



Breeding Regulations

Effective June 28th 2016

Requirements for an Approved HCNA Breeder:

As a member in good standing of the Hovawart Club of North America (HCNA), whose stud or bitch is used for breeding, I shall adhere to the following requirements to receive the classification of “Approved HCNA Breeder”.

1. I will:

- a. preserve, protect and improve the breed in structure, health, temperament and working ability, never sacrificing one for the other.
- b. plan all litters in close cooperation with the HCNA Breeding Committee and only breed litters which have been approved by the HCNA Board of Directors.
- c. contribute to the improvement of the breed by considering individual positive features and concerns in the planning of all litters.
 - I will use background checks on the ancestors of the proposed bitch and sire to accomplish this (provided by the Breeding Committee).
 - I shall strive to keep the inbreeding coefficient of each litter as close to zero as possible but, in no case, shall the inbreeding coefficient exceed 6.25%.
- d. try to provide hip evaluations for at least 50% of the living offspring of the breeding stud and bitch from previous litters.
- e. collect from each puppy buyer a minimum of \$300 US for a hip x-ray deposit that is to be refunded to the buyer when the Breeding Committee receives the hip evaluation results from the OFA (or other official hip dysplasia registry). The Breeder will forward all collected deposits to the Treasurer of HCNA. The deposits will be entered in a special HCNA hip escrow bank account to ensure that the funds will be available when due for refund.
- f. cover the membership fee (individual membership) for the calendar year of the puppy’s birth. and encourage puppy buyers to continue being HCNA members after the complimentary year expires. I will forward to the Breeding Committee a valid membership application form for each puppy that includes the signature of the puppy buyer and a check for the appropriate membership fees for all the puppies.
- g. include a clause in the puppy buyer contract that I will be the first person to contact to help find a suitable new home, if the buyer is no longer in a position to care for the dog at anytime in its life. Re-homing can include taking the dog back into physical custody or finding suitable temporary foster care.

2. I will achieve the above objectives by breeding only:

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- a. dogs in overall good health.
- b. mature bitches that are at least 24 months of age and before their 9th birthday; and studs that are at least 24 months and before their 12th birthday (OFA will only certify dogs that are 24 months or older).
- c. females before their 6th birthday, if never bred before.
- d. dogs that have a valid HCNA, *Canadian Kennel Club (CKC)*, or *Fédération Cynologique Internationale (FCI)* registration. Unless the HCNA breeding committee can determine a dog's ancestry to the sixth generation, special dispensation will be needed to approve a breeding.
- e. dogs that have at least passed one HCNA Adult Temperament Test at a minimum age of 18 months. Temperament Tests from other Hovawart Clubs may be approved on a case-by-case basis. The HCNA Breeding Committee encourages passing more than one temperament test at a later age.
- f. dogs that have been presented at a minimum age of 18 months in at least one conformation show or breeding evaluation, which has been judged by an official FCI specialty Hovawart judge, confirmed by one of the IHF member Clubs or an authorized HCNA club official. The dog must have earned a "very good" or "excellent" certificate.
- g. dogs that have passed all required health tests, and I will ensure that all test results are made public on the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals (OFA) database, including both required and recommended (optional) tests. On the OFA application form, I will initial the "Authorization to Release Abnormal Results" box.
 - Dogs must receive certified OFA "excellent" or "good" hip ratings. "Fair" hip ratings will be accepted on a case-by-case basis.
 - X-rays submitted to the OFA must be taken on or after 18 months for studs and 24 months for bitches. A copy of the official HCNA and/or American Kennel Club – Foundation Stock Service (AKC-FSS) registration must be presented to the attending veterinarian to ensure that correct information is used for the evaluation. The veterinarian will need to check that the dog evaluated has the same microchip number as the one listed on the pedigree. I will use the dog's kennel name on OFA forms (not their call name). Substitutions for the OFA rating are acceptable from other official hip dysplasia registries if the dog rates the equivalent of OFA ratings. I will forward these results to the Breeding Committee
 - Dogs must have a full panel thyroid exam (T3, FT3, T4, FT4, TSH, TGAA) performed by one of the OFA recommended laboratories, for the initial evaluation. The OFA evaluation must be NORMAL. I will forward these results to the Breeding Committee. The latest evaluation must not be older than 12 months at the time of breeding. For subsequent evaluations, a standard thyroid test with only T4 and FT4 levels assessed as a follow up, would be sufficient.

- I recognize that the HCNA, in order to promote the healthiest of dogs, encourages having heart, eyes and elbows examined and evaluated by the OFA.

3. I will allow my bitch to rest for a minimum of 12 months between breedings (breeding day to breeding day), except that:

- a. The time between breedings must be at least 18 months if more than eight puppies were raised in the previous litter.
- b. It might be approved once in the life of a bitch to have less than 12 months between breedings, if recommended by the breeding committee and approved by the HCNA board.

4. I will not

- a. breed any stud or bitch that exhibits a disqualifying fault according to the Hovawart breed standard (FCI No. 190).
- b. breed a blond male to a blond female or a black male to a black female, unless I receive prior authorization on a case-by-case basis, in order to preserve the natural distribution of colors within our Hovawart population.
- c. rebreed the same stud and bitch, unless I receive prior authorization on a case-by-case basis, in order to preserve the genetic diversity of our Hovawart population.
- d. use a bitch for more than four litters. Additional litters may be approved on a case-by-case basis.
- e. use a stud that has already bred four or more times in order to prevent the “popular stud syndrome.” Additional litters may be approved on a case-by-case basis.
- f. use Artificial Insemination (AI) for the first breeding of my bitch.

5. With respect to puppies, I will

- a. inform the Breeding Committee and the stud owner of the results of the litter as soon as practical after all puppies are born.
- b. begin the first names of each puppy in a litter according to the same letter of the alphabet. The letter “A” will be assigned to the first litter, and then the next consecutive letter will be used for each litter thereafter, regardless of whether the same bitch is used.
- c. forward a copy of the completed *Notice of Birth* (Form # 6) to the Breeding Committee, including detailed information about any puppies that die or have to be put down.
- d. make a record of the date, time and weight at birth for each puppy, and continue to keep track of their weight for the next eight weeks on the *Puppy Journal* (Form # 5); as well as any distinguishing markings and identifier characteristics as the days progressed.
- e. have my veterinarian inspect the overall health of the puppies, noting any anatomical flaw or malformations *Litter Inspection* (Form # 7).

- f. refrain from removing the front dewclaws, unless there is a medical necessity. If back dewclaws are removed, it must be done by a professional, preferably within the first two days of life, but no later than the third day.
- g. provide an indoor/outdoor playground for the puppies that is appropriate for their age and the season. Provide different kind of stimuli to stimulate the puppy senses. The Breeding Committee will assist the breeder in creating a suitable and stimulating space.
- h. have my litter inspected by a Breeding Committee representative in person or through a 'Skype' or other videoconference system. The first inspection will be when the puppies are between 10 and 14 days old. The second inspection will be around 4 weeks after the puppies were born and the final inspection will be shortly before the puppies depart for their new homes.
- i. have the puppies microchipped prior to placement (around 7–8 weeks old). Complete the first de-worming and vaccination by the time the puppies reach 8 weeks of age.
- j. ensure puppies are a minimum age of 8 weeks and weigh at least 12 times their birth weight (optimum 12-15 times) before they leave for a permanent home.
- k. register all litters with HCNA; these registrations will be free of charge. If I register my litter with the AKC (FSS), I will use the option of Limited Registration. I am aware that the AKC registration will not be free of charge.

6. With respect to the sale of puppies,

- a. I will only sell dogs/puppies with a written and signed contract. I will maintain accurate records of health, breeding, and registration(s) and provide a copy to the puppy buyers.
- b. I will sell only to responsible persons who are interested in the protection of the breed and who agree to provide the highest quality of care, including socialization and training. I will carefully screen puppy buyers to ensure that the buyer has the willingness, time, knowledge, environment, and facilities to properly care for the dog for its lifetime.
- c. I will not sell to any person, or any entity, that engages in any activity that might exploit the breed such as: selling them to pet stores, giving them as prizes, offering them in raffles, or selling them at auctions.
- d. I will forward the names and addresses (including phone number and email) of all puppy buyers to the Breeding Committee.
- e. I accept and will clearly communicate to puppy buyers my LIFETIME engagement and concern for puppies produced by my bitch or stud. This includes helping to re-home any progeny from my breeding when necessary. This includes helping finding custody of the dog or finding suitable foster care.

7. I will sign an HCNA Concurrence Form (Form #1) to indicate my willingness to comply with the practices stipulated above.

Breeding Requirements and the Certificate of Excellence:

A Breeder who complies with all the breeding requirements listed above will be awarded an *HCNA Litter Certificate of Excellence* for each litter. The certificate will be issued during the first eight weeks of life of the litter.

The Breeding Committee may make and implement recommendations for exceptions to or suspension of any of the above regulations, subject to approval by the Board of Directors of the Hovawart Club of North America. Compliance with these rules does not guarantee approval of a particular breeding. Kennels are required to apply for the approval of a breeding at least six to eight months in advance before the bitch starts her heat cycle. The Breeding Committee will work with kennels to find suitable studs to encourage the production of diverse and healthy litters.

As a Breeder of the Hovawart Club of North America, I have read the above HCNA Breeding Regulations and understand that I shall be required to abide by them in all ways. I understand that these Regulations are applicable to all dogs owned, co-owned, or leased, and used for breeding by me.

I understand and agree that the Board of Directors will impose disciplinary action according to the Hovawart Club of North America Bylaws upon receipt of sufficient proof of violations of these Regulations. I further understand and agree that I shall have the right to appeal to the Board of Directors any disciplinary action should I, through no fault of my own, be in violation of any of the aforementioned provisions.

Date

Signature

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