

NCBR BREEDER CODE OF ETHICS

Breeding dogs is a serious responsibility and the decision to breed should never be taken lightly.

The NCBR encourages all dog breeders to consider and apply this code of ethics to their breeding program.

- Breeders should not breed and sell dogs and puppies as a commercialized or for-profit business.

- Breeders should demonstrate extensive knowledge of the breed standard, breed history, traits, correct conformation, temperament and common uses. They should have years of experience with the breed before breeding dogs.

- All dogs in the possession of the breeder should at all times be provided with proper housing, nutrition, health care and activity, exercise or other necessary stimulation to lead a long, healthy and happy life.

Breeders should only choose a sire and dam that are in good health and have reached maturity, being capable of producing, whelping and raising a healthy litter. The brood bitch should not be bred before the age of two years, and should not have puppies on successive seasons.

- It is the duty of a stud dog owner before breeding to ensure that the owner of the dam has the necessary knowledge, experience, facilities, resources and ability to whelp, raise and guarantee the future well being of any resulting litter.

- It is the duty of a dam owner before breeding to ensure that the owner of the sire has the necessary knowledge, facilities, resources and experience to provide a safe and successful mating where the dam and all of her needs are well cared for.

- Breeders should make it a goal to maintain and preserve the breed at all times, and should only breed dogs that are themselves quality representatives of the breed. Breeders should strive to breed the best dog to the best dog, rather than breed what is convenient or easily accessible.

- Breeders should have and keep extended pedigrees on all their dogs as well as detailed and accurate records concerning their breeding program, sales transactions, current contact info from every puppy buyer past and present.

- Breeders should demonstrate general knowledge about canine health, first aid, genetics, reproduction, development, behavioral training and socialization.

- Health of adults and puppies should be routinely tested. Known, standardized testing is recommended, including but not limited to: OFA, Penn-Hip, CERF, BAER and more. Breeders should also test dogs for sexually transmitted diseases, such as Brucellosis, prior to mating.

- Breeders should never sell puppies to or through pet stores or puppy brokers. Instead it is best to personally screen and select the proper homes for dogs and puppies being sold or rehomed. The breeder should turn away people whose commitment, home situation or lifestyle does not meet the requirements of the dogs.

- It is the breeder's duty to advise and educate people about the dogs, their needs, proper care and use best judgment in whether or not the prospective home will fit the needs of the dogs. Breeder should be available to help rehome or take back their dog if the buyer cannot keep it, no matter the age or circumstance.

- Breeders should provide some form of guarantee covering the health and temperament of their dogs. Breeders should place all 'pet quality' or non-breeding animals in appropriate homes already spayed/neutered or with a contract requiring the purchaser to spay/neuter the puppy.

- Breeders should have a reasonable number of qualified homes already in place for puppies they plan to make available before ever breeding a litter to insure there will be no unwanted or excess puppies. Breeders should be prepared to keep every puppy in the litter for the lifetime of the puppy if necessary.

- The breeder should never breed puppies in excess. Depending on personal needs and the number of brood bitches owned by the breeder, no more than 2 litters per year are recommended in order to invest into each litter the time, evaluation, testing, training and socialization needed to insure the quality and wellbeing of the dogs being produced.

- The breeder acts as a representative of the breed, it is their responsibility to uphold the highest standards, morals and ethics in their own programs. Breeders may undertake the task of educating and encouraging all newcomers to the breed, sharing only accurate and truthful information and always having it as a goal to always protect the interests and heritage of the breed