

Silken Windhound Association of the Rocky Mountains Breeder Guidelines

1. Members should have a working knowledge of the current breed standard and strive to advance the breed to conform to that standard without compromising overall health, temperament, or functional structure. This includes the potential use of quality outcrosses, to increase overall health and functionality, while keeping the goal of future generations conforming to the current standard of excellence set forth by ISWS.
2. Breeding stock should be of characteristic type, exhibit sound structure and stable temperament (not fearful, reactive, or vicious), be in good health and condition.
3. The breeder should carefully analyze the temperament of the sire and dam, including all possible research into the temperaments in their individual backgrounds, including dogs within the pedigree, both vertical and horizontal.
4. Breeding members should endeavor to stay current in their knowledge of genetic problems present in the breed and should utilize available testing procedures to detect serious genetic defects in their dogs. Dogs with issues for which there is a reliable DNA test should be used wisely and with the best interest of the breed in mind. Dogs with health concerns known or believed to be genetic in nature should be used cautiously. Dogs for which there is no reliable genetic test to determine status should be used with extreme caution only.
5. Ethical breeders should discuss openly and honestly the genetic and physical concerns that have occurred in their lines. This should include the potential of these concerns to be inherited. If a dog that is already into its breeding career is found to carry or suffer from a serious defect affecting longevity, overall quality of life, or fertility, the owner/breeder should notify other breeders with closely related dogs. They shall also be honest about the potential problem with prospective buyers of dogs or stud service. The breeder shall do everything possible to minimize the spread of the defect into the breed as a whole.
6. Breeding members should carefully study canine anatomy, structure, basic principles of genetics, the breed standard, the breed's function, and sighthound functionality. These studies should be applied through thorough research of the pedigrees of prospective breeding dogs.
7. A bitch's breeding career should begin no sooner than her second season (unless she is slow to reach sexual maturity and is over two years on her first season). Ideally the bitch is at least two years old at her first breeding. Health testing should be completed before

the bitch is bred. At minimum, CHIC level OFA testing shall be completed. Further testing is highly desired and should reflect any current issues found in the breed.

8. A stud dog's breeding career should not begin before the dog reaches full maturity. Ideally the stud is at least two years old at his first breeding. Health testing should be completed before the stud is bred. At minimum, CHIC level OFA testing shall be completed. Further testing is highly desired and should reflect any current issues found in the breed.
9. Breeding members should carefully study current innovations of puppy raising to optimize health, development, and socialization of puppies and dams. Members are encouraged to study the application and use of structural and temperament evaluations in the assessment and placement of puppies.
10. Members are encouraged to seek out opportunities to both mentor and be mentored.