

SBCA LIFESPAN ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM

Approved by SBCA Board of Directors October 4, 2016

Program Purpose

The purpose of the SBCA Lifespan Achievement Program (LAP) is to track, study and recognize those Saint Bernards, whose lines (or individuals) have demonstrated a longer than average lifespan, for the purpose of furthering the good health and well-being of our breed through conscientious breeding efforts.

There are two aspects to this program:

FIRST - Recognize Saint Bernards who have lived to age 10 years or older and to collect information about their health history.

SECOND - Recognize Saint Bernards whose ancestors have lived to age 10 years or older.

SBCA Lifespan Certifications

There are two types of certification:

Lifespan Certification (LC)

A Lifespan Certification (LC) shall be awarded to any individual Saint Bernard who reaches the age of 10 years or older. The LC can be awarded posthumously. A LC number will be assigned to each dog attaining the certification, and they will be entered into a database which is displayed on the SBCA website. Living dogs will be issued a certificate with a number ending in “-age*-L”.

When a LC dog passes, the SBCA Lifespan Committee should be notified of the date of death, the LC number; a presumed cause of death (optional but strongly encouraged). A second and final certificate will then be issued. On this certificate the dog's LC number will change to “-age*-D” for deceased. This way, the certificate will reflect the true Lifespan of the dog. When notice of death is received the database on the SBCA Website will be updated. (Please note the database will be updated on a quarterly basis.)

Dogs that are deceased at the time of application will automatically be assigned a number ending in “-age*-D”.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to enter any and all dogs they have verified information on, including dogs that lived long ago.

***for living dogs age will indicate the dog's age when the LAP Application was accepted; for deceased dogs age will indicate age at death.**

Bred for Life Certification (BfL)

A second very important component of the Lifespan Program is to recognize those Saint Bernards, and their breeders, whose ancestors demonstrate a longer than average Lifespan. A Bred for Lifespan (BfL) certification is awarded to any individual Saint Bernard of any age, as well as posthumously, whose ancestors have or are eligible for a LC number. If both the sire and dam lived to at least 10 years of age, the dog or bitch is eligible for BfL-1. If both parents and all four grandparents were 10 years or older, the dog or bitch is eligible for BfL-2, etc. In order to get a BfL there can be no gaps. In other words, if the dog had 3 grandparents and both parents all living until at least 10 years, but 1 grandparent died at the age of 8, the dog would only be eligible for a BfL-1, not a BfL-2. These dogs will also be issued numbered Certificates, entered into the database which is displayed on the SBCA website.

All Certificates shall include the following information: dog's name with titles (if any); Certification number; sex; AKC number; dates of birth and death (if still living –left blank); names of breeder(s) and owner(s).

Both a LC and a BfL Certification may be applied for at the same time; and all Certifications can be applied for posthumously.

Requirements for Applying

The Saint Bernard must be registered with the official breed registry of its country. This includes, for example the AKC, CKC, UDC, FCI, Australian KC. The Lifespan Questionnaire must be completed and forwarded to the Committee member listed on the Questionnaire. Once the Questionnaire is processed, an SBCA Lifespan Certificate (either LC or BFL or both) will be mailed to the person who completed the Questionnaire. If any additional Certificates are desired, the cost will be \$5.00 per certificate and a check payable to the American Saint Bernard Club (U.S. Funds Only) must accompany the Questionnaire.

Please note that while the dog's titles are asked for on the Questionnaire, they will only be included on the Lifespan Certificate; they will not be included in the Master Lifespan Certification List (see below).

This program is open to all Saint Bernard owners; not just SBCA members.

Lifespan Committee Make-up

The Lifespan Committee will consist of 3 acting members. They are to be selected and appointed by the Board in accordance with the SBCA Standing Rules on Committees. At the time of the appointment, the Board will designate 1 of the 3 acting members of the Committee to be Lifespan Coordinator. The Coordinator should be willing and able to assume the administrative responsibilities of the Committee. The Coordinator would be in charge of appointing committee members to be responsible for compiling results of Lifespan Questionnaire, issuing SBCA Lifespan Certificates, and sending updates to the SBCA Webmaster.

The Committee Chairman will prepare an Annual Lifespan Report on the Committee's activities, e.g. number of applications received, certificates issued, etc. This copy should be sent to the SBCA Secretary for the Board's information, presentation at the SBCA Annual Meeting and inclusion in the National Specialty Supplement.

On letters and emails in regards to SBCA business, the use of personal kennel names, web sites, dog names, etc. is inappropriate and is not allowed; conversely, on personal correspondence, SBCA titles/position shall not be used.

Soliciting of Applications

The Lifespan Questionnaire shall appear on the SBCA website and will also be published in The Saint Fancier when space permits, but no less than once a year. A hard copy shall be available from either the Lifespan Committee Chairman or the SBCA Policies & Procedures Chairman. This Questionnaire will give the pertinent information needed to apply for an SBCA Lifespan Certificate.

Accepting and Processing Applications

All Questionnaires shall be sent to the Committee member responsible for compiling the health information results. On at least a monthly basis, this person shall forward the information needed to be included on the SBCA Lifespan Certificate to the Committee member responsible for the issuing of the Certificates. Once the Certificate has been issued, this same person will update the Master Lifespan Certification List. The updated list should be sent to the SBCA Webmaster on a quarterly basis. At the same time the updated list is sent to the SBCA Webmaster, the same list shall be forwarded to the SBCA Board. At the BOD's discretion, this list may be forwarded to The Saint Fancier Editor for publication.

Master Lifespan Certification List

The Master Lifespan Certification List shall be kept in an Excel format, so that the person responsible for the List may easily sort by any category. The Categories shall be as follows: Dog's Name (no titles shall be included); LC #; BFL-1 or BFL-2 #, if applicable; Sire and his LC and BFL #s, if any; Dam and her LC and BFL #s, if any; Paternal Grand Sire and his LC and BFL #s, if any; Paternal Grand Dam and her LC and BFL #s, if any; Maternal Grand Sire and his LC and BFL #s, if any; Maternal Grand Dam and her LC and BFL #s, if any; Name(s) of Owner(s); Name(s) of Breeder(s).

The Master Lifespan Certification List will be posted on the SBCA Website (<http://saintbernardclub.org/>) and will be updated on a quarterly basis.

Compilation of Health Information

The Committee shall be responsible for designing a program to compile the health information from the Questionnaires. After enough Questionnaires have been processed (50) this information shall be published on the SBCA website and in The Saint Fancier. Each time an additional 50 questionnaires are processed, the updated results will replace what was previously posted on the SBCA website and will be published in The Saint Fancier.

Committee Expenses

Committee expenses for mail, supplies (certificate paper, envelopes, ink, etc.) and phone costs, along with the original receipts or copies of bills, may be submitted to the Treasurer for reimbursement. Such reimbursement requests should be sent to the SBCA Treasurer monthly or quarterly. The Chairperson should confer with the President and Treasurer before incurring any unusually high costs.

SBCA Lifespan Program: ????????????????