FOUNDATION STOCK SERVICE® PROGRAM

The American Kennel Club created the Foundation Stock Service® (FSS®) to answer the needs of today’s rare breed fanciers. The Foundation Stock Service® is an optional record-keeping service for all purebred breeds not currently registrable with the American Kennel Club.

Goals of the Foundation Stock Service®

The AKC is committed to taking the necessary action to ensure the continuation of purebred dogs. In accord with this objective, the AKC created the FSS® record-keeping service to allow rare breed fanciers to continue their commitment to the improvement of their breed.

One of the most serious concerns for any breed is the integrity of its pedigree and ownership records. For many fanciers, the ultimate goal is full AKC recognition. There are several criteria that must be met in order to achieve this plateau. Often, the biggest hurdle is creating and maintaining accurate records.

With the FSS®, the AKC staff of experts will maintain the pedigree and ownership records in addition to a study book. The AKC has more than 100 years of experience protecting the integrity of registries for purebred dogs.

Fanciers who record their dogs with the FSS® can rest assured that the AKC will maintain quality stud books for their breeds.

The Benefits of Enrolling in FSS®

The Foundation Stock Service® allows purebreed rare breeds to continue to develop while providing them with the security of a reliable and reputable avenue to maintain their records.

Foundation Stock Service® is a requirement for fanciers of a breed who want to achieve full AKC recognition.

FSS® breeds may now compete in Companion Events and in Performance Events that AKC determines to be applicable. Breeds must have a breed standard in order to compete. Recording your dog in FSS® can help catapult your breed into AKC competition.

While the recording of a dog in FSS® does not guarantee eventual full AKC registration, it does provide the avenue to compete in the exciting world of Companion and Performance Events.

Eligibility for Performance Events (what the breed was bred to do) is subject to approval by the Performance Events Department upon review of the historical function of the breed or involvement in like events.

How Breeds Enter the FSS®

The American Kennel Club considers requests to enter FSS® from breed clubs or individual fanciers of a breed. Those wishing to pursue recording with FSS® must:

- Provide AKC with a letter requesting admission into FSS®
- Fill out a questionnaire for new breeds. Email: fss@akc.org for questionnaire.
- Provide a written breed history documenting the distinct breed over a period of many decades (40 years). The source of the historical information must also be provided.
- Provide an official written breed standard, indicating the origin of that standard. If the standard differs from the official breed standard in the breed country of origin, please specify those differences.
- Provide photographs of the breed, including puppies and adults, as well as both dogs and bitches. If there are different accepted types in the breed, photographs of each type should be included and labeled as such.

The FSS® is not open to “rare” breeds that are a variation of an AKC-registrable breed or the result of a combination of two AKC-recognized breeds. This includes and is not limited to differences such as size (over and under), coat type, coat colors, and coat colors and/or types that are disqualifications from Conformation Events by AKC breed standards.

What is next? Guidelines For Advancing a New Breed

If the goal for your breed is AKC recognition please consider the action items below after your breed is in the FSS®. The recognition process begins with admission of the breed to the Miscellaneous Class.

- Form a strong national breed club and encourage fanciers nationwide to join and get involved. A national breed club with representative membership of about 100 active members is expected for a breed to be placed in the Miscellaneous Class. The amount of active members needed can vary depending on the number of dogs recorded in the FSS®.
- A breed entering the Foundation Stock Service® based upon being an established breed in a foreign registry must have reached full FCI recognition to be eligible to request Miscellaneous Class status.
- Create a breed standard that conforms to the Guidelines for Writing Breed Standards. Final approval is made by the AKC Board at the time the breed is approved for full recognition.
- Form some active committees such as a rescue committee or a health committee, put on shows, and publish a quarterly newsletter. A committed AKC liaison is also keeping AKC updated on the club’s various activities provides documentation of the fanciers’ dedication to full AKC recognition. Current officer and membership lists must be on file with the AKC.

Parent Club Designation for a Breed in the FSS and Progression to Full Recognition

Upon contact with AKC, the information on how to form a club, and sample bylaws/club policies applicable to Parent Clubs, are provided.

A Club seeking Parent Club status must submit the following:

- Club History
- Club membership list designating club member involvement
- Constitution and bylaws
- Minutes of annual meetings and board meetings for a minimum of two years, including financial information
- Confirmation that membership of club wishes to see AKC recognition
- List of events conducted or in which the breed has participated

Demonstration that members are actively involved as breeders, determined by increase in dogs and litters enrolled in AKC Foundation Stock Service.

Members are actively competing in the AKC Events in which the breed is eligible as well as participation at AKC Meet The Breeds, Responsible Dog Ownership Day Events or other opportunities to educate the public about the breed. Members are encouraged to join an All-Breed Club.
Upon review of all club materials and demonstration that the club is a viable entity, a request may be submitted to the AKC Board Requesting Parent Club Status.

Once the Parent Club has been designated, staff will work with the Parent Club on the breed standard to comply with the AKC Breed Standard Guidelines. The Parent Club Delegate Sub-committee will provide mentoring to the club to gain full recognition and membership status with the AKC.

Eligibility to Request Miscellaneous Class status requires:

- A Parent Club designated to represent the breed.
- A breed entering the FSS® based upon being an established breed in a foreign registry must have reached full recognition status.
- The Club has balloted the membership to seek AKC Recognition.
- Breed Standard reviewed to meet AKC Breed Standard Guidelines.
- A minimum of 150 dogs with three generation pedigrees.
- Formal presentation for AKC club status is sent to Club Relations for review and bylaw commentary to follow, if necessary.
- Request to move into Miscellaneous Class submitted to AKC Board.

Eligibility to request Full recognition:

While in the Miscellaneous Class the club will be working with a facilitator, a Delegate from the Parent Club Delegate Committee, to gain further understanding of the responsibilities of a Parent Club. The Parent Club self-study materials will be provided to the club to utilize as they develop.

- Club Business and Annual Meeting/Election to be conducted in accordance with constitution and bylaws.
- The Constitution and bylaws, to be reviewed by AKC Club Relations, revisions recommended to be made and approved by the club membership.
- The Club submitting documentation of holding Annual Meetings and Board Meetings in accordance with the Club Constitution and By Laws.
- Membership updated annually, including a separate electronic membership list uploaded using officer issued access code.
- Parent Club conducts minimum of two Open Shows for all Miscellaneous and FSS breeds (minimum of six months apart, geographically distributed).
- Confirmation of Board approved interest in applying for Member Club status.
- Membership growth to approximately 100 members, with reasonable geographic distribution
- Minimum of 10 dogs earning Certificate of Merit (CM) titles owned by Parent Club members.
- Growth in registration of litters and dogs to a minimum of 300 dogs with three-generation pedigrees
- A minimum of 20 litters bred and enrolled while the breed is in Miscellaneous to ensure that the breed is established and sustainable.
- Minimum of three Judges Education Seminars conducted by the Parent Club while in the Miscellaneous Class.
- Judges Education course developed in collaboration with AKC Staff to be made available on the AKC Canine College for the purpose of providing educational opportunities for prospective judges of the breed.
- A minimum of one year has elapsed since entering the Miscellaneous Class.
- Normally breeds remain in the Miscellaneous Class one to three years. Advancement to full registration will be contingent on growth in enrollment of dogs in FSS and participation in AKC events. However, breeds with 1,000 or more dogs enrolled in FSS® may be evaluated after six months in Miscellaneous.

The American Kennel Club (AKC), is a not-for-profit organization established in 1884 to promote the study, breeding, exhibiting, and advancement of purebred dogs. In October of 1995, the AKC Foundation Stock Service became operational. The Foundation Stock Service is an optional record-keeping service. Recording of a dog in the Foundation Stock Service does not constitute AKC recognition.

The American Kennel Club is dedicated to upholding the integrity of its Registry, promoting the sport of purebred dogs and breeding for type and function. Founded in 1884, the AKC® and its affiliated organizations advocate for the purebred dog as a family companion, advance canine health and well-being, work to protect the rights of all dog owners and promote responsible dog ownership.