ELITE KENNEL
FERTILITY
Veterinary Practice

Ethical Breeding Policy

Our mission is to balance ethical breeding and high welfare standards with the best technology and service that the industry has to offer.

Our practice is run by veterinary surgeons who have a professional responsibility for animal health and welfare. We strongly believe that maximising good health, welfare and temperament overrides all other considerations when choosing to breed from any individual animal. We ask that you consider whether breeding from your dog/bitch is the right decision for you, your animal and your circumstances.

We ask that all clients adhere to our ethical breeding policy as detailed below:

1. We pride ourselves on promoting good ethical breeding within the canine industry. As a company we do not advocate the breeding of anatomically incorrect dogs or those who have health issues or having extremes of body condition or temperament, as this may affect their welfare or that of their offspring.

2. We insist that all clients abide by all aspects of the Animal Welfare Act (2018). A code of conduct for the welfare of dogs can be found on the GOV.UK website.
   https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/code-of-practice-for-the-welfare-of-dogs

3. A bitch should not have more than 3 litters in her lifetime with at least 12 months between litters.

4. If the breeding of a dog or bitch is not deemed, by our staff, to be in the interests of the health and welfare of that animal then our services will be refused.

5. Dogs and bitches with a body condition score significantly outside the ideal range may be required to enroll in a supervised weight management programme before they can continue to use our services.

6. Any animal presented at their appointment showing signs of illness, injury, deformity or infectious disease may be refused services until they have been examined and treated by their own private veterinary surgeon.

7. We will only offer our services to fit, healthy animals that have not had conformation altering surgery (including for Brachycephalic Obstructive Airway Syndrome BOAS). In line with The Kennel Club guidelines and the relevant Breed Health Conservation Plans surrounding the Respiratory Function Grading Scheme, English Bulldogs, French Bulldogs and Pugs must have a BOAS test of 1 or lower in order to use our services**.**

8. There are too many conditions to include a comprehensive list here so if you have any questions, please speak to one of our vets or your own private veterinary surgeon.

9. We will not offer our services to bitches that have previously had a caesarean without prior discussion with our veterinary surgeons. We will not offer our services to bitches having had two previous caesareans.

10. We do not provide services to any dogs that have undergone ear cropping. Ear cropping is illegal in the UK under the Animal Welfare Act and is considered a cosmetic procedure with no welfare or health benefits. This policy applies to all dogs, including those imported from outside the UK.

11. Any animal with extreme conformation will be refused our services. This includes any breed variations selected for extreme features such as micro, nano, teacup, pocket, toadline, big rope etc.

12. We recommend that all dogs and bitches presented to us are tested for breeding soundness via the various canine health schemes to at least the minimum requirement for their breed. Information on health schemes can be found on The Kennel Club website. We also recommend contacting your breed society health coordinator. Canine health schemes are also available to non-Kennel club registered and non-pedigree dogs, so we also recommend that crossbreeds are health tested prior to considering breeding.

13. For semen being shipped to Elite Kennel Fertility, we recommend that owners request the results of health tests for stud dogs from the centre responsible for collecting the semen prior to insemination. BOAS testing is mandatory for brachycephalic breeds, and at the time of collection the stud dog must have met the Kennel Club's Respiratory Function Grading Scheme recommended criteria for breeding at that time. Semen will not be accepted for shipment to us unless this requirement has been met.

14. We suggest all dogs have a health record to the following degree:
- Annual inoculations
- A full clinical health examination by their private veterinary surgeon

15. We advise that all animals have reached maturity before they are bred. Age of maturity varies considerably from small to giant breeds. If we feel an animal is too immature to breed, we will advise you accordingly.

16. We recommend all dogs (Kennel Club Registered or not) have minimum genetic health testing performed by a recognized laboratory prior to breeding.

17. We will not inseminate bitches with semen from a dog of another breed of incompatible size.

18. We will not inseminate a bitch that would whelp after her 8th birthday unless she is deemed to be fit and healthy by our veterinary surgeons. For a litter to be KC registered prior permission must be granted by the kennel club before insemination.

19. We support the BVA Breed to Breathe campaign and have additional policy information for brachycephalic breeds.

20. We will not offer any of our services to any breeds banned in the UK under the Dangerous Dogs act specifically Pit-Bull terriers, Dogo Argentino, Fila Brasiliero and Japanese Tosa. This includes crosses of these breeds and dogs “of type”.

21. It is our company policy that we will not offer services to American Bull breeds including any Bully types (including XL, Extreme, Exotic, Micro, Nano, Big rope, Toadline, Standard, Classic, Pocket) American Bull Dog , American Bull terrier, American Staffordshire Bull Terrier, Alapaha Blue Blood Bulldog. This is not an exhaustive list and we will refuse service to any animal that does not satisfy the terms of our ethical breeding policy.

22. All Olde English Bulldogge/Leavitt Bulldogs must be checked and confirmed as registered with the Leavitt Bull dog Association and approved on the breeding program by the Elite Kennel Fertility team before any services will be provided.

If you have any questions about our ethical breeding policy, please contact us before your appointment. We are here to help, and our staff will be happy to assist you as we understand that you are as passionate about the health and welfare of dogs as we are.

Last updated: 28th October 2026