



THE KENNEL CLUB

Making a difference for dogs

Mrs D M Hopkinson
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31st May 2012

Dear Marion

Further to your letter to the Chairman, Steve Dean who has asked me to respond on his behalf.

Firstly may I apologise for the lateness of my response, but I felt it was prudent to wait until after the AGM as I felt it possible that some of the issues that you raise may be discussed and I did not want to pre-empt any AGM decision.

I agree that the Assured Breeder Scheme meets some of your requirements for a higher tier of registration, and acknowledge that there is currently no financial penalty for those breeders who fail to undertake what are becoming the minimum steps for responsible breeders.

Following the AGM, the General Committee will be discussing the need or otherwise for an enhanced registration and I feel that it will be highly likely that registration fee changes, which would ultimately need to be agreed at an AGM, will form part of this review.

With regard to your proposal regarding the mating of dogs which test as either carriers of affected by GPRA, our advice has always been to mate accordingly so that no affected animals will be produced and it is inconceivable that any breeder who carries out the tests on the breeding stock would ignore the results. Indeed for members of our Assured Breeder Scheme it is a fundamental breach of scheme rules to do so.

However to restrict registration to only those animals that have been mated as suggested could be counter productive. We currently have no powers to force people to register dogs with the Kennel Club and if we refused registration, we would lose all trace of those people who had not, and would not, screen their dogs - they would continue to breed and we would have absolutely no influence over them in the future.



As an example we can look to the USA where, for various reasons, a large number of breeders decided not to register their dogs with the American Kennel Club (AKC). In 1992 the AKC registered 1.5 million dogs per annum, but today they register less than 600,000 PA, yet there are still 1.5 M purebred dogs being bred in the USA each year. The AKC is anxiously attempting to reverse this trend as they need to be able to be in touch with and influence the breeders with whom they have lost all contact.

Our own approach is one of persuasion; we have introduced the Assured Breeder Scheme precisely to work exactly towards the position that you seem to want; where everyone health tests their breeding stock. Our intention and hope is that by moving in that way, we will also encourage the public to demand the right tests and thus persuade breeders to carry them out. We will then be able to confidently make them compulsory for the remaining breeders, without forcing a large numbers of them to go off and work completely outside the Kennel Club registration system.

I hope you will understand and agree with this rationale; we often find that whilst the issues facing dog breeders may seem simple, the solutions are often more complex

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill Lambert", with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Bill Lambert
Health and Breeder Services Manager