

THE DOBERMANN CLUB OF NSW INC.

Affiliated with DogsNSW and National Dobermann Council (Australia)



Code of Ethics

1. Each member, upon signing an application for membership or renewal of membership of The Dobermann Club of NSW Inc. and being duly elected to general membership of the Club, shall, in addition to agreeing to be bound by the Constitution, Rules and Regulations of the RNSWCC be also bound by the Dobermann Club of NSW Inc's Code of Ethics relating to responsible dog ownership, including the keeping, welfare, breeding, selling and disposing of dogs by members to the effect of the terms and conditions set out hereunder.
2. **GENERAL / HEALTH**
I shall ensure that all times all dogs under my control are properly housed, fed, watered, exercised and receive proper Veterinary attention, if and when required.
3. I shall not allow any dogs under my care to roam at large and when away from home ensure that they are kept fully leashed, or under effective control, at all times.
4. **BREEDING**
The owner of the stud must use discretion in contracting the services of their dog and should discourage the breeding of an inferior quality bitch and explain why. They should also ascertain that the owner of the bitch has facilities and knowledge to care for the puppies for up to 3 months or longer.
5. I shall not breed from any bitch before it is 18 months of age or 3rd season and thereafter not more than once in each succeeding period of 12 months. Provided however, that should it be necessary, through extenuating circumstances to breed from a bitch twice within twelve months, I shall rest the bitch on the 3rd season.
6. I shall keep accurate breeding records of matings and pedigrees.
7. I shall not permit any of my pure bred dogs to be mated to a dog of a different breed, to a cross bred dog, or to an unregistered dog of the same breed.
8. I shall breed only for the purpose of improving the standard of the breed, and not for the pet market or any other commercial purpose.
9. I shall ensure that all breeding stock is in good health, physically, temperamentally sound and free from major faults and communicable diseases. Refer to guidelines on Best Breeding practices for Von Willebrands Disease and DCM 1 & 2 on the following pages.
10. **ADVERTISING/SELLING**
I shall not sell or otherwise transfer from my care any puppy under 8 weeks of age, thus allowing for vaccinations to be given at 6 weeks of age, and the necessary 10 to 14 days for the vaccine to take effect.
11. I shall not sell any dog to commercial dog wholesalers, retail pet dealers, or directly or indirectly allow a dog to be given as a prize or donation in a context of any kind.
12. I shall not knowingly misrepresent the characteristics of the breed, nor falsely advertise, or mislead any person regarding the performance of any dog.
13. I shall furnish the buyer a Certificate of Vaccination, a record of worming, a feeding chart and as much knowledge as possible concerning care, stages of Dobermann growth and dietary requirements.
14. I shall continue to offer helpful assistance to the buyer for as long as such aid is required.
15. **EXHIBITING/CONDUCT**
Advertising and promotion, written or oral, shall be confined to the aspects of the breeder's stock, and shall not make derogatory remarks or hints concerning the methods, animals or reputations of other breeders.
16. I shall at all times conduct myself in a manner which will reflect credit upon the breed and the Club.
17. **INFRINGEMENTS**
Infringement of the Code by any member will be subject to disciplinary action as per rule 18 to 23 inclusive of the constitution for affiliates.
18. The individual who wishes to bring charges against a member need not be a member of the Club. All Charges must be submitted in writing with a \$20.00 deposit. Should the charges be proved false, the deposit is forfeited.

This Copy is to be retained by the Club Member and your signature of acceptance is provided on your membership application or renewal form.

Von Willebrands Disease (refer to Point 9 on Code of Ethics)

Best Breeding Practice for vWD (types 1 and 2)

Introduction – Von Willebrands disease is a coagulation deficiency that affects the blood's own natural clotting rate. Coagulation deficiencies occur in the absence of one or more known **clotting factors** (specialized serum proteins), resulting in the failure to form a fibrin clot – a simple process that protects all organs, tissues and fine capillaries in the body from constant slow blood loss, and is therefore necessary for survival. Dogs adversely affected by this inherited defect are lacking in von Willebrands factor and typically show signs of bleeding from the gums, bruising of other soft tissues and prolonged slow blood loss from even minor cuts. An animal patient suffering from even a mild clotting deficiency makes any surgery (even desexing) a high-risk procedure.

Type 1 vWD is considered mild, because while **plasma vWD concentration is low the vWF multimer concentration remains normal**. This type of vWD is due to an autosomal recessive, a splice-site mutation that cripples the gene to about 5-10% of its normal function, which explains why the disease is much milder in type 1 vWD. This is the mutation known to occur in Doberman Pinschers, Manchester Terriers, Pembroke Welsh Corgis and Poodles (all varieties). Where the condition is known to be present in existing bloodlines, the following breeding restrictions apply.

Type 2 vWD is considered rare. This type has **low vWD concentration and high vWF multimer concentration, i.e. abnormal vWF as opposed to low levels of normal vWF**. The effect of the mutation is to cancel the function controlled by normal genes. This mutation has been described in German Shorthaired Pointers and German Wirehaired Pointers. While not known to be present in most Australian lines of these breeds, where the condition is known to be present, the following breeding restrictions would apply.

Both Type 1 vWD and Type 2vWD result in variable bleeding tendencies. Dogs that are *adversely affected* by the disease (i.e. show bleeding episodes) **should not be bred from**.

vWD affected animals (confirmed homozygous affected on DNA test) but not exhibiting any bleeding tendencies can be bred from with care. Any progeny retained for breeding purposes should also be DNA tested.

Breeds affected: Type 1 vWD occurs in Doberman Pinschers, Manchester Terriers, Pembroke Welsh Corgis and Poodles (all varieties). Type 2 vWD has been described in German Shorthaired and German Wirehaired Pointers.

Any national litter registration restrictions to be applied in this or any other similarly affected breed would need to be deliberated by the relevant breed clubs before the ANKC is asked to conduct an appropriate breed survey.

The following breeding advice is offered in relation to **vWD (types 1 and 2)**:

- Before a mating is agreed and assuming no prior test results are available, designated samples (blood or cheek swabs) from both mating partners should be submitted for DNA testing through an approved laboratory, with identities of each confirmed by microchip against the registration records. **An exception** arises when frozen semen is to be used, from a sire that is deceased, overseas or otherwise unable to be sampled.
- Ideally, at least one parent of every litter should be DNA Clear for vWD by testing or by parentage.
- Any DNA tested vWD Affected animal should ideally be mated only to a homozygous unaffected (DNA Clear) normal partner.
- Acceptable matings for vWD are DNA **Clear/Clear, Clear/Carrier, Clear/Affected, Carrier to Carrier**.
- **Carrier to Carrier** matings are permitted but all progeny should be DNA tested before sale. Any *adversely affected* individuals should be euthanased, or if kept alive, desexed before sale and new owners must be informed of the genetic status of the individual.

- **Affected to affected** is permitted where neither parent is adversely affected. All progeny should ideally be DNA tested prior to sale. Any *adversely affected* animals should be euthanased, or if kept alive, desexed prior to sale. New owners must be fully informed of the animal's condition and the animal should be under veterinary care.
- Ideally any animal (adult or juvenile) that is retained for breeding purposes should be DNA tested to determine its actual vWD status.

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The above was prepared by Karen Hedberg on behalf of the ANKC Canine Health Committee and has been used to formulate proposed breeding guidelines for the Dobermann Club of NSW.

The following guidelines are offered in relation to **vWD (types 1 and 2)**:

- Before a mating is agreed and assuming no prior test results are available, designated samples (blood or cheek swabs) from both mating partners should be submitted for DNA testing through an approved laboratory, with identities of each confirmed by microchip against the registration records.
- Ideally, at least one parent of every litter should be DNA Clear for vWD by testing or by parentage.
- Recommended matings for vWD are DNA
 - Clear/Clear,**
 - Clear/Carrier,**
 - Clear/Affected,**
 - Carrier/Carrier.**
 - Clear/Clear – all offspring are guaranteed Clear by parentage, and documentation to this effect should be provided to the new owners.
 - Clear/Carrier – progeny can be a mixture of Clear and Carrier and should be DNA tested prior to sale and Certification of their DNA vWD status provided to new owners.
 - Clear/Affected – all offspring are guaranteed Carrier by parentage, and documentation to this effect should be provided to the new owners
 - Carrier/Carrier - progeny can be a mixture of Clear, Carrier & Affected individuals. Matings are acceptable but all progeny should be DNA tested prior to sale and Certification of their DNA vWD status provided to new owners.

However other combinations are acceptable providing due care and responsibility are exercised by the breeder. In these, all offspring should be DNA tested prior to sale and Certification of their DNA vWD status provided to new owners.

- Carrier/Affected – progeny will be a mixture of Carrier and Affected individuals and should be DNA tested prior to sale and Certification of their DNA vWD status provided to new owners.
- Affected/Affected is acceptable where neither parent is adversely affected. In this case all progeny will be vWD Affected by parentage, and new owners must be fully informed of the genetic status of the individual
- Ideally any animal (adult or juvenile) that is retained for breeding purposes should be DNA tested to determine its actual vWD status.

It is recommended that animals who are adversely affected and have been demonstrated to be at risk should not be used in any breeding program. As this is usually not evident until a bleeding incident actually occurs, breeders should recommend that all new owners of DNA Affected animals make sure their vet is aware of the animal's status.

Guidelines on Best Breeding Practices for Dilated Cardiomyopathy in Dobermanns (refer to Point 9 on Code of Ethics)

Preamble

Dilated cardiomyopathy (DCM) is perhaps the most pressing heritable disease in the Dobermann breed requiring awareness and action by breeders. Dilated cardiomyopathy is a complex, polygenic disease with various genetic, environmental and individual factors that likely contribute to its development. Thankfully, breeders have access to a range of diagnostic and screening tools that can allow us to monitor and be aware of the development of DCM in our breeding dogs, and genetic testing that allows us to appreciate the risk of a dog developing DCM and the probability of them passing these disease-associated alleles onto their progeny.

It is imperative for the preservation and genetic stewardship of the Dobermann breed that breeders are aware of DCM and other heritable health problems for which Dobermanns are predisposed, and take action in their breeding choices to attempt to minimise the incidence of DCM in future generations.

General Principles

- Dobermann breeders should have an understanding of the disease process of dilated cardiomyopathy and the signs that may be observed in a dog with cardiac disease.
- Breeders should be actively engaged with developments in research into DCM and new genetic testing or screening modalities that may become available.
- Breeders should keep thorough and accurate pedigree records, including the cause and age of death and genetic testing results of dogs in the pedigree where known.

Genetic Testing

- Dobermann breeders should test all breeding dogs for DCM1 and DCM2 prior to breeding, and take these results into account when making decisions regarding selection of mates. Ideally, any dog that is positive heterozygous or positive homozygous for either DCM1 or DCM2, or both, should be bred to a dog that is negative for both DCM1 and DCM2.
- Where an entire sibling is available that has lower risk DCM1 and DCM2 test results, and is of similar or equal merit in other areas (such as conformation and temperament), preference should be given to breeding from the sibling with lower risk test results.
- Puppies resulting from a mating where one or both parents were DCM1 and/or DCM2 positive should be tested for DCM1 and DCM2. When making decisions regarding puppies to retain for future breeding, the breeder should ideally give preference to puppies that test negative. Breeders must of course balance this in consideration of other breeding objectives such as conformation, temperament and overall soundness.

- Owners of male dogs available at stud to other breeders should make the DCM1 and DCM2 results of their dog available to the owners of any bitch seeking to use their dog at stud. The owner of the bitch should also make the DCM1 and DCM2 results of the bitch known to the stud dog owner.

Screening of Breeding Dogs for DCM

- Any entire dog utilised for breeding should be screened for DCM, commencing at 3 years of age.
- A 24hr ECG via a Holter monitor should ideally be performed annually to check for ventricular premature complexes (VPCs) and other electrocardiogram abnormalities that may be suggestive of cardiac disease.
- An annual echocardiogram performed by a registered veterinary cardiologist for assessment of the architecture of the heart and adnexa should also be completed.
- Ancillary tests, including biomarkers such as NT-proBNP and Troponin I, may be utilised by breeders in addition to echocardiography and Holter monitoring.
- Results of DCM screening tests should be considered carefully by the breeder, with respect to possible therapeutic interventions and the dog's future use for breeding, in consultation with a veterinary cardiologist.

The above information was provided with the assistance of Dr Niek Beijerink DVM PhD Dipl.ECVIM-CA (Cardiology) Associate Professor/ Clinical Cardiologist, The University of Sydney, Faculty of Science, Sydney School of Veterinary Science.

Further Reading

Wess, G., Domenech, O., Dukes-McEwen, J., Haggstrom, J., & Gordon, S. 2017. European Society of Veterinary Cardiology screening guidelines for dilated cardiomyopathy in Doberman Pinschers. *Journal of Veterinary Cardiology*, 19, 405-415.