



CODE OF ETHICS

Australian Shepherd Club of Washington

Effective January 1, 2011, all sires and dams must be DNA profiled with an ASCA approved laboratory prior to the registration of their first litter.¹

The Australian Shepherd Club of Washington (ASCOFWA), in keeping with its constitutional aim of breeding for the working ability as well as other outstanding qualities of the Australian Shepherd, has adopted the following Code of Ethics to promote and foster the highest standards among breeders, owners and fanciers, and to encourage sportsmanship and cooperation in the improvement and advancement of our breed. All members in good standing with the ASCOFWA subscribe to and uphold this Code.

ARTICLE I – RECORDS

1. Each member who breeds his bitch or uses his stud for service shall keep accurate records of stock such as stud services, pedigrees, all litters produced, sales of dogs/puppies, and all exchanges involving Australian Shepherds for a minimum of five years.
2. Any member who falsifies a registration or knowingly misrepresents a pedigree shall be reported to the ASCOFWA Board of Directors.

ARTICLE II – BREEDING

1. A breeder shall plan each breeding with the paramount intention of improving the breed and only when in a position to give proper care to both bitch and off-spring.
2. A breeder shall select stud and matron with an eye to conformation, temperament, and working ability, with a careful study of the ASCA Breed Standard, pedigrees, and basic principles of genetics.
3. Before entering into any breeding agreement, a breeder shall scrutinize the pedigree, conformation, and working potentials of both sire and dam, keeping in mind the ideal Australian Shepherd as described in the Australian Shepherd Breed Standard. He shall refuse the breeding if, in his opinion, it is not in the best interest of the breed. Should he refuse the breeding, a full explanation of his reasoning shall be given the owner of the bitch.
4. A breeder shall use for breeding purposes only those individuals free of defects such as monorchidism, cryptorchidism, deafness, albinism, and other such disqualifying defects.
 - a. He shall use only those individuals whose hips (and elbows²) have been x-rayed for dysplasia and rated normal to excellent by a qualified radiologist.
 - b. He shall take care to use only dogs whose eyes have been examined by a board-certified ophthalmologist³ and found free of signs of ocular deformities.
 - c. He shall refrain from using an individual who, although free of the above known defects, consistently produces afflicted puppies.
 - d. He shall become familiar with and stay current on Australian Shepherd Health Issues impacting the breed.⁴

¹ This change is incorporated into our COE in 2012 to comply with ASCA Registry Rules.

² (Elbows are added.)

³ Board-certified ophthalmologist is added.

⁴ This sentence is added.

ARTICLE III – HEALTH

A breeder shall maintain high standards of health and care for his dogs, and shall guarantee the health of puppies at the time of sale.

ARTICLE IV – SALES

1. A breeder shall be discriminating in the sale of his puppies and concerned with the type of homes in which they are placed. With this in mind, Australian Shepherds shall not be donated for raffles, giveaways, or sold to dog wholesalers or retailers such as pet shops or the like.

2. A breeder shall, for his own protection as well as that of the buyer, provide adequate written contractual proof of sale and guarantee.

3. A breeder shall provide a minimum six-month written guarantee against crippling or congenital defects on all pet puppies sold, and shall additionally guarantee the sale of breeding-stock puppies against all hereditary defects and any disqualifying faults for a like period. All guarantees shall at least provide for replacement of the puppy with another that meets the terms of the original guarantee, within a reasonable length of time after the return of the puppy originally purchased, as agreed in writing by the purchaser and seller.

4. A breeder shall transfer all applicable registration papers at the time purchase agreement is completed and agreeable to both parties.

5. Upon the sale of a dog/puppy the breeder shall provide all buyers with a five or more generation pedigree⁵ including coat and eye color; an indication of NBT occurrence (if known), diet and care information, health guarantee and inoculation record (including date and type of serum).

6. A breeder shall refrain from releasing a puppy until it is at least seven weeks old, or eight weeks old if the puppy is to be shipped.

ARTICLE V – ADVERTISING

1. The breeder agrees that all advertising of dogs/puppies shall be factual and honest in both substance and implication.

2. The breeder shall be cautious in encouraging buyers as to breeding potential, as the breeding of Australian Shepherds is not to be taken lightly.

ARTICLE VI – MEMBER RELATIONS

1. The exhibiting of dogs being a sport, ASCofWA members shall express good sportsmanship in all activities involving the Australian Shepherd.

2. Members shall refrain from unnecessary criticism of or untruthful statements about another's dog.

3. As a matter of ethics, members pledge to help educate the general public as well as graciously assist the novice breeder in all with which the member is familiar.

ARTICLE VII – IMPLEMENTATION

1. Any infractions of the Code shall be reported, in writing, to the ASCofWA Board of Directors in accordance with the ASCofWA Bylaws.

2. Only when a breeder continues to deviate from these ideals and is not cooperative in rectifying an error will the situation be presented to the Board of Directors for disciplinary action.

Approved August 19, 1978; conforms closely to the Australian Shepherd Club of America Code of Ethics.

Footnotes added; April 2012, April 2013, February 2014, and approved February 2014.

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⁵ The generation pedigree has been changed from two (if known) to five to better reflect the maturation of the breed.