

# CODE OF PRACTICE HEREDITARY DISEASES

## PAPILLON CLUB OF VICTORIA INC.

Breeding practises are, in essence, sensible methods of decreasing the incidences of inherited disease without significant loss of genetic variability or the production of any affected offspring.

The **Papillon Club of Victoria Inc** has set forth the following policies to ensure the good breeding practices of members.

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### 1. MINIMUM BREEDING AGE

No Papillon is to be bred before twelve months of age to ensure the animal has reached maturity and has been effectively screened for genetic diseases.

### 2. FREQUENCY OF BREEDING

No **BITCH** can whelp a litter more than six times in a lifetime, and no more than twice in 18 months.

Papillon breeders must strive to select **SIRES** and **DAMS** with impressive documented health control results, as well as the superior physical quality of their progeny.

### 3. HEALTH SCREENING BEFORE BREEDING

Papillon breeders should keep up to date with all medical research and developments, including international investigations into testing and diseases.

The ANKC has two national assessment schemes with the Australian Veterinary Society:

- 1) The Australian Canine Eye Scheme (ACES), and
- 2) The Canine Hip and Elbow Dysplasia Scheme (CHAD).

Both schemes list the breed of dog, numbers of the breed tested and the result.

The Papillon Club of Victoria Inc strongly encourages breeders to allow their dogs assessment results to be included in these lists.

Before approving a screening procedure or test for a hereditary disease, the ANKC requires that that the procedure meets the following criteria:

- 1) Scientifically validated and widely accepted.
- 2) Highly reliable.
- 3) Readily available.
- 4) Cost effective.

At the time of writing only two hereditary diseases affecting the Papillon fit the above criteria.

#### Patellar Luxation

Patellar Luxation is prevalent in all toy breeds although the incidence is relatively low in Papillons.

This is a condition of the knee were the knee cap is not located in its normal position relative to the femur. The severity of the condition varies and is graded 1-4, 0 being normal. Grade one is the least severe.

Papillons should have their Patella's graded before breeding. No dog with a grade higher than 1 should be used in a breeding program. Patella problems can be felt as early as 6-8 weeks but grading is best done after twelve months of age when the animal has reached maturity.

#### Progressive Retinal Atrophy (PRA)

PRA is a condition rarely seen that causes blindness. Papillons should be tested by a certified Ophthalmologist at **3 years, 5 years** and **then annually** until clear at 8 years.

No dogs affected with PRA are to be use for breeding. Progeny of affected animals are not to be use for breeding.

Melbourne, September 2011