BREEDER/EXHIBITOR CODE OF ETHICS

This Code of Ethics applies to any member who breeds, plans to breed, or exhibits Bolognese dogs, now or in the future, and must be submitted with the membership application when applicable.

BREED INTEGRITY

Breeders shall breed only purebred Bolognese dogs. Cross-breeding (breeding to any other breed) is prohibited and may result in loss of breeder privileges and membership action.

BREEDING

For purposes of this document, a "Breeder" is defined as an American Bolognese Club member who owns one or more intact Bolognese dogs and who breeds, plans to breed. As a Breeder, the member is solely responsible for all breeding decisions, practices, and any resulting offspring.

(1) Conscientiously plan each litter. It is recommended that you carefully select stud dog and bitch to be mated based on pedigrees, the parents' conformation (according to the AKC Breed Standard), soundness, and temperament. Breed only from pure stock that is physically and mentally sound. Breed carefully, always to improve the breed. Use all available means to determine that the stock retained or sold for breeding is free of genetic disease or disqualifying faults. Never repeat a breeding that has produced a serious genetic defect in the offspring.

(2) Breed only healthy, mature bitches. It is recommended that bitches not be bred before the second heat. Stud dogs should not be bred before 12 months of age and the completion of all health tests listed below.

(3) A bitch should not be bred to more than one stud dog during a single heat period unless the breeder opts to intentionally breed to two qualified stud dogs; in which case a DNA test must be performed on each puppy in the litter to determine the sire. The owner of the bitch must provide the results of DNA testing to the AKC before any offspring can be registered. Each puppy must be microchipped prior to DNA parentage testing.

HEALTH & GENERAL CARE

(1) Maintain all Bolognese in clean and sanitary conditions.

(2) Provide maximum health protection for all dogs.

(3) Maintain mental health and well-being through human contact and exercise on a regular basis.

ABC HEALTH TESTING STANDARDS

The ABC recommends that:

(1) The sire and dam will have a normal patellas evaluation performed by a Licensed Veterinarian after one year of age. The OFA patella evaluation form signed by the Veterinarian of normal patellas should be sent in to OFA for certification. Annual patella checks are not necessary.

(2) All breeding stock (sire and dam) have annual eye screening and certification by an OFA Board Certified ACVO Veterinary Ophthalmologist. Results can be sent in for CAER certification to OFA.

(3) DNA testing is recommended for PRA/PRCD. Other DNA tests are optional.

(4) Test stud and bitch for Canine Brucellosis prior to breeding any male or female not resident in your kennel or has been sent to be bred outside your kennel.

STUD SERVICES

For purposes of this section, the term "stud services" refers to the use of your stud dog to outside bitches (i.e., bitches that you do not own).

(1) As the owner of the stud dog, you are responsible for everything associated with your stud dog. When breeding to outside bitches, you are not considered the breeder, and you are therefore not responsible for planning the litter, or for the resulting offspring. However, you do have a responsibility to the breed to help ensure that the prospective litter will meet AKC health and conformation standards.

(2) Prior to planning the breeding, full disclosure of any genetic defects produced by sire or dam, as well as any known genetic issues in the pedigrees, should be disclosed between owners.

(3) All stud dogs must be registered in the AKC registry.

(4) A stud service contract, outlining the conditions and guarantees of the stud service, is strongly recommended.

(5) Breed stud dogs only to those adult bitches who are AKC registered, or are registered with an approved foreign registry, such as the FCI, and meet ABC Breed Standards.

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SALES

(1) The breeder must accurately represent the qualities of their Bolognese to the purchaser. Intelligently and honestly classify stock as show/breed prospects or companion prospects; If in doubt, seek help from a veterinarian or qualified breeder to classify the litter.

(2) All litters are to be AKC registered.

(3) The paperwork required for AKC individual dog registration must be provided with all puppies at the time of possession of Bolognese, unless a sales contract stating otherwise is provided. Each registration paper must be marked Full or Limited registration and signed by the breeder.

(4) Never falsify a pedigree.

(5) Buyers must be provided with written health and general care information at the time of the sale, including but not limited to a veterinarian health exam and a record of worming and vaccinations.

(6) It is strongly recommended that a clear and concisely written contract, signed and dated, be used to document the sale or transfer of ownership of all Bolognese prior to, or at, the exchange of the dog.

(7) Breeders will avoid false and misleading advertising. Breeders will not sell or consign puppies or adults to pet shops, brokers, or puppy mills, nor supply Bolognese for raffles, prizes, or similar projects. Furthermore, AKC puppies shall not be sold at trial or show sites.

(8) Puppies must be at least eight (8) weeks old prior to leaving the breeder's possession. No exceptions.

(9) Be aware, adhere to AKC's policy on co-ownership, and be sure both parties sign a contract of co-ownership.

A co-ownership agreement must be on file with the AKC registry office.

SHOWING

(1) The Bolognese should be presented as naturally as possible and never sculpted. Minor trimming of the foot pads, inner corners of the eyes, anal and genital areas for hygienic purposes is allowed.

(2) Show your Bolognese if, and whenever possible and encourage the showing of high-quality stock. Exhibit only the most credible show ring deportments and accept the services of only those professional handlers whose behavior is exemplary.

(3) Be willing always to help novice exhibitors and breeders. Always use kind and constructive feedback.

ATTITUDE TOWARD OTHER MEMBERS

Always keep your communications with other ABC members and prospective buyers positive and professional, particularly when referring to other breeders and members. Any information shared breeder to breeder must not be repeated to others without specific permission from both parties.

Any valid complaint by an ABC member toward an ABC breeder is to be submitted to the Club Officers or Board of Directors, as per the ABC Bylaws.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Members who knowingly violate this Code of Ethics may be subject to disciplinary action, including suspension or termination of membership privileges, as determined by the Board of Directors.

Any member who is suspended from any privileges of The American Kennel Club shall automatically be suspended from the privileges of the American Bolognese Club for the same period.

I acknowledge that I have read and understand the American Bolognese Club Breeder/Exhibitor Code of Ethics and agree to abide by its terms as a condition of participation in breeder-related privileges of the Club.

Print Name_____

Date_____

Signature_____

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