

The Bearded Collie Breed Liaison Committee



Proposed Breed Strategy



'To promote, protect and maintain the health, welfare and future of the Bearded Collie'

The development of a strategy for the Breed owned by all of the Breed Clubs and their members is a new venture for the Breed and is an ongoing process. The JBLC have aimed for a strategy that is transparent, inclusive and represents the views of the majority of people involved with the Breed, to encourage people to sign up to it and work to achieve the proposed actions. Hopefully the time spent engaging and listening to people in the development stage of the strategy will lead to one that is based on current best advice from Geneticists, will engage the Kennel Club and be welcomed by the Breed Clubs and their members.

1. Our Aims

1. To **maintain and improve the breed's health, type, temperament and genetic diversity** to provide a resilient, fit for function Bearded Collie. *[core Breed Health & Sustainability]*
2. To **provide appropriate breed and health information**, including **advice and guidance**, to meet the needs of everyone committed to the breed and its long-term future. *[Breed and Health Information]*
3. To **promote a culture** in the breed community which supports **putting the interests of the breed first**, and looks to **those in positions of influence to encourage** this approach. *[Breed Community Development]*
4. To provide **suitable ways of enhancing the knowledge and experience** of breeders and stud dog owners *[Breeders and Breeding]*
5. To **bring a wider range of people into the breed** (as owners, enthusiasts, breeders, and stud dog owners) and **make sure their numbers** remain at a level sufficient to give **the Bearded Collie a sustainable future**. *[Breed Promotion and Next Generation]*

2. Our Objectives

The Breed strategy covers five areas:

Breed Health and Sustainability (the 'core' Breed Health Plan)

Breed Promotion and Next Generation

Breeders and Breeding

Breed Community Development

Breed Information Resources

The first two objectives tackle immediate short term priorities related to the survival of the breed in this country and will be replaced relatively soon by the longer-term objectives.

Immediate Short-Term Priorities

Breed Promotion and Next Generation plan

1. We will work to increase the number of people **owning a Bearded Collie, breeding a litter or offering their dog to be used at stud** to a level which removes the short-term risk to the survival of the breed in this country.

Breed Community Development plan

2. We will **help breeders evaluate the risk of inherited health conditions** by **dealing with the barriers to open and honest communication**.
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These initiatives will be started now but will take longer to produce results:

Core Breed Health & Sustainability plan

3. We will aim to find ways of **reducing the incidence of inherited health conditions and take action to improve breed health** whilst **minimising further loss of genetic diversity** resulting from the **over-use of popular sires**.
4. We will **use evidence-based approaches based on health surveys, screening, and reporting** to help prioritise and guide health improvements in the breed.

Breed Promotion and Next Generation plan

5. We will continue efforts to **bring new people with a wider range of interests into the breed** and build strong mentoring relationships with them.

Breeders and Breeding plan

6. We will provide **suitable ways of enhancing the knowledge and experience** of breeders and stud dog owners, aimed at balancing the art and science of breeding including resourcing the latest published genetic guidance.

Breed Community Development plan

7. We will work to **develop a broader approach to breed community activities** to encourage owners to get involved and increase the number of people with a stake in the breed's future.
8. We will **ensure judges have information about breed priorities including breed type, character and temperament**, which they can apply to their judging decisions.

Breed Information Resources plan

9. We will **develop breed and health information resources** including advice and guidance to meet the needs of everyone contributing to the long-term future of the breed. [*Breed Information Resources plan*]

Summaries of the Plans

Our Plans for each area of activity are working documents and will be extended and developed over time.

We have given priority to the issues and concerns most frequently raised by the breed community in the workshops on which this Breed Strategy is based. However, as each Plan progresses we expect to make further use of the many good proposals and ideas for action that were suggested. We will also seek further input as necessary to help achieve our overall Aims.

The actions below take account of this approach and will be discussed at the meeting in May.

We welcome your comments on the Plans.

1. Breed Health & Sustainability

We will recommend that sires do not produce more than two litters per year (including personal use). *This figure is based on written communication from Tom Lewis (KC Geneticist) and is based on the numbers of puppies that were born in 2015.*

We will also look at ways of encouraging the use of other sires and less widely used lines.

2. Breed Health & Sustainability

We will promote the Kennel Club Mate Select service and provide supporting information to help breeders to make better use of Coefficients of Inbreeding (COIs). We will investigate the provision of a more complete database with the Kennel Club to enhance the information provided by Mate Select.

3. Breed Health & Sustainability/ Breeders and Breeding Plans

We will investigate the processes available for sperm banking.
We will organise a Canine Reproduction Seminar.

4. Breed Promotion and Next Generation

We will develop a 'mentoring/buddy' scheme to support current owners/breeders and the next generation of owners/breeders.
We will work to encourage new owners into the breed.

5. Breed Community Development/ Breeders and Breeding Plans

We will introduce a communication framework with guidance for the exchange of health information between breeders/stud dog owners when planning matings.

6. Breed Information resources

We will aim to provide easy access to educational resources on a dedicated site.

7. Breed Information resources

We will continue to promote BeaCon and will investigate and agree modifications to make it more relevant to the UK Bearded Collie population. We will encourage breeders to register their puppies with a follow up process supported by BeaCon.

We will promote and encourage the ongoing collection of health data.