/she has bred
- b. obtain information regarding health, character and exterior of other Kooikerhondjes, as recorded in the Club Register.
- c. information about suitable breeding combinations
- d. record the litter with the Club
- e. place information about the litter on the puppy information list.

5.2 The breeder can obtain the above information from the secretary of the Information committee.

5.3 Breeders who are members of the Club must report all litters bred by them. This has to be done by reporting the litter within one week of its birth to the secretary of the Supervisory committee. A planned litter can also be reported directly after mating.

5.4 When providing the information described in Article 5.3, the breeder must use the form supplied by the Club. Please note that the breeder is required to provide any relevant information not yet in the possession of the Club. Whenever possible, the breeder will be informed in advance of any information on the litter that the Club currently holds.

5.5 A breeder who is a member of the Club must give a donation to the Club, for each Kooikerhondje bred by him and microchipped on behalf of the Dutch Kennel Club. The amount to be donated is set by the Board of the Kooikerhondje Club.

5.6 If a breeder who is a member of the Club, does not comply with the standards set in Articles 3 and 4 and the provisions of the above subsection of this breeding regulations, that breeder will no longer be able to benefit from the information specified in Articles 5.1.d and 5.1.e of this regulation.

Article 6 Sanctions

6.1 If a breeder and/or owner of a stud dog, who is a member of the Club, does not comply with Article 3 of these regulations, he/she has violated the rules and automatically forfeits all rights specified in Articles 5.1.d and 5.1.e of these regulations.

6.2 In cases where one or more requirements, as stipulated in Articles 3.1, 3.2, 3.10 and 4 of these regulations have been violated, the Club's Board will first contact the person concerned. The breeder and/or stud dog owner concerned will be asked to explain his motives. In cases of repeated violations the Board will report this officially in the Club's magazine. Should a member repeatedly violate the provisions of Articles 3.1, 3.2 or 3.10 repeatedly, the Board has the right to cancel membership of the Club in accordance with Article 5, 1.c of these regulations.

6.3 Where dogs are used for breeding that have been excluded from breeding based on the Articles 3.4 to 3.9 inclusive of these regulations, an official announcement of this action will be issued by the Board in the Club's magazine and the member can be expelled under Article 5.1.d of these regulations. Before the Board makes an official declaration, the breeder and/or stud dog owner will be given an opportunity to explain why these dogs have been used at stud.

Article 7 Dispensation

In exceptional cases, where the application of these regulations seems likely to produce unreasonable outcomes or result in disproportionate disadvantage, those affected may request the Board – in writing – to permit dispensations from Articles 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.10 and 4 of these regulations. After consideration the Board may or may not decide to grant the dispensation requested.

Article 8 Changing these regulations

Any change in these regulations can only be decided during a General Meeting and by a majority of votes cast.

Article 9 Final Clause

9.1 In cases where these regulations do not apply, or where there is a dispute regarding the application of them, urgent cases are to be determined by, the Board. In all other cases the general meeting makes the decision.

9.2 The accused has the right to appeal against a decision made under Article 9.1 of these regulation. This appeal should be made to the Arbitration committee of the Club.

