

# *INTERNATIONAL SILKEN WINDHOUND SOCIETY, INC.*

## **GUIDELINES FOR BREEDERS OF SILKEN WINDHOUNDS**

The International Silken Windhound Society (ISWS) expects breeders and prospective breeders of Silken Windhounds to adhere to the principles and breeding practices set forth in these guidelines.

### **Breeding**

The creation of any new life is a serious, far-reaching responsibility. Thousands of dogs are destroyed each year due to the lack of caring homes. Sadly, Silkens are among them. The stud owner is as morally responsible for overpopulation problems as the bitch owner. Before you consider breeding a bitch or a dog, you need to carefully evaluate the market for Silken puppies in your area or the area where the puppies will be whelped. Also consider the reputation and conformation of the sire and dam. Ask yourself these questions.

- ❑ Will you have homes for all of them?
- ❑ Do you have adequate facilities and the financial means to keep and properly care for as many puppies as necessary until proper homes can be found?

As a rare breed, the buyer's market for Silken Windhounds is limited to those who have special interest in unusual canines. Additionally, Silken Windhounds are sighthounds, with distinct personality traits and unique training requirements that require owners who are willing to work positively and patiently with the sighthound personality. Sighthounds are not for everyone. There is not now nor has there ever been a large market for any sighthound breed, and Silken Windhounds are no different in this regard. It is critical to the health, safety, and future of the breed that breeders be willing and prepared to maintain many pups for long periods of time until appropriate homes are found.

### **Selection of Breeding Stock**

The goal in selecting breeding animals must be to perpetuate the desirable qualities and to eliminate those traits that are undesirable. Even adherence to the following guidelines does not preclude the possibility of serious hereditary faults occurring in any litter.

### **Planning**

Litters should be planned with careful thought about the attributes of both the sire and dam and their ancestors. Information pertaining to character, temperament, health and conformity to the ISWS Breed Standard is crucial to a successful breeding program.

### **The Sire and the Dam**

The sire and the dam should be better than average specimens, in good health and of excellent temperament. Their conformation should not vary markedly from the ideal described in the ISWS Standard for the breed. No animal selected for breeding should have any serious hereditary defects as determined visually, by veterinary examination, and by available health tests.

### **Faults**

The sire and the dam should not have the same faults. Faults are noted in the ISWS Standard. The breeder should carefully evaluate the conformation and temperament weaknesses of both the dam and sire, as well as those of their ancestors, choosing animals that complement each other in as many areas as possible.

### **The Stud Dog**

Any dog offered at stud should be a better than average specimen, differing little from the ideal described in the standard. He should be in good health and of excellent temperament.

1. A stud owner may refuse service to a bitch for any reason, especially if the dog has not been advertised as being at stud or if the ad states "to approved bitches only." The stud owner should refuse service to a bitch if s/he feels the breeding would be detrimental to the breed or if the bitch is not an asset to the breed.
2. It is customary for the bitch to be taken to the dog.
3. Stud fees are a matter of private agreement between the stud and bitch owners. Bitch owners should inquire about the stud fee of any dog since fees commonly vary. Fees should be paid at the time of service and a signed certification of the breeding date should be given to the owner of the bitch. If other arrangements are made they should be in writing and signed by both parties. It is unwise for the owner of the stud to sign litter registration papers until full payment has been made and the puppies have been whelped.
4. Stud agreements sometimes are for puppies in lieu of cash. As with any agreement, it should be in writing. If puppies are taken rather than cash, a specific age for the selection of the puppy (puppies) should be agreed upon so that the breeder is not encumbered with holding the litter for an unreasonable length of time. The stud owner may agree to allow the owner of the litter to make the selection. One puppy may be considered a litter; however, should the mating result in a single-puppy litter, the stud owner should consider accepting a fee rather than demanding the puppy and should be willing to repeat the breeding at no charge. The selected puppy should have the same health guarantee as any puppy sold from the litter. The parties to the breeding contract should agree to replacement or refund conditions in advance. Putting all agreements in writing is the best insurance for their being understood.
5. If no puppies are whelped as a result of the service, the stud owner should be informed within four days after the due date. It is customary, but not obligatory for the stud owner to offer a return service to the same bitch, to another approved bitch owned by the same person or to return the stud fee minus board, veterinary and/or transportation costs. As with all other matters this should be a part of a written breeding contract.
6. The stud owner may require a brucellosis test of the bitch prior to breeding.

### **The Brood Bitch**

Any bitch considered for breeding should be a better than average specimen, differing little from the ideal described in the standard. She should be in good health and of excellent temperament.

1. A bitch should not be bred before she is at least 18 months of age and had one complete normal season. She should not be bred at an advanced age. No bitch should be allowed to have more than two litters in a two year period.
2. A veterinarian should be consulted concerning worming and immunizations prior to breeding, whelping or both. In addition, a health certificate, signed by a licensed veterinarian, listing all immunizations, worming and their dates should be available for the stud owner's inspection. The owner of the brood bitch may require a brucellosis test of the stud dog.
3. Boarding and vet fees for the bitch while she is at the stud owner's, as well as any transportation fees involved should be a part of the written breeding agreement.
4. A veterinarian should be consulted concerning nutrition of the bitch before breeding, while pregnant, and after whelping.

## The Puppies

1. Close cooperation with a veterinarian or other experienced individual throughout the pregnancy and delivery is recommended. In large litters (more than seven), it may be advisable to give the puppies some supplemental nourishment after they are 48 hours old. Any decisions regarding the humane culling of any puppies are personal and best considered after consultations with your veterinarian.
2. The age for weaning is determined by the bitch and her puppies. The presentation and acceptance of a properly prepared, well-balanced, high quality puppy food usually begins at about three weeks of age. Weaning is usually completed by seven to eight weeks of age. It is advisable to leave the dam and puppies together even after weaning for socialization.
3. Most puppies need worming at least by six weeks of age and again at nine weeks of age. Consult with your veterinarian early and prior to worming. The parasite load in your area, as well as the parasite load of the dam, may dictate worming the puppies as early as three weeks of age.
4. An immunization program for infectious diseases should be established for puppies by a veterinarian according to the latest immunization information available.
5. For advice on socializing and training puppies, contact your Silken Windhound mentor.

## Selling

The goal of selling puppies and dogs is to provide each animal with a suitable, caring, permanent home where it will be a credit to its breed, breeder and owner.

### *Articles to Accompany Each Sale*

- ❑ ISWS registration (either full or limited) or an agreement signed by both the buyer and the seller stating the reason(s) that no registration papers are being given or transferred.

#### Note

According to the A.K.C., registration papers belong to the individual puppies or dogs; they may not be withheld unless there is an agreement signed by both the buyer and the seller.

- ❑ A three-generation pedigree signed by the breeder with the ISWS registration numbers of the Silken's parents and any available hip/eye clearance numbers of the ancestors.
- ❑ A medical record, to include the following:
  - ✓ A schedule of dates and types of vaccines used in inoculations up to the date of purchase and the name of the person who administered them. Any adverse reactions should be noted.
  - ✓ A schedule of the dates on which the puppy or dog was wormed, the type of medication used and/or the date its stool was checked and found free of infestation. Any adverse reactions to administered worming medication should be noted.
  - ✓ A health certificate signed by the breeder's/owner's veterinarian attesting to the animal's condition and noting any serious infections, special diagnosis, surgery, etc.; and certification of all inoculations administered by the vet.
  - ✓ A 48-hour health guarantee. (The time limit of this guarantee should be modified if appropriate to account for travel distance and time.) This gives the buyer time to have the puppy or adult checked by his/her own veterinarian to assure its health. If the veterinarian finds any serious defect which would render the puppy or adult unfit for the purpose for which it was purchased, the vet should note this in writing.
- ❑ A feeding schedule and enough of the animal's food to last several days. This can be used to tide over the new owner until the same food can be obtained, or it can be mixed with a new food to ease the transition onto that food. If possible, consider doing the same thing with the animal's water supply.
- ❑ A container of water replaced by that of the new owner's as it is consumed, so that the water is slowly changed may help prevent digestive upset that occasionally accompanies a rapid change in water.
- ❑ A booklet concerning ordinary puppy care.

- ❑ A copy of the standard and a short history of the breed.
- ❑ Special Considerations.
- ❑ Any ribbons and/or trophies won by the animal.
- ❑ Photos or copies of photos of the animal's parents, other ancestors if available, and the same of the animal's early days.
- ❑ A favorite toy.

### **Prices**

It is not the intention of the ISWS to recommend any specific price structure for either puppy or adult Silken Windhounds. Honesty and fairness in the Breeder-Purchaser (Seller-Buyer) relationship should prevail. The Silken is a living, feeling creature and is to be respected and treated as such.

In general, prices vary with geographic area and the pedigree of the animal(s) involved. If a breeder finds that s/he cannot obtain what s/he believes to be satisfactory prices, s/he should examine the reasons for breeding, the breeding program, practices and the market environment for Silkens in the area.

Economically depressed areas or those sparsely populated usually have a limit to the demand for all pure-bred dogs. One possible recourse for a breeder in this situation is to curtail the breeding program, spacing litters farther apart. The price of a puppy or adult should be sufficient to reflect the fact that the new owner has made an investment in something important. On the other hand, no puppy or adult should carry an unrealistically high price tag.

### **Contracts**

#### ***Payments and Agreements***

- ❑ Payment should be made in cash (or by check) or credit card preferably in full, at the time of sale.
- ❑ If installment payments are to be made, the terms of the agreement should be in writing, signed by both parties. Usually it is unwise to schedule payments in cash or services covering a period of more than twelve months. If payment or partial payment is to be in puppies or stud services, then a longer time period would be reasonable.
- ❑ If the animal is to be shipped, payment should be made and/or all agreements should be signed prior to shipping. Registration papers should be sent with the animal or prior to shipment, provided payment has been made, checks cleared, and/or all contracts signed.
- ❑ Consider all of the possible ramifications that a contract between buyer and seller may entail. Contracts requiring future breedings place significant future obligations upon the buyer and place the buyer in the position of having to pay all or a significant part of the costs commonly associated with a breeding, whelping and raising a litter. These costs commonly include stud fees, cost of the bitch's transportation to and from the stud owner's location, possible boarding and veterinary costs while there, puppy food for a litter, inoculations, wormings, etc. This burden should be accepted by a buyer only with full knowledge of the potential costs and commitment involved. It is the responsibility of the seller to make certain that the buyer is fully cognizant of the implications of such an agreement when selling a bitch with such stipulations in the contract. The ISWS discourages such contracts.
- ❑ Before entering into a co-ownership agreement, carefully consider the potential financial and legal obligations and ramifications that you may be accepting. Breeders should not use a co-ownership as a gimmick to unload a puppy or adult Silken for a lower price.
- ❑ The best advice is to have everything in writing. In contracts try to use simple, precise language clearly defining all obligations, situations, ramifications, etc. that you can possibly envision. Make certain that both parties read, understand, and agree to the contract before signing it. No matter how well written the contracts, they are often difficult to enforce and enforcement may be expensive to pursue. Contracts with many stipulations are hard to enforce. Stipulations should rarely be made with novices or people the breeder does not know well.

## Returns, Replacements, Refunds

All agreements between buyer and seller regarding returns, replacements or refunds should be in writing, agreed to and signed by both parties. Wording should be clear and precise setting forth mutually accepted terms covering all foreseeable situations.

- ❑ **Returns without Refund:** The breeder should be willing to accept the return of any healthy animal which s/he has sold, without giving a refund and pursuant to the clearly defined right of the breeder, if and as specified in the purchase agreement or contract, to retain, re-sell or euthanize the animal at the breeder's option.
- ❑ **Refunds or Replacements:** If, and as specified in the purchase agreement or contract, a refund or replacement should be furnished under the following circumstances:
  - ❑ In the case of an animal returned to the breeder (within two weeks after the sale) due to serious illness, the origin of which can be determined by a qualified veterinarian to have existed at the time of the animal's sale, a suitable financial settlement should be made. The amount of the settlement should be up to, but not exceeding the purchase price paid for the animal. A veterinarian's certification of the illness and its pre-existing nature shall be necessary to return an animal under this section, and shall be supplied at the purchaser's expense. This certificate shall set forth that the veterinarian has examined the animal, and that the animal has a contagious or disabling illness rendering it unfit for purchase and include the precise findings of the veterinarian.
  - ❑ If a puppy originally sold as show stock subsequently is found to have some serious defect or disqualification, a refund or replacement, at the breeder's option, should be offered, provided that the puppy is returned to the breeder. This should be determined as soon as possible recognizing that being certified 'clear' of some defects cannot occur until two years of age. A purchase agreement or contract between buyer and seller should address the terms and conditions under which replacements or refunds under this section are handled. Consider including a clause whereby if the owner wishes to keep the dog and have it neutered, the refund might reflect the difference between a pet and show price.
  - ❑ Any puppy up to two years of age that develops a serious congenital defect which may well seriously affect the quality of life should be returned to the breeder for replacement or refund. Confirmation of such defects would, of course, be sought from one or more qualified veterinarians.
  - ❑ **Limitation on returns, replacements or refunds:** Refunds and replacements shall not apply where a seller (breeder), in certifying the health of the puppy or dog at the time of sale, discloses at that time the health problem for which the buyer later seeks to return the animal and adjusts the purchase price at the time of sale to reflect the animal's health condition.

## Ethical Considerations

- ❑ Puppies under six months of age seldom should be termed "show quality." Instead puppies in this age bracket are more appropriately referred to as "promising," or "better than average." This recognizes the developmental changes through which many of these puppies will progress as they mature. The prices of puppies will vary depending on their quality with those described as above average typically commanding higher prices.
- ❑ Adolescent and adult Silkens are available from many breeders. These more mature Silkens typically cost more than puppies. Their show potential is more fully realized than that of a puppy, with some already having accumulated show wins. Some Silkens in this category are also proven sires or dams so their breeding record, exemplified by their offspring, is also more readily evaluated. Buyers interested in serious show or breeding stock are more likely to achieve their goals by purchasing more mature animals.
- ❑ Selling or buying a male and female pair of puppies as a breeding pair is not advisable and is to be discouraged. Until they mature it is too difficult to determine if they will be suited to each other. See previous sections in reference to Stud and Brood Bitch qualities.

- ❑ Euthanasia should be considered for any animal with a crippling or debilitating physical defect, a bad temperament or an unreliable disposition which makes the animal unsuitable for a pet. Stable, well-adjusted Silken Windhounds are typical of the breed and what the average buyer expects. The buyer is not prepared to cope with a bad-tempered, potentially vicious animal. Breeders are expected to take responsible courses of action with respect to the animals they have bred.
- ❑ Giving an animal as a gift is discouraged since often the animal is not really wanted or appreciated. Offering animals as raffle prizes or promotional prizes is strictly prohibited by the ISWS and is illegal in many states and/or communities. An ISWS member who offers a Silken Windhound as a raffle or promotional prize will be subject to disciplinary action.

### **Wholesale Sales**

Wholesale sales are defined as any sale where the seller does not meet or have actual knowledge of the ultimate purchaser of the Silken Windhound. Examples are consignment sales of individual puppies or entire litters to pet shops or any third party agent or broker. Sales to or through such establishments or individuals are detrimental to the breed. This type of sale is specifically prohibited by the ISWS. A breeder who resorts to this type of sale will be subject to disciplinary action by the ISWS and puppies sold this way will not be registered. The sale of Silken Windhounds to puppy mills is strictly prohibited and any member who knowingly sells a Silken to such an establishment will be subject to expulsion from the ISWS. The registration of all offspring resulting from such sales will be denied or cancelled.

It is expected that every breeder of Silken Windhounds will take the time to investigate prospective owners and place each puppy in a home where it will be loved and cared for, becoming a credit to the breed, the breeder, and the owner. In-home visits are recommended prior to placing a Silken Windhound. References should also be requested and checked. If the breeder is unable to perform an in-home visit, s/he should request assistance from other ISWS members.

### **Advertising**

- ❑ Advertising, whether written or oral, should be accurate, with no misleading statements or exaggerations or insinuations.
- ❑ Advertising should be in good taste, restrained, and without derogatory remarks made or hinted concerning the methods, animals, or reputations of other breeders.
- ❑ Well-mannered, attractive, even-tempered Silken Windhounds in suitable homes, at dog shows, or at other public places are the best possible advertisements.

### **Records**

There are various efficient methods of keeping adequate records and special books on the subject are obtainable from the AKC. The Registrar of the ISWS maintains the official breeding records of all Silken Windhounds.

### **Legal Effect of These Guidelines**

It is intended that all members of the ISWS adhere to these guidelines as a part of that organization's Code of Ethics. They have no legal effect unless based upon local, state or federal laws. The ISWS expresses no opinion thereon. Any question as to the legal effect of any of these guidelines should be referred to an attorney for a legal opinion.