**MCN application process**

**Why apply for a Miscellaneous Certification Number for my MAS?**

The Miniature American Shepherd has been listed as a Miscellaneous breed by the Canadian Kennel Club. This is a step toward full recognition by CKC, but to gain full recognition, there needs to be evidence of interest in the breed. That can be demonstrated by registrations and activity in CKC events.

If no registrations are received for a period of ten years, the breed's Miscellaneous status will be revoked. This is unlikely to happen! However, if CKC determines that interest in the breed is low, the MAS may not be considered for full recognition. **There is no specific benchmark for how many annual registrations/ event entries are needed for CKC to consider a breed for full recognition**, but more activity is obviously better than less.

Many breeders are already recording their breeding dogs and new litters with CKC. But any Canadian owner of an AKC-registered Miniature American Shepherd can apply to CKC for a Miscellaneous Certification Number (MCN) for their dog. Remember, even if you have no plans to compete with your dog, applying for the MCN helps provide the evidence of interest that CKC will eventually use to decide whether to advance our breed to full recognition.

The process can seem a little confusing, so here is a step by step guide.

**This guide is intended to help non-breeders who own Canadian-born, AKC-registered Miniature American Shepherds.**

Your application to the Canadian Kennel Club will consist of:

* A copy of your dog’s **American Kennel Club registration certificate,**
* A copy of your dog's **AKC-certified three generation pedigree,** and
* A **completed Miscellaneous Certification Number application form** (available on the MASCAN website and linked below.)

First things first: **Your dog must have Full AKC registration.** The Canadian Kennel Club won't register a dog who has AKC Limited papers. (The reverse is also true-- a dog noted as Non Breeding on its CKC papers can't be double registered with the American Kennel Club.) If your dog is not AKC registered as a Miniature American Shepherd, do that first. Talk to your breeder about your plans to apply for the MCN-- the breeder must designate a new puppy registration as Full, or consent to changing the status of a dog who's already registered as Limited. Limited registration can be changed to Full registration by sending in an Application To Revoke Limited Status, signed by the owner and the breeder, and paying the required fee (currently $25 US). The application is here:

<https://images.akc.org/pdf/remlimit.pdf>

The first page of the form is for the breeder's (litter owner's) information and signature. The back is for the information and signature of the individual dog's current owner.

AKC is surprisingly fast at processing these. Your dog's new registration certificate will have a light-purple border (limited registration certificates have an orange border, as well as a statement in the top right corner that offspring of the dog are not eligible for registration.)

**You also need a three-generation pedigree from AKC.** You can make this request at the same time as you register your dog with AKC, or purchase it separately if your dog is already registered. Plan on this taking some time, because the Miniature American Shepherd is a fairly new breed to AKC, and some of the dogs in those three generations may have been registered with breed-specific or stock registries, not the American Kennel Club. AKC may need to do outside research to complete the pedigree, and this can take some time.

More information, as well as links to order a **printed** pedigree, are available at the AKC online store:

<https://www.apps.akc.org/apps/store/index.cfm?cde_category=PED&view=category&sso=rel&cde_product=PEDX04>

Note: you DO NOT need to request the Export pedigree option, just the regular certified pedigree is fine. (The form linked here is for a pedigree showing up to four generations—that is what AKC currently offers and should be acceptable.) You can make the purchase online through the AKC online store at the link given above. You can either create an account or use the "Continue As Guest" option. Fill out the order form and AKC will mail the pedigree to you. (You don’t want an “online research pedigree,” you want the official-looking one with the AKC seal.)

**So, you have a purple-bordered AKC registration certificate and a three-generation pedigree certified by AKC. Now what?**

You may need to contact CKC for answers to specific questions during this process. Their general contact information is:

Email: [information@ckc.ca](mailto:information@ckc.ca)  
Phone: 416-675-5511  
Toll-Free: 1-855-364-7252

MASCAN (Miniature American Shepherds of Canada, the national breed association) has the MCN application form linked on its Web site:

[https://www.MiniatureamericanShepherdsofcanada.com/MINIATURE%20AMERICAN%20SHEPHERD-CKC%20MISC%20form%20for%20Canadian%20Born%20MAS.pdf](https://www.miniatureamericanshepherdsofcanada.com/MINIATURE%20AMERICAN%20SHEPHERD-CKC%20MISC%20form%20for%20Canadian%20Born%20MAS.pdf)

(Or find it under "Forms" on the MASCAN web page: [https://www.MiniatureamericanShepherdsofcanada.com/](https://www.miniatureamericanshepherdsofcanada.com/) )

Print out the form.

Note this form is based on a litter registration application, with Litter Registration Number replaced by “MINIATURE AMERICAN SHEPHERD” Ignore the question asking for the number of males and females in the litter. Fill out the rest of the boxed section (date of birth, sire and dam) including the name and address of your breeder as your dog's owner at birth.

**Section A--Dog Name Choices, Colour Code, Gender**

Fill in the Dog Name Choices section-- I just provided three slight variations on my dog's AKC-registered name, and we got our first choice so his name is the same in both AKC and CKC.

Coat colour code: the codes don't seem to be available anywhere online, but your dog's colour will be shown on the AKC registration certificate. Just leave it blank or write a note to CKC to consult the AKC certificate.

Indicate the gender of your dog, and ignore the section granting permission to use your breeder's kennel name as part of your dog's name.

**Section B--Identification Section**

Fill in the identification section with either tattoo or microchip information. (If your dog was not chipped by the breeder, your vet can probably do this for you.)

**Section C--Dog Recovery Information**

For the "Dog Recovery Information," check on whether your breeder wants to be the "Emergency contact" in case your dog gets lost. Otherwise, provide the contact information of a reliable friend or family member who is willing to be contacted if your dog is found and you can't be contacted for some reason.

**Section D--Transfer Section**

On the back of the form, fill out the transfer information. Yes, I know: you already own your dog. Fill it out anyway. (Yes, there is a fee.) Give the date you purchased your dog and the date you actually took the dog home. Check one of the boxes indicating whether your dog is intended for show/breeding or a house pet. (I don't know why CKC wants this information, and I know many dogs are both. Pick one.)

Assuming you are the only registered owner of your dog, just fill out your own information as New Owner #1. If you have an individual CKC membership, include your membership number. You don't need to be a CKC member to register a dog but fees are lower if you are one.

**Section** **E**

Owner signature-- I crossed out "at birth" and signed as Owner #1. I had already verified with CKC that this was OK-- again, a toll-free phone call may be more efficient than email for any questions.

Below the signature box is the section where you enter your credit card information and the total amount of fees-- for the MCN application and possibly for the transfer of ownership. The CKC maintains a schedule of fees, however it's not very clear which fees, apart from the MCN application, apply. Also, fees vary depending on whether you, or your breeder, or both, have individual CKC memberships.

In my case, in early 2019, the final cost was $47.16 -- both my breeder and I have current CKC memberships. I did have to contact CKC for advice. Email was painfully slow and I had to send multiple requests just to get the right colour code for my dog. I finally lost patience trying to find out what fees applied and just phoned. The general switchboard connected me to someone in Registrations.

I was told that my best options were either to write "Please contact me for credit card information," or to check the "Bill Member Account" option on the form (that is only applicable if you are a CKC member. I checked that option.)

You now have a completed, signed MCN application, an AKC registration certificate, and an AKC certified three-generation pedigree. You can make your application by mail, sending photocopies of the AKC documents. However, when I called CKC and was transferred to the Registration department, I was told that I could also scan the whole application and send it as a pdf to the general email address given above.

I chose the email option, which took several weeks. CKC emailed me an invoice for the fee, and upon receipt of payment they emailed me the Miscellaneous certificate as a pdf.

This can be a long process (I have spoken to longtime CKC members who agree their wheels turn slowly) so prepare to be patient. And thanks for helping show the Canadian Kennel Club that we owners of Miniature American Shepherds are active and interested!