Microchips and DNA tests

Source: SABBA Board
Date: 29 March 2011

The 2011 SABBA Board had its first meeting on Saturday, 19 March. Following on requests for clarification from members and discussions at the recent Annual General Meeting on Microchipping and DNA testing, the Board publishes its position.

Microchips compulsory in certain instances only

SABBA will not insist that puppies must have microchips in order to issue them with birth certificates. Many owners regard microchipping too painful a procedure to perform on young pups.

However, members should note that microchipping has been compulsory in the following instances for some years:

- As a perquisite to health testing, e.g. hip and elbow dysplasia, vaginal hyperplasia.
- For inclusion in the SABBA Stud Register.
- In dogs that are exported.

DNA testing voluntary for now

The SABBA Board encourages DNA testing, but will not insist on it to register Boerboels. In cases where a dog's parents had been DNA tested, the Association will include the relevant information on the registration certificate.

The Board believes compulsory testing is too costly for breeders, and that it is not necessary to test all dogs to determine a profile of the Boerboel breed (a project that the Association has already initiated).

However, members should note that the SABBA Constitution (11.32) empowers the Association to request DNA testing of members' studs at any time. The Board resolved to implement a system of random selections in the near future.

Mikroskyfies en DNS-toetse

Die SABT-raad vir 2011 het op Saterdag, 19 Maart die eerste keer vergader. Voortspruitend uit lede se versoeke vir meer duidelikheid en besprekings tydens die afgelope Algemene Jaarvergadering oor Mikroskyfies en DNS-toetsing, publiseer die Raad sy standpunt.

Mikroskyfies slegs in sekere gevalle verpligtend

Die SABT sal nie aandring dat babahondjies mikroskyfies moet hê vir die uitreiking van geboortesertifikate nie. Baie eienaars beskou die inplanting van mikroskyfies ook as te pynlik om op klein hondjies uit te voer.

Lede moet egter daarop let dat die aanbring van mikroskyfies reeds etlike jare onder bepaalde omstandighede verpligtend is:

- As 'n voorvereiste vir gesondheidstoetsing, bv. heup- en elmboogdisplasie en vaginale hiperplasie.
- Vir opname in die SABT-stoetregister.
- In honde wat uitgevoer word.

DNS-toetsing vir eers vrywillig

Die SABT Raad moedig DNS-toetsing aan, maar sal nie daarop aandring om Boerboele te registreer nie. In gevalle waar die hond se ouers egter wel getoets is, sal die Vereniging die toepaslike inligting op die registrasieserfifikaat aanbring.

Die Raad is van mening dat verpligte toetsing te duur vir telers sal wees en dat dit nie nodig is om alle honde te toets om 'n profiel van die Boerboelras te bepaal nie ('n projek wat reeds deur die Vereniging geïnisieer is).

Lede moet egter kennis neem dat die SABT-grondwet (11.32) die Vereniging die reg gee om enige tyd die DNS-toetsing van lede se stoete aan te vra. Die Raad het besluit om 'n stelsel van lukrake toetsing in die nabye toekoms in te stel.