

## Understanding Breeders Codes on Chinchilla Pedigrees in the UK

### **Important Note:**

**A pedigree, irrespective of what species of animal it relates to, is a record of how it has been bred, it is not a guarantee of quality.**

How breeders arrive at the herd number of individual chinchillas can vary slightly but this guide will enable you to interpret and understand a chinchilla pedigree produced here in the UK. Every chinchilla with a pedigree will have a unique herd number and this should enable you to trace its ancestry going back at least 3 or 4 generations.

Why are herd numbers important?

Closely related chinchillas should not be bred together, therefore, having access to your chinchillas' pedigrees will allow you to determine if a potential breeding pair are too closely related or not.

The chinchilla's herd numbers on pedigrees can have a variety of formats, but generally they consist of the following elements.

- The breeder code – this is normally a two to four letter abbreviation and it tells you who bred the animal. As an example, “John Smith Chinchillas”, if the herd codes have not been taken, they would likely choose to use JS or JSC as their breeder code. A list of recognised breeder codes here in the UK are available on this website. Any new breeder should avoid using a herd code that has already been in use. If you wish to register your herd code with the NCS, please contact the Editor or Website Manager. [You can download the list of herd codes by clicking on this link.](#)
- The herd number – this is what number kit was born in that herd for that year. This is normally a 1 to 3 figure number. As an example, the first kit born could have a herd number of 1 or 01 or 001. Note: it is good practise to give a herd number to all kits born, even if still born.
- The Year of birth. Some breeder simply state the year in their pedigrees while others use the recognised year letters. The year letters are listed at the bottom of this page.
- Sex - some breeders include the sex of the animal on their pedigrees while others choose not to. This is usually “M” for male and “F” for female.

So, the herd number for the first chinchilla born in 2020 in “John Smiths” herd could be expressed in a number of including the examples below:-

JSL001F JSCL01 JSC20/01F JS20/1 JS2020/1

All the above comprise of the Breeder code; the year of birth (either in a letter or number format); what number kit it was in that year and optionally, whether it was male or female

### Chinchilla Pedigree Letters by Year

1998	H	2003	N	2008	V	2013	C	2018	J	2023	P
1999	J	2004	P	2009	X	2014	D	2019	K	2024	R
2000	K	2005	R	2010	Z	2015	E	2020	L	2025	S
2001	L	2006	S	2011	A	2016	F	2021	M	2026	T
2002	M	2007	T	2012	B	2017	H	2022	N	2027	V