



*Diplomates, American College of Veterinary Ophthalmologists*  
Amy Knollinger, DVM · Nicole MacLaren, DVM

September 13, 2023

To Whom It May Concern,

After careful analytical review, I am in support of keeping the stud books open for the Miniature American Shepherd stud book registry. This will help facilitate genetic diversity in a relatively small breed and newly accepted breed to the AKC. The goal with all animals is to breed for health and maintain written breed standard so that the breed can perform the tasks it was bred to perform. Currently, the Miniature American Shepherd has a small breeding population and Ophthalmic issues that have an impact on the breed include: Microphthalmia with Multiple Ocular Defects, Distichiasis, Corneal Dystrophy, Iris Coloboma, Iris Hypoplasia, Persistent Pupillary Membranes, Cataract, Retinal Atrophy, Progressive Retinal Atrophy, PRCD (PRA-prcd, PRCD), Cone Degeneration, Multifocal Retinopathy, Choroidal Hypoplasia, Optic Nerve Coloboma, Retinal Detachment, Retinal Hemorrhage, Staphyloma/Coloboma, and Coloboma/Staphyloma without Microphthalmia, Glaucoma and Imperforate Lower Nasolacrimal Punctum.

Some of these etiologies listed can have a significant impact on vision and may result in blindness and discomfort. By keeping the stud books open with careful monitoring, diversity will allow for a reduction or even elimination of some of these devastating ophthalmic disorders.

Thank you for your time and should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Amy M. Knollinger".

Amy M. Knollinger DVM, Diplomate American College of Veterinary Ophthalmologists

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