

CHECKLIST FOR RECOGNITION OF DISTINCT BREED CHARACTERISTICS

BACKGROUND:

- Breeds under the APA may be recognized as ‘distinct’ or ‘evolving’. A Distinct breed must be satisfactorily defined as distinct in its physical traits.
- Only one association may be granted authority to keep pedigrees and issue certificates in respect of a breed. These exclusive authorities are enforceable under the Offences section of the APA (Section 63).
- The distinctiveness of breeds also gives rise to exclusive authorities which are enforced through the Offences section of the APA (Section 64) in respect of how individual animals may be represented for sale.

DEFINITION PROCESS FOR BREED CHARACTERISTICS (4 Steps):

A. DEFINE THE BREED CHARACTERISTICS.

Breed characteristics (traits) under the APA should be defined in terms of their genetic basis and the physical resemblance which they confer upon animals of the breed. As a first step, breeders may wish to identify all the different traits which they feel are distinctive of their breed and are potentially useful.

B. APPLY GUIDELINES TO EACH TRAIT TO DECIDE IF IT IS USEFUL.

Breed definitions are used to define the genetic description of breeds under the APA. As well, traits under the APA must confer a “physical resemblance” to the animals.

1. Traits must have a genetic basis and be moderate to highly heritable.
2. Traits must be practical to assess (e.g. measurements, drawings).
3. Traits must be capable of being reliably and repeatably measured and/or assessed by persons reasonably knowledgeable of the species.
4. Where necessary, the measurement or assessment of traits shall be applied in a consistent manner so as to minimize any non-genetic factors such as age, management condition, lighting, stance, etc.

C. DEMONSTRATE THAT THE CHOSEN TRAITS RENDER THE BREED DISTINCT FROM OTHERS OF THE SPECIES

Only sufficient traits should be defined as necessary, such that when taken together they reliably distinguish animals of the breed from others of the same species. Once the traits are defined as in steps A & B above, 4 or 5 breeds may be chosen which are reasonably close and/or likely to be confused. The group of traits shall then be compared amongst each of the breeds to determine how reliably they help distinguish them.

D. SUBMIT FINALIZED LIST OF TRAITS TO OTHER BREEDS FOR OPINION