



Veterinary Hospital

Canine Reproductive Standards of Care & Breeder Application

At Olney-Sandy Spring Veterinary Hospital we are committed to providing the highest quality care and services to our patients and clients. Our main priority will always be the health and well-being of our patients. To be considered for breeding services at Olney-Sandy Spring Veterinary Hospital we do have requirements that must be met.

Standards of Care for Breeding Dogs

- All dogs presented for breeding and stud services will be current on rabies vaccine and owner will present a copy of the rabies certificate to us prior to the appointment.
- All dogs will have a current Brucellosis test (performed here or within 12 weeks prior to the appointment).
- All dogs will appear healthy and free of contagious disease.
- Dogs that have physical abnormalities that will put the dog at risk if being bred will not be bred.
- Temperament needs to be stable enough to be safely handled by staff and conform to their breed standard for temperament.
- All dogs will be in good body condition for breeding.
- We recommend appropriate health testing according to the breed standard.
- Owner will fill out our [new client form](#) prior to their first appointment, to include full contact information including address, phone number and email.

Health & Health Testing Requirements:

As your veterinary healthcare team, we expect you to make ethical decisions and strive to improve the health of your breeding stock. Screening of all breeding animals for genetic or heritable diseases should be performed prior to breeding. We understand that breeding decisions are never black and white and that there are cases when breeding an animal without passing all health clearances may be appropriate. However, without testing and having this knowledge, it is not possible to make breeding decisions to improve the health of the puppies you are producing.

If you are unsure of what health testing is appropriate for your breed, please visit the Canine Health Information Center (www.caninehealthinfo.org) to help determine what testing should be performed. For designer/hybrid breeds, health testing should be done based on the foundation breeds used to create the designer/hybrid breed if there is not a parent organization that gives health testing recommendations.

Age Requirements:

Dogs should not be bred until fully mature and able to complete the necessary health testing for their breed. In most breeds this occurs at two years of age. Small/Toy breed dogs do mature faster than larger breed dogs and we recognize that there are some smaller breed dogs that can complete all necessary health requirements at a younger age. We will not breed any dogs less than 1 year of age regardless of size. Large breed dogs should not be bred until after 2 years of age.

Ovulation Timing/Breeding Service Requirements:

We require all females intended to be bred using our ovulation timing and reproductive services to have a breeding consult performed with one of our veterinarians prior to starting ovulation timing. At this initial consult we will discuss and formulate breeding plans and perform a complete physical and reproductive exam. We will need to see the female approximately 5-7 days after the first signs of her heat cycle (swollen vulva, discharge, etc.). You will likely need to bring your female back in 3-5 more times (on average) to complete ovulation timing. It is important we are notified as soon as you notice signs of heat so that we can accommodate the breeding consult in our schedule. At the time of the breeding consult, we require brucellosis testing (required for each breeding cycle), we will perform a vaginal cytology and likely start ovulation timing using progesterone testing, if indicated. Bitches will not be bred on their first heat cycle or if a heart murmur is present and there is no clearance from a cardiologist.

Stud Dog Service Requirements

We require that the male has had a brucellosis test within the last 12 weeks for any collection. The dog must be over 1 year of age. If collection is not possible due to temperament of dog, you understand you will pay a reproductive office visit fee. We recommend bringing a bitch in season for any collection as this will improve libido and quality of the collection.

Success of Reproductive Services:

Due to the nature of services provided, success cannot be guaranteed. Even when ovulation timing is performed and procedures go as planned, pregnancy may still not occur for various reasons beyond anyone’s control. When this occurs, additional testing may be recommended. A referral to a board-certified reproductive specialist (theriogenologist) is always available.

Denial of Reproductive Services Due to Animal Health/Temperament:

Please know that while reproductive services are offered, we do reserve the right to deny these services for a variety of reasons that may include, but is not limited to the following:

- The breeding of aggressive animals
- Animal is in suboptimal condition
- Health conditions that will worsen with pregnancy - orthopedic conditions such as lameness, cruciate disease, heart murmur, breathing difficulties in brachycephalic breeds, etc.
- Health conditions that will not be able to be maintained during pregnancy - chronic allergies that require medications contraindicated during pregnancy, etc.

Denial of Reproductive Services as a Result of Unacceptable Owner Behavior

At Olney-Sandy Spring Veterinary Hospital, we pride ourselves on being a practice that values and supports responsible breeders. We strive for a mutually respectful and positive relationship between our breeding clients, our doctors, and our staff. Our staff greatly enjoys interacting with the many different breeds that we see and learning about each one. It is impossible, even for our veterinarians, to know and have been taught everything about every breed. We hope that you can play a role in educating our staff about your respective breed(s) and the goals of your breeding program.

Please realize that often, reproductive services are emergent or last minute, which does cause strain on our schedule and often leads to staff staying late or working through their lunches. Our staff is happy to do this for clients that treat them with respect and are appreciative. However, the opposite also holds true. Our services are dependent on the help of our entire team. While we wish this were not necessary to have as part of our breeder application, we must notify you that we will immediately cease services for those that become disrespectful with any member of our team.

Please initial the following statements and sign at the bottom in agreement with our breeding policies here at Olney-Sandy Spring Veterinary Hospital.

_____ I have read the provided information and understand that the results of reproductive services have no guarantees of success due to multiple factors that can affect fertility.

_____ I understand that these services are offered at the discretion of our doctors/staff and can be denied.

_____ I understand that a mutual level of professionalism and respect is expected toward our staff and any disrespect toward a member of our team may result in termination of services provided at Olney-Sandy Spring Veterinary Hospital.

Signature

Date

Printed Name