

What does the Effective Population Size (N_e) of your breed mean?

*(N_e) is used to refer to effective population size



Effective population sizes above 100 are sustainable.

The rate of inbreeding has **remained relatively steady** and is within the level **thought to be sustainable**. This means that there is a suitable **balance between selective breeding and inbreeding**, therefore the **genetic diversity** is being **effectively managed**.



The rate of loss of genetic diversity within a breed or population increases dramatically when the effective population size is <100.

This may imply that the **genetic diversity** of the breed is **steadily being lost** from the population, or that the **rate of inbreeding was high** in previous years but is **gradually slowing down**.



An effective population size that is less than 50 is considered to be at high risk of detrimental effects of inbreeding.

The breed is **at risk of detrimental effects of inbreeding** which could increase the chances of the breed being at **risk for both known and unknown inherited disorders**. The population is also at risk of **inbreeding depression**, which is an overall **decrease in general fitness**, or **general health**, and may **reduce litter sizes** and **fertility** across the breed.