



## **SCBCC Guidelines for Breeders**

The SCBCC is committed to ensuring the health and welfare of Bearded Collies by breeding only from sound, healthy stock. These guidelines have been developed by members of the SCBCC committee taking into consideration current evidence and advice from the Kennel Club. This document is for the use of members: however, we feel that all breeders should aim for the same standards and considerations when breeding Bearded Collies. If necessary the Committee can be contacted for help and advice: contact details can be found on the website and in the magazine.

*"Members must see breeding as an opportunity to improve the breed, health and welfare of Bearded Collies above any other considerations"*

### **Before Breeding**

1. Before breeding a litter of puppies members should think about the wide range of issues and implications of doing so: why do you want to have a litter; have you allowed for the practical requirements and associated costs of a litter; how will you find quality homes for the puppies; what will be your process for vetting prospective owners.
2. To reduce the risk of hereditary diseases or the predisposal to certain conditions being passed on to puppies and into the wider Beardie gene pool members should only breed from a healthy dam and sire.
3. Members should ensure that they have the time, resources, and facilities to provide high quality care for the puppies and dam. The first-time breeder should not under-estimate the cost of equipment and possible veterinary care or the amount of time required each day and night to care for the puppies and dam. Although the average litter is seven puppies it is not unknown for Beardies to produce litters of up to twelve!
4. Members are advised not to breed from bitches until they are two to three years old nor if they are over the age of eight at the time of whelping. The rationale for the lower age limit is that Bearded Collies are slow to mature. For the health of the bitch it is considered advisable that she does not have more than three litters in total nor be bred from on subsequent seasons or

more than once within a twelve month period, which ever provides the longest gap.

5. Before a mating is undertaken the owners of both the dam and stud dog should be aware of our Guidelines for Breeders, even if one of the owners is not a member.
6. The stud dog owner should be aware of their equal responsibilities with the owner of the dam for the mating to produce healthy puppies. Therefore they have a responsibility to declare any known health or temperament issues with the stud dog before the mating takes place.
7. Both parties involved in the mating should ensure that everyone clearly understands what they are undertaking. This is even more important if one of the parties is experienced and the other a novice. Both parties must be clear about their roles and responsibilities including the support to be provided, help to be given at the mating, at the birth and throughout the puppies' lives. This could include vetting of potential new owners, offering advice and support to the new puppy owners when necessary, and supporting the bitch owner on any re-homing problems.
8. Before breeding, members are advised to take into consideration the temperament and health of both the sire and the dam to ensure that to the best of their knowledge such a mating will result in healthy puppies. We recommend, for example, examination of the respective pedigrees and the extent to which they are complementary and also the use of the Kennel Club Mate Select service. Mate Select is a tool to help breeders avoid inbreeding by showing the breed coefficients (or extent of inbreeding) of a proposed pairing. Where previous progeny (or siblings) have known health and/or temperament problems further breeding is discouraged. Further information on Mate Select is available from the Kennel Club.
9. Members should ensure that only dogs/bitches that have been health screened and have satisfactory results are used for breeding. Currently the only health screening test required by the KC is for hip dysplasia. Ideally only Bearded Collies with a score no higher than the breed average should be used. As of 1/11/2009 the BVA Bearded Collie breed mean score was 11. As new tests are developed or we are advised that new tests are required the Guidelines will be updated.

10. Members should consider endorsing the puppies' registration documentation. This process places restrictions on the new owner of a puppy in terms of exporting and/or breeding. The endorsement forms part of the puppy's KC registration document and is not simply part of the sales contract. Endorsement must be done whilst the puppy is still in the breeder's ownership. Both parties must confirm, by signature, that the endorsement and its implications have been clearly explained to the new owners. If for any reason an endorsed puppy has to be re-homed the new owners must be made aware of the endorsement and its consequences.
11. The Kennel Club encourages all breeders to register as a KC Assured Breeder.

### Puppies and their new homes

1. The member breeder should, as part of their agreement with the new puppy owner, provide on-going support throughout the life of the dog/bitch including advice on all aspects of care, such as feeding, grooming, exercise, behaviour and, if required, re-homing.
2. Members should undertake to ensure to the best of their ability that their puppies are only homed with owners who are fully aware of Beardies' particular requirements and that they are able to demonstrate they understand what the puppy will require. In particular they must be made aware of the Bearded Collie's boisterous nature, the importance of regular and thorough grooming, and of their need for physical exercise and mental stimulation.
3. Members should ensure that potential new owners meet the puppies' mother and if possible the father.
4. Members should not let the puppy leave its mother before it is seven weeks old. Evidence increasingly indicates that eight weeks old may be preferable.
5. Members breeding a litter must be willing and able to retain any unsold puppies. They must also be able to take back any puppies where there is a problem with the new owner or assist in re-homing the puppy if requested to do so.
6. Members should only sell puppies that to the best of their knowledge are fit and healthy at the time they leave the breeder. If a puppy is known to have health defects or identifiable departures from the breed standard the new

owners must be made clearly aware of the situation and of any potential problems that may develop later.

7. Members have a responsibility to inform owners if problems develop in either health or temperament in the sire's or dam's other progeny.
8. Members should avoid selling two puppies to the same home, giving clear reasons for this decision. Puppies are more likely to bond with each other than the new owner and will be much harder to train and socialise.
9. If the offer of a puppy to a new owner is subsequently rescinded a full explanation for this decision should be provided.
10. Members should ensure that when the puppies leave them all documentation is given to the new owner. This includes a copy of their registration, a copy of their pedigree, a sales agreement signed by the breeder and the new owner. There should also be a diet sheet, information on worming, inoculation certificate, grooming advice and insurance papers. They should be provided with a membership form for SCBCC.
11. Members who sell puppies with joint ownership or on breeding terms must obtain a signature from the new owner confirming that the precise nature of the contract has been explained fully to all parties involved and is transparent to both parties.
12. Members must ensure that new puppy owners know that they should contact the breeder for advice or in case of any difficulties. Also that the new owners should contact them in the case of an emergency or change in circumstances which will affect the Beardie. This could be as simple as a change of address.
13. Members should ensure that if a puppy is to be exported that they undertake not to send the puppy to any countries where dogs are not protected by anti-cruelty laws. Puppies must be at least three months old and fully inoculated before they can go.

*SCBCC Committee*

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