



AUSTRALIAN COBBERDOG SOCIETY

## ACS Standards

### PURPOSE

The Australian Cobberdog Society (ACS) has established these Standards to support the health, welfare, responsible development and long-term sustainability of the Australian Cobberdog.

These Standards operate in conjunction with the ACS Constitution, By-Laws, Code of Ethics, Code of Conduct, Registry Rules and other governing documents. All breeder members are expected to comply with these Standards as a condition of membership.

Failure to maintain these Standards may result in disciplinary action in accordance with the ACS Constitution and governing documents.

Local laws and animal welfare legislation always take precedence over ACS Standards.

### 1. GENERAL BREEDING STANDARDS

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose</b>  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.
<b>1.1</b>	<b>Age Restrictions</b>

	<p>The minimum age for breeding a female dog shall be on the third season or after 18 months of age, whichever occurs first. The minimum age for breeding a male dog shall be 12 months.</p> <p>A bitch over eight years of age must have a current veterinary certificate confirming fitness for breeding. The certificate must be dated within three months of the mating and provided when registering the resulting litter.</p>
<b>1.2</b>	<p><b>Breeding Frequency</b></p> <p>Never breed a bitch causing her to whelp more than twice within an eighteen-month period.</p>
<b>1.3</b>	<p><b>Breeding Limits</b></p> <p>Ensure a bitch does not whelp more than four litters without veterinary certification confirming fitness for breeding and not more than five litters in total.</p>
<b>1.4</b>	<p><b>Responsible Stud Use</b></p> <p>Ensure stud dogs are used responsibly and avoid excessive use that may result in over-representation of a particular lineage within the population.</p>
<b>1.5</b>	<p><b>Coefficient of Inbreeding (COI)</b></p> <p>Target: Less than 5%</p> <p>Maximum Permitted: 12.5%</p>

	Breeders should aim for the lowest practicable COI to support genetic diversity, health and long-term breed sustainability. COI is calculated using the ACS pedigree database across all available generations.
<b>1.6</b>	<p><b>Record Management</b></p> <p>Prevent a retiring or unsuitable dog from further breeding through transfer to the limited register, desexing, contraception, contractual agreement or other appropriate means. Breeders must ensure breeding status changes are recorded within the ACS database.</p>

## 2. HEALTH TESTING AND GENETIC MANAGEMENT

<b>2.0</b>	<p><b>DNA Profile and Health Testing</b></p> <p>All breeding dogs must have a DNA Profile and DNA Health Test Panel completed prior to breeding.</p> <p>DNA reports must clearly identify the dog and be uploaded to the ACS database in PDF format.</p> <p>Breeders are expected to use DNA health test results to make informed breeding decisions and avoid matings that may produce affected offspring for known inherited conditions.</p>
<b>2.1</b>	<p><b>Parentage Verification</b></p> <p>Where more than one sire has covered, or may have covered, a bitch, breeders must verify parentage through DNA profiling before requesting pedigrees for offspring.</p>

	<p>All puppies resulting from a multiple-sire mating must undergo DNA parentage verification prior to registration.</p> <p>Parentage verification reports must clearly identify each puppy by microchip number and be uploaded to the ACS database in PDF format.</p>
<p><b>2.2</b></p>	<p><b>Health Guarantee</b></p> <p>ACS Approved Breeders must provide purchasers with a written Health Guarantee covering hereditary conditions that significantly impair the dog's ability to participate in normal daily activities.</p> <p>The guarantee must remain in effect for a minimum of twelve (12) months from the puppy's date of birth.</p> <p>Where a covered hereditary condition is diagnosed and manifests clinical signs before twelve (12) months of age, the breeder must offer an appropriate remedy in accordance with the terms of their Health Guarantee.</p> <p>The Health Guarantee is not intended to cover infectious diseases, environmental conditions, acquired diseases, injuries, nutritional disorders, accidental poisoning, ingestion of foreign bodies, parasites, allergies, or other conditions arising after the puppy leaves the breeder's care and not attributable to an inherited genetic defect.</p>
<p><b>2.3</b></p>	<p><b>Mandatory Health Screening Requirements</b></p> <p>All dogs used in an ACS breeding program must successfully complete the mandatory health screening requirements prior to breeding.</p> <p>Mandatory testing includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hip Assessment</li> <li>• Elbow Assessment</li> </ul>

- Cardiac Screening
- Annual Health Assessment
- DNA Health Testing

Breeders must upload evidence of compliance to the ACS database.

## 2.4

### Hip Assessment

All breeding dogs must undergo hip assessment through an ACS-approved radiographic hip dysplasia evaluation scheme.

Accepted schemes include OFA, BVA, FCI, PennHIP, and other ACS-approved equivalent schemes.

Hip assessment reports must clearly identify the dog by registered name and microchip number and be uploaded to the ACS database in PDF format.

Dogs must meet the minimum standards outlined in the ACS Hip Assessment Equivalency Matrix.

#### Hip Dysplasia Scoring Schemes

OFA	FCI (European)	BVA (UK/AUS)	SV (Germany)
Excellent	A-1	0-4 (no >3/hip)	Normal
Good	A-2	5-10 (no >6/hip)	Normal
Fair	B-1	11-18	Normal

#### Hip Laxity Assessment

##### PennHIP Hip Laxity Assessment

PennHIP assessments are accepted as an alternative hip evaluation method.

	<p>Dogs assessed prior to 1 January 2027 must have a Distraction Index (DI) of 0.70 or less.</p> <p>Dogs assessed on or after 1 January 2027 must have a Distraction Index (DI) of 0.60 or less.</p> <p>Dogs that have met the ACS PennHIP standard at the time of assessment shall continue to be considered compliant and shall not be retrospectively affected by future amendments to the PennHIP standard.</p> <p>The Australian Cobberdog Society recognises that PennHIP measures passive hip laxity and should be considered alongside other factors relevant to breeding decisions.</p>
<p><b>2.5</b></p>	<p><b>Elbow Assessment</b></p> <p>All breeding dogs must undergo elbow assessment based on radiographic evaluation prior to breeding.</p> <p>Only dogs assessed as <b>normal/non-dysplastic (Grade 0 or equivalent)</b> meet the ACS breeding standard.</p> <p>Elbow assessment reports must clearly identify the dog by registered name and microchip number and be uploaded to the ACS database in PDF format.</p> <p>General veterinary examinations, physical assessments or unsupported veterinary opinions are not accepted as elbow assessments for breeding purposes.</p>
<p><b>2.6</b></p>	<p><b>Cardiac Screening</b></p> <p>All breeding dogs must undergo annual cardiac screening prior to breeding.</p> <p>Cardiac screening may be satisfied by either:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● A veterinary certificate confirming that the heart was auscultated and that no heart murmur was detected; or</li> <li>● A completed ACS Pre-Breeding Health Screening Form signed by a veterinarian.</li> </ul> <p>Documentation must clearly identify the dog by registered name and microchip number and be uploaded to the ACS database in PDF format.</p> <p>Only dogs assessed as having no detectable heart murmur meet the ACS breeding standard.</p>
<p><b>2.7</b></p>	<p><b>Annual Breeding Health Assessment</b></p> <p>All breeding dogs must undergo an annual veterinary health assessment confirming the dog is fit and healthy for breeding.</p> <p>This requirement may be satisfied by either a completed ACS Pre-Breeding Health Assessment Form or a veterinary certificate issued by a registered veterinarian.</p> <p>The assessment must include a general health examination and confirmation that the heart was auscultated and no cardiac murmur was detected.</p> <p>Documentation must clearly identify the dog by registered name and microchip number and be uploaded to the ACS database in PDF format.</p>
<p><b>2.8</b></p>	<p><b>Health Reporting</b></p> <p>Notify the Australian Cobberdog Society if a pairing produces a puppy or 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 (including malocclusion, heart murmur, cleft palate, missing limb, etc.)</p> <p>Reports should include the registered sire and dam, puppy name, date of birth and a summary of the diagnosis and prognosis.</p>
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