



I spy, with my little eye...



Hawthorne Hellroaring Canyon ("Max")

Photo Courtesy of Eventide Tamaskan

The topic of eye health for breeding dogs has come up a lot in the last two months. To date, the breed has seen a small handful of eye issues, including juvenile cataracts and distichia (or "dystichia"). Earlier this year, a breeding female was approved who was diagnosed with distichia. At roughly the same time, an older breeding female was noted to also have the condition during a voluntary followup eye visit, after being asymptomatic for four years.

Dr. Rachel Dialectos, BVM&S, MRCVS, summarizes for us, "Distichiasis is a hereditary condition in which extra eyelashes are inappropriately located on the inside margin of the eyelid. These eyelashes tend to be rather small and very difficult, if not impossible, to see with the naked eye. Depending on the size of the lash, it could potentially come into contact with the cornea and cause trauma to the eye. That being said, most distichia sufferers are asymptomatic. Distichiasis is common in both Huskies and Samoyeds."

For more information, feel free to read [here](#).

Currently, there is no TDR breeding regulation that requires yearly eye exams. However, according to leading veterinary eye specialists, including the [OFA](#), eye exams every 12 months are recommended for breeding dogs. This is due to the fact that different ocular diseases may develop at different times of a dog's life.

At this time, annual eye exams are **not** a requirement within the TDR. However, we may ask specific dogs to be re-checked prior to breeding, depending on whether issues have appeared in other animals in the dog's lineage. The dogs determined to be affected by distichiasis are not excluded from breeding, but must only be bred to dogs with recent (within the last calendar year) distichiasis-clear eye exams. More details on the restrictions of affected dogs are available by [emailing the CoB](#).

It is important to keep in mind that as a whole, the Tamaskan Dog is still a young breed. The average age of our registered population is only around five years old. As our dogs age and our numbers increase, we may find the need to test for more things, or to test for the same things in different ways. Rest assured that the TDR will always keep two priorities in mind: (1) the health of the population of Tamaskan Dogs, as we grow, and (2) the convenience and burden of additional requirements on you, the breeders.

Tamaskan of the Month



Hawthorne Gates of the Arctic

"Ember"

National Parks Litter

Born July 5, 2016, Ember was recently bred to Vargskuggans Clear Diamond (@Avalon), a.k.a. "Thorin," using artificial insemination with fresh, chilled semen. Ember used an AI process known as trans-cervical insemination, or TCI.

At the moment, seven puppies are anticipated for this lovely girl's first litter!

Good luck, beautiful!

We asked Tracy Graziano, from Hawthorne, "*Why use TCI?*"

"Trans-cervical insemination has a higher success rate than just putting the semen into the vaginal canal. The vet uses a special tool with a camera on the end to insert into the vaginal canal, and place the semen in the uterus. A camera is needed to see the cervical opening to guide the small tube into the correct position. Trans-cervical is more expensive, but worth it!

It requires a lot of progesterone testing, and testing for the luteinizing hormone surge at least once. The LH surge occurs 48 hours prior to ovulation. Checking for LH is important for pinpointing ovulation, which in turn dictates the proper time to do the insemination. Both stud and bitch should have a negative brucellosis test prior to breeding.

Stud's fertility should be checked via sperm analysis. Semen should be placed in an extender, and shipped overnight with arrival guaranteed by the next business morning. What is considered a "breeding dose" has been updated within the past 10 years so please consult your vet. New information is that a "breeding dose" is actually twice what was previously accepted. Our guideline was that if a stud is 80 pounds, he should produce 80 million sperm. Often, less than adequate samples are provided (whether total sperm count is too low, mobility and motility are too low) that can contribute to failure."

Board of Directors and the Committee of Breeders

The Board and the CoB are still working out some differences. (At this point, there really isn't any news to note.)

In the meantime, the Board would like to welcome Rahne Meeder. Rahne joins us as a Director, and is also a wonderful historian for the breed, as she has been involved with the Tamaskan Dog since almost the beginning.

Did You Know?



The TDR logo is copyrighted to the corporation, under United States copyright law.

This means that its ownership is legally upheld in courts that recognize U.S. intellectual property, which is true in the majority of countries around the world. An infringement of copyright carries hefty fines that start at \$30,000 and go as high as \$150,000 *per offense*.

The TDR Board of Directors recently sent a cease and desist letter to an individual who

was using the logo without permission. If we suddenly fall into money, you will all benefit from it!

New Approvals

The following dog was granted full approval in April 2019:

- Dresselhaus Chuck Norris, a.k.a. Noque: Noque is an Alaskan Noble Companion Dog (ANCD) who has participated and placed in multiple dog sledding events and has titled in Barn Hunt. He was unanimously granted pre-approval in 2013 by the sitting CoB at the time. However, he only recently completed his temperament test in late April (which he passed handily), and finally submitted all of his paperwork. Noque is now available as stud. Please contact his owner, [Kate @ Basalt](#), directly to discuss the details.

Note that pre-approval is a stage of the TDR's outcross application process. Pre-approval is granted after the review of a proposal that covers items such as the dog's health and temperament, the plan for how he/she will be used within the TDR's breeding program, and what value he/she is expected to add to the TDR gene pool. Once pre-approval is granted, the dog's status typically changes to "approved," upon the completion of a specific set of health tests which may include examinations that are specific to conditions known in the candidate's breed.

If there's anything you would like to make sure is included in the next newsletter, please send us an email. If you have any questions, concerns, or comments, please also let us know. Remember, we are always looking for your dogs' stories, accomplishments, or anything else! Thank you!

And please stay tuned! We are working on some exciting new things for the next few months!

