



By Pat Hutchinson, Accredited Breeder and KCABS Regional Adviser

## The Ten Commandments

Membership of the Kennel Club's Accredited Breeding Scheme is open to all breeders of Kennel Club registered dogs, irrespective of whether they have bred one litter or fifty. Breeders who apply to join the scheme agree to fulfil the following requirements.

1. Members must permanently identify breeding stock by DNA profile, microchip or tattoo. *(It is anticipated that all breeding stock will eventually be required to be DNA profiled, providing proof of both a dog's identity and most importantly its parentage)*
2. Ensure all breeding stock is Kennel Club registered, and take all reasonable steps to ensure that dogs are healthy and able to function normally i.e. fit for function, fit for life.
3. Members must hand over the dog's registration papers at the time of sale if available, or forward them to the new owner as soon as possible.
4. Follow Kennel Club policy regarding maximum age and number/ frequency of litters.

(This currently states that the Kennel Club will not accept an application to register a litter if the dam has already whelped six litters. The dam has reached the age of eight years at the date of whelping, the dam was under twelve months old at the time of mating, or where puppies result from close matings; e.g. father/daughter, mother/son or brother/sister).

5. Members must make use of the Kennel Club's breed-related health screening schemes for all breeding stock. In Rough and Smooth Collies these include hip dysplasia and inherited eye conditions (PRA and CEA). And now include MDR1 in Smooth Collies. A current list of checks, 'required' hip and eye tests in Rough and Smooth Collies, it is 'recommended' that both breeds are DNA tested for CEA. However, until a clear CEA gene is found in the UK, the use of the Optigen test could not yet become a scheme 'requirement'.
6. Members must provide a Puppy Sales wallet with each puppy sold, containing written advice on the special traits or tendencies found in the breed, socialisation, exercise and training; and feeding and worming programmes (grooming advice may well be required in the future).
7. Inform the puppy buyer in writing of any vaccinations which have been carried out.
8. Provide reasonable after-sales telephone advice and try and deal with any issues arising.

9. Inform puppy buyers of the requirements and recommendations that apply to Kennel Club Accredited Breeders and encourage puppy buyers to complete the feed-back forms contained in the Puppy Sales wallets.
10. Members must provide a Sales Contract for each puppy sold. This should include any guarantees given e.g. provisions for a refund, or return and replacement of a puppy. If a puppy is Kennel Club endorsed, a clear explanation must be provided and an explanation of how/when the endorsements may be removed. The Contract should be signed and dated by both breeder and purchaser to show both agree to the terms.

Accredited Breeders are expected to operate to high standards and comply with any local authority requirements. If, in exceptional circumstances and for Kennel Club accepted reason, an Accredited Breeder's litter does not meet all the above criteria then the Accredited Breeder must inform all puppy buyers of this in writing at the time of purchase.

In addition to these ten requirements. Accredited Breeders are also encouraged to follow a number of recommendations: They should ensure their breeding and whelping facilities accord with good practice; follow any breed-specific recommendations where possible; encourage new owners to take their puppy to the vet as soon as possible; commit to help, when necessary, with the re-homing of a dog throughout its lifetime; and participate in any breed health surveys or health initiatives in their breed.

Pat Hutchinson has recently been appointed one of the KC's 12 Regional Advisers for the KC Accredited Breeder's Scheme; such Advisers are not allowed to inspect their own breed.

It is a prestigious appointment and one on which we should congratulate her.