

AKC Dog Breeding Ages (Guidelines)

In Response to our fellow breeders, current and future clients, AKC Golden Retriever Puppies (Red Sky Ranch) made a Breeding Age inquiry to the American Kennel Club (AKC) and received the following reply:

Thank you for contacting the American Kennel Club (AKC®).

The minimum breeding age for a dam or sire at the time of mating is eight (8) months for a dam and seven (7) months for a sire.

The maximum breeding age for a dam or sire at the time of mating is 12 years.

Litter registrations involving an underage or overage sire and/or dam can be completed by mail or online.

If completed online, after the initial review of the application you should expect an email stating that the sire and/or dam is either under or over age and requesting additional information. Instructions on what is needed and how to submit the additional information will be included in the email.



If the application is mailed, please mail us a completed [litter registration application](#) along with a statement that includes the following information:

- Was the breeding a planned breeding?
- Were there any witnesses to the breeding? If so, please submit a statement with signatures of those witnesses along with your litter application.
- How was the bitch confined during her entire heat period, and was there any possibility of her being exposed to any other male?
- For bitches, (in addition to the above), include a statement from a veterinarian who examined her before or after the mating or whelping.

If there is another explanation, please include it with your litter application.

If there were no witnesses to the breeding, we may ask for either of the following for the sire:

- Whether a veterinarian did a recent sperm count and if so, we would like a copy of the veterinarian's findings with the litter application. If the veterinarian finds that the male is capable of siring a litter you should make several photocopies the findings, which can then be submitted in the future with applications for litters sired by the dog. We would also recommend that you have a sperm count done every six (6) months thereafter.
- We may also accept an AKC DNA profile from the sire and one of the puppies in the litter, provided the bitch was not exposed to any other males.



Chapter 3, Section 5 of the Rules Applying to Registration and Discipline reads as follows:

"No dog or litter out of a dam under eight (8) months or over twelve (12) years of age at the time of mating, or by a sire under seven (7) months or over twelve (12) years of age at the time of mating, will be registered unless the application for registration shall be accompanied by an affidavit or evidence which shall prove the fact to the satisfaction of The American Kennel Club."

After review, the AKC will either accept or reject the application. If accepted, the individual dog registration applications will be mailed to the litter owner.

Mailing Address:

American Kennel Club
Litter Applications
PO Box 900052
Raleigh, NC 27675-9052

FAX: 919-816-3740

Please note that we are unable to accept applications via email. Kindly mail your documents to us using the address provided on the back of the form, or complete online (if applicable).

For additional assistance, please reply to this email or call us at 919-233-9767. Our customer service representatives are available from 8:30 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. EST, Monday through Friday. We are happy to help!

Best,
AKC Customer Service

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