

Rosewood Kennels is committed to following the breeding regulations set forth by the Dutch Kennel Club as much as is practical, given the distance of The Netherlands and the relative obscurity of the breed in the US. We regret that at this point we do not show our dogs, and therefore we can not comply with Article 3.2.a.

## **Vereniging 'Het Nederlandse Kooikerhondje' (VHNK) Dutch Kooikerhondje Club**

### **Breeding Rules 1998**

Approved on May 9th 1998 at De Meern  
Changed on April 12th 2003 at De Meern

#### **Article 1 - used definitions**

**a. cataract**

cataract, as described in the appendix;

**b. Supervisory Committee**

the committee which has been appointed to supervise the enforcement of the rules;

**c. carrier VWD**

animals with offspring that have VWD, or animals that are themselves offspring of a sufferer of VWD, or animals who are according to an DNA-test carrier of VWD;

**d. ENM**

Hereditary Necrotising Myelopathy as described in the appendix;

**e. epilepsy**

epilepsy as described in the appendix;

**f. epileptic attack**

epileptic attacks as described in the appendix;

**g. Committee of Information**

Committee of Information about breeding, soundness and behaviour which is appointed to take care and to maintain, collect and give information about the dogs;

**h. character test**

character test as described in the appendix;

**i. exterior-judging**

judgement of a dog by the Raad van Beheer for the kooikerhondje appointed judge made during a dog show by the VHNK organised exterior judging, or during a(n) (inter)national show;

**j. patella-luxation**

patella-luxation, as described in the appendix;

**k. raad van beheer**

Dutch Kennelclub, named Raad van Beheer op Kynologisch Gebied in Nederland;

**l. height**

The height determined according to the procedure that is approved by the General meeting;

**m. VWD**

'von Willebrand's disease' as described in the appendix;

**n. eyetest**

a test to see if an animal has hereditary eye problems by an eye test by the Royal Dutch Veterinarian Society recognized eyespecialist. The investigation may take place from the age of 12 months and stays valid for 24 months;

**o. kneetest**

a test for patella-luxation as mentioned in the appendix by an eye test by the Royal Dutch Veterinarian Society recognised orthopaedic specialist. This investigation may take place when the animal is at least 12 months old. For the value from the knees we follow the qualification rules these veterinarians agreed under themselves.

#### **article 2- Introduction**

**2.1.** The Breeding Rules is a set of regulations as mentioned in article 18 from the Statutes of the VHNK.

**2.2.** The Breeding Rules aims at the realisation of the purpose of the VHNK noted in article 3.1. of the Statutes.

**2.3.** Therefore rules for good breeding have been drawn up which can be found in the following articles.

**2.4.** An appendix is added to these rules, containing the definitions of the illnesses mentioned, a description of the character and the character test as will be used by the VHNK.

[http://www.kooikerhondje.nl/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=61&Itemid=73&lang=en](http://www.kooikerhondje.nl/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=61&Itemid=73&lang=en)

**2.5.** There is a Committee of Information. The task for this committee has been decided by the General Meeting of the VHNK. Breeders and owners of kooikerhondjes are expected to co-operative with this committee, and use the knowledge gathered by this committee and add to the knowledge of this committee of their own accord. This co-operative attitude will have to work both ways.

**2.6.** There is a Supervisory Committee. The task for this committee has been decided by the General Meeting of the VHNK.

### **Article 3 -Breeding regulations**

The breeding is correct if the following rules are abided.

#### **3.1. General rules.**

- a. the dog is at least 15 months old at the time of mating;
- b. the bitch is at least 18 months old at the time of mating;
- c. the bitch may be mated before she reaches the age of 9 years if she has had a litter before, if not, she may be mated until the age of 6 years;
- d. the bitch may not be mated within 10 months after the birth of a litter;
- e. the dog may have 3 litters a year, and not more than 15 litters in all;
- f. the combination of dog and bitch has not produced more than 12 offspring from earlier matings;
- g. the dog and bitch are not closely related with each other like parent/child or (half)brother/(half)sister;
- h. bitch and dog are in good health at the time of mating;
- i. bitch and dog have been examined for VWD and were found "free" before mating;
- j. bitch and dog have a valid eyetest in which no hereditary eye problems have been found at the time of mating;
- k. bitch and dog have had a kneetest before mating.

#### **3.2. Rules regarding appearance.**

- a. both bitch and dog should have been judged at least two times with minimal the qualification Very Good by two different judges. At the time of the first judging the animal should be at least 9 months old and at the time of the second judging at least 12 months old.
- b. the breeder tries to breed to the ideal height from the breed; 40cm height for a dog and 38cm height for a bitch. Therefore it is recommended to breed with dogs with a height between 37 cm and 42 cm at the shoulder and with bitches with a height between 35 cm and 40 cm.

#### **3.3. Rules in relation with Hereditary Necrotising Myelopathy(ENM)**

- a. animals suffering from ENM and their direct offspring are excluded from breeding;
- b. parent dogs, who have direct offspring suffering from ENM are excluded from breeding;
- c. direct offspring of parents, as mentioned under b., are also excluded from breeding;
- d. it is safer not to use full brothers and full sisters from one of the parent dogs, as mentioned under b., for breeding.

#### **3.4. Rules in relation with epilepsy.**

- a. sufferers from epilepsy and their direct offspring are excluded from breeding;
- b. parent dogs, who have two or more direct offspring in which epileptiform attacks have been observed are excluded from breeding;
- c. direct offspring from the same combination of parent dogs, like mentioned under b., are also excluded from breeding;
- d. it is safer not to use direct offspring of one of the parent dogs, full brothers and full sisters, as mentioned under b., for breeding.

#### **3.5. Rules in relation with cataract.**

- a. sufferers from cataract and their direct offspring are excluded from breeding;
- b. parent dogs, who have direct offspring that suffer from cataract are excluded from breeding;
- c. direct offspring from the same combination of parent dogs, as mentioned under b, are to be declared 'cataract-free' by a veterinarian eye-specialist, approved by the W.K. Hirschfeld Foundation, before they may be used for breeding.

#### **3.6. Rules in relation with von Willebrand disease (VWD).**

- a. sufferers from VWD and their direct offspring are excluded from breeding;
- b. parent dogs, who have direct offspring that suffer from VWD are excluded from breeding;
- c. dogs who are carriers of VWD according to an examination are excluded from breeding.

#### **3.7. Rules in relation with patella-luxation (PL)**

- a. dogs that suffer from clinical complaints from patella-luxation, or have been operated for PL, are excluded from breeding;
- b. dogs with a kneetest qualification patella-luxation grad 2 are excluded from breeding;
- c. the combination of parent dogs may not be repeated if they have direct offspring that suffer from PL like mentioned under a, b or have a qualification patella-luxation grad 1;
- d. dogs with patella-luxation grad 1 may be used for breeding if they are mated to a dog that has very good knees, not even loose ones.

### **3.8. Rules in relation with the character.**

- a. dogs that have a character defect, as described in the appendix, are excluded from breeding;
- b. to get a picture from the character of the parent dogs they can be tested. This test may take place when the animal is at least 12 months old;
- c. this test will be operational after the General Meeting have approved of the character test developed by the VHNK.

### **3.9. Rules for using dogs outside the Netherlands.**

Beside mentioned under 3.1.e an in the Netherlands registered dog not give have more than five litters outside of The Netherlands, with a maximum from two litters pro country.

## **Article 4. - What may be expected from a breeder**

### **4.1. From the breeder is expected that:**

- a. the puppies have received the for their age normal vaccinations, according to general veterinarian views;
- b. the puppies are not to be handed over to their new owners before they have been chipped by the Dutch Kennelclub, and are at least 7 weeks old;
- c. he will give the new owner information about the origin of the puppies and the possible hereditary diseases/disabilities which could play a part in the bred litter. It must be made known if he has used dogs as mentioned in articles 3.3 d and 3.4 d;
- d. he has to tell the new owner the disabilities he known to him, regarding the puppies health, character and breeding rules.

### **4.2. Moreover the breeder is expected to take good care of the bred dogs until they are handed over to the new owner. This includes:**

- a. socialising the pups, in an enriched environment, preferably a family;
- b. deworming in time;
- c. advising the owner about socialising and raising the pup;
- d. advising the owner about feeding the pup;
- e. in principle the breeder only hands over a healthy pup.

### **4.3. The puppies are suggested:**

- a. to undergo a behaviour test
- b. a. will go into operation as soon as the General Meeting has approved of a puppy behaviour test that has been developed by the VHNK.

### **4.4. The breeder is most urgently advised to use a written sales agreement.**

## **Article 5. - Rights and obligations of the breeder in relation to the VHNK regarding breeding**

### **5.1. Breeders who are a member of the VHNK and follow the rules for breeding as mentioned in articles 3 and 4 of this regulation are entitled to:**

- a. information about health, character and appearance of his breeding products;
- b. information about health, character and appearance of other koikerhondjes as described in the "clubregister";
- c. information about possible suitable breeding combinations for him;
- d. stocktaking of litters;
- e. mentioning of litters on the puppy informationlist.

### **5.2. To obtain the above-mentioned the breeder can apply to the secretary of the information committee.**

### **5.3. Breeders who are a member of the VHNK have to inform the VHNK about all the litters they breed. This has to be done to the secretary of the Supervisory Committee within one week after birth. However the planned litter may already be announced immediately after the mating.**

### **5.4. The breeder can make use of the special form that the VHNK has available. The breeder has to give all the data as far as this information is not already in possession of the VHNK. Checking the data will take place, in advance as much as possible.**

### **5.5. A breeder who is member of the VHNK has donate, a by the board to decide amount of money to the VHNK, for each bred, chipped in the name of the Dutch Kennelclub.**

### **5.6. If a breeder, who is a member of the VHNK, does not follow the necessary rules mentioned in article 3 (excluding 3.3.d, 3.4.d and 3.7.d and 4 and what is decided in article 5.5 ) he can no longer apply for the benefits of article 5.1.d and 5.1.e of this regulation.**

### **5.7. Breeders who are not a member of the VHNK can use the facilities mentioned under article 5.1.a en 5.1.b for a fee.**

## **Article 6 – Sanctions**

### **6.1. If a breeder and/or the owner of a stud-dog who is a member of the VHNK , do not follow the necessary rules mentioned in article 3 –(excluding 3.3.d, 3.4.d - and 4) of the regulation this will be a violation of the rules. The breeder will automatically lose his rights mentioned under article 5.1.d and 5.1.e of this regulation.**

### **6.2. By violation of one or more rules, as meant in article 3.1, 3.2 and 4 of this regulation, the board of the VHNK will first make contact with the one concerned. The breeder and/or stud-dog-owner will be asked for his motives.**

[http://www.koikerhondje.nl/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=61&Itemid=73&lang=en](http://www.koikerhondje.nl/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=61&Itemid=73&lang=en)

If the violation is repeated the board will publish this in the clubmagazine of the VHNK. If a member repeatedly breaks the rules from article 3.1, 3.2 and 4 the board of the VHNK has the right to cancel membership in accordance with article 6, section 1.c of the Statutes;

**6.3.** If dogs that are excluded from breeding on grounds of the articles 3.3 to 3.8 of this regulation have been used for breeding, an official "boardannouncement" has to be made in the clubmagazine and membership of the VHNK can be cancelled in accordance with article 6 section 1.d of the Statutes. Before a boardannouncement has been made, the breeder and/or the stud-dog-owner will be given the possibility to explain why he has used these dogs.

### **Article 7 – Dispensation**

If application of the rules of this regulation might be definitely unreasonable, or lead to disadvantage for de one concerned, the board can, under a written motivation, give dispensation of articles 3.1, 3.2 and 4 of this regulation.

### **Article 8 - Changing this regulation**

This regulation can only be changed in a General Meeting with a majority of votes.

### **Article 9 –Final clause**

**9.1.** In cases in which this regulation does not apply or by a difference of opinion regarding the application of it, the board can decide, in case of urgency. In other cases the General Meeting decides.

**9.2.** Against a decision as mentioned in article 9.1 of this regulation the accused can appeal at the Arbitration board of the VHNK.

### **Article 10- Transitional Regulations**

**10.1.** For article 3.1.i the following transitional regulations apply:

- until May 1st, 1999 it is allowed to breed with dogs which have a VWD-Elisa above 80% ;

- for litters that have been born before August 1st, 1998 in which after the mating one of the parent dogs proved to be carrier of VWD, or was bred of a parent dog that had a VWD-Elisa below 80%, the breeder is expected not to hand over the puppies to their new owner until they have been tested for VWD.

**10.2.** The height in article 3.2.b. is valid for dogs born after June 30th, 1997.

**10.3.** Article 9.2 shall be valid when the regulation for the Arbitration Board has been proved by the General Meeting. Until that time the ad-hoc Arbitration Board will take care of these cases;

**10.4** Article 3.2 is valid for animals born after December 31, 2002. Animals born before that date should have been judged at least twice by two different judges, of which one may be regional at the most. At the time of the first judging the animal should be at least 9 months old and at the time of the second judging at least 12 months old. A judging is valid if it is performed during a by the VHNK organised regional exterior judging or (champion) clubmatch, or during a(n) (inter)national show in the Netherlands by an by the Raad van Beheer for the koikerhondje appointed judge.

Approved by the General Meeting on May 9th 1998 at De Meern.  
Changed by the General Meeting on April 12th 2003 at De Meern

### **Hereditary Necrotising Myelopathy**

We can speak of Hereditary Necrotising Myelopathy, also known under the names ENM, Kooikerparalasetion and leucodystrofy, if the dog, according to a veterinarian suffers from the clinical picture of ENM, as described in the article Hereditary Necrotising Myelopathy in Kooiker dogs (Mandigers PJJ et. al., Research in Veterinary Science 1994:54, 118-123) unless section, done by an institute approved by the Dutch Government, proves the opposite.

### **Epilepsy**

We can speak of hereditary epilepsy, also known as 'real' or idiopathic (idiopathic the course of the dysfunction is unknown) epilepsy, if the dog has had two or more epileptic attacks.

Generally spoken there is a case of (hereditary) epilepsy if there are attacks and the dog, loses consciousness for a short or longer period, the dog need not necessarily be lying down, he may also lose control over his urination and/or defecation. He may also have involuntary spasms of the legs and head. These attacks will occur in either sex, between the age of six months and six years. The VHNK is of the opinion that there is no case of hereditary epilepsy if, an independent veterinarian investigation proves that it is a case of un-real, so called secondary form of epilepsy which is not hereditary. The owner of the dog that is suffering from epilepsy has to take the necessary steps to prove this.

### **Cataract**

There is a case of hereditary cataract, also called green cataract or an abnormal cloudiness of the lens, if this is concluded by a veterinary eye specialist appointed by the W.K. Hirschfeld Foundation.

### **Von Willebrand Disease**

We can speak of von Willebrand's disease (VWD), if the dog does not have the von Willebrand factor (vWf). This is proven if a bloodtest proves the vWf is lower than 3% or by a DNA-test which concludes that the dog is a sufferer. These examinations should take place according to the method that is used by the haematological or biochemical laboratories of the University clinic for Pets in Utrecht (Netherlands).

It is also possible to find out if a kooikerhondje is a 'carrier' of VWD or if he is 'free' from this illness by means of the DNA test.

### **Patella-luxation**

We can speak of clinical complaints of patella-luxation if a veterinarian comes to this conclusion on the base of anamnesis and if this is concluded after a clinical examination. Patella-luxation means the abnormal inward or outward moving of the knee. (Slipping Patella)

### **Behaviour**

The character from the Kooikerhondje is described as follows:

The Dutch Kooikerhondje has an attractive, friendly appearance. But there is a lot of temperament in this breed. For the original work in the duck-decoy steady, self-assured behaviour was a must since the ducks were lured and not chased. The dog worked with a waiving bushy tail, a sign of sufficient confidence. He had to walk calmly alongside and between the fences from the 'Decoy', so the dog could be seen clearly in several different places for a short time by the ducks. This stimulated the curiosity of the ducks, who were lured by this and followed swimming further and further into the catch-pipe and finally into the trap, where they could be caught by the decoy-man (kooiker). At the end the ducks went "de pijp uit" ("out of the pipe" a rude Dutch expression for to die). They were either killed for consumption or ringed for ornithological research.

Outside the huntingseason the dog had to destroy vermin. For which a certain fierceness, rapidity and hardness was required. The co-operation with the decoy-man for all the work in the decoy was a must. Hence the attentive attitude and the will to please. The work demanded perseverance and stamina as well.

Today's Kooikerhondje should still have all these necessary qualities. Aggression caused by fear or overly dominant behaviour towards people and dogs is definitely undesirable. The dog should go free and fearless around the showing with sufficient confidence to allow himself to be handled by the judge with friendliness and indifference. Ducking away and/or lunging indicate fear and is a obviously undesirable behaviour.

We can speak of deviant behaviour if the animal shows abnormal fear and/or aggression. The VHNK is of the opinion that in principle every owner/breeder can ascertain this as far as breeding concerned. So the VHNK trusts the judgement of the owner/breeder. It is however possible to have the behaviour of the parent dogs tested. This can be done by the way of the behaviour test, which will be developed by the VHNK and carried out by a behaviour judge, who is recognised by the VHNK. This test can be done when the parent dogs are at least 12 months old.

The recommended puppy test has no consequences for breeding as yet. That test is initially intended to give the breeder and owner information about the character of the pup and to stimulate the breeder to decide which pup goes to which owner after this test.

## **APENDIX TO THE BREEDING RULES 1998**

Approved by the General Meeting on May 13th 2001 at Maarbergen.

The following rules were made to fulfil article 3.8, sub a. from the Breeding rules 1998

1. With the statement as mentioned in article 5, sub 3 from the Breeding rules 1998, the owner needs to hand over a declaration from the behaviour from bitch and dog showing that both animals don't have a deviant behaviour.
2. The owner can ask the Committee of Information for a declaration from the dog's behaviour.  
The Committee of Information looks at the behaviour the dog has shown during exterior-judgings on Dutch dogshows or judgings organised by the VHNK.  
The Committee of Information gives on that base a declaration if the behaviour is correct or not.
3. A declaration from 'good behaviour' is given if:
  - a. there are only two valid judgings and in none of them is made a negative remark on its behaviour.;
  - b. there are more than two- but not more than five judgings and in not more than one is made a negative remark on the behaviour;
  - c. there are more than five judgings and in not more than two is made a negative remark on the behaviour;
  - d. there are more than five judgings and in more than two is made a negative remark on its behaviour but the owner has two reports from two separate behaviourjudges from the Alpha Society (affiliated to the Dutch Kennelclub) that show that the dog has a sufficient stable behaviour
4. A negative remark on the behaviour, meant in article 3, is shown in the formulation like: dog can't be touched, afraid, attacking, biting, disqualification because of its behaviour, etc.
5. This regulation is valid for all dogs used for breeding since September 1st 2001.
6. On a request from the owner judgings dated before January 1st 2001 can be put aside if the animal has two valid judgings after January 1st 2001 that can be used instead.

© VHNK

VHNK/engfok2

19/5/2003