



Developing a National Prefix Exam

[Adopted June 2018]

Introduction

A prefix gives a person the right to breed and register puppies under the banner of the ANKC. Promoting excellence in the breeding of pure bred dogs is a primary ANKC objective, and a cornerstone of its reputation. We have a responsibility to take measures to ensure our ANKC prefix holders are not responsible for puppy farming or creating major welfare issues. When adverse welfare issues come to public notice, the ANKC and all dog breeders get the bad press equally and the ANKC's reputation is undermined.

With the anti-dog lobby being very active, the ANKC needs to ensure that every breeder is breeding under the best welfare and health improvement conditions as possible. To this end, our members should all be educated on the basics of welfare, breeding and raising of healthy well socialised puppies as well as having a good understanding of the various state laws pertaining to the breeding and keeping of dogs.

Breeders must be aware of the Codes of Ethics and the regulations of the various states KC's and of the ANKC to ensure that good welfare of the dogs owned and bred under its banner is maintained and importantly, continues to improve over time.

The national prefix examination framework is intended to provide a minimum standard of education for ANKC breeders. Individual kennel controls are free to add further material as they consider desirable for their situation.

A Prefix Exam is to be conducted and as a minimum is to contain the following.

Education modules

ANKC breeders must know and comply with state and local government requirements for breeding, as well as ANKC and member body regulations. They must also have a good understanding of breed health, breeding strategies and tools, and care of the dam and puppies. It is proposed that the prefix examination and educational materials be structured around these key elements.

1: Regulatory Requirements: This area should cover: -

1. Legal/Welfare Requirements - State Laws – various Government Welfare Acts covering the owning and breeding of dogs– including POCTA and the Department of Agriculture Codes of Practice for the Breeding of Dogs. As this *varies from state to state*, each Member Body would be responsible for developing this area.
Individual council restrictions – this should be noted where it can be an issue in certain States. Different states are moving towards breeders licencing, this should be noted where relevant.
2. ANKC regulations covering the register (Section 6): -
 - minimum and maximum breeding ages,
 - frequency of breeding litters, maximum number of litters allowed.
 - Health testing and breed improvement schemes where required.
 - How the register works, litter registrations etc.
 - Codes of Ethics – both ANKC (over riding) and State.

Section 1 and 2 basically need to require applicants to look at the various laws (ideally a summary of the relevant points pertaining to the keeping and breeding of dogs) as well as the ANKC regulations etc.

Part 2: Health and Wellbeing: The suggested modules for this part are:

- 3 Hereditary Diseases and Schemes to control these - how to correctly use DNA tests and hereditary disease improvement schemes
- 4 Canine Welfare and Community Safety
- 5 Pregnancy, whelping and Care of Puppies (first 10 days).
- 6 Growth and Feeding of Puppies
- 7 Worming, vaccinations and microchipping of puppies.
- 8 Socialization

A number of good educational resources already exist in this area, including existing lectures for each module which can be adapted and shared nationally as the minimum educational standard requires. These can be supplemented with state specific resources if desired, and a list of authoritative resources for further self -education.

The Examination

The examinations should be structured in modules, aligned with the educational materials provided. As with most ANKC exams, the pass rate should be 75% and the member have the right to re-sit any failed sections. If the applicant fails to achieve an acceptable pass rate, the member can reapply in 6 months.