



# THE WORKING KELPIE COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA INC.

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## APPLYING FOR A WKC STUD PREFIX so you can register dogs with the WKC

**NOTE: THE APPLICATION FEE IS \$100 (from 1<sup>st</sup> Jan 2026)**

Thank you for your interest about applying for a Stud Prefix with the Working Kelpie Council (WKC). When you apply to become a member and register as a Breeder with the WKC you are joining a large collective of like-minded people who are dedicated to selectively breeding for the improvement of Working Kelpies, and who use the WKC's registry services to officially record accurate records and other details about their personal breeding programs.

The WKC is internationally recognised as the primary and official Stud Registry for Working Kelpies. To maintain the integrity of the WKC Registry, we have established various Objectives, Rules, Regulations, By-Laws and Codes of Conduct that apply to Breeders and to registrations of dogs, some of which are summarised in this document.

Confusion about eligibility for registration is one of the common causes of difficulties for new WKC members. Before making an application for a WKC Stud Prefix, please carefully read the additional information on pages 2 & 3 about whether you will be able to register your dogs or litters with us.

**NOTE: As a WKC Breeder, you must not use your WKC Prefix to refer to any unregistered pups or dogs.**

### HOW TO APPLY FOR A WKC STUD PREFIX

The Stud Prefix is a unique single word that is issued by the WKC and used to clearly identify every dog that comes from each Breeder's Kelpie stud. For approval by the WKC, the applicant for a Prefix must first become a financial Member, then submit the 'Application for Stud Prefix' form and make payment of the application fees.

**Aside from the personal details shown on the Application Form, we must also confirm at least the following additional information about your reasons for applying to become a WKC Breeder:**

1. Why are you applying to become a WKC breeder?
2. The approximate number of Working Kelpies you intend to register.
3. The details about your property, and the type and number of livestock that you are currently running.
4. Anything else that you think is relevant to your application, like your line of work, size of property, etc.
5. We also require a list of your WKC-Registered Kelpies (including their WKC Registration numbers), as well as a description of other (non-registered) Livestock Working Dogs (of any breed) that you own.

**NOTE:** If you do not already own a suitable female Working Kelpie from which you can breed and register pups, your application for a Stud Prefix would require special approval and agreement from the WKC Board.

The approval for a WKC Stud Prefix may take up to a month, and we will inform you when it has been processed. If your application is not approved, we will not charge the application fee (or refund if you pre-paid).

### CHOOSING A BREEDER'S STUD PREFIX AND TATTOO SYMBOLS

Each Breeder is assigned a unique "WKC STUD PREFIX" for their exclusive use. This Prefix is used before the given name of all dogs from a particular Breeder's stud. Each WKC Stud Prefix must be:

- A single word of maximum 16 letters (12 for applicants outside Australia). Numbers & symbols are not allowed.
- Not include canine-related terms like "Kelpies", "Dogs", "Stud", "Kennel", or other references to dogs or breeding.
- Not similar in spelling or phonetic sound to any existing WKC Prefix, or like a Breeders Prefix held by another person with other Australian Working Dog organisations.

**You can NOT use your WKC Breeders Prefix in the name of dogs that you have not Registered with the WKC.**

We recommend that every Breeder also registers a set of Tattoo Symbol Letters for their future use. These must be either 2 or 3 letters, and the last letter must not be either I or O (since those can be confused with numbers).

Tattooing of dogs is recommended, but only mandatory for Full Registration in the WKC's National Stud Register. Non-tattooed Pure-Bred Kelpies are graded A4 in the Appendix Register and are not deemed to be "Fully-Registered".

We will contact you if your initially requested choices of Prefix and/or Tattoo Symbols are unavailable.

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT REGISTRATION OF DOGS WITH THE WKC**

### **THE MINIMUM CRITERIA FOR WKC-REGISTRATION OF DOGS (Summary)**

For the WKC National Stud Registry ("Main Registry") or Appendix Registry, the following 7 steps summarise the most fundamental rules for registration of ANY dog or litter. These should be considered as a checklist of minimum criteria needed before making any application to register a dog or litter with the WKC. Hence, you must meet ALL 7 of these:

- 1) The WKC only registers Kelpies that are bred as Livestock Working Dogs (not as pets or show animals).
- 2) The applicant must be a Financial WKC Member at the time of making application.
- 3) The applicant must already hold an active WKC Registered Stud Prefix as a Registered Breeder.
- 4) BOTH parent dogs must already be WKC Registered in either of the abovementioned Registries.
- 5) The applicant must be the WKC Registered Owner of the Dam (at the time of whelping).
- 6) If the applicant is not ALSO the WKC Registered Owner of the Sire, then the Sire's Owner (not the applicant) must have already submitted a "Certificate of Service" form to the WKC that verifies the mating occurred.
- 7) The Application for Registration must meet all the other relevant clauses in the WKC Stud Registry Rules, Information for Breeders, WKC Code of Conduct, as well as other relevant WKC regulations and publications.

**NOTES:** You cannot apply to WKC-Register dogs that you did not breed, nor use another Breeder's Prefix. Each dog must be registered by the person who was that dog's Breeder, which the WKC deems as "The person who owns the Dam at time of whelping". Where applicable, the Registered Owner must first officially transfer ownership (permanently, or by lease) of the Dam to the Breeder, so that the pups may be Registered by the second person using their own WKC Breeders Prefix.

### **THE SPECIAL REGISTER - FOR WKC RECOGNITION OF OTHER DOGS**

For those cases where dogs and litters are ineligible for Registration in the WKC's National or Appendix Registries (detailed above), we offer an alternative service for recording them in the WKC's "Special Register". This would apply where any of points 4, 5 or 6 (above) cannot be complied with, however the points 1, 2, 3 and 7 are still mandatory.

In these cases, the dog(s) will be recorded with the WKC System Prefix of "S/BRED" (Station Bred). Any claimed ancestry cannot be recorded unless the immediate parent is WKC Registered, and the breeding has been verified in the same way as for normal Registration (points 5 & 6 above). To ensure that there is no confusion about the dog's true origin or breeder, **a WKC-Registered Stud Prefix cannot be used anywhere in a "Station Bred" dog's name.**

All dogs recorded in the S-Register are not deemed to be "WKC-Registered" since they do not have sufficiently verified ancestral bloodlines or parent who are both WKC-Registered. The progeny of S-Register female dogs can be elevated to Appendix Grade A1 only if they are mated to a WKC-Registered Pure-Bred Sire (see page 3).

The WKC encourages the recording of all Livestock Working Dogs in the Special Register, especially if they display desirable working abilities. However, each breeder should consider the effect that breeding with S-Register dogs has on WKC Registration and Pedigree gradings of future generations, as explained on the following page.

There are certainly many good reasons to record "Station-Bred" bitches in the S-Register. They can form the ideal foundation stock for a strategic Kelpie breeding program with WKC-Registered Pure-Bred Sires, as they can introduce desirable new traits into a Breeder's stud. Similarly, it may sometimes be worthwhile to record Station-Bred males, then "breeding up" one of their female progenies with a Pure-Bred Sire to elevate the following generation to A1.

### **TATTOO IDENTIFICATION AND MICROCHIPS**

The WKC recommends that all pups are tattooed, with those details recorded at the time of initial Registration.

This is especially useful when there are claims made by buyers about a purchased dog's working ability, since tattoo identification provides verification to the Breeder that the older dog is the same one that was originally sold as a pup.

It should be noted that Livestock Working dogs are generally exempt from requiring microchips, so many Kelpies are sold without one having been implanted. The WKC encourages the recording of microchip numbers against each dog's records, however we are unable to accept this as a substitute for tattooing of pups by the original Breeder.

Microchips are intended to trace the owner of each animal, rather than provide identification of a particular dog.

Microchips can be easily removed and re-implanted and furthermore the dog's name (recorded with the microchip registry) can be changed by anybody making an application, so it is trivial to name a dog with a WKC-Registered Prefix and Name without any verification of authenticity.

For these reasons the WKC currently only recognises Breeder-applied tattoos, and does not consider microchips are sufficiently reliable for positive verification of any dog's identity, nor its breeder or ancestral bloodlines.

## **UNDERSTANDING THE WKC REGISTRIES AND PEDIGREE GRADINGS**

### **WHAT ARE WKC PEDIGREE GRADES?**

There are 3 separate WKC Registries for Working Kelpies, which are reflected in their WKC Registration Number.

- **WKC National Stud Register** ("Main Registry") for "Fully Registered" Pure-Bred animals.
  - These dogs only have a 5-number Registration number, and a tattoo is mandatory at time of Registration.
- **WKC Appendix Register** (with Axx- Numbers) for dogs with at least one generation of WKC-verified and recorded bloodlines, but that do not meet requirements for full registration in the National Stud Register.
- **WKC Special Register** (Sxxxx Numbers) for all other dogs that don't meet requirements for Appendix Register.

The WKC Pedigree Grading is important to many people intending to breed and sell their pups, however it's not a direct indicator of their potential working ability. The WKC Grading is determined by the LOWEST grading of either Sire or Dam. Only if the Sire is Pure-Bred will pups be upgraded by one level (above the Dam's grade), which also allows Elevation from the S-Register to the Appendix, and from Appendix to Full Registration. Refer to table below:

<i>The coloured squares indicate the Grading of the resultant pups from mating of Sires and Dams</i>	Pure-Bred SIRE (A4M or Main Register)	Non-pure Appendix SIRE (A1M, A2M, A3M)	Unregistered SIRE (SFM, S1M, S2M, S3M)
Pure-Bred DAM (A4 or Main Register)	Pups = PURE-BRED (A4 or Main Register)	Pups = Appendix (Downgraded to Sire's grading)	Unregistered Pups (Recorded in S-Register)
Appendix DAM (A3F only) non-pure	Pups = PURE-BRED (ELEVATED to A4 or Main)	Pups = Appendix (Lowest grading of Sire or Dam)	Unregistered Pups (Recorded in S-Register)
Appendix DAM (AF1 or A2F) non-pure	Pups = Appendix (1 grade HIGHER than Dam)	Pups = Appendix (Lowest grading of Sire or Dam)	Unregistered Pups (Recorded in S-Register)
Unregistered DAM (SFF, S1F, S2F, S3F)	Pups = Appendix A1 (ELEVATED from S to A1)	Unregistered Pups (Recorded in S-Register)	Unregistered Pups (Recorded in S-Register)

### **Notes about WKC Gradings:**

- The WKC deems a dog as "Pure-Bred" if it's at least the 4th generation of sequential matings to a Pure-Bred Sire.
- Tattoo is mandatory for full WKC Registration of Pure-Bred dogs, otherwise they are held back to A4 grade.
- In the Appendix Register, the numbers A1, A2, A3, etc generally refer to the minimum number of WKC-verified sequential matings of a line of female dogs to a WKC-Registered Pure-Bred Sire.
- The Sire's grading is very important to the grading of the progeny, so should be chosen carefully by Breeders.
- Mating to a lower-graded Non-Purebred Sire will always down-grade the progeny to the Sire's level.
- Mating to a Sire in the S-Register (eg. Station-Bred) will always make the pups ineligible for Registration in either the Main or Appendix Registers, so they can only be Recorded (not registered) in the Special Register.

### **OTHER COMMENTS ABOUT REGISTERING WITH THE WKC**

Dogs that are bred or sold as pets, for show, or for uses other than for working livestock, are NOT eligible for either registration or recording with the WKC. Breeders found to be breaching this rule will be de-registered, and all existing registrations for their dogs will also be de-registered unless they indisputably prove the dogs are working livestock.

It is the responsibility of the Applicant for Registration of any dog to make the necessary arrangements for their submission to comply with the WKC's requirements. That includes contacting any previous owners and/or breeders to arrange supporting registrations, transfers, documents, etc to support their Application for Registration.

The WKC will try to assist applicants where possible, however this is generally limited to verification of any claims made. We cannot force our members, breeders or any other person to assist an applicant to register a dog or litter. Please note that the WKC will not disclose ownership or personal information about the Owner or Breeder of any dog.

The WKC determines what is deemed acceptable "proof" that any dog meets the requirements for being suitable for registration. Whilst we may accept alternative methods and supporting documents to achieve compliance with our rules, the WKC must always be satisfied that all applications, declarations, etc are 100% legitimate and genuine.

If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact us and ask for assistance.