

## **Schultz Veterinary Clinic Focus for Responsible Breeding**

Our Clients, and those interested in breeding, are an important part of our practice. Our Reproductive Team has a set of responsible breeding standards to provide quality care and decision making for our patients and clients. Our first priority is to ensure the health and well-being of our patients. These set standards help us to communicate the importance of producing healthy, high-quality dogs. We feel that responsible breeding provides an opportunity to promote healthy, desired behaviors and genetics.

### **Breeding Consultations**

Breeding dogs that present to Schultz Veterinary Clinic will be required to have a Breeding Soundness exam. During this physical exam and consultation, we will cover the breeding health of the patient and discuss breeding options and create a plan. It is important that our patients are in good health, have been health tested based on breed recommendations, are of recommended breeding age, ideal temperament, and are current on heartworm testing and prevention. Dogs under 1 year of age or having their first heat cycle will not be bred. Our goal is to ensure that our clients make educated and well-informed decisions and they are able to be successful in their breeding programs.

### **Preventative Care and Medicine**

It is important for your breeding males and females to be kept in good health. Preventative care promotes healthy pregnancies which will allow for litters to thrive. Breeding dogs seen at Schultz Veterinary Clinic are required to be current on state required vaccines (rabies) and annual heartworm test. This preventative care can be done with us or at your primary veterinarian's office. Please be sure to have these records faxed or emailed to us in advance of your appointment; this ensures that your dog's record is current. We do require a brucellosis test every 6 months or 3 months after a breeding. Current vaccines, preventative medications (heartworm prevention and flea/tick prevention) are imperative for maintaining a healthy breeding population.

### **Health Testing**

Schultz Veterinary Clinic offers the following health testing prior to breeding:

- OFA Screening (hips, elbows, cardiac, patella, thyroid, and dentition)
- Pennhip

If you have any questions regarding requirements for this testing, please refer to the OFA website, the Canine Health Information Center ([caninehealthinfo.org](http://caninehealthinfo.org)), or the website for your specific breed.

We do understand that not all health testing is straight forward and Schultz Veterinary Clinic reserves the right to decline reproductive services for any breeding animal if there are any concerns for heritable or genetic diseases, i.e., hip/elbow dysplasia, bilateral luxating patellas, heart murmurs, congenital defects, malocclusion, or ocular defects that could be passed on to puppies.

### **Breeding Service Requirements**

Timing is vital for successful breeding. We recommend seeing your female dog for her first progesterone testing and breeding soundness exam appointment 3-5 days after exhibiting signs of a heat (vaginal discharge, swollen vulva). During this first appointment, a physical exam will be done so that any concerns or current health issues can be addressed. A negative Brucellosis test is required and a current heartworm test as mentioned previously. This can be done by another veterinarian prior to your appointment, please have the results faxed or emailed to us before your appointment. If the Brucellosis was not done prior, we can test at the time of your appointment.

### **Denial of Reproductive Services**

Schultz Veterinary Clinic offers reproductive services, but we do reserve the right to deny reproductive services at any time and for any reason we deem necessary.