



The United Kingdom Miniature American Shepherd Club

5* Breeder scheme

UK Mini American Shepherd breeders are encouraged to participate in the UKMASC 5* Breeder scheme which is designed to promote confidence and offer peace of mind for both the Breeder and the Purchaser.

There are five foundation requirements of a UKMASC 5* Breeder. The Breeder must guarantee to:

- Ensure that all breeding stock is NAMASCUSA and/or AKC registered and permanently identified by microchip or DNA profile.
- Use breed-relevant health screening schemes on all breeding stock prior to breeding, follow the recommendations of such schemes and be knowledgeable of, and open with, all results and implications.
- Follow KC and Breed Club policy regarding minimum and maximum age for breeding and the number/frequency of litters bred.
- Ensure that all aspects of their whelping and rearing facilities accord with excellent practice and that full and accurate records of the litter are maintained.
- Provide a comprehensive Puppy Sales Pack, reasonable ongoing support for Purchasers and a life-time take-back guarantee for each pup.

Further information:

1. *Ensure that all breeding stock is NAMASCUSA and/or AKC registered and permanently identified by microchip or DNA profile.*

This ensures that any pup offered for sale really is the what the breeder says it is - the right parents, the right health tests and from the right kennel.

2. *Use breed-relevant health screening schemes on all breeding stock prior to breeding, follow the recommendations of such schemes and be knowledgeable of, and open with, all results and implications.*

All breeding stock born on or after 1st January 2010 must have been screened as specified below, and the results known before a dog is first bred:

1. BVA Hip scoring (or foreign equivalent)
2. BVA Elbow grading
3. DNA test for HSF4 (hereditary cataracts)
4. DNA test for CEA/CH (collie eye)
5. DNA test for prcd-PRA (progressive retinal atrophy)
6. DNA test for MDR1 (multi drug resistance)
7. DNA test for Cobalamin Malabsorption
8. BVA Eye testing Annual clearance (or foreign equivalent)

The breeding partner of any dog registered in the 5* Breeder Scheme must previously have been screened as a minimum for:

- a. BVA Hip scoring (or foreign equivalent)
- b. DNA test for HSF4 (hereditary cataracts)
- c. DNA test for CEA/CH (collie eye)
- d. BVA Eye testing Annual clearance (or foreign equivalent) no more than a year before breeding.

If a dog registered in the 5* Breeder Scheme is a Carrier of, or Affected by, any of the diseases above, that dog must only be bred to a partner who is DNA Clear for the same disease(s).

UKMASC 5* breeders will be happy to show you the original result certificates and openly discuss the need for such tests, the results and the implications for the health of the pup.

3. *Follow KC and Breed Club policies regarding both minimum and maximum age for breeding and the number/frequency of litters bred.*

Even though the BVA will accept a dog for hip and elbow scoring at 12 months old, Mini Americans are a slow-maturing breed and should not be hip or elbow scored until two years of age. Due to structural immaturity, X-rays taken any earlier may not accurately represent the health of the adult dog. Because of these potential health issues, UKMASC 5* breeders will not breed from a bitch before her second birthday. Bitches should not be bred to whelp after their eighth birthday, unless by prior written approval of the KC following the submission of a letter from a practising Veterinary surgeon confirming her good health. UKMASC 5* breeders do not produce more than one litter a year from any one bitch.

4. *Ensure that all aspects of whelping and rearing facilities accord with excellent practice and that full and accurate records of the litter are maintained.*

Buyers are encouraged to visit the pups commencing around three weeks of age. The pups and the dam should be available to meet, along with any other relatives and the sire if available, or photos of him. The pups should be raised in loving, clean, warm, hygienic and appropriately stimulating home environment. They should be healthy, active and well socialised.

5. *Provide a comprehensive Puppy Sales Pack, reasonable ongoing support for purchasers and a life-time take-back guarantee for each pup.*

At the time of sale the breeder will supply the dog's registration certificate if available, or forward it to the new owner as soon as possible.

A UKMASC 5* breeder will provide a Puppy Sales Pack which contains as a minimum:

- * written advice on the continuation of socialisation, exercise and future training.
- * written advice on the feeding, worming and immunisation measures already taken and the ongoing schedule.
- * a list of breed specific traits and tendencies or any further breed specific advice or information that may enhance the puppy buyers understanding of the MAS breed.
- * written contact details with which to provide reasonable post-sales advice.
- * a copy of the contract of sale for each puppy, signed by both breeder and purchaser.
The contract will clearly state the nature and details of any guarantees given (including time limit) and/or any provisions for refund or return and replacement of puppy. If endorsements are being used the contract will also explain why, and under what circumstances (if any) they would be removed. The contract must also state a commitment to help, if necessary, with the re-homing of a dog, for whatever reason, throughout the dog's lifetime.

The UKMASC 5* Breeder Scheme is open to all UKMASC members who breed Miniature American Shepherds and who can demonstrate and guarantee that they meet the criteria set out above.

UKMASC 5* Breeders receive free priority listing on the Breeders list of the UKMASC website.