



Ethics of Breeding

The following are general rules issued by the Danish Kennel Club for responsible breeding of any breed of dog. The DSFCA (Danish/Swedish Farmdog Club of America) subscribes to these breeding regulations:

1. Anyone breeding accepts responsibility for ensuring the breeding dogs are physically and mentally suited for breeding.
2. Only dogs, which have the ability to mate naturally and feed and care for their puppies should be used in the breeding.
3. A bitch should not be bred until it is fully developed.
4. A bitch should have no more than 4-5 litters in her lifetime, and should not breed past seven years of age. At a minimum, after 2 successive litters, a bitch should be rested, so at least one estrus in three is not utilized for mating. Many breeders breed alternate estrus cycles – breed one, skip one.
5. Dogs with hereditary defects may not be utilized in breeding. Any pair mating which has resulted in severe defects in the offspring should not be repeated.
6. Mating between individuals with relations closer than cousins should be avoided. Inbreeding percentage for a cousin breeding is 6.25%
7. Monopoly breeding should be avoided. Monopoly breeding is defined as a limited number of dogs which dominate the breeding program within the breed.
8. The breeder is responsible for promoting good physical and mental development and proper socialization for all puppies in their possession.
9. The breeder has a duty to educate their puppy buyers regarding the sire and dam of the litter, and in matters pertaining to nurturing their puppy, paying particular attention to breed specific characteristics and needs. Many breeders compose a detailed “puppy buyers” letter, and recommend particular articles or books for their puppy buyers to read.
10. The breeder and the owner of the male should follow a litter’s development, so they may continuously evaluate their breeding animals.