



Dog Breed Identification Guidelines

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Citation:

Working Animals Federation of Australia (WAFA), “Dog Breed Identification Guidelines”, Version 1.0 June 23, 2025, www.workinganimals.com.au/guidance

Purpose

This guideline outlines the procedures for recording the breed of dogs in WAFA care to ensure standardisation, consistency, and alignment with nationally recognised breed classifications. Accurate breed recording is essential for identification cards, research, and educational publications.

Scope

This guideline applies to all dogs under WAFA care, including those used in training, assistance programs, and research or educational initiatives.

Standard Statement

All dogs must have their breed recorded according to Dogs Australia (formerly the Australian National Kennel Council, ANKC) classifications where applicable. Crossbreeds, designer breeds, and dogs of unknown breed must be recorded according to standardised WAFA procedures outlined below.

Procedures for Recording Dog Breed

1. Recording Purebred Dogs

- Purebred dogs will be recorded using the breed names recognised by Dogs Australia (e.g., “Labrador Retriever”).
- If the dog is registered with another body (e.g., Master Dog Breeders and Associates [MDBA], Responsible Pet Breeders Australia [RPBA], Australian Association of Pet Dog Breeders [AAPBB]), WAFA will use the Dogs Australia name. For example, a Miniature Fox Terrier registered with MDBA will be recorded as Tenterfield Terrier.
- Dogs whose breed is not recognised by Dogs Australia will be recorded as a crossbreed or mixed breed (e.g., Australian Bulldog).

2. Recording Crossbreeds

A. Crossbred dogs will be recorded using the two predominant breeds in alphabetical order. For example, a Pug x Dalmatian will be recorded as “Dalmatian x Pug.”

B. If DNA testing is available, the two breeds comprising the highest percentage of the dog’s genetic makeup will be recorded in order of percentage. Example: 60% Dalmatian and 40% Border Collie = “Border Collie x Dalmatian.” Where more than two breeds are detected, the record will indicate additional breeds: e.g., “Dalmatian x Pug x” to show more than two breeds are present.

C. Designer breeds not recognised by Dogs Australia (e.g., Labradoodle) will be recorded as a crossbreed, listing the two main breeds in alphabetical order. Example: Labradoodle =

“Labrador Retriever x Standard Poodle.” This rule applies to all “-oodle” and similar designer breeds.

3. Recording Unknown Breeds

- If the dog’s breed is unknown and cannot be determined by DNA testing, the dog will be recorded as “Mixed Breed.”

4. Final Determination

- The final determination of a dog’s recorded breed is at the discretion of WAFA. No debate, challenge, or appeal regarding this determination will be entertained.

Related Documents

- Dogs Australia Breed Index: <https://dogsaustralia.org.au/Breed/Index/>

Review

This guideline will be reviewed annually or as necessary to ensure alignment with evolving industry standards, accessibility requirements, and WAFA’s strategic mission.

Document Control

Version	Date	Author	Change Description	Approved By
V1.0	23/07/2025	V. Solomon	Initial	C.Williams