WORLD DOG FEDERATION

INTERNATIONAL TECHNICAL REGULATIONS FOR PUREBRED DOG BREEDING

2026 | CONSOLIDATED INTERNATIONAL EDITION

Framework for national member kennel clubs, breeders, owners, genealogical registration and canine welfare

International WDF text for adoption and implementation by authorised national member kennel clubs.

Mandatory laws of each member country prevail where they impose different or stricter legal requirements.

This 2026 designation identifies the consolidated international edition and does not, by itself, constitute a WDF adoption decision.

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SCOPE, INTERPRETATION AND IMPLEMENTATION

1. These Regulations establish a uniform technical framework for purebred dog breeding, genealogical registration, parentage verification and breeder conduct within the World Dog Federation (WDF) system.

2. In this document, "National Kennel Club" means a national all-breed kennel club authorised within the WDF membership framework to administer relevant registrations in its jurisdiction. References to its "Registry Office" include a national secretariat or other office or digital platform formally designated to perform the same functions.

3. "Central Technical Commission" (CTC) means the competent technical authority designated under the relevant WDF or National Kennel Club implementing procedures. "Breeding Commission" and "breed-specialist association" refer to the bodies competent for the relevant technical assessment or breed.

4. WDF establishes or recognises the shared technical framework and breed standards; each National Kennel Club administers the registrations, veterinary verifications, member records and other national procedures assigned to it under applicable WDF arrangements.

5. In all jurisdictions, the applicable mandatory rules governing animal welfare, identification, breeding establishments, taxation, veterinary practice, personal data and transfer of animals must be observed. A minimum requirement in these Regulations does not authorise an act prohibited by national law.

6. Implementation of this international edition requires approval or adoption by the competent WDF authority and, as needed, the relevant National Kennel Club. No independent enactment date is created merely by describing this document as the 2026 consolidated edition.

SECTION I — BREEDER AND OWNER REGISTERS

Article 1 | Admission to the Breeder and Owner Registers

1. Natural persons and legal entities engaged in breeding purebred dogs registered with the National Kennel Club in the territory under its jurisdiction may apply for entry in its Register of Member Breeders, provided they own at least two breeding females, each of which has produced at least one litter registered with that National Kennel Club within the preceding three years.

2. Natural persons and legal entities owning dogs registered with a National Kennel Club, or requesting membership as supporting members in writing, shall be entered in its Owner Register.

Article 2 | Registration and obligations of breeders

1. Applications for the Breeder Register shall be submitted in writing or through an approved electronic system to the competent Registry Office of the National Kennel Club. Applications shall include the applicant's identity and contact information, tax or registration details where required by the law of that country, residence or registered office, location of any breeding facilities, breed and identification of breeding females owned at the time of application, and, where required by national law, proof of the appropriate business, agricultural or breeding-establishment registration.

2. Breeders eligible for entry in the Register must:

   a) Undertake genetic-improvement activities in accordance with the guidelines established by the National Kennel Club and WDF.

   b) Refrain from conduct or actions that could harm or damage the image of the National Kennel Club or WDF.

   c) Submit to the checks provided for by the applicable rules and regulations.

   d) Promptly report any changes to their personal and tax details.

   e) Submit their dogs and facilities to the health inspections required by applicable legislation.

3. At the time of application, the breeder undertakes to sign the attached Code of Ethics. In the event of a breach of the foregoing principles, the measures set out in the Disciplinary Regulations shall apply, in accordance with those Regulations.

4. The National Kennel Club shall assess eligibility under paragraph 2. An applicant whose registration is refused may submit a written appeal in accordance with the disciplinary and administrative procedures of the National Kennel Club and applicable WDF rules.

5. The National Kennel Club shall remove from the Breeder Register breeders who no longer meet the registration requirements, as well as breeders who have resigned. In both cases, the information shall remain on file with the National Kennel Club.

6. Owners of purebred dogs registered with the National Kennel Club shall be entered in the Owner Register, in which their personal and tax-identification details, which they are required to supply, shall be recorded.

7. The grant of a kennel-name entitlement (affix) to a breeder shall be governed by specific technical rules consistent with those established by the World Dog Federation (WDF).

SECTION II — NATIONAL KENNEL CLUB CANINE REGISTER

Article 3 | Structure of the Canine Breed Register

1. The Canine Breed Register forms part of the World Dog Federation registration framework and may be used by National Kennel Clubs entitled to access and administer it under WDF arrangements. The register is divided into (R), for dogs undergoing phenotypic recognition of breed type, and (L), for dogs with recorded genealogy. Both categories include:

   a) A register of male and female breeding dogs for ordinary breeding.

   b) A register of male and female breeding dogs for selected breeding, limited to dogs registered in (L).

2. Dogs born to parents registered in (L) and (R) shall be entered in the ordinary-breeding register.

3. Dogs born to parents registered in (L) for which the verification requirements of Article 8 have been met shall be entered in the selected-breeding register.

4. An Experimental Supplementary Register (RS) is also established for dogs belonging to breeds whose standards are awaiting approval, or to indigenous breeds undergoing recovery and recognition as breeds.

5. The morphological and working standards for new canine breeds shall be those adopted by WDF.

SECTION III — REGISTRATION IN CANINE GENEALOGICAL REGISTERS

Article 4 | Registration methods

1. Registration of dogs in (L) and (R) may be made by litter or by individual dog.

Article 5 | Foundation dogs in Register (R)

1. A dog of any breed and either sex, irrespective of its country of origin, may be entered in Register (R) as a foundation dog after obtaining a certificate of breed typicality through phenotypic recognition at an event recognised by WDF.

2. A dog of any breed and either sex with at least one complete recorded generation of ancestry shall be eligible for transfer to Register (L).

3. On the proposal of the competent breed-specialist association, the Central Technical Commission (CTC), acting through the procedures recognised by WDF, may authorise closure of Register (R).

4. Upon closure of (R), only dogs already entered in that Register shall remain registered therein; they may breed in accordance with these Regulations.

Article 6 | Litter registration

1. Litter registration in the Canine Genealogical Registers concerns all puppies born from a mating between dogs of the same breed entered in the relevant National Kennel Club Registers. Dogs resulting from matings between parents and offspring may not be registered unless the competent Breeding Commission has authorised the mating for specific selection purposes. Dogs resulting from full-sibling matings, or from females younger than 16 months, may not be registered. Exceptional breeding plans involving other otherwise prohibited close-consanguinity matings must be submitted to the competent Central Technical Commission (CTC) for prior authorisation. Litter registration may be processed electronically when authorised by the National Kennel Club and shall follow the procedures below.

6.1 Mating and birth notification

Within 30 days after the birth of a litter, the owner of the dam shall notify the Registry Office of the National Kennel Club using the prescribed form or authorised digital procedure, stating the date of mating. Where a sire registered in another country has been used, the notification must include a copy of his genealogical certificate and evidence of any titles or performance results claimed.

If the breeding female is over seven years of age or has already produced more than five litters, the notification must be accompanied by a veterinary certificate confirming her fitness for pregnancy, whelping and weaning.

The interval between the birth dates of two litters produced by the same breeding female must not be less than 220 days.

6.2 Identification of puppies

Puppies must be individually identified within 60 days after birth, subject to applicable national identification legislation and any stricter mandatory deadlines. Puppies may not be transferred before reaching 60 days of age or any higher minimum age required by national law. The mandatory biological sample for DNA storage must be collected and submitted in accordance with applicable WDF procedures and the relevant national legal requirements.

6.3 Litter notification

6.3.1. Within 100 days after the birth of the puppies, the breeder shall notify the competent Registry Office of the National Kennel Club using the prescribed form or approved electronic procedure.

6.3.2. The notification must contain the following information:

a) Breeder's full name and address, together with any tax, national identification or business-registration number lawfully required in the relevant jurisdiction.

b) Details of the sire and dam (name, registration number in the recognised registry and microchip or other authorised permanent identification code).

c) Name, sex, permanent identification code and coat colour of each puppy, together with the full name, address and legally required identifying details of any new owner.

6.3.3. The competent Registry Office of the National Kennel Club shall perform litter checks, verifying the identity of the dam through her permanent identification code and checking the number and sex of puppies. Checks shall be recorded on the prescribed litter-control form, signed and validated by a veterinarian or another authorised professional where national law permits.

6.3.4. The National Kennel Club shall publish or issue the genealogical certificate within three months following receipt of a complete litter notification, subject to required verification and applicable law.

6.3.5. All puppies must already have undergone biological-sample collection for DNA deposit, as required by WDF regulations.

6.3.6. The genealogical certificate shall contain the following information:

a) Dog’s name, Canine Genealogical Register number, breed, sex, date of birth, coat colour and markings, DNA deposit code, and unique microchip code.

b) Names and registration numbers of ancestors, including any recorded events.

c) Name of the breeder or the breeder’s kennel name (affix).

d) Owner details.

e) Data on traits, performance, titles and hereditary-disease screening, where required, for parents, grandparents, great-grandparents and great-great-grandparents.

Article 7 | Registration of an individual dog

1. Individual registration in Registers (L) and (R) applies to the following dogs:

a) Dogs born to parents entered in the recognised Canine Genealogical Registers of a National Kennel Club.

b) Dogs from other recognised national registries accompanied by a valid genealogical certificate.

c) Dogs imported from another country that hold a genealogical pedigree recognised within the WDF system and for which the transfer to the new owner has been recorded in the country of origin. The original certificate remains valid, together with the acknowledgment of registration issued by the receiving National Kennel Club. Individual registration in (L) or (R) shall be requested through the competent Registry Office of the receiving National Kennel Club.

SECTION IV — PARENTAGE VERIFICATION

Article 8 | DNA parentage verification

1. Each National Kennel Club may annually select a sample of registered dogs for DNA parentage verification by a recognised laboratory, according to technical specifications approved by the competent Central Technical Commission (CTC) under the WDF framework.

2. Biological samples and the archive of genetic-marker profiles shall remain under the custody and control of the National Kennel Club with which the dogs are registered, subject to applicable national law and any lawful WDF data-sharing arrangements. This provision does not transfer ownership of such material to a third party.

3. Samples may be selected randomly or on a targeted basis under criteria approved by the competent CTC. Collection shall be performed by veterinarians or other persons duly authorised by the National Kennel Club and permitted by national law, and samples shall be transmitted according to the prescribed procedure.

4. Collection of a biological sample and submission to a recognised laboratory are mandatory for dogs registered under these Regulations, for preservation and possible DNA-based identification or parentage verification, in accordance with applicable law.

SECTION V — REQUIREMENTS FOR ADMISSION TO BREEDING

Article 9 | Eligibility for breeding

1. Before any dog registered in the Canine Register may be declared suitable for breeding, it must undergo the prescribed veterinary examinations establishing fitness for reproduction. Qualifying breeding dogs shall receive the WDF-system gold breeding designation on the genealogical certificates of their offspring, where this designation is provided for by the relevant registration procedure.

2. In addition, a Morphological Evaluation Form or Certificate shall be required to establish phenotypic conformity with the applicable WDF breed standard before the dog is declared eligible for breeding.

3. Where a dog was bred before completion of the above checks, the missing checks must be completed before the litter is declared or registered, without prejudice to any stricter requirements under paragraphs 9-12 below or applicable national law.

4. Dogs declared unsuitable for breeding shall be marked NFB (Not For Breeding) in the relevant register and shall not be eligible to produce offspring for which genealogical certificates are issued under these Regulations.

5. If a breeder holding a registered kennel name breeds dogs without the required breeding-suitability certificate, the National Kennel Club may withdraw the kennel-name entitlement and apply the measures prescribed in its Disciplinary Regulations and applicable WDF rules.

6. Breed-specialist associations shall submit their proposed selection objectives, criteria and admission requirements for natural breeding or artificial insemination to the competent CTC for approval under the WDF framework.

7. The National Kennel Club shall collect and maintain the morphological, functional, genetic and genealogical data concerning registered dogs in accordance with the applicable WDF system.

8. Breed-specialist associations shall submit proposed additional breeding checks, beyond standard checks, to the competent CTC for approval.

Additional phenotypic assessment requirements (consolidated provision)

9. In addition to existing breeding-suitability checks, including veterinary examinations, prescribed tests and biological sample collection and deposit, every breeding dog must have a phenotypic assessment certificate signed by a qualified Expert Judge stating its conformity with the applicable WDF breed standard.

10. The certificate shall record an objective morphological assessment of at least “Good”. The assessment may be conducted at a WDF-recognised cynotechnical event or in another setting authorised by the competent National Kennel Club.

11. Without the required certificate, the dog shall not be authorised for breeding under these Regulations, and offspring produced through its use shall not be eligible for litter registration until the relevant provisions have been fulfilled in accordance with the applicable rules.

12. These additional requirements derive from a technical supplement dated 29 January 2025, which expressly prohibited retroactive application. In a new member-country implementation, the relevant effective date shall be established by the competent adopting authority; application shall be prospective and shall not retrospectively invalidate prior registrations solely by reason of this international consolidation.

SECTION VI — DISCLOSURE OF GENEALOGICAL REGISTRY DATA

Article 10 | Disclosure of information

1. Each National Kennel Club shall make accessible, including electronically, only such information concerning registered dogs as may be lawfully disclosed under the applicable data-protection and privacy laws of its jurisdiction, including the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) where applicable. Such information may relate to identification and morphological, functional, genetic, genealogical and health characteristics, subject to the appropriate legal basis and access limitations.

2. Registers, certificates, forms and other official documents issued by a duly authorised National Kennel Club under the WDF framework shall be recognised within the WDF system in accordance with the applicable membership and registration rules.

3. Unauthorised removal, alteration, forgery, falsification or misuse of official documents, registry records or protected marks of a National Kennel Club or WDF shall be handled under the relevant disciplinary procedures and applicable national law.

SECTION VII — TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP AND DATABASE

Article 11 | Transfer of ownership

1. The transfer of a registered dog from the breeder or current owner to another owner shall be reported by the transferor and/or the new owner to the competent National Kennel Club Registry Office within 30 days after the transfer. The notification may be submitted electronically through an approved procedure and shall be confirmed by the transferor and new owner in accordance with the law of the country concerned. It shall contain:

a) Identification of the National Kennel Club or Registry Office recording the transfer.

b) Dog's recognised registration number.

c) Dog’s microchip code.

d) Full name, address and identification or tax details of the transferring owner, insofar as legally required.

e) Full name, address and identification or tax details of the new owner, insofar as legally required.

f) Date of transfer of the dog.

g) Date on which the transfer was recorded by the National Kennel Club.

The competent National Kennel Club Registry Office shall record the transfer, and confirmation may be made available electronically subject to privacy and access rules.

2. The death, theft or disappearance of a dog registered in a National Kennel Club Register shall also be reported to that Club or its authorised Registry Office within 30 days of the event.

Article 12 | National registry database

1. Each National Kennel Club shall maintain or use an authorised database containing the necessary information about its registered breeders, owners and dogs, interoperable with the WDF registration framework where authorised.

2. Data shall be supplied by the National Kennel Club, its authorised territorial offices and specialist judges or experts through:

a) Mating, birth and litter-registration notifications entered by breeders or owners and transmitted to the competent National Kennel Club Registry Office, including through an approved digital system.

b) Transfers of ownership.

c) Morphological, aptitude and working evaluation forms prepared by competent experts.

d) Hereditary-disease testing.

e) DNA analysis.

f) Other forms and computerised procedures authorised by the National Kennel Club and compatible with applicable WDF rules.

3. The information held in the database enables:

a) Electronic administration and maintenance of the Breeder Register and the National Kennel Club Registers.

b) Issuance of official certificates: genealogical certificates and parentage certificates.

c) Issuance of administrative forms, lists, reports and other authorised records in the forms established by the National Kennel Club under the WDF framework.

SECTION VIII — TRANSITIONAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 13 | Transitional and final provisions

1. The applicable breed standards are those issued or adopted by WDF in its recognised official languages and shall remain effective until amended through the competent WDF procedure.

2. Existing zootechnical assessment procedures of a National Kennel Club may remain in force upon adoption of these Regulations, to the extent compatible with them, until superseded by authorised provisions based on the opinion of the competent CTC.

3. These internationally adapted Technical Regulations shall take effect within the WDF system only upon adoption and publication by the competent WDF authority and, where national implementation is required, upon adoption by the relevant National Kennel Club. No adoption date is presumed by the designation '2026 Edition'.

4. Amendments to these Technical Regulations shall be adopted through the competent WDF procedure. National Kennel Clubs may adopt supplementary implementing measures, subject to WDF rules and mandatory national law, with effect from the date specified in the relevant decision.

ANNEX A — WDF BREEDERS' CODE OF ETHICS

Preamble

Breeding and selection of dogs entail ethical responsibilities requiring serious and honest management. Breeders entered in the register of a WDF-affiliated National Kennel Club shall comply with the following Code of Ethics.

Breeding Conditions

1. Keep dogs in the best possible welfare and health conditions, providing appropriate care, cleanliness, hygiene, physical exercise and contact with people.

2. Comply with all applicable animal-welfare legislation.

Selection

3. Commit to developing knowledge of the breed, its morphological standard, health issues and behavioural and functional characteristics, so as to interpret breeding objectives correctly.

4. Select with the aim of improving breed quality in accordance with the official WDF breed standard.

5. Do not act as a nominee or intermediary to obtain improper registration of breeding dogs or litters with a National Kennel Club.

6. Comply with the regulations of WDF, the relevant National Kennel Club and the breed organisations recognised by it.

7. Breed only dogs holding a genealogical certificate recognised by WDF.

8. Do not sell dogs that are not registered with the National Kennel Club unless they are accompanied by a valid genealogical certificate (pedigree).

9. Breed healthy dogs, free from manifest diseases or impairments affecting normal functionality and from identified hereditary disorders.

10. Before mating, make available the diagnostic results relating to hereditary disorders to the owner of the sire or dam whose breeding services are requested.

11. Do not breed females that are too young (never before the second heat) or too old. After seven years of age, obtaining a veterinary certificate of breeding fitness is advisable.

12. For breeds requiring behavioural tests, make evaluation results available before mating.

13. Collect and record breeding data accurately.

Reproduction

14. Avoid breeding dogs with deviant behavioural reactions, such as excessive fear or aggression.

15. For the protection of her welfare, it is advisable that a breeding female should not produce more than five litters during her lifetime.

Advertising and Trade

16. Do not habitually trade in dogs that the breeder has not bred.

17. Provide truthful and complete information about dogs from the breeder's kennel.

18. Advertise the breeding establishment and its dogs honestly and truthfully.

19. Do not offer dogs for sale by mail order or as prizes in competitions or lotteries.

20. Do not deliver puppies before they are 60 days old.

21. Ensure that the purchaser understands the responsibilities of keeping a dog and is aware of the breed's morphological and behavioural characteristics.

22. Preferably in writing, inform the purchaser about the dog's genealogy, previous diet, antiparasitic treatments and vaccinations, and provide guidance and advice on appropriate socialisation.

23. Always transfer puppies with a sales contract clearly specifying:

a) The puppy's health condition.
b) The intended purpose of the puppy.
c) The puppy's health guarantee.
d) The documents provided with the puppy at handover.

ANNEX B — EDITORIAL AND IMPLEMENTATION STATUS

Nature of this international edition

This consolidated international text is derived from the technical regulations governing purebred dog breeding, their annexed 23-point Breeders' Code of Ethics, and a subsequent supplement concerning phenotypic eligibility for breeding dated 29 January 2025. For international implementation, references to the original national institution, its geographic jurisdiction, country-specific legislation and administrative bodies have been replaced by references to WDF, the competent National Kennel Club, its Registry Office and applicable local law.

The technical obligations retained from the source provisions include the two-breeding-female admission criterion, the 16-month lower breeding-age threshold for dams, restrictions on close inbreeding, the 220-day interval between litters, the 30-day birth notification, the 60-day identification and minimum transfer age, the 100-day litter notification, mandatory biological sampling, veterinary and phenotypic assessment requirements, and the 23 ethical obligations.

Temporal application and approvals

The original supplement was expressly prospective, not retroactive. This edition does not assert that the WDF adopted an international regulation on any historical source date. The competent WDF and National Kennel Club authorities shall specify any formal approval, publication, national implementation date, and transitional measures. Where a mandatory national rule imposes a more protective or different legal requirement, that law takes precedence.

Administrative adoption record (to be completed by the competent body)

WDF APPROVAL	_____
APPROVAL DATE	_____
NATIONAL CLUB	_____
NATIONAL EFFECTIVE DATE	_____

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