



## Breeding Guidelines

**The following recommendations for ethical breeding have been issued by the Dansk/Svensk Gaardhund Klub. The DSFCA has adapted these recommendations for US breeders, and subscribes to these breeding recommendations in accordance with the mission of the DSGK breeding committee:**

1. As the breeding program in the US grows, increases in the breeding population of farm dogs should include an equal ratio of dogs and bitches.
2. As many healthy, well-functioning and breeding approved adult animals as possible shall be utilized in the breeding program. Breeding approval is only attained by:
  - a. Showing an animal a minimum of one time in an ARBA show and receiving a minimum rating of "Very Good" on the rating card.
  - b. Showing an animal in a DKK or DSGK sanctioned event and receiving a minimum of a 2<sup>nd</sup> place rating.
  - c. Showing an animal a minimum of one time in an ARBA Breed Specialty show "special class" sanctioned by DSFCA (Danish-Swedish Farmdog Club of America) where a qualified farmdog judge is present to ascertain breeding quality of the animal. (For example, dogs which have been altered in some way that they are unable to participate in a regular ARBA event may obtain breeding approval if it is determined by a qualified judge that the alteration does not affect the breeding quality of the dog.)
3. As many generations as possible shall be included when calculating in-breeding percentage in each individual.
4. A bitch should have no more than 4-5 litters in her lifetime, and should not breed past eight 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. In the United States, until sufficient numbers of farmdogs are realized, breeding males should not produce or sire more than 2-4 litters per lifetime and only limited numbers of siblings from the same litter should be allowed to reproduce. This practice will help prevent a reduction in the size of the gene pool of the breed caused by a few animals producing large numbers of offspring. The DSFCA Breeding Committee will revise guidelines as necessary as our US gene pool grows.
6. Certified breeding animals should be utilized sparingly within the first few years of breeding so their offspring may be evaluated to clarify the suitability of the certified animal for future breeding.
7. Certified animals should be bred only to animals with complete pedigrees and known history. A complete pedigree is a minimum of three generations.
8. Breeders shall independently assess the breeding quality of an animal, utilizing good judgment and common sense.

9. The breeding pair shall be fully developed, both physically and mentally before mating occurs. Typically, bitches should not breed until they have had one estrus cycle and are around 24 months of age. Males should be at least one year old and have two descended testicles.
10. Breeders should monitor their litters, through periodic communication with their puppy buyers, collecting data relevant to the future of the breeding program.
11. Breeders should inform their puppy buyers of the purpose of the DSFCA. They should encourage their puppy buyers to apply for membership in the DSFCA.
12. Breeders shall openly and honestly communicate observations of defects in the litters they produce.
13. Animals with faulty bites shall not be utilized in breeding. Scissors bites are the correct bite for a farm dog. Though only overbites have been proven to be genetically linked, it is prudent not to utilize any faulty bite in the breeding program.
14. Animals with inguinal hernia shall not be utilized in breeding. This type of hernia is usually found in the groin area and is genetically related. Females are affected more than males, though males may also exhibit this type of hernia. It may be surgically repaired in an animal, but that animal must never breed.
15. Animals with umbilical hernia should not be utilized in breeding. This type of hernia may or may not be genetically related. Umbilical hernias which are caused by delayed closing of the umbilical ring are genetically related. Umbilical hernias which are caused by a surgical type severing of the umbilical cord too close to the abdominal wall may cause the hernia, and this is not hereditary nor usually serious. However, if this animal is bred and produces puppies with hernias, it must not breed again.
16. Animals with inherited patellar dislocation (loose or slipping knee caps) should not be utilized in breeding. This condition may be genetic or caused by trauma. In the case of trauma, the breeder's should exercise good judgment and common sense.
17. Bobtailed bitches shall not be mated to bobtailed dogs. A natural bobtail may vary in length from very short to quite long. In the cases of longer bobtails, it may be difficult for breeders to determine whether or not they have a bobtailed animal. If the breeder is not certain if their bitch is a bobtail or not, she should first be mated to a documented long tailed dog. Bobtailed puppies in the resulting litter are confirmation the bitch is a bobtail. Bobtailed puppies shall be documented in the pedigree of the puppy as NB or natural bobtail.
18. Animals born with malformations of the tail, evidenced by unnatural bends, kinks or nodules, whether long tailed or natural bobtailed, should not breed. It is allowable in the US to have a tail docked for cosmetic purposes. If docking is desired, it should be performed by a veterinarian within a few days of birth of the animal. Docking is not allowed in Denmark and Sweden.
19. Monorchid dogs, those with only one testicle shall not breed. This condition is inherited.