

## AWPGA Breeder's Standard Practices

Approved by the AWPGA Board February 22, 2017

These Practices represent a list of principles and practices the AWPGA expects all breeders to adopt. All members who breed Wirehaired Pointing Griffons should use this list as a minimum set of expectations. The creation of a new life is a serious, far-reaching responsibility. Not all good dogs are breeding quality. All new breeders are encouraged to seek out an AWPGA Breeder Mentor and work to continually improve the breed. Breeding is not for the faint of heart, and done correctly is a very time-consuming experience that should only be done after a significant time in the breed, including activities such as field testing and conformation competition.

Note: the term "dog" as used in this document is used to describe both males and females.

- 1) All breeding stock must be AKC Registered with full registration, and all litters must be AKC Registered. AWPGA strongly suggests selling with AKC limited registration unless the breeder feels the puppy has the potential to be of breeding quality, and in that case, the breeder will require the new owner to follow these practices. Any puppy displaying a genetic health defect will be sold with limited registration.
- 2) All breeding stock must be permanently identified. Microchip is recommended.
- 3) Breeders should understand the genetic disorders affecting the breed, and do everything possible to eliminate these disorders in future litters. Dogs expressing a genetic disease or anomaly should not be used for breeding.
- 4) Breeders must check all breeding stock for K Locus. Dogs can be tested, or cleared by parentage. Those dogs that are KBKY should only be bred to a KBKB (non-carrier). All puppies from a KBKY to KBKB breeding must be tested for K Locus and new owners notified of the status.
- 5) Breeding stock must be tested for Brucellosis. Stud dogs and bitches (including maiden bitches and first time stud dogs) must be tested prior to each breeding. This test should be done on a stud dog being collected for chilled or frozen semen.
- 6) All breeding dogs must receive the health testing recommended by the AWPGA Health and Genetics Committee. This currently includes OFA Hip or PennHip, OFA Elbows, OFA (CERF) Eyes, and OFA Thyroid (refer to OFA.org for thyroid guidelines).
- 7) No bitch should be bred before the age of two or after the age of 8. Back-to-back litters are acceptable, and as with all concerns, should be discussed with your veterinarian. The health and well-being of the bitch should be the foremost consideration when deciding whether or not to breed, and used to determine the total number of pregnancies in the bitch's lifetime.
- 8) Before going to their new homes, all puppies must receive a health check by a veterinarian and be vaccinated. Refer to the AKC Puppy Vaccination Schedule as a guideline, along with the veterinarian's recommendation.
- 9) The minimum age a puppy can be placed with its new owners is 7 weeks, or the age dictated by the local statute if the statute requires the age to be greater than seven weeks.
- 10) Breeders are expected to take back any dog from a litter they bred, regardless of the dog's age, or assist in rehoming such dog in an appropriate home. No puppies or dogs will ever be surrendered to a shelter or dog pound. Breeders may work with AWPGA Rescue if a puppy or dog must be rehomed.

11) Puppies should be raised in a healthy environment and must be provided appropriate socialization, with the goal of safeguarding the puppies' physical and mental health.

12) Breeders will provide information to new owners regarding the breed's characteristics, including the need for training and socialization and potential issues created by their natural hunting instincts. Breeders will also provide information about health maintenance and the proper age for spay/neuter.

## **AWPGA Suggested Guidelines for Breeders Selection of Breeding Stock**

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The selection of dogs for breeding should aim to perpetuate the good quality of the dogs, and eliminate undesirable qualities. The sire and dam selected must be better than average specimens, in good health and of excellent temperament.

The sire and dam should not have the same faults. Faults in conformation are noted in the AKC Standard. An additional fault that should be considered is the lack of hunt desire. AWPGA Breeders must work to ensure that there is never a split between "Show Griff" and "Hunt Griff".

### **Planning**

Litters should be planned in advance with as much knowledge as possible about the individual animals and pedigrees of both sire and dam. Breeders should understand that they are responsible for each and every pup, and must either find a suitable home or keep the pup. The expenses associated with having a litter should be researched, and Breeder should have adequate funds for any unexpected medical condition.

### **Contracts**

It is highly encouraged that all puppies be sold under contract to protect both the breeder and new owner. When using a Stud, a Stud Contract will ensure both parties understand the arrangements and requirements associated with the Stud use.

### **Health**

It is suggested all puppies are sold with a 3-day health warranty, which requires the new owner to have a vet visit within that initial 3 days. Breeder should provide a printed document for new owners outlining veterinary record, feeding schedule, training and puppy care.

### **AWPGA Database**

Breeders should enter all their Griffis into the AWPGA Database. These records must be accurate and updated as needed to provide the best information regarding the dog. Breeders should encourage puppy buyers to do the same.

### **Education**

Breeders should consider joining the AKC Bred with Heart program. If qualified, consider applying for AKC Breeder of Merit. There are many books and videos available to provide ongoing education, and they should be utilized.