

# **Western Washington State Australian Shepherd Association (WSASA)**

## **Code of Conduct**

This Code of Conduct is presented as a guide for Western Washington State Australian Shepherd Association (WWASA) members whose aim is the welfare of Australian Shepherd dogs. The purpose of these guidelines is to set forth minimum principles of practice to which the Club subscribes to. These guidelines are presented with the realization that ethics are difficult to regulate. When in doubt of any of these conducts, an owner should consult with authorities such as experienced, reputable breeders, and/or veterinarians. Any member WHO FAILS TO UPHOLD the code of conduct MAY HAVE THEIR MEMBERSHIP AND/OR PRIVILEGES REVOKED by A 2/3 MAJORITY VOTE OF THE BOARD.

### ***Article I***

#### **Health**

All dogs shall be kept in a clean, healthy, and safe environment. Dogs will be provided with vaccinations, worming, anti-parasite treatments, and socialization, to provide maximum mental and physical well being. If a dog must be euthanized it should be humanely performed.

### ***Article II***

#### **Breeding**

An ethical breeder's goal and responsibility is to produce the healthiest and best representatives of the Australian Shepherd breed possible. Each litter shall be the result of conscientious planning, including consideration of health, soundness, and temperament. Only healthy, mature adult dogs shall be used in a breeding program. Veterinarian consultation, should be taken when breeding a bitch over eight (8) years and under 18 months of age. Breeders are encouraged to screen for all appropriate hereditary disorders (example: hip dysphasia and eyes). Members should not breed to Miniature/Toy Australian Shepherds or sell for the purpose of creating a Miniature/Toy Australian Shepherd and/or selling a puppy to people with the intent to breed Miniature/Toy Australian Shepherds. The Miniature/Toy Australian Shepherd is NOT a size variety of the Australian Shepherd and is not recognized by the American Kennel Club.

### ***Article III.***

#### **Sales**

Breeders should be concerned with the proper placement of puppies, both pet and show quality. Breed type and potential owners family structure, living conditions and time schedules should be carefully considered. Breeders are encouraged to use sales contracts, signed by the breeder and purchaser with each party keeping a signed copy. Sales contracts should state the terms of sale, guarantees, and restrictions. Breeders shall urge purchasers to spay or neuter any dog which is not considered breeding quality. If puppies with serious defects are sold, the breeder should inform the purchaser in writing and require that the dog is spayed or neutered. Members will not "Give away" or sell puppies

or adult dogs as prizes, pet stores, for research or those that wish to breed them as Miniature Australian Shepherds or into the Miniature Australian Shepherd lines or misrepresent the Australian Shepherd dog as any other breed in another breed registration, neither will they sell puppies to nor breed to dogs owned by those whom they have reason to believe may do so. Registration applications, certificates and a bill of sale stating sire, dam, and date of birth shall accompany puppies as they go to new homes. Breeders shall furnish the buyer with written details on feeding, dates of inoculations, worming, and general care of the dog. Responsibility of the breeder does not stop with the sale. The breeder should be available for consultation and to assist in the placement of any dog sold by the breeder if such need arises.

*Article IV.*

**Registration and Records**

All members shall keep complete and accurate records of individual dogs, breeding, litters, pedigrees, and puppy sales as required by the AKC, and abide by the AKC rules and regulations.

*Article V.*

**Exhibition**

Members shall abide by the rules and regulations of the Club and the AKC under which the event is held. Show grounds should be left in a clean condition. Lodging: Regulations of hotels permitting dogs should be followed. Other guests of the hotel should be considered. Disturbances should be attended to immediately and steps taken to prevent further occurrences.

Members should not make false, misleading or disparaging statements regarding a judge, exhibitor, fellow member, another dog, or misrepresent their own dogs. Alleged misconduct should be objectively and calmly presented to the proper representative of the Club.

Members shall do all within their power to uphold, promote, and protect the interests of the club and the Australian Shepherd breed by conducting themselves in a manner reflecting credit on the Club, its members, their dogs, and the dog world in general.

*Article VI.*

**Australian Shepherd Rescue**

WWASA recommends that all members support Australian Shepherd rescue organizations.