



Responsible Breeding Checklist

Pre-Breeding Preparation

- **Comprehensive Health Evaluation:** Schedule a thorough physical examination for your breeding dog to assess overall health and breeding soundness.
- **Age and Maturity:** Ensure the dog is over 1 year old and not on her first heat cycle before considering breeding.
- **Routine Preventative Care:** Confirm that vaccinations (DAPP and Rabies), fecal exams, and annual heartworm tests are up to date.
- **Breed-Specific Health Testing:** Conduct necessary health screenings such as OFA hips, elbows, patella, thyroid, and PennHIP evaluations.
- **Cardiac Evaluation:** If a heart murmur is detected, obtain clearance from a veterinary cardiologist confirming that breeding will not exacerbate the condition or pass on heritable heart disease.
- **Temperament Assessment:** Ensure the dog has a stable temperament suitable for breeding and can undergo examinations and procedures without sedation.

Breeding Planning and Services

- **Progesterone Testing:** Schedule the first progesterone test approximately 5–7 days after the initial signs of heat (e.g., vulvar swelling, discharge) to determine optimal breeding timing.
- **Brucellosis Testing:** Perform brucellosis testing prior to each breeding to prevent transmission of this infectious disease.
- **Breeding Techniques:** Discuss and choose the appropriate breeding method—natural mating, artificial insemination (AI), transcervical insemination (TCI), or surgical insemination—based on the dog's needs and history.
- **Semen Services:** If applicable, arrange for semen collection, evaluation, freezing, and storage for future use.

Pregnancy Management

- **Prenatal Care:** Provide regular veterinary check-ups during pregnancy, including ultrasounds and x-rays, to monitor the health of the dam and developing puppies.

- **Nutrition and Health Maintenance:** Ensure the pregnant dog receives appropriate nutrition and continues with routine health care to support a healthy pregnancy.
- **Whelping Preparation:** Prepare a clean, quiet, and comfortable area for whelping, and familiarize yourself with the signs of labor and potential complications.

Whelping and Neonatal Care

- **Emergency Planning:** Be aware that FFVH offers urgent care services daily until 10 PM for emergency whelping cases. For high-risk pregnancies, discuss the option of scheduling a planned cesarean section with the reproductive team.
- **Neonatal Monitoring:** After birth, monitor puppies closely for signs of health issues, ensure they are nursing properly, and maintain a warm and safe environment.
- **Postnatal Veterinary Care:** Schedule veterinary visits for the dam and puppies to assess health, administer vaccinations, and discuss deworming protocols.

Documentation and Agreements

- **Breeding Agreement:** Review and sign the [FFVH Breeding Agreement](#), acknowledging understanding of the responsibilities and standards expected.
- **Record Keeping:** Maintain detailed records of health tests, breeding dates, veterinary visits, and any complications or interventions.
- **Puppy Placement:** Screen potential puppy owners thoroughly, provide education on puppy care, and establish a contract outlining responsibilities and return policies.

For more detailed information on our breeding services, please visit our [Breeding Services page](#).

If you have any questions or need assistance with your breeding program, don't hesitate to contact us. Our reproductive team is here to support you every step of the way.



Questions? Contact Us:



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