



Text: Carol Immelman | Photography: Supplied

# Understanding your puppy's registration

hoosing your perfect purebred companion requires time, effort, and research, which should include establishing that you are buying a puppy with paperwork that lives up to your expectations. Last month, we discussed the value of a KUSA registration. In this issue, we examine the different KUSA registers and what to look out for when investing in a new family member.

First and foremost, it is extremely important to note that not all KUSA registrations are the same!

While most registrations are on the Primary Breed Register, KUSA does have other different

↑ hoosing your perfect purebred companion requires time, effort, and research, which should include lishing that you are buying a puppy with
 ↑ registers intended to suit diverse purposes. To avoid disappointment, you should make sure your puppy has a registration that fits in with your future plans.

#### Going for gold

The **Primary Breed Register** is the gold standard of KUSA registrations. If a breeder is advertising KUSA registered puppies, this is the type of registration you should expect.

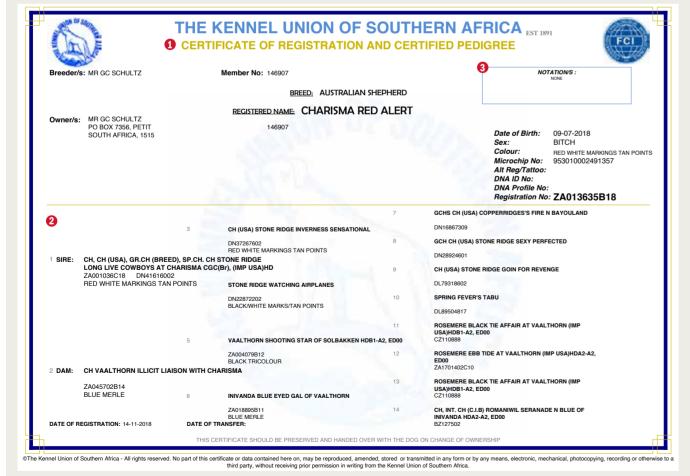
These registration certificates are headed Certificate Of Registration And Certified Pedigree and they may be accompanied by an annexure, which lists the results of DNA

or health screening tests done on the puppy and his parents.

While a KUSA registration cannot guarantee quality, in most cases, it indicates that the breeder has taken steps to ensure that the puppies meet the breed standard – in other words, that they look and act like the breed they are identified to be.

If accompanied by an annexure, you'll also know the health background of the puppy's parents and be able to assess whether the puppy you buy will have a lower chance of developing a genetically linked disorder

### What to look out for on a Registration Certificate



#### **DID YOU KNOW?**

The notion that KUSA registers breeders is a misconception. KUSA registers dogs and kennel names but does not actually register breeders. KUSA requires breeders to be KUSA members and to abide by the stringent KUSA code of ethics, in order to register dogs.

Puppies registered on the Primary Breed Register are eligible to compete in all KUSA competitions, giving their families the opportunity to enter the exciting world of KUSA dog events, which offers something for everybody, ranging from 'Beauty' Shows to Obedience and Field Trials, Agility, Tracking, Dog Dancing and more.

#### **Appendix Registers**

In addition to the Primary Breed Register, KUSA also has three levels of Appendix Registers and the Dogsport Record.

The Appendix Registers record purebred dogs of unknown ancestry and dogs with incomplete pedigrees. The registration certificates are headed **Certificate Of Registration** –

If you're looking for a top-of-the-line registration, here are the three most important items to check on the registration certificate of the puppy or his parents.

- HEADING The top of the certificate should say Certificate Of Registration And Certified Pedigree
- **OPEDIGREE** All the dog's ancestors should be named on the certificate. If any are listed as 'unknown' or 'not verified', the dog is not registered on the Primary Breed Register.
- **NOTATIONS** On the top right-hand side of the puppy's registration certificate is a 'notations' box, which contains details of any restrictions that apply to the dog. Many breeders place restrictions on their puppies and these are noted here.

For example, 'Progeny NE for Registration' means the breeder has placed a restriction on the dog and you will not be able to register puppies from the dog unless the breeder agrees to lift the restrictions.

The breeder should draw your attention to the restriction and explain under which circumstances it can be lifted, if at all.

Always ask the breeder to explain the meaning of any notations and, if in doubt, check with the KUSA office.

**Appendix Register Only.** Dogs registered on the Appendix Registers are restricted as to which breed shows they may enter and are not eligible for Breed Champion status.

The Dogsport Record is open to dogs of any ancestry (including crossbreeds) and the registration certificates are headed **Certificate** 

#### Of Registration Dogsport Record.

Dogs with Appendix or Dogsport registrations can compete in most of the KUSA Dogsport events, such as Agility, Obedience, Carting or Dog Dancing.

#### Making sure

Since litters may be registered with KUSA at any time until their first birthday, it is quite possible that your potential puppy may not yet be registered when he's ready to leave his breeder. If that is the case, request the breeder's KUSA membership number, as well as copies of the puppy's parents' registration certificates, or a copy of the litter registration application form, if already submitted to KUSA. If the puppy's parents are not registered on the Primary Breed Register, the breeder will not be able to register the litter on the Primary Breed Register.

If the puppy is already registered, request a copy of the registration certificate in advance, and check it carefully.

## What's on a Registration Certificate?

A KUSA Breed Registration Certificate records the KUSA registration number, breed, the dog's unique registered name (this includes the breeder's kennel name, followed by the dog's official name), colour, date of birth, sex, microchip number, plus the breeder's name, address and KUSA membership number. The front of the certificate also includes a certified pedigree, listing three generations of the dog's ancestors. On the reverse of the certificate, you'll find the 'Application to Transfer Ownership' form – this should be signed by the breeder in order for you to transfer ownership of the puppy.

#### Health tests and DNA screening

These results are recorded on a separate certificate (see example below), which is issued with the registration certificate. Responsible breeders want to produce the healthiest dogs possible and should be able to explain what all the results mean. Breeders should be acutely aware of the genetic diseases common in their breed and should have specialised health testing performed on their dogs before breeding them, so that they can avoid breeding dogs who might pass on faulty genes.

