



## **CODE OF ETHICS**

This Code of Ethics is established to set a standard of acceptable code of conduct for the NATIONAL BLUETICK COONHOUND ASSOCIATION members. The Code is designed to protect the interests of the club and to protect and preserve the Bluetick Coonhound. The National Bluetick Coonhound Association expects adherence to the code. Blatant disregard for the standards set out in this code will not be condoned.

The Bluetick Coonhound Association was formed and exists to encourage and promote the responsible breeding and ownership of Bluetick Coonhound and to protect and advance the interests of these dogs. Toward these ends, The Bluetick Coonhound Association recommends the following practices as ethical.

- Abide by the Constitution and By-laws of the National Bluetick Coonhound Association and the rules of the American Kennel Club.
- Maintain the animal(s) in an environment and under a regime that as far as possible ensures the well being of the dog.
- Make use of available health/DNA testing when needed in order to produce Bluetick Coonhounds free of genetically transmitted defects.
  - Familiarize oneself with the AKC Standard of the Breed and strive to breed only Bluetick Coonhounds of characteristic type, sound structure and temperament, directing ones efforts to producing dogs in conformity to the AKC Standard.
  - Keep accurate breeding records and registration information in accordance with American Kennel Club regulations.
  - Breed bitches in good condition and health according to AKC recommendations.
  - Only undertake the breeding of a bitch when one is prepared to keep the resultant puppies until they are suitably placed. Members offering a dog at stud should require similar assurances from the owners of bitches of non NBCA members.
  - Puppies should not be sold prior to 8 weeks of age. Puppies and adults should be sold with appropriate inoculations for their age.
  - Members should provide stud service only when satisfied that the owner of the bitch has such time and facilities necessary for the proper development of the puppies.
  - Should not misrepresent or fail to disclose known hereditary defects, health and physical condition of any stock offered for sale or breeding purposes.
- Provide purchasers of adults or puppies with accurate papers to include a registration certificate and/or a written sales agreement, document stating as to whether a guarantee is provided and setting forth any terms, conditions or limitations thereto, together with complete medical records and instructions for care and feeding. Optional: include any other information in a New Puppy Packet that would be pertinent for the puppy.



- Not knowingly sell a Bluetick Coonhound of any age to a pet shop, catalog house, laboratory or any wholesale dealer in dogs (a dealer being a person who regularly buys dogs for sale at profit), or to any person who sells to any of the above. Members will not knowingly offer stud service to wholesale dealers or to any person involved with pet shops, catalog houses or laboratories.

Bluetick Coonhounds will **Not** be provided for use in raffles, auctions or similar enterprises.

- Assume an ongoing responsibility for the Bluetick Coonhounds that they produce. This is a lifetime commitment. A Bluetick in need of a new home, who is owned by, bred by or sired by a dog owned by a member of the NBCA, should **not** become a rescue dog. Whenever feasible this dog should become the responsibility of the owner, breeder, or owner of the sire.

- Engage in advertising that is as factual as possible. Misleading exaggerations or unfounded implications of superiority shall not be used.

- Refrain from knowingly making unfair or untrue statements about the dogs or practices of others

## **ENFORCEMENT**

By signing this Code of Ethics, I/we acknowledge that I/we understand and agree with the purpose of the National Bluetick Coonhound Association, and that I/we will do my/our best to promote the best interests of the Club and the Bluetick Coonhound.

Furthermore, I/we will conduct myself/ourselves in a manner of good AKC sportsmanship at conformation, obedience and performance events, so as to reflect positively on the sport of purebred dogs