



**Associazione Tecnica
Amatori Volpino Italiano**

GENETIC TESTING YES, BUT

The breeders who set up ATAVI (as well as those who joined it later) identified and fully shared the zootechnical intentions which have always been the solid basis of a cynotechnical selection worthy of the name.

In short: theoretic knowledge and practical experience are both essential for selecting any breed of dog.

Breeding consists, above all, of selecting subjects with suitable morphological characteristics, i.e. both physically and mentally healthy.

Without discussing further details, one should make use of excellent stallions and of females endowed with maternal instinct and generous milk production.

They all should be well built and without serious and highly transmissible defects such as a rigid backside i.e. presenting a too open tibiometatarsic angle (which will cause hip dysplasia and other bone diseases) hampering proper movements.

Scientific progress comes today to our help, thanks to tests allowing the identification of subjects suffering such a pathology.

This kind of help, undoubtedly precious, is sometimes artfully exaggerated by some organizations which must ensure a continuity of work in their laboratories.

However we all know that a non confirmed statistical data should not be taken for granted, when it appears deficient in both form and substance.

Once identified, some diseases are eradicated by the expert breeder, as imputable to a subject belonging to a certain blood line.



**Associazione Tecnica
Amatori Volpino Italiano**

To give an example, it is logical that twenty subjects carrying this pathology, are part of a population of one thousand healthy subjects of potentially reproductive age.

We cannot therefore speak of ‘population deficiency’ without falling into bad faith or, worse, into fraude.

We can well understand that those who have taken the first uncertain steps in the breeding activity may be victims of their inexperience and lack of knowledge in selective basis.

Statistic data confirm that the Volpino Italiano is a healthy dog promised to a long life.

In conclusion: it is puerile to proclaim the performance of genetic tests - especially when realized outside of any Protocol and therefore non necessarily trustworthy - by boasting about, more or less discreetly, a ‘seriousness in selection’, which will be impossible to attain anyway.

A.T.A.V.I. GOVERNING COUNCIL

Translation by Mrs Monique Lepage and Enrica Zecchini