

# Tools for Breeders - Australian Shepherds

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## Breed Standard

Canine structure, movement, anatomy, terminology, identifying breed characteristics, breed type

Mentor(s): Get one. There are breeders who know more than you.

Experience/Knowledge/Continuing Education

On-line discussion groups

Asking questions and getting responses from unknown and potentially unskilled sources on-line is not useful or educational. Many participating in those groups have little or no experience and merely “google” answers and regurgitate them in the group. Know the source of your information. If you do not know, do not share as if you do.

Breeding Options: use them all; limiting or controlling inbreeding coefficients over time will produce a “generic” dog lacking in breed type

Inbreeding

Linebreeding

Outcrossing

Modes of Inheritance

Environmental/Inherited/Both/Unknown

Epigenetics

Known Health Issues/New Health Issues

Causes/Remedies

Artificial Insemination (Fresh, Chilled, Frozen)

Manual

Trans cervical

Surgical

Current Scientific Evidentiary Research (versus theory)

Prenatal care of dam and puppies

Whelping (free-whelping breed)

Post Whelping (dam and puppies)

Pedigree Research

Networking

Previous offspring of sire and dam/lines

Strengths of Weaknesses of Breeding Animals/Lines

Faults, Flaws, Virtues

Talk to the Source

Emotions versus Intuition

Facts versus Fad

What is your purpose/goal for breeding?

Canine Nutrition (including dam and puppy nutrition)

Immunology/Vaccinations (Core/Annual)

Parvo virus-core

Distemper-core

Adenovirus

Canine hepatitis

Parainfluenza

Leptospirosis

Bordatella-not a vaccinatable event

Corona virus

Lyme

Rabies

DNA Testing (gentotype)

MDR-1

DM-Degenerative Myelopathy

PHA-Pelgier Huet Anomaly

CEA- Collie Eye Anomaly/Choroidal Hypoplasia

PRA- Progressive Retinal Atrophy

HSF4- Bilateral post-anterior cataracts

Thyroid

PRCD-Progressive Rod Cone Degeneration

HUU-Hyperuricosuria

Multifocal retinopathy

NCLs-Neuronal ceroid lipofuscinosis

Dilated cardiomyopathy

CMR1/2-Canine Multifocal Retinopathy

IGS-Imerslund-Grasbeck Syndrome (IGS) or intestinal malabsorption of Cobalamin (Cbl)

Coat color gene tests

Non-color trait gene tests

Physical Tests (phenotype)

Hips

Eyes

Puppy Eye Examinations

Elbows

Gene Testing

A new technology that is continually evolving...use and apply with caution and with wisdom

Substituting gene test results for knowledge and experience will not make you a great breeder

Requiring breeding stock to be "clear" on all gene test results is insane...will not make you a great breeder

Companies that provide gene tests are "for profit" businesses. Test results for issues that are not in the breed, but are provided as part of a "package" price structure are of no consequence.

The more gene tests you do does not make you a great breeder

Collie Eye Anomaly

Aliases: Choroidal hypoplasia, CEA, CH

Cone Degeneration

Aliases: Achromatopsia, Cone degeneration 1, Day blindness, Hemeralopia, Rod monochromacy, CD, CD1

Degenerative Myelopathy

Aliases: Canine degenerative myelopathy, DM

Hereditary Cataracts (Australian Shepherd Type)

Aliases: Early onset cataracts, Juvenile cataracts, HC, HSF4, JC

Hyperuricosuria

Aliases: Urolithiasis, HUU

Multidrug Resistance 1

Aliases: Ivermectin sensitivity, MDR1 gene defect, Multidrug sensitivity, MDR1

Multifocal Retinopathy 1

Aliases: Canine multifocal retinopathy 1, CMR1

Neuronal Ceroid Lipofuscinosis 6

Aliases: Amaurotic idiocy, Batten disease, NCL, NCL6

Progressive Retinal Atrophy, Progressive Rod-Cone Degeneration

Aliases: PRA-PRCD, PRCD

Hereditary Cobalamin Malabsorption (HCM)

Von Willebrand's Disease (VWD) – extremely rare in Aussies

Hemophilia – extremely rare in Aussies

Hyperuricosuria (urate bladder stones)

Neuronal Ceroid Lipofuscinosis (NCL) – extremely rare in Aussies