



BREEDERS PANEL NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2009

Well, believe it or not, we are almost at the winter solstice and on our way to summer again! A new season for all of you breeders out there, novice as well as old hands, to show off the fruit of your skills in the show-ring and elsewhere. We have included some, we believe, interesting and informative articles for you to have a look at. Please feel free to contact any of your panel committee members for suggestions as to any specific articles or other discussions you would like to see in this newsletter. We do trust that you will find this newsletter to be a good read, and look forward to seeing you all at the shows and other events hosted by the FBCSA from time to time.

Who serves on the 2009 committee?

Chairperson: Bridgitta Steyn

Secretary: Marinda Oosthuizen

Committee members: Pam Zeiler, Helen Rennie & Els Sporen

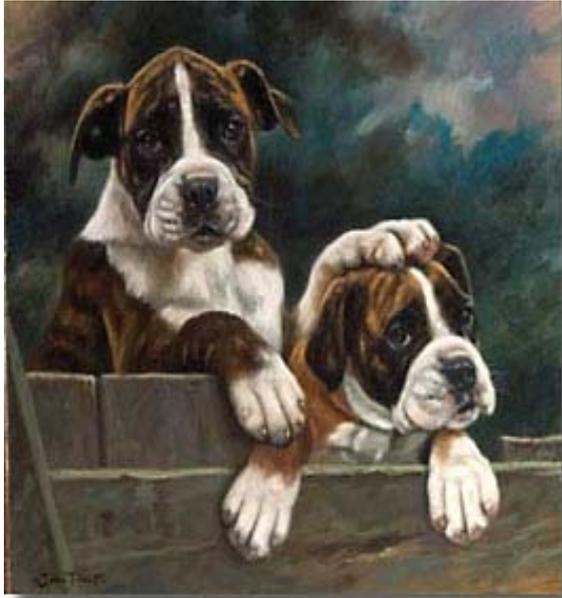
Please contact us for more information

Bridgitta Steyn: 084 581 2827, bridgitta@gmail.com

Marinda Oosthuizen: 084 586 5139, marinda.oosthuizen@up.ac.za

SEMINAR ON CANINE CRUTIATES

Please join us on Saturday, 18 July 2009 at 11h00 at "Treetops", 79/1 Erasmus Road, Raslow, Wierda Park for a seminar on Canine Crutiates. A fee of R10.00 per person covers refreshments. RSVP: 10 July 2009, Marinda Oosthuizen (Tel: 084 586 5139)



TYPES OF BREEDING

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In order to be a "good" breeder, one must learn about what are the different kinds of breeding practices in use.

IN-BREEDING

In-breeding is the mating of very close relatives, for example, father to daughter, half-brother to half-sister, brother to sister, mother to son, etc. In-breeding intensifies the faults as well as the strong points, so considerable discretion must be used in the choice of the dogs. The faults may be to such an extent, that, sometimes, entire litters have to be destroyed in cases where obvious anomalies occur. For this reason, this type of breeding is not recommended to novice breeders.

LINE-BREEDING

Line-breeding is the mating of dogs having many common ancestors or mating to a slightly removed relative, e.g. granddaughter to grandsire, uncle to niece, etc. The benefit of line-breeding is the production of more consistent litters. In order to have a chance to reinforce desired characteristics and eliminate health problems one has to have a thorough knowledge of both pedigrees of both the sire and the dam for at least five generations.

In general, most breeders adhere to a policy of line-breeding, whereby they can assure uniformity of quality without risking the inherent dangers of in-breeding. This technique appears to be the best compromise between in-breeding and the doubts of out-crossing or out-breeding.

OUT-CROSSING

Out-crossing is the mating of two dogs that are the products of line-breeding but of two distinctly separate lines. Unless the two dogs involved in an out-cross are strongly line-bred with a possibility of a certain measure of prepotency, uniformity to the first generation is generally doubtful. It is generally employed as a long-term proposition to bring certain traits into a line that is otherwise deficient. These traits then need to be intensified by proper line-breeding or in-breeding.

OUT-BREEDING

Out-breeding is the mating of two dogs who not only are the products of two distinctly separate lines, but on top are not the products of line-breeding. Out-breeding is seldom employed since in most breeding programs dogs that would qualify for out-breeding simply do not exist. In summary, most successful breeders use some formula involving general line-breeding with in-breeding employed when sufficiently outstanding products of their line result and out-crossing only when another line can supply a strong characteristic in which they are lacking.

BARE ESSENTIALS

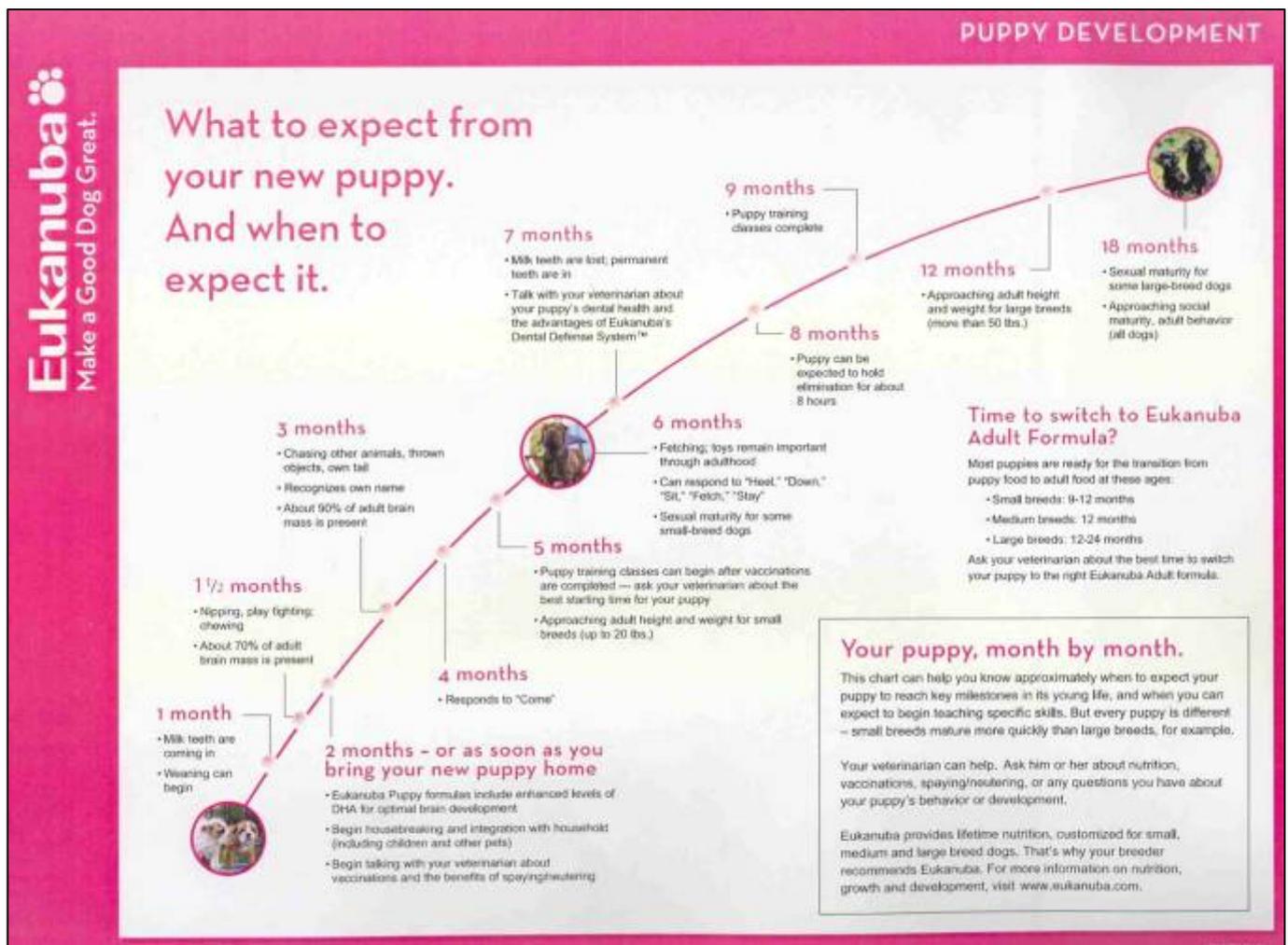
In order to become knowledgeable breeders, we must obtain a complete understanding of the dogs we plan to breed. We need to:

- First and foremost study the breed in great detail and gain an in depth knowledge of the breed standard established for the breed, the variations, conformation points, as well as faults.
- Have a good understanding of the genetics of the breed.
- Know all about heritable diseases as well as undesirable genes.
- Learn how to construct as well as maintain a pedigree chart—this will help at least three earlier generations and their salient features. This will also reveal any patterns in breeding of the dogs—common ancestors and so on. A pedigree indicates bloodline—a record of ancestors who have contributed to the genetic pool and so to the traits, temperament, as well as characteristics.
- Most important is a consideration of "physical" traits—this is the key to building better animals.



What is the right age to take a puppy home? What to expect from your new puppy and when to expect it

Puppies are ready to leave their mother and littermates by 8 weeks of age, and should not leave sooner. The period 6 - 8 weeks is an important developmental one for puppies, and this is the time a puppy learns how to play, about bite inhibition and also how to accept discipline! Be very wary of any breeder who allows or asks new owners to take their pups home earlier than 7 weeks at minimum. Even if a female has stopped feeding her pups, they will learn important socialization lessons if allowed to remain with their mother and/or littermates. Below is a chart kindly supplied by Eukanuba showing what to expect from your new puppy and when to expect it.



We hope that you have enjoyed this issue. Please contact us with any questions and/or suggestions for future newsletter topics.

Winter greetings,

Breeders Panel

July 2009