DANISH/SWEDISH FARMDOG CLUB OF AMERICA, INC.
BREEDING ETHICS AND GUIDELINES

The following are guidelines for the ethical breeding of Danish/Swedish Farmdogs in the United States. These guidelines have been adopted by the Danish/Swedish Farmdog Club of America (DSFCA) in accordance with the mission of the Danish/Swedish Farmdog Club Breeding Committee to foster healthy development of this breed in this country and to reflect the International Breeding Rules of the Federation Cynologique Internationale (FCI) under whose auspices this breed is being developed in its countries of origin.

The DSFCA Breeding Committee may periodically submit for approval revisions to these guidelines, due to growth of the gene pool in the United States, realized need for guidance as the US breeders gain experience and to continue to accurately reflect the Code of Ethics, International Breeding Rules and breed standard held by the FCI.

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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. 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 FCI sanctioned event and receiving at minimum the equivalent of "Very Good".

   c. Showing an animal a minimum of one time in an American Rare Breed Association (ARBA) Breed Specialty show "special class" sanctioned by DSFCA where an FCI licensed Danish/Swedish Farmdog judge is present to ascertain breeding quality of the animal. This would be done in the event that an animal that has been altered (for example, due to injury) and would otherwise not be permitted to show at an ARBA event.

4. The breeding pair shall be fully developed, both physically and mentally before mating occurs. Males should be at least one year of age and have two descended testicles. Females should have at least completed one Estrus and be a minimum of 18 months of age.

5. An inbreeding percentage shall be ascertained before the mating of animals, as many generations as possible for each individual shall be included when calculating inbreeding percentage.

6. Mating between individuals with relations closer than cousins should be avoided. Inbreeding percentage for a cousin breeding is 6.25%.

7. 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.

8. Certified animals should be bred only to animals with complete pedigrees and known history. A complete pedigree is a minimum of three generations.

9. A bitch should have no more than 4-5 litters in her lifetime, and should not breed past her eighth birthday. At a minimum, after 2 successive litters, a bitch should be rested so at least one estrus in three is not utilized for mating.

10. In the Untied 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.

11. Monopoly breeding should be avoided. Monopoly breeding is defined as a limited number of dogs that dominate the breeding program within the breed.

12. 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.

13. Breeders shall independently assess the breeding quality of an animal, utilizing good judgment and common sense.

14. Breeders should monitor their litters, through periodic communication with their puppy buyers, collecting data relevant to the future of the breeding program.

15. The owner of the male should follow a litter's development, so they may continuously evaluate any trends in the offspring of their breeding males.

16. Breeders shall openly and honestly communicate observations of defects in the litters they produce. The Breeding Committee requests that breeders report severe defects in their litters to this committee to help maintain an overview of the United States' Danish/Swedish Farmdog population overall status and trends.

17. 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 the breed specific characteristics and needs.

18. Breeders should inform their puppy buyers of the purpose of the Danish/Swedish Farmdog Club of America and encourage their puppy buyers to apply for membership in the DSFCA.

19. Animals with faulty bites shall not be utilized in breeding. Scissors and pincer bites are considered to be the acceptable bites for a farmdog.

20. Animals with an inguinal hernia shall not be utilized in breeding.

21. Animals with an umbilical hernia shall not be utilized in breeding.

22. Animals with inherited patellar dislocation (loose or slipping knee caps) shall not be utilized in breeding.

23. Bobtailed bitches shall not be mated to bobtailed dogs. Bobtailed puppies in the resulting litter are confirmation that one parent is a bobtail. Bobtailed puppies shall be documented in the pedigree of the puppy as NB or natural bobtail.

24. Genetically monorchid dogs, those born with only one testicle, shall not be utilized in breeding.

Final Draft
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Submitted by Carol Lemmon
for the DSFCA Breeding Committee