

Dear Mrs King

Bill Lambert has passed me your Club's letter about the Clumber, Sedgely Dill. Bill has asked me to reply.

In general, in circumstances where a registration is put into doubt the matter should be resolved either by DNA verification (KC regulation B22 f.), rectification (amended with correct parents) or with the removal of the registered dam or sire and replaced with breed...dam/sire unknown and the asterisk repair process so that the pedigree is repaired after three generations or cancelled. However before this action can proceed, verification of the dog needs to take place.

As Dr Lewis would have explained to both the owner of the dog and to Carol Page, the KC is unable to rely on the results of any DNA tests to determine breed. There are a number of 'profiling' or 'panel' products available that provide a dog's genetic background and this may show the likely composition of cross or mixed-breed dogs. This means that the algorithms in place to determine likely breed type rest on the assumption that a cross has occurred. This can become challenging when looking at populations of the same breed in different countries, or breeds which were established relatively recently from very similar origins. This can be exacerbated if the reference population is based on non-UK dogs, or contained only a limited number of UK dogs, and where a small selection of genetic markers are used, it may also impact identifying breeds that are genetically similar. Dr Lewis can explain this in more detail if required ([Thomas.Lewis@thekennelclub.org.uk](mailto:Thomas.Lewis@thekennelclub.org.uk))

Registration of litters with the Kennel Club are accepted in good faith and upon trust that the integrity of the information submitted is correct and accurate. We are concerned that the register is not compromised in any way and if there are grounds to believe that there are anomalies, and with sufficient evidential material, we will always investigate any alleged misuse or discrepancy. Any inaccuracies will be rectified and where appropriate disciplinary measures may follow.

Until more definitive methods become available, the KC advises that if a dog was misrepresented or incorrectly sold, the first port of call must always be for the owner to discuss the matter with the breeder. Puppy buyers have a range of civil remedies if a breeder does not supply a verifiable and correctly registered Kennel Club registered dog, including civil action for breach of contract and statutory remedies under consumer protection legislation. If there are concerns about the parentage, owners should ask the breeder to participate in parentage profiling. Many laboratories can provide this service at reasonable costs. However, this will only confirm whether the parentage is correct, and not determine whether another breed may have been introduced into the pedigree several generations ago. Therefore, if there is no doubt over the actual parentage, this testing would not be beneficial.

If there are concerns over the purity of the dog, we advise the owner to have it examined by two experienced championship judges of the breed and discuss the findings with the breeder. If both these judges perceive the dog is not of Clumber type and provide written reports to advise, the KC can contact the breeder if the owner cannot resolve the matter. We have been contacted by the owner of this dog, and advised them of the procedure, but have not yet heard back from them.

Regards

**Gary Johnson**

**Breeder Services Manager**

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