Deafness in Australian Cattle Dogs
Implications for breeding.

Since it appears that more than one gene is involved, several generations of clear is not a guarantee to future deaf will not be produced. The advice in the books is based on monogenic recessive traits.

We don't have a test yet but are working toward one. I cannot predict how soon it would be available, but most likely more than 2-3 years off.

In the event that a deaf is born I certainly would advise against repeating the breeding. I would test all in the litter and sterilize any unilaterally deaf. Breeding of hearing puppies should be done away from parental lines - but that is no guarantee for the future.

In general, don't repeat breedings of animals that have produced deaf and avoid lines that have produced deaf. Test ALL animals before breeding and never breed unilaterally deaf animals.

George M. Strain
Professor of Neuroscience Comparative Biomedical Sciences
Louisiana State University School of Veterinary Medicine Baton Rouge, LA 70803 Voice 225-578-9758
Fax 225-578-9895
Research: www.lsu.edu/deafness/deaf.htm