

STCA Code of Ethics Revised April 2024

Article 1

Familiarize yourself with and abide by the Staffordshire Terrier Club of America's constitution and by-laws as well as the American Kennel Club breed standard for the American Staffordshire Terrier.

Promise not to misrepresent yourself or your American Staffordshire Terriers in dealings with others.

Appreciate the unique nature of the American Staffordshire Terrier and try to develop the characteristics this dog has inherited through selective breeding (intelligence, desire to please, with a friendly, and outgoing nature towards people.) Cull all shy, timid, or human aggressive dogs from breeding programs.

Assume the responsibility of properly feeding, training, exercising, health/veterinary care, cleanliness, and maintaining all law required vaccinations at all times. Keep as many dogs as you are able to properly care for without compromising the wellbeing of any.

Members have the obligation to protect and save the best interest of the American Staffordshire Terrier. Refrain from public criticism or malicious degrading of others or their dogs on any platform, including on social media.

Participate within one's own means in the defense against canine legislation discriminatory or injurious to the welfare of the American Staffordshire Terrier and all purebred dogs.

Never knowingly sell or place an American Staffordshire Terrier with unethical persons or those who would not provide proper or humane care to the dog. Refuse to sell any American Staffordshire Terrier to any pet shop or any wholesale dealer of dogs.

Should you become aware of the mistreatment, abuse, neglect, or need for relocation of an American Staffordshire Terrier, make every effort to be of assistance by notifying the breeder of the dog involved as well as the local authorities.

Always try to be faithful to the STCA and uphold this code. Public slandering of the club, or its Board of Directors as a whole, is in direct breach of this Code of Ethics in any forum, including social media.

Article 2

Do not breed American Staffordshire Terriers that are not registered by the American Kennel Club or by kennel clubs recognized by the American Kennel Club. Strive in each breeding to improve the breed according to the AKC AST breed standard.

Conscientiously plan every breeding based on parents of appropriate temperament, health, appearance, and other desirable qualities. Be aware of genetic defects which can be harmful to the breed.

When breeding, select animals that will reduce the incidence of genetic problems while enhancing the positive attributes and abilities of the breed. Be open with all people interested in the welfare of the American Staffordshire Terrier and discuss physical or temperamental defects in your own stock.

Article 3

No stud dog or brood bitch shall be cross bred to any unregistered or registered dog of another breed or crossbreed at any time.

Strive to align your breeding with the recommended health testing as published on the STCA Health Committee page.

The STCA **strongly** recommends not to breed any bitch which is not mature, prior to 3rd heat cycle or 2 years of age, and in good health.

Do not breed any male that is not mature or at least twelve (12) months of age.

If a bitch is to be bred twice consecutively, back-to-back, she should be allowed a full year of rest before being bred again. It is **strongly** recommended a bitch should have no more than four litters in her lifetime.

No bitch shall be bred beyond her 12th birthday but **strongly** recommends not beyond 8 years of age.

The STCA **strongly** recommends that no individual, household, or “kennel” shall breed more than six litters of American Staffordshire Terriers per year in total.

Article 4

Act responsibly toward all puppies produced by your brood bitch or stud for the lifetime of the puppies. Maintain accurate and complete records of dogs, breeding's, pedigrees, registration, transfers, and puppy owner information.

Require owners to contact the breeder if he or she can no longer keep a dog at any time in the dog's life.

Do not allow puppies to go to their new homes until at least 8 weeks of age. All puppies shall be sold in good health, free of parasites, with appropriate vaccinations, and all valid and required paperwork.

Understand that written contracts are strongly recommended for all transactions, such as sales, guarantees, co-ownerships, breeding rights agreements, bitch leases, stud services, etc.

Keep accurate records and pedigrees and give new owners AKC registration papers as soon as possible if not at time of pickup.

Use and promote the use of the American Kennel Club non-breeding registration on pet quality puppies which are sold or placed by you.

No puppies shall be sold without accurate, truthful, and traceable paperwork through all required avenues by law both in the USA and sales abroad.

Breeders shall fully vet any potential home to ensure proper care will be taken of the puppy, that no puppy is knowingly sent to a home where BSL is present, and that containment of the dog will be in place. Fenced yards are highly encouraged.

Breeders shall remain available for any questions, problems, or advice needed to owners for the lifetime of the puppies.

Breeders must provide assistance to any dog(s) of their breeding program in the need of rehoming whether it be in a shelter, rescue, or in an individual's possession.

Article 5

Good sportsmanship is required by all participating in any avenue of the sport dogs.

All competitors must refrain from using disparaging, false, or misleading statements about judges, board members, fellow exhibitors, breeders, or owners of American Staffordshire Terriers.

All members must uphold the AKC Code of Sportsmanship.
https://images.akc.org/pdf/AKC_code_of_sportsmanship.pdf

All American Staffordshire Terriers owners must stay current on their local/state breed specific legislation.

All STCA members are encouraged to help with American Staffordshire Terrier rescue efforts whether it be by donation, fostering, transporting, or doing home checks.

All advertising by members must be done with honesty and should not misrepresent, mislead, or defraud.

***** Members who violate the STCA Code of Ethics risk having a complaint filed by a member in good standing and their membership reviewed by the Board of Directors which could result in a suspension or expulsion from the Club per Article VI of the Constitution & By-Laws. *****