There is no doubt that determining whether or not a dog will be included in TMPR is not only a daunting task, but one that comes with great responsibility. It is equally important to the breed not to be too inclusive as well as not to be too exclusive.

This is why it is so important that these decisions are made without influences that may sway the decision one way or another, that are not based on the dog, but on other influences, such as money, property, prestige and personalities. Our commitment is to the Tibetan Mastiff and we will be as vigilant in our guarding against these influences as the TM is in guarding his territory.

In making a determination if a dog will be accepted for TMPR registration, we will start with the three basics. Each area will be considered and information from each area will be used to make an informed decision.

The three basics are:

1. **Pedigree.** A three generation pedigree is requested with the application. If needed we will either ask for additional generations or will research the additional generations.

2. **Appearance.** We understand that the appearance of the Descendant dogs can vary. Aboriginals can also vary slightly depending on what region they originated. We also understand that atypical characteristics can appear in any breed.

   We will be looking for typical characteristics of the TM type and for how many atypical characteristics are presented in any single dog and within its pedigree. We may ask for additional information. Breed Standards may also be used.

3. **Breed Standards.** The Breed Standard of where the dog is from will be used as needed. For example if the dog is from France, the FCI Breed Standard will be used. If the dog is from the USA the AKC and UKC Breed Standards will be used. If the dog is already registered with registration, preference will be given to the breed standard the registration uses.

Besides pedigree and appearance, here are some of the other considerations that will guide our decisions:
1. **Determining Influence.** We have no doubt we will be faced with some difficult decisions. These decisions may be especially difficult in the Descendant gene pool. We are aware that there will be decisions that have to be made about ancestors of applicant dogs that we are fairly sure were not fully Tibetan Mastiff.

In these cases we will look at the influence these dogs have had on the gene pool and what influence the ancestor had on the particular dog we are reviewing.

We are aware there will be some dogs that have an ancestor that may have had one cross breeding and then all Descendant TMs on the down line. These dogs are more likely to be included in the TMPR Descendant category.

There are other dogs whose ancestors were/are 2nd and 3rd generation cross breeds who are clearly Xinxing Ao that heavily influenced their offspring with Xinxing Ao characteristics. These are dogs will be best suited to help establish the Xinxing Ao as a standardized breed and will be offered registration in the Xinxing Ao International Kennel Club at no additional charge.

2. **Length of time in the gene pool.** The length of time in the gene pool is also a factor in considering whether a dog will be included in TMPR or offered registration in the Xinxing Ao International Kennel Club.

3. **Kennel History.** In some cases, the historical breeding practices of the kennel the dog or the dog’s ancestors came from may be a consideration in determining if a dog should or should not be registered with TMPR.

4. **History.** The available history we have of the Aboriginal and landrace types of TMs that lived in Tibet and the Himalayas may be considered. We will not use the written descriptions of dogs encountered and described by travelers prior to 1800. We consider them too unreliable as they lack verifiable background information and usually describe an individual dog and not a group of dogs. If needed, we will rely on historical photos that have been clearly identified in terms of location and date.

**A NOTE ABOUT DNA TESTING** DNA analysis to identify breed is only as reliable as the dogs’ DNA that was used to create the baseline. TMPR does not consider DNA tests used to determine breed to be reliable or accurate and it is not used. DNA for parentage may be utilized.