



THE RHODESIAN RIDGEBACK CLUB
OF THE UNITED STATES, INC
AKC Licensed Club Since 1971

Office of the Corresponding Secretary
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The RRCUS Code of Ethics sets forth the following expectations of club members who are breeding Rhodesian Ridgebacks:

A breeder's aim and foremost responsibility shall be to produce the healthiest and best representatives of the breed possible. Each litter shall be the result of conscientious planning, including consideration of physical and genetic health, soundness, temperament and conformity to the official standard of the breed as established by the RRCUS and approved by the American Kennel Club (AKC).

In order to protect the health and safety of the stud dog and brood bitch (as well as resulting puppies) it is recommended that both dog and bitch have pre-breeding veterinary screenings to certify that they are in good breeding condition. Tests may include, but are not limited to: brucella test, urinalysis (dog), vaginal exam, and vaginal culture.

Only dogs screened and certified clear of hip and elbow dysplasia by the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals (OFA), Penn Hip or comparable foreign registry shall be bred.

RRCUS has identified other strongly recommended screenings that are outlined in the Canine Information Center (CHIC), such as a complete thyroid panel from an OFA approved laboratory or ACVIM Board certified Internal Medical specialist, cardiac certification (OFA or cardiologist evaluation), CERF* and BAER testing, RRCUS strongly recommends the testing be performed on all breeding stock, recognizing that a CHIC certification does not require a passing grade. If there is a reason to believe that screening results are not accurate, repeat evaluations are recommended. Breeders shall endeavor to stay current in their knowledge of all known heritable diseases present in the breed and demonstrate reasonable care in eliminating those diseases. Full disclosure of all health screening results shall be made available to all involved in a potential breeding, prior to that breeding taking place.

Only mature adult dogs shall be used in a breeding program. Additional precautions, including

A veterinarian consultation, should be taken when breeding a bitch over 7 years and under 18 months of age. Dogs and bitches under 24 months of age may only be bred if preliminary genetic clearances have been obtained.

Ross Jones, RRCUS
Corresponding Secretary

This Health Statement text was approved by the Board of Directors of the Rhodesian Ridgeback Club on March 11, 2015.