Why designer breeds deserve proper registration: insights from designerkennelclub.com

Walking into a dog show with a mixed breed that looks like a purebred but carries no papers is a strange feeling. You know the dog is well-bred, health-tested, and comes from a responsible line. Yet without official registration, that dog exists in a kind of limbo. It cannot compete in certain events, its offspring may not be recognised by major kennel clubs, and its pedigree is essentially invisible to the wider canine community. This is the gap that designer breed and hybrid dog registries aim to fill.

Over the past decade, interest in what are often called designer breeds has exploded. Dogs like the Labradoodle, Cockapoo, Goldendoodle, and Bernedoodle are no longer oddities. They are sought-after family companions, therapy animals, and even show dogs in their own right. The challenge is that many traditional registration systems were built around purebred lineages and closed stud books. They struggle to accommodate breeds that do not have a century of documented ancestry. This is where services like designerkennelclub.com step in, offering official registration without requiring prior paperwork from a parent club.



What exactly is a designer breed?

The term designer breed gets thrown around a lot, but it has a specific meaning in breeding circles. A designer breed is a deliberate cross between two recognised purebred lines, created to combine desirable traits from each. The Labradoodle, for example, blends the low-shed coat of a Poodle with the steady temperament of a Labrador Retriever. A Cockapoo brings together the intelligence of a Poodle and the cheerful disposition of a Cocker Spaniel. Goldendoodles and Bernedoodles follow the same logic, pairing Poodle genes with Golden Retrievers or Bernese Mountain Dogs.

These are not random mixed breed dogs. They are the result of careful breeder verification and intentional pairing over multiple generations. Unlike a first-generation cross, many designer breeds now have multi-generational pedigrees of their own. The challenge is that those pedigrees are not always recognised by the major kennel clubs, which historically required both parents to be registered with that specific organisation.

The registration gap for hybrid dogs

If you own a purebred Cavalier King Charles Spaniel, registering it with the American Kennel Club or the United Kennel Club is straightforward. The breed has a recognised standard, a parent club, and a pathway for litter registration. For a hybrid dog, that pathway often does not exist. The Fédération Cynologique Internationale, which governs international canine affairs, has only recently begun to acknowledge that hybrid and designer breeds deserve a formal place in its registry structure.



This creates a practical problem for breeders and owners. Without a registry certificate, proving a dog's lineage is difficult. Breeder verification becomes informal, based on word of mouth rather than a central database. And if a dispute arises over a puppy's parentage, there is no neutral third party to consult. This is not a minor issue. As the market for designer breeds grows, so does the incentive for dishonest breeding. A robust registration system is the best defence against fraud.

How registration works without prior paperwork

One of the most common misconceptions is that you cannot register a designer breed unless its parents were already registered with the same organisation. That is true for some traditional clubs, but it is not a universal rule. Services that specialise in hybrid and designer breeds, such as designerkennelclub.com, accept dogs whose parents may have been registered elsewhere

or may not have been registered at all, provided the owner can supply evidence of lineage through other means.

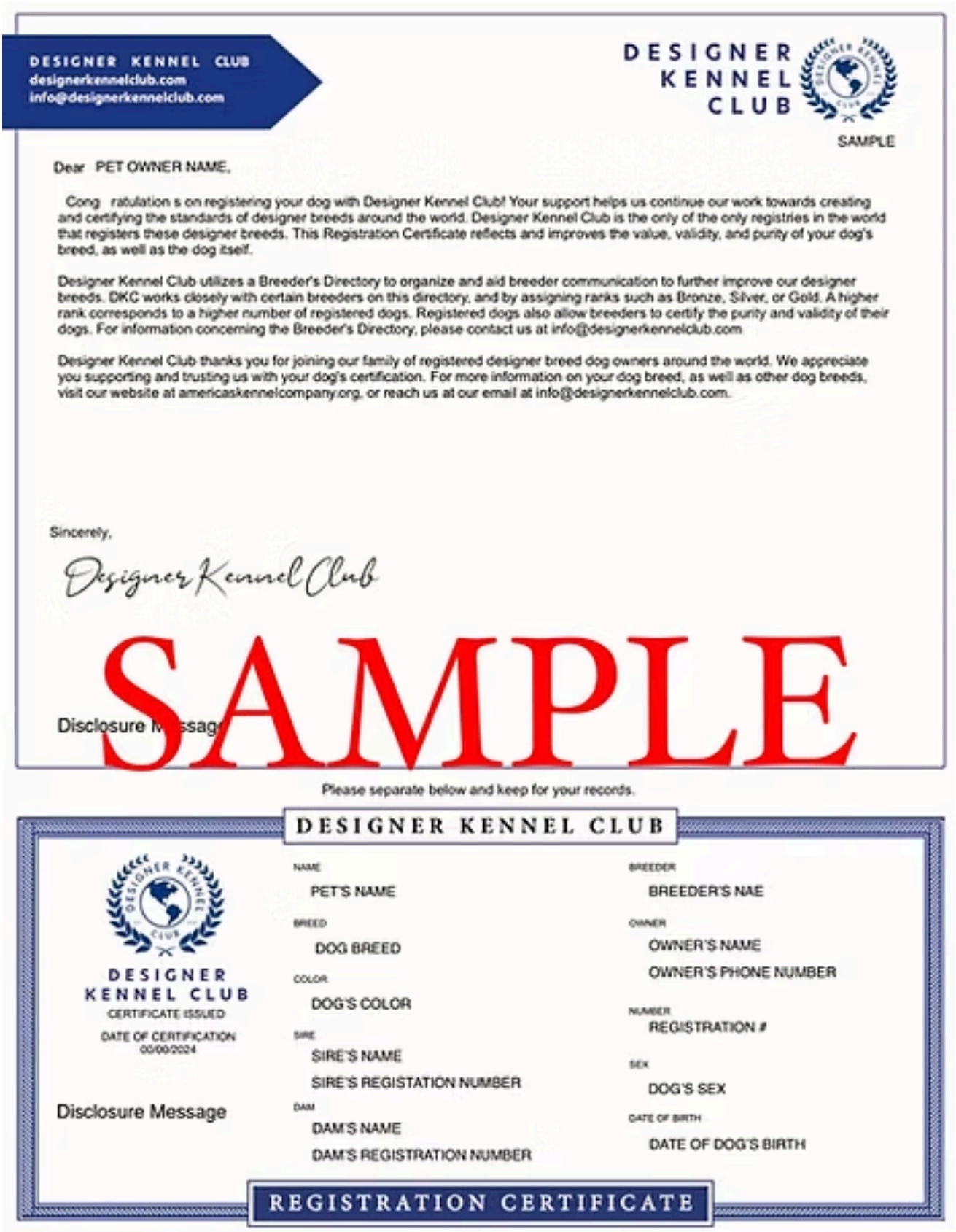
That evidence often takes the form of DNA testing. Companies like Embark and Wisdom Panel offer canine genetic tests that can verify parentage with a high degree of accuracy. A cheek swab or blood sample can confirm that a puppy is indeed the offspring of the claimed sire and dam. This kind of testing is not perfect, but it is far more reliable than paper records alone, especially when those records may be incomplete or forged.

Microchip identification is another layer of security. A dog that is microchipped and registered in a central database is far harder to misrepresent than one that exists only on paper. Many registration services now require a microchip number as part of the application, and they cross-reference that number with the DNA profile on file. This combination of physical identification and genetic proof is rapidly becoming the gold standard for pedigree registration.

The role of membership and ongoing verification

Registration is not a one-time event. Responsible registries maintain a membership model, where breeders renew their affiliation annually and update their records when new litters are born. This keeps the database current and discourages the kind of backdating that can happen with paper-only systems. Breeder verification is an ongoing process, not a single checkbox.

Privacy policy is another consideration that owners often overlook. When you submit DNA samples, microchip numbers, and breeder affidavits to a registry, you are sharing sensitive information. A good registry will have a clear privacy policy that explains how that data is stored, who has access to it, and whether it can be shared with third parties. Before signing up, it is worth reading that policy closely. You want a service that treats your data with the same care it treats your dog's pedigree.



DESIGNER KENNEL CLUB
designerkennelclub.com
info@designerkennelclub.com

DESIGNER KENNEL CLUB

SAMPLE

Dear PET OWNER NAME,

Cong ratulation s on registering your dog with Designer Kennel Club! Your support helps us continue our work towards creating and certifying the standards of designer breeds around the world. Designer Kennel Club is the only of the only registries in the world that registers these designer breeds. This Registration Certificate reflects and improves the value, validity, and purity of your dog's breed, as well as the dog itself.

Designer Kennel Club utilizes a Breeder's Directory to organize and aid breeder communication to further improve our designer breeds. DKC works closely with certain breeders on this directory, and by assigning ranks such as Bronze, Silver, or Gold. A higher rank corresponds to a higher number of registered dogs. Registered dogs also allow breeders to certify the purity and validity of their dogs. For information concerning the Breeder's Directory, please contact us at info@designerkennelclub.com

Designer Kennel Club thanks you for joining our family of registered designer breed dog owners around the world. We appreciate you supporting and trusting us with your dog's certification. For more information on your dog breed, as well as other dog breeds, visit our website at americaskennelcompany.org, or reach us at our email at info@designerkennelclub.com.

Sincerely,

Designer Kennel Club

SAMPLE

Disclosure Message

Please separate below and keep for your records.

DESIGNER KENNEL CLUB

DESIGNER KENNEL CLUB
CERTIFICATE ISSUED
DATE OF CERTIFICATION
00/00/2024

Disclosure Message

NAME
PET'S NAME

BREED
DOG BREED

COLOR
DOG'S COLOR

SIRE
SIRE'S NAME
SIRE'S REGISTATION NUMBER

DAM
DAM'S NAME
DAM'S REGISTRATION NUMBER

BREEDER
BREEDER'S NAE

OWNER
OWNER'S NAME
OWNER'S PHONE NUMBER

NUMBER
REGISTRATION #

SEX
DOG'S SEX

DATE OF BIRTH
DATE OF DOG'S BIRTH

REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE

Practical steps for registering a designer breed

If you own a designer or hybrid dog and want to pursue official registration, the process is simpler than you might think. Here is what a typical workflow looks like:

- Gather whatever documentation you have: breeder contracts, vet records, photos of the parents, and any previous registration numbers from other clubs.
- Order a DNA test from a recognised lab such as Embark or Wisdom Panel. Make sure the test includes parentage verification if both parents are still available for sampling.
- Have your vet implant or scan a microchip and record the number. This links the dog's physical identity to its genetic profile.
- Submit all of this to a registry that accepts designer and hybrid breeds. The registry will review the evidence and issue a certificate if everything checks out.
- Renew your membership annually and update the registry whenever you breed the dog or if its contact information changes.

That last step is the one most people forget. A registry certificate is only as good as the data behind it. If you move, change phone numbers, or sell the dog to a new owner, the registry needs to know. Otherwise, the chain of custody breaks, and future breeders will have a harder time verifying the dog's history.

Why this matters for the future of designer breeds

The long-term health of any breed, whether purebred or designer, depends on accurate record-keeping. Without it, you get what the dog world calls pedigree inflation, where every puppy is suddenly champion-bloodlined and no one can prove otherwise. That harms serious breeders who invest in health testing, temperament evaluation, and structural soundness. It also harms buyers who pay a premium for a well-bred dog and end up with something that has no verifiable background.

Organisations like the American Kennel Club and the United Kennel Club have started to relax their stance on designer breeds, but the change is slow. In the meantime, specialist registries fill the gap. They offer a middle ground between the rigid structures of traditional kennel clubs and the complete absence of oversight that plagues the unregistered market. The Fédération Cynologique Internationale has also signalled that it is watching this space, and it would not be surprising to see broader international standards for hybrid dog registration emerge in the next five to ten years.

For owners of breeds like the Cavalier King Charles Spaniel, which is a recognised purebred, the need for a specialist registry may be less urgent. But for owners of a Cockapoo, Bernedoodle, Goldendoodle, or Labradoodle, the situation is different. Those dogs often fall

through the cracks of traditional systems. A service like designerkennelclub.com exists precisely to catch them.



The key is to act early. Registering a puppy at eight weeks is far easier than trying to prove its lineage five years later, when the breeder may have retired and the parents may no longer be available for DNA testing. A little paperwork at the start saves a lot of headaches down the road.

Designer breeds are not going anywhere. They have earned their place in homes, therapy programmes, and even show rings. The only question is whether their owners will take the simple steps needed to give them the same documentary recognition that purebred dogs have enjoyed for generations. A registry certificate, backed by DNA testing and a microchip, is the closest thing a hybrid dog can have to a formal pedigree. And for the growing number of people who take their designer breed seriously, that is worth the effort.