



AUSTRALIAN COBBERDOG SOCIETY

## ACS Standards

The Australian Cobberdog Society has developed a set of Standards to ensure that every breeder member upholds the vision and values consistent with the ACS Constitution, Code of Ethics and Code of Conduct. Australian Cobberdog Society Breeders are passionate about breed improvement and committed to maintaining the highest health standards for their animals. Upon acceptance into the Australian Cobberdog Society, every breeder will be required to sign a declaration committing to the rules and regulations outlined in this document. Failure to maintain these standards may result in disciplinary action and termination as a member of the Australian Cobberdog Society. The minimum standards outlined below are subject to change without notice. Any changes will be ratified by the ACS committee and reflected in the date at the bottom of this document. Please note that local laws and legislation supercede the ACS Standards.

### General

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| A breeder member will: |   |
| 1.0                    | Breed primarily for the purpose of improving the quality of the breed in accordance with the breed standard, and not specifically or predominantly for the commercial market.                 |
| 1.1                    | Not breed with a bitch or stud unless they have reached adequate maturity. The minimum age for breeding a female dog shall be 20 months (at the time of mating) and 12 months for a male dog. |

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| 1.2  | Never breed a bitch causing her to whelp more than twice in eighteen months.   |      |                     |      |                     |      |                    |      |                    |
| 1.3  | Ensure a bitch will not whelp any more than four litters without veterinary certification for fitness, and not more than five litters in total.  |      |                     |      |                     |      |                    |      |                    |
| 1.4  | Ensure stud dogs are used responsibly and not prolifically resulting in saturation of lineage.   |      |                     |      |                     |      |                    |      |                    |
| 1.5  | <p>Ensure each litter Coefficient of Inbreeding (COI) over 5 generations does not exceed the below limits.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="542 974 1419 1289"> <tr> <td data-bbox="542 974 821 1041">2025</td> <td data-bbox="821 974 1419 1041">Must not exceed 12%</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="542 1041 821 1152">2026</td> <td data-bbox="821 1041 1419 1152">Must not exceed 10%</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="542 1152 821 1220">2027</td> <td data-bbox="821 1152 1419 1220">Must not exceed 8%</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="542 1220 821 1289">2028</td> <td data-bbox="821 1220 1419 1289">Must not exceed 5%</td> </tr> </table> | 2025 | Must not exceed 12% | 2026 | Must not exceed 10% | 2027 | Must not exceed 8% | 2028 | Must not exceed 5% |
| 2025 | Must not exceed 12%  |      |                     |      |                     |      |                    |      |                    |
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| 2027 | Must not exceed 8%   |      |                     |      |                     |      |                    |      |                    |
| 2028 | Must not exceed 5%   |      |                     |      |                     |      |                    |      |                    |
| 1.6  | Prevent a retiring or unsuitable dog from further breeding by transferring them to a limited register, neutering, contraception, contract of agreement or other means. Breeders are to ensure this information is updated in the registry when a breeding dog's status changes.  |      |                     |      |                     |      |                    |      |                    |
| 1.7  | Produce a current veterinary certificate stating that a bitch over the age of eight years is in good health at the time of breeding. This certificate  |      |                     |      |                     |      |                    |      |                    |

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|  | <p>must be presented at the time of registration of the litter resulting from this mating. A current veterinarian certificate is defined as being within three months prior to the mating.</p> |
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### Health Testing

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| 2.0 | <p>Take responsible action to reduce the incidence of hereditary diseases<br/>Breeding dogs must have a full DNA profile completed prior to mating and results are to be provided to the ACS.</p>   |
| 2.1 | <p>Enact due diligence and verify parentage through DNA profiling before requesting a pedigree for any offspring where more than one sire covers or may have covered a bitch.</p>   |
| 2.2 | <p>Offer a written Health Guarantee that covers puppies against any life inhibiting genetic defects for a minimum of 1 year from the date of birth. As an ACS Approved Breeder, you will offer a warranty on the health of any sold puppy. If the puppy has a congenital health problem caused by hereditary disease that manifests with symptoms before the age of 12 months and prevents the puppy from participating in normal daily activities, you will discuss an appropriate solution with the purchaser. This can be in the form of financial compensation up to the purchase price or the provision of a new puppy. This warranty does not include viral diseases, bacterial diseases, acquired diseases, vaccinosis, allergies, bites, infections, hernias, hypoglycemia, giardia, coccidiosis, indigestion</p> |

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|            | <p>of foreign bodies, over- or undernutrition, ingestion of non-food or chemicals or physical injury sustained after receipt of the puppy.</p>   |
| <p>2.3</p> | <p>Ensure all dogs used in an ACS breeding program have successfully completed the mandatory health screening tests before they are bred.</p> <p>Mandatory testing includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Hip assessments through a recognised scheme (PennHip, CHEDS/VetScore/OFA)</li> <li>● Elbow assessment (must be normal non dysplastic)</li> <li>● Cardiac screening (no murmur present)</li> <li>● Annual health assessment (confirm dog is fit and healthy)</li> </ul> <p>Breeders must upload evidence of a permissible score to enable the dog to be registered in the ACS Pedigree Database..</p> <p><b>VetScore:</b> A maximum combined total hip score of 12 is permissible until 2026, and then a score of 10 in years thereafter.</p> <p><b>OFA:</b> Hip (preliminary) screening is accepted in dogs 12 months and over with a score of Excellent, Good or Fair. OFA Hip Finals are accepted at 2 years of age with a score of Excellent, Good or Fair permissible.</p> <p><b>PENNHIP:</b> Screening is accepted in dogs 16 weeks and over and the Distraction Index mustn't exceed 0.7 (from 2024 - 2026) and 0.6 (from 2027 onwards), with a long term goal to reduce it to 0.5 or lower by 2028.</p> <p><b>DNA</b></p> <p>Full Australian Cobberdog Breed Panel completed through Paw Prints Genetics, Orivet or Embark (unless progeny are clear by parentage and</p> |

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|     | <p>health data has already been provided to the ACS). Full breed profile should clear the dog of all known and tested inheritable diseases.</p> <p>Any owner requesting a new dog enter the ACS database will be required to provide DNA results for the dog.</p> <p>Any dog that is heterozygous for any of the mandatory autosomal recessive diseases is only permitted to breed with dogs that are clear of that particular disease. Check the DNA Roadmap for more details.</p> |
| 2.4 | Do not breed with any dog diagnosed with hip dysplasia.   |
| 2.5 | <p>Notify the Australian Cobberdog Society if a pairing produces a puppy/dog with:</p> <p>a) a life inhibiting defect (including Addison’s Disease, Mitral Valve Stenosis, epilepsy, etc.)</p> <p>b) a conformational or congenital issue (malocclusion, heart murmur, cleft palate, missing limb, etc.)</p> <p>The correspondence to the ACS will include the registered dam and sire names, the puppy’s name, date of birth and summary of the diagnosis and prognosis.</p>       |

**Wellbeing**

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| 3.0 | Offer to take back or assist in re-homing any puppy or dog should an owner’s circumstances change and they are no longer in a position to |
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|     | <p>keep the dog. No ACS puppy should end up in an unapproved home or, even worse, a shelter. As a breeder, you take responsibility when it comes to rehoming or taking back puppies. Of course, you can count on the ACS community for help.</p>   |
| 3.1 | <p>Never exceed four litters on the ground from the day of whelping to 8 weeks of age.</p>   |
| 3.2 | <p>Maintain ownership and possession of every puppy in the litter until at least 8 weeks of age.</p>   |
| 3.3 | <p>Demonstrate responsible practices when exporting puppies (in line with local laws and regulations). Refrain from exporting a puppy under the age of 12 weeks, or such a greater age permitted under the livestock import requirements of the country in which the dog is being exported.</p>  |
| 3.4 | <p>Agree to never sell or give away puppies to pet stores or wholesalers.</p>  |
| 3.5 | <p>Ensure that the following basic needs are considered and enacted with every litter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Indoors or suitable shelter provided</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Vet available</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Safe and clean environment</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Adequate space</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Age appropriate stimulation</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Basic protocols (e.g., Health Management Plan)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> ACS Health check</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Assessment of character and temperament</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Conformation assessment</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Diet (high quality)</li> </ul> |

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|  | <input type="checkbox"/> Living conditions (clean and sanitary)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Area for downtime/crate |
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### Responsible Ownership

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| 4.0 | Ensure that persons acquiring a puppy understand the requirements for the care, welfare and responsible ownership of the dog, and that they have the time and facilities, e.g. adequate fences, sufficient room and proper shelter, to fulfill their responsibilities. |
| 4.1 | Be expected to maintain reasonable contact with the purchasers and to offer continued advice for the life of the dog, as deemed necessary.   |
| 4.2 | Agree to a kennel inspection where no less than 24 hours notice is given by the ACS, or their delegate. This may be in person or by via online means.  |

### Record Keeping

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| 5.0 | Create a file that includes details on each puppy born, and maintain the records until ownership changes or the animal is deceased. A breeder shall make available all records for inspection by an authorised officer or as directed by the ACS. Copies of these records must be retained by the breeder for a minimum of 10 years. |
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| 5.1 | <p>Records to be kept for puppies under 12 weeks of age shall include the following (copies of original documents are acceptable where originals accompany the puppy to its new owner):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- a copy of the litter registration form</li> <li>- health care history including vaccination records</li> <li>- internal and external parasite control documentation</li> <li>- Purchase record (including name and contact details of new owner)</li> <li>- Copy of health declaration or vet examination</li> <li>- Copy of the contract between breeder and purchaser.</li> </ul> |
| 5.2 | <p>Maintain records of breeding history for dams and must include dates of mating or artificial insemination, dates of whelping, number of puppies born alive, number of puppies stillborn, record of any whelping complications and resultant treatment, microchip numbers for live pups at 8 weeks, and post-partum veterinary treatment (if applicable).</p>  |
| 5.3 | <p>Register a litter no later than 6 months from birth. Litter registrations and payments must also be made at this time to avoid overdue penalties.</p>   |

**Conduct**

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| 6.0 | <p>Strictly adhere to the ACS policies relating to professional conduct.</p> |
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| 6.1 | Only Official ACS promotional materials (communications or publications in verbal, print, or electronic formats) provided for use on social media and online platforms can be used representing the opinions of the Australian Cobberdog Society  |
| 6.2 | Promote the value of becoming an ACS member to puppy purchasers and the wider community.  |
| 6.3 | Treat the documentation, resources and content owned by the Australian Cobberdog Society with utmost confidentiality in alignment with the ACS Confidentiality Policy. This includes but is not limited to downloading and sharing genetic or health testing results with other breeders who are not ACS members. |