

## **RECKLESS BREEDING LEGISLATION**

### **Breeders please note:**

The Victorian State Government has recently introduced **Reckless Breeding Legislation**.

**A Code of Practise for the Responsible Breeding of Animals with Heritable Defects that cause Disease** has been produced and is available from the Department of Primary Industries.

Under the heading **LEGAL REQUIREMENTS** it states that it is an **offence** to "intentionally or recklessly" breed "an animal with a heritable defect that causes disease" and "It is a cruelty offence to permit an animal to suffer from a heritable disease."

Further "The code requires that animals with disease caused by a heritable defect **must not** be disposed of to another person without advice of the animal's heritable defect status."

This advice must include:

1. "**Permanent identification details**" e.g. in the case of dogs the number of microchip implant and/or ear tattoo.
2. "**Veterinary certificate** with details of the diagnosis linked to that permanent identification."

Hip and Elbow Dysplasia is considered polygenic in nature i.e. where more than one gene is involved and environment can add to the severity of the condition. The Government has recommended that testing procedures i.e. x-raying of breeding animals be introduced and Sires Progeny Statistics be produced in breeds such as ours that have a predisposition to these conditions. As you would all be aware our organisation is well ahead of the game with a Hip scheme in place since 1982, an Elbow scheme since 1990 and Sires Progeny statistics provided for many years. We are indeed fortunate to have the benefit of the foresight of our GSDCA predecessors who fought so hard to set up these schemes with our breed now considered the role model in this area. The GSDCA is also currently looking at developing EBVs (Estimated Breed Values) for Hip and Elbow dysplasia in the near future.

**DO NOT UNDERESTIMATE THE VALUE OF THESE SCHEMES** as they have held our organisation/breed in very good stead over the years and will assist in protecting the Breeder from potential prosecution. If we are seen to at least be attempting to conform to the principles in this code we cannot be considered to be breeding "recklessly or intentionally as defined" in the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act.

Jenny Yuen

GSDCV Breed Affairs Administrator

(Extracts taken from Code of Practice for the Responsible Breeding of Animals with Heritable Defects that cause Disease)