

KUSA activities include dog breed shows, where registered dogs of any of the recognised breeds compete for top honours.



High standards

Who and what the **Kennel Union of Southern Africa** is



You've made the important decision to buy a purebred puppy, you've done your research, and chosen a breed that suits your lifestyle. Now you're investigating what you should consider when choosing a breeder. You've been warned about online scams and advised on what to expect from a reputable breeder, but you keep hearing that you should be looking for a puppy who is 'KUSA registered'. **But who or what is KUSA and what does 'registered' really mean?** And why do people recommend buying from a 'KUSA registered' breeder?

Advantage

The main advantage of the **Kennel Union of Southern Africa** (or KUSA, as it is more generally referred to) is the registration, identity and traceability of a puppy's ancestors. In addition, knowing that a breeder registers their puppies with KUSA, indicates a level of dedication and commitment that far exceeds what you'll get from a puppy farmer, who simply churns out inferior puppies for profit. If their puppies are registered at all, most unscrupulous 'greeders' will utilise the cheapest, easiest method of registration, often with dodgy organisations.

World renowned

KUSA is South Africa's National Canine Organisation (NCO), the body responsible for registering purebred and non-purebred dogs on its various registries, and licensing dog shows and all forms of dog sports across the country. KUSA was founded in 1891 as the South African Kennel Club, and is one of the oldest and most respected NCOs in the world. On a national level, KUSA is registered with the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD) as a Canine Breeders' Society, and is also registered with the same department as the

Registering Authority for 218 canine breeds.

Internationally, KUSA is a full member of the Fédération Cynologique Internationale (FCI) – the International Federation of NCOs commonly known as Kennel Clubs – making it the only body in South Africa vested with authority to use the iconic FCI logo on its Award Certificates, Certificates of Registration and Export Pedigrees. Only certified pedigrees issued by KUSA are recognised and accepted by international canine organisations/kennel clubs.

Activities

Apart from its duties and responsibilities as South Africa's internationally recognised registry for multiple dog breeds, KUSA's activities encompass the regulation of dog shows, ranging from breed-specific specialist shows, to large all-breeds shows. In addition, it regulates and licenses established working discipline events, such as agility, dog jumping, field trials, obedience, carting, working trials, tracking trials, IGP (Internationale Gebrauchshunde Prüfungsordnung), and emerging disciplines such as dog dancing, monioring, rescue dog trials and scent work.

Only KUSA-registered dogs are allowed to compete in these events; for this purpose, some events require dogs to be registered on the Primary Breed Register, whereas others are also open to dogs registered on the KUSA Appendix Registers, or the KUSA Dogsport Record, which also serves as a registry for dogs of unknown heritage.



DALRRD Recognition

The DALRRD administers, among others, the Animal Improvement Act 62 of 1998 (AIA). They register animal breeders' societies and registering authorities for various kinds of animal, or specific breeds of such kinds of animal, and KUSA has secured registration from the DALRRD as a Breeders' Society for Canines and a Registering Authority for multiple canine



breeds. The DALRRD only recognises one society to act as a Canine Breeders' Society and only one society to act as the Registering Authority for a given breed. That means that KUSA's registry is the only one recognised under the AIA, the national governing legislation, for the 218 canine breeds currently covered.

More benefits

As a full member of the Fédération Cynologique Internationale (FCI), KUSA is part of the largest umbrella body for canines in the world, comprising 99 members and several contract partners (only one member or contract partner per country). Through the FCI, KUSA has access to the latest research pertaining to canine health and welfare, and is endowed with the authority to offer the FCI's coveted awards in South Africa to dogs competing in shows and working disciplines. KUSA's FCI membership also enables South African dogs to compete internationally at the FCI's prestigious competitions held around the world, like the annual Agility World Championships.



Other international agreements

In addition to its FCI affiliation, KUSA also has bilateral agreements with the largest kennel clubs in the world, such as the American Kennel Club, The Kennel Club (Great Britain) and the Canadian Kennel Club. These agreements complement KUSA's FCI membership, to secure its position as a respected player in a worldwide network of NCOs, which strictly adhere to principles of reciprocity and mutual recognition, thereby to ensure the seamless exchange of dogs between countries.

With its rich history and continuous service excellence spanning 129 years, impeccable credentials and legal compliance, KUSA is obviously the home of those who take pride in their dogs and value their accomplishments in reproduction and competition. Unsurprisingly, when considering the acquisition of a puppy, discerning dog owners specifically request a KUSA-registered dog. Evidently for good reason.

In the next issue, we look at the different KUSA registers and what to look out for on a registration. 🐾