

Important information from the Kennel Club Registration Department

New Litter Limits & Caesareans

In 2010, the Kennel Club announced that it would be reducing the number of litters allowed from any one bitch from six litters to four. This was effective for litters born on or after 1st January 2012. At the same time, the KC has confirmed that it will no longer register any puppies born either by caesarean section or naturally from any bitch which has previously had two such operations, again effective 01 January 2012.

Why has the Kennel Club reduced the litter limits from six to four ?

The decision was made by the Kennel Club General Committee after receiving a recommendation from its Dog Health Group because of concerns that the current legal limit of six litters can potentially be detrimental to a bitch's welfare.

My bitch is already in whelp as I didn't know about the new rule - can I register the puppies?

If your bitch was mated at the end of 2011, the Kennel Club has agreed to consider an application, subject to the usual rules on registrations.

If I want to register a fifth litter what do I do ?

The Kennel Club will consider a written request to register a fifth litter on a case by case basis, but only if there are good and justifiable reasons for doing so.

Can I register a sixth litter from my bitch ?

No. Whilst a fifth litter may be considered, there can be no laxity for dispensation for a sixth litter.

What if my bitch is an import and had four litters overseas – can I register any more litters in the UK?

The four litter rule still applies whether the bitch has whelped previous litters in the UK or abroad. Should you wish to take a fifth litter, you would need to make a written request for dispensation.

What if my bitch has whelped four registered litters and I send her abroad – will a foreign kennel club register a fifth litter and if they do, will you accept one of the puppies as an import?

The Kennel Club cannot comment on the registration rules of other kennel clubs. But if the puppies were registered abroad and you imported a puppy from the litter, the KC would accept an application to register the dog as an import, subject to the usual rules on importing dogs.

Why has the Kennel Club introduced a new rule about caesareans ?

The Kennel Club has brought in this new rule after concerns about the welfare of some breeding bitches, and following advice from Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, the British Veterinary Association and the British Small Animal Veterinary Association.

My bitch has already had two caesareans, can I register a third litter from her ?

If your bitch has already had two litters delivered by caesarean section, we will not accept an application to register a third litter even if this litter has been whelped naturally, save for scientifically proven welfare reasons and this only normally provided a written application is made prior to the mating.

Breeder's Licences

Breeders who register five or more litters in a year with the Kennel Club are being asked to produce copies

of their breeding licence, in order to help the Kennel Club ensure that it does not register puppies from puppy farmers.

Breeders who breed five or more litters a year normally require a breeding licence from their local authority and now, in order to continue registering puppies with the Kennel Club, will have to prove that they hold this licence. This is now effective and all breeders who bred five or more litters in 2011 will receive a letter from the Kennel Club.

The Kennel Club will also be entitled to ask for a licence from those individuals who collectively register more than five litters a year from a single address.

Breeders who cannot produce this licence and who believe that their local authority does not require them to hold one must get this in writing from their local authority, in order for their registrations to be accepted. In the event that a local authority should not cooperate by way of appropriate correspondence, the Kennel Club may contact it directly in order to establish that it is satisfied that the breeder does not require a local authority licence for their breeding premises.

Dogs - A Healthy Future

[Click here to watch our new film](#)

This film, narrated by Clare Balding, looks at the issues affecting dog health and wellbeing in this country and what is being done in 2012 to help ensure that dog welfare stays at the top of the agenda.

'Dogs - A Healthy Future', focuses on the main issues that affect dog health and welfare, including hereditary diseases, issues created by breeding dogs for the way that they look and the problem of cruel puppy farms that breed dogs for profit without regard for their health and welfare.

The film explores the steps that have already been taken to address these issues and the need for united action in order to ensure that the progress continues in 2012.