

# The Science Behind the Protocol for the Registration of Mammals

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The concept and justification of properly naming mammals under the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Animal Sciences, or many of the private registries is rather simple, as registries and stud books serve three major functions. These functions include identifying and tracking the animal's genetic heritage, the work or productions of breeders, and acknowledging the mammal's owner. To aid these functions, various standards have been developed and acknowledged as proper etiquette when it comes to the naming of registered mammal(s). The protocol for properly naming registered mammals is explained and justified below.

- I. GENEALOGICAL RECOGNITION – Accurate knowledge of a mammal's pedigree is a requirement for identifying, tracking, and reviewing both the desired and undesired traits within an individual's genome or an isolated gene pool. Maintaining records of the individuals, their traits, their ancestors, the traits of their ancestors, their offspring, and the traits of their offspring can be used to calculate the frequency of alleles (alternate forms of a trait) within specific individuals in population, or the frequency of various alleles in a gene pool. As a result, the information obtained by reviewing a pedigree is often beneficial to breeders, as the data can be useful in making future predictions based upon mathematical calculations to determine the probability of allelic expression, or to calculate which potential breeding being considered is most likely to produce offspring that display specific traits or carry specific alleles.
- II. BREEDER RECOGNITION - A breeder is properly designated by identifying who owned the female at the time the mating responsible for producing the offspring in question occurred, regardless of when the resulting offspring are born, for the owner at the time of the mating is typically the person who selected to do the breeding and is thereby the one responsible for the outcome of the mating. An exception to method of designation is permissible when the owner of the female during the time of mating agrees to transfer both i) the acknowledgement of the mating decision to another "designated breeder," and ii) this "designated breeder" accepts the responsibility for the offspring produced by the mating in question.

Following proper breeder designation, in order to establish consistency of record, simplicity of use of records, and to maximize the benefits of such records, **the proper way to identify registered mammals is to place the breeder's selected prefix** (such as a last name or kennel name) in front of the mammal's name. Since titles are often listed as prefixes, breeder designations or names of a mammal that could be confused with various titles, such as "Champion," should not be permitted. Using the breeder's designation as a prefix allows users of stud books and registries the ability best review the mammal in question, their relatives, and a breeder's practices, by allowing users of the stud book or registry to better...

- a. identify the mammal in question and its ancestors,
- b. accredit breeders for their productions, since they spend their time, education, and money in creating their animals, selecting mating pairs, or developing their strain or bloodline(s),
- c. identify other mammals accredited under that the breeder's designation, including those that deviated off the pedigree (such as uncles, aunts, cousins, etc),
- d. to identify any unique practices or interests of a breeder (such as focusing on the genetics of a particular individual in their registered offspring) that may have influenced their successes or failures as a breeder.

Example: Registered Name:

ASC's	Bandit	of Westcoast Sentinels
Breeder's Designation	Mammal's name	Owner

- III. OWNERSHIP RECOGNITION - When an animal is sold by the breeder to a new owner that is not responsible for producing the mammal, the owner may still be responsible for various accomplishments or failures of the mammal while the mammal is in their possession. For this reason, should an owner wish to attach their name to the mammal they own, it should be considered proper etiquette to add their name as a suffix to the registered name of the mammal. By attaching their name or designation as a suffix to the mammal's name, owners are better able to have their work acknowledged should the mammal be used in research, training, or in the owner's own breeding program, and do so without interfering with the benefits of breeder recognition described above.

An owner that wishes to attach their name (or designation) to the mammal that they did not produce may do so; however, to prevent someone from potentially misleading or confusing those reviewing the stud book or registry, **the owner that did not produce a mammal should attach their name or designation to a mammal's registered name as a suffix to the name.** When the breeder responsible for producing the mammal is unknown, adding an owner suffix is highly advised, but not required. Even then; however, placing the owner's name as a prefix to the mammal's name should be avoided when they are not also the breeder.