ALA Provisional Breeder Competency checklist



Guidelines: ALA Breeder Mentoring Program

The Breeder Mentoring Program (the "program") is possible because of the time ALA breeders are prepared to volunteer as they share their knowledge and experience, supporting new members who are establishing their own Australian Labradoodle breeding program. While there is no contractual arrangement required by the ALA, the Provisional Breeder (Mentee) and Accredited Breeder (Mentor) may put in place such an agreement (either verbal or written) according to their own requirements.

Scope:

The program is designed as a helpful tool for the provisional breeder and each program is tailored to the individual's needs with the level of input needed varying accordingly.

The program is not meant to be an exclusive source of information and advice. The provisional breeder is encouraged to seek a wide range of opinion and professional advice from qualified veterinarians, other professionals and published literature to ensure informed decision-making regarding management of their dogs and breeding program.

Disclaimer:

Neither the ALA, nor the breeder mentor is liable for any loss or damage sustained by the provisional breeder, their dogs and or breeding program.

It is expected that learning will continue well beyond the conclusion of the program. Competency assessment is a judgment made at a given point in time and makes no claims as to the breeder's ongoing decisions or respective breeding program management.

The ALA will continue to monitor some breeder practices through management of registrations and compliance with ALA policies and governance procedures.

Roles and Responsibilities:

Accredited Breeder - Mentor

Through an ongoing professional and confidential relationship with the mentee,

- Identify areas where development of knowledge and skills will better equip the mentee to competently manage their Australian Labradoodle breeding program in line with ALA policies and governance procedures;
- Avoid any conflict of interest (perceived or actual) when advice is given e.g.
 Regarding proposed breeding strategies;
- Maintain an impartial attitude to other breeders, their programs and their dogs
- Undertake the final assessment of competence at the program's conclusion and make a recommendation to the ALA Executive.

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Provisional Breeder - Mentee

Through an ongoing professional and confidential relationship with the mentor/s,

- Take initiative for their own learning and competency development over the 12 month program to ensure appropriate knowledge and skill development that enables a suitable level of competence at the conclusion of the program
- Avoid any conflict of interest (perceived or actual) when receiving advice e.g.
 Regarding proposed breeding strategies;
- Be fully accountable for their own breeding program and decisions regardless of the input of the mentor/s

Program

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When?	The program commences on acceptance of a new breeder member to the ALA. The applicant will have identified /nominated a mentor in the application process with the mentor's agreement. The mentor will usually be the member proposing a new member application.
How Long?	The program is in place for a minimum of 12 months or until one litter has been whelped and the puppies have attained the age of 12 weeks. The aim is to give the breeder the opportunity to complete a full cycle of breeding, whelping and managing new puppy families including provision of support as the pup settles into a new home.
What?	The program focuses on 3 areas – see Overview.
	Most aspects require a reasonable level of knowledge and/or skill and this is assessed at the conclusion of the program. It is expected that assistance with mating will be sought from a local breeder or qualified professional, as guidance is difficult to provide from a distance. For this reason, competence in supervising mating is not required – though it is advised.
Where?	Due to geographical diversity of the ALA membership, much of the support provided is through email and/or telephone with activities such as selection of puppies being facilitated by photos/ webcam.
How?	At the conclusion of the program, the provisional breeder's competency is reviewed. The mentor and mentee can both contribute to the assessment. The mentor makes a recommendation to the Executive to either propose the provisional breeder to be upgraded to full accreditation status OR to continue the program for a further period as negotiated by the mentor and mentee. Endorsement as a fully accredited breeder is made by the ALA membership through the standard ALA voting process.

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Process

- The program is agreed to and a mentor assigned
- The provisional breeder must whelp and raise one litter to 8 weeks of age and then further manage new puppy family support if required, until puppies are 12 weeks of age
- The provisional breeder must familiarize themselves with ALA policies and governance procedures
 - Code of Ethics
 - o Rules and Regulations
 - Litter and breeding dog registration/ upgrade
- On achieving a reasonable level of competency in selected criteria set out by the Australian Labradoodle Association the mentor can propose the breeder be accepted for full accreditation status (requires membership vote).
- Once endorsed by the membership full ALA member privileges are granted.

Useful Reference Documents

- ALA Code of Ethics
- ALA Rules and Regulations
- ALA Inc Rules
- ALA Breed Standard

For further details:

Please contact the ALA New Breeder Coordinator via Email | breeders@laa.org.au\

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