

# Announcements

## Revision in the 6 dog rule for Infusions

The ALAA is always looking for ways to improve the Labradoodle and Australian Labradoodle breed, as well as maintain reasonable guidelines for our Breeder Members to work with. In the interest of having an Infusion Program that supports our Breeder Members, yet protects the integrity of the breed, we have reviewed the current guidelines.

As many of you may know the guidelines were set in place by both the Infusion Committee and the Executive Board to help facilitate a new venture in the US for new Australian lines. In the early days of establishing and implementing guidelines, there were many unknowns. It was imperative to have strict guidelines that could be adjusted at a later date, rather than simply opening the registration process to any and all dogs with Spaniel in them and letting the chips fall where they may. Until there was a history and the ALAA had a grasp on the impact this venture could have, it was important to proceed with caution.

Upon review of the guidelines, the ALAA has decided to lift the rule that limits the number of Cockapoo Breeder Offspring to a maximum of six for the life of the Cockapoo. It was originally designed to limit how many breeding offspring could be kept from a given dog to avoid any possibility of Popular Sire Syndrome. It is our belief that this rule is no longer necessary. Over time, natural selection helps to determine which dogs ultimately move forward in the breeding population, and we now see that restricting dogs prior to this occurrence has not proven to be necessary. There are many factors that play a role over time that can negatively impact a breeding dog's capabilities and we want to allow room for that in a Breeder's program.

We would also like to take a moment to answer some recurring questions and explain the infusion process to promote understanding in the hope that others will find the desire to participate.

## How does the approval process work?

The first part of the process is the Cockapoo approval. This requires that the dog submitted meets the guidelines implemented by the Infusion Committee and Executive Board. It is more of a "check and balance", making sure the dog meets the registration requirements as an infusion dog. If a dog is presented to the ALAA Board and has the required health testing and AKC provable pedigree, it is accepted or approved. The ALAA uses the criteria set forth in the rules to determine which dogs are accepted. There has never been a dog denied registration to participate in the Infusion Program that met the required criteria.

## **Why is AKC provability necessary?**

The only reason AKC is used for verification for purebred status is simple. They are the only registry that is reliable and authentic for purebred provability. CKC will register any dog as any breed requested and you only need the following: (statement taken directly from CKC website) Dogs over 6 months of age which have no previous Registration history may be registered by providing 2 witness signatures attesting to the purebred status of the dog along with 3 photos (front, left and right) of the dog to confirm it is 'of proper breed type' as defined by our current CKC registration rules and regulations.

## **Heading What does Six Generation Pedigree really mean?**

This means if a dog is not purebred provable (AKC registered names and numbers) within six generations, then it is not eligible for registration. If you have to go back further than six generations to prove AKC parentage, that dog is not eligible for registration.

Can I simply wait six generations for the questionable dogs in my pedigree to roll off and then register my dog?

The answer is NO. Again, our goal is to have as accurate pedigrees as possible and as the years go by these things will be harder and harder to trace or track which is why the six generation rule was implemented.

The ALAA believes that when establishing a developing breed there should be integrity in the pedigrees printed. The ALAA recognizes the need for new lines, which is why the Infusion Program was implemented. In order to maintain the integrity of the breed and the dogs in the ALAA database, it is imperative to have legitimate pedigrees that are provable with AKC registered names and numbers for all parent breed dogs. The ultimate goal is to breed for the betterment of the breed, not only by requiring health testing but also using authentic pedigrees.

The second portion of the process involves the breed pair approval. Again, if the breeding pair meets the registration and health testing guidelines, the pair or breeding is approved or accepted. The ALAA board does not weigh in on a personal level in any of these decisions or votes. If the information is there and it meets the requirements, then it gets approved.

The third portion is the litter registration portion. There is a rule that only three intact dogs can be kept per litter and that all other littermates must be spayed or neutered prior to 12 weeks of age.

## **Why these two rules?**

The ALAA believes that not all dogs in a litter are breeding quality and not all dogs should be bred. Since this was a new venture for the ALAA, it was decided some control over this was necessary for both the protection of the breed and the breeder participating in the Infusion Program. Implementing the spay/neuter requirement came from the ALAA's belief that passing health testing should not be the only criterion used in making breeding dog selections. In hopes that only the best of the best would be kept to move forward with, these requirements were adopted and will remain in effect.

While the Infusion Program remains a hot topic, it is our hope these explanations regarding how the process works will help to instill Member confidence in the decisions and why they were made. The ALAA Board appreciates all Member Breeders and the diversity the Association maintains. Please feel free to contact any Board Member if you have further questions or concerns about the Infusion Program.