

Russian Blue & Nebelung (RUS – NEB non)

Breeding programme 17/05/2025



Note: the most recent updates can be found at: [Breeding Decision – Cat Breeding Programmes | Vlaanderen.be](https://vlaanderen.be/breeding-decision-cat-breeding-programmes)



Other names

Blue Russian

Aim of the programme

The breeding programme aims to reduce the most common hereditary disorders without excluding too many cats, in order to preserve genetic diversity within the breed population.

Instead of systematically excluding animals, we have drawn up breeding recommendations based on carefully considered combinations. Naturally, the physical health of the animals is taken into account, and cats suffering from one of these disorders are excluded from breeding.

Performance tests

CONDITION	RECOMMENDATION	SCREENING METHOD	AGE	FREQUENCY
<i>Rapid eye movement (REM) sleep behaviour disorder (RBD)</i>	Mandatory from 1/1/2026	DNA test <i>FAM8A1: NC_058372.1: g.11622168_11622190del</i>	From birth For the 1 st coverage	One-off
Hypertrophic cardiomyopathy (HCM)	Recommended	Echocardiography	From 12 months	Valid for 2 years

*For DNA testing:

Free by descent: if both parents of a breeding animal have been tested free of an affected or abnormal allele by means of DNA and parentage verification has shown that they are the parents, the breeding animal does not need to be tested again, but it can be assumed that the breeding animal is also free of the affected or abnormal allele in question.

Breeding advice per performance test

Breeding advice is given here (schematically and in table form) for every possible parent combination.

- **Positive advice** or green means that this is a suitable mating based on this test.
- **Conditional positive advice** or orange means that this is not an ideal pairing based on this test, but that the pairing is permitted. Such combinations are permitted in order not to compromise the genetic diversity of a breed.
- **Breeding prohibition** or red means that this is not a suitable pairing based on this test. These animals may not be combined.

Animals suffering from autosomal **recessive disorders** may only be used **if the welfare of the animal and its offspring is assured**.

CONDITION	POSSIBLE SCREENING RESULT	BREEDING ADVICE				
<i>Rapid eye movement (REM) sleep behaviour disorder (RBD)</i>	This is an autosomal recessive inheritance: 1. Free 2. Carrier (1 normal and 1 affected gene copy) 3. Lijder (2 affected gene copies) 4. No result	Male	Free	carrier	sufferer	No result
		Female cat				
		free				
		carrier				
		sufferer				
		No result				
Hypertrophic cardiomyopathy (HCM)	1. Normal: no signs of HCM are visible on echocardiography. 2. suspicious: there are signs visible on echocardiography that may indicate HCM. The cat must be retested after 1 year. 3. Affected: clear signs of HCM are visible on echocardiography. 4. No result: no echocardiography was performed.	Male cat	Normal	Suspicious	Affected	No result
		Female				
		Normal				
		Suspicious				
		Affected				
		No result				

Overall breeding advice

The **mandatory tests** must be carried out in accordance with the specified conditions and frequency. If one or more of these results is a 'breeding ban', this combination may not be carried out.

Depending on the number of clinical examinations that may result in a **conditional positive breeding recommendation (orange)**, a maximum number of conditional positive results is permitted:

- 1-2 examinations: max. 1 conditional positive
- 3-4 examinations: max. 2 conditional positives
- 5 or more examinations: max. 3 conditional positive results

In such cases, **further follow-up** by the breeder is required before repeating such mating.

The **inbreeding coefficient** in the FBe database is calculated using Wright's formula **over 5 generations** (if known).

The inbreeding coefficient (COI) of an offspring may **be a maximum of 1% higher than the average COI of both parents**.

If **fewer than 3 generations** of the parents are known, the combination is only permitted if there are no common ancestors on both the father's and mother's side. All breeding recommendations for the mandatory tests must then be positive. A female cat may not be mated with her grandfather, her father, her brother, her half-brother, her son or her grandson.

To prevent disease-causing mutations from spreading too widely within the breed or population, it is essential not to allow a male cat to be used for breeding too often (popular sire effect). In this way, we limit the spread of harmful genetic variants and contribute to the long-term health of the breed.

Our website:

<http://www.felisbelgica.be/>

Our Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/Felis-Belgica-255959984470978/>

Our Instagram page:

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