

FEDERATION CYNOLOGIQUE INTERNATIONALE (FCI) (AISBL)

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FCI procedure for the international recognition of a new breed (provisional)

Definition of a new breed

New breeds can be either a population of dogs, which is regionally or nationally recognized or a new population of a unique type of dog. They cannot be the result of a direct cross between two FCI recognized breeds.

A new breed can be recognized as such when it meets the definition of a breed: “A population of dogs sharing definable and inheritable phenotypic characteristics, after breeding undertaken by humans over a given period of time, allowing this population to be distinguished from other defined populations of dogs/or defined breeds.” (Modified after Clutton-Brock (1999))

Recognition procedure

The application for the ***provisional*** international recognition of a new breed must be directed to the FCI Secretariat by the national canine organization (affiliated to the FCI) of the country of origin of the breed. If the country of origin of the breed does not have a member affiliated to the FCI, ***the application can be filed by an FCI member. The information about the recognition has to be provided by the national canine organisation of the country of origin of the breed, even if it is not affiliated to the FCI (e.g.: the KC, CKC or AKC). The information is considered admissible.***

The population must consist of a minimum of eight family groups, each with at least two males and six females, from two different litters ***in each family group***, born over a period of five years. There must be no ancestors in common throughout three generations.

Alternatively, an estimation of the effective population size based on a pedigree data can be accepted.

Effective population size can be defined as the size of a population obtained by random mating showing the same decrease in genetic variability as the breed under study. Pedigree data allow measuring the increase in inbreeding (i.e. decrease in genetic variability) or coancestry within a given breed, allowing to estimate the effective population size in this breed (Leroy et al. 2013). In order to carry out this estimation, a pedigree file including a reference population (i.e. all the puppies born over a period of five years) and its ancestors over at least three generations should be provided.

It is generally considered that the effective population size should be over a value between 50 and 100 for sustaining reproductive fitness in the short term (Frankham et al., 2002). Under an effective population size of 50, the international recognition of the breed is not to be recommended.

These conditions must be met by an excellently planned breeding programme and after a minimum of ***fifteen***-year registration with a national kennel club.

During the ten-year time of provisional recognition, actions should be taken to maintain the genetic variability within the population.

The application must be forwarded in an electronic format showing many subjects standing and moving, pictures and written proof that the requirements set below are fulfilled:

- Eight independent family groups.
- DNA test to prove the genuineness as a breed.
- A completed questionnaire on health (annex 5a)
- An evaluation on behaviour and character (annex 5b)).
- A provisional standard drawn up in one of the four official languages of the FCI (English, French, German, Spanish) according to the model adopted by the FCI General Committee (date & place of the FCI General Committee meeting to be stated) and an illustration of the dog for the first page of the standard must be included in the file.

Before the issue is finally discussed by the joint meeting (Standards and Scientific commissions) a delegation made up of a member from each commission will be asked by the FCI General Committee to conduct a thorough investigation on the spot “with standard in hand”. A minimum of 60 dogs should be assessed: males and females, representing all sizes, colours and coat textures. The costs of this investigation should be covered by the national canine organisation of the applying member.

Any adjustments/amendments to the standard will be carried out after the investigation. No further amendments (except for severe reasons) can be made before applying (minimum time of ten years) for the definitive recognition.

After the file presented has been studied and discussed and the control on the spot conducted, the Standards and Scientific commissions can submit, together, a proposal to the FCI General Committee to accept the breed provisionally.

A breed provisionally accepted will be entered in the appropriate studbooks of all the FCI members; it will have the possibility to be exhibited and judged at international shows organised under the patronage of the FCI, and it will be allowed to compete for the CAC but not for the CACIB until definitively recognised.

FCI procedure for the international recognition of a new breed (definitive)

After a minimum of five generations and soonest ten (10) years after the provisional recognition, the applying member can submit a request for the definitive recognition of the breed providing the following data is considered adequate.

- A written report on the development of the breed, globally.
- Number of individuals, globally.
- Health condition.
- Evaluation of the behaviour and temperament.
- Possible difficulties experienced during the provisional period.

In addition, the following conditions have to be met:

1. To write a definitive breed standard in co-operation with the Standards commission.
2. To give yearly statistics on births in the country of origin/development of the breed from the date the breed was officially recognized on a provisional basis. To provide information on the births over, at least, the last five years in the countries belonging to the same FCI section as the applicant.
3. To inform about the number of dogs from this breed entered at the major show(s) of the country of origin/development and at the FCI World and Section shows held three years before the application for definitive recognition is made.
4. To have the following facts confirmed by two experts appointed by the General Committee:
 - a) actual entry for the breed in question at a particularly important event.
 - b) homogeneity of the breed and its conformation to the breed standard.
 - c) behaviour status.

After a new joint examination by the commissions (Standards and Scientific), the provisional breed standard can be amended and the proposal for the definitive recognition of the new breed can be submitted to the approval of the FCI General Assembly.

If after 15 years have elapsed, no activities in the breed are recorded anywhere and no proposal for a definitive recognition is put forward, the breed will disappear from the FCI list.

Originally approved by the FCI General Assembly in Brussels on May 30th and 31st, 1995 with additions adopted by the FCI General Assembly in Dortmund, 2003.

The changes in bold and italics were approved by the FCI General Assembly in Shanghai (China) on April 29, 2019.