

Code of Ethics Guidelines

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Code of Ethics Guidelines

The AKC Delegates Parent Club Committee Guide to Writing a Code of Ethics

This is a sample of the ideas often included in clubs' Codes of Ethics, or other club documents (Recommended Practices, Mission Statement, etc.) which express desirable behavior for club members.

Within each heading, the statements are listed in order of decreasing frequency, so the most often included are at the top of the list.

Most Codes of Ethics begin with an introductory statement of some sort. This, from the Afghan Hound Club of America, is one of the best:

Whether an owner, exhibitor, or breeder, the Afghan Hound enthusiast is often confronted with decisions and courses of action which can impact the continued improvement and preservation of the Afghan Hound breed, and the well-being of his or her individual dogs .All too often, because of inexperience or lack of forethought, the decisions made and the course of action pursued are unfortunate ones, with lasting detrimental effects.

With these voluntary guidelines, which represent a distillation of the personal codes of conduct of its members, the Afghan Hound Club of America is setting forth acceptable practices and a number of precautions, and is directing them to any and all involved with our breed with the intent that the pitfalls be avoided and the pleasures enhanced.

This is the result of the compilation of the received documents.

Signatures: The XYZ Club requires that members sign the Code of Ethics

- With application for membership
- Annually
- For breeder referral

Enforcement: the Code of Ethics is enforced

- Voluntary compliance
- The discipline method specified in the by-laws
- A discipline process outside the by-laws
- There is an Ethics Committee

Sportsmanship: Members shall comport themselves with good sportsmanship

- At all times
- At shows

Members shall maintain high standards of care and conditions of their dogs

Breeding:

- Breeders shall take health into consideration when planning litters
- Specifically named tests shall be performed
- Breeding shall be planned according to the AKC standard for the breed
- Health screening tests are specified before breeding

- Minimum and maximum age of brood bitch are specified
- Frequency of bitches litters is specified
- Minimum age of stud dog is specified
- Standards for exhibiting are specified.

Registration: The AKC Delegates Parent Club Committee strongly recommends that breeders take responsibility for the AKC registration of all AKC registerable puppies

- AKC registration is specified
- Only AKC registered dogs may be bred

Selling:

- It is universally specified that the selling of puppies to pet shops or dealers is prohibited
- Puppies shall not be used as prizes, auction items, raffles, etc.
- Accurate records shall be maintained.
- A contract shall be provided to both parties
- Content of the contract is specified
- Spay/neuter is stipulated when appropriate
- Health status of puppies shall be verified prior to sale.
- Potential homes shall be carefully screened
- Education of potential buyers
- Permanent identification of puppies is required
- If buyer is unable to keep dog, dog must be returned to breeder
- If buyer is unable to keep dog, breeder must be notified
- If dog ends up in rescue, breeder will:
 - take back the dog
 - assist to re-home the dog
 - support the dog financially

Other:

- Truth in advertising is stipulated
- Advertising content addressed

Feel free to use as many statements as your club wishes, in any order, to reword them, and to develop your own, to suit your club's needs.

Approved by the American Kennel Club Delegates' Parent Club Committee on August 1, 2010

Addendum to the Code of Ethics Guidelines

The following items are suggestions from the American Kennel Club staff. These may be helpful to you in developing or revising your Code of Ethics.

1. It is recommended that clubs obtain legal counsel in developing or revising a Code of Ethics.
2. If the Code of Ethics is part of the application for membership in the club, then the applicant, in signing the document(s), is agreeing to adhere to the by-laws, rules, and Code of Ethics.
3. Club members should always act as good ambassadors for their breed(s), their club, and the American Kennel Club. All public contacts should be positive, fair, and honest. Clubs may wish to use the AKC Code of Sportsmanship as part of their Codes of Ethics.
4. Club by-laws often cover enforcement and discipline. Caution is urged in using any discipline process outside the by-laws, and due process must always be followed.
5. . The fair and equitable treatment of buyers is essential. Contracts can be a source of conflict. If contracts are intended to cover circumstances in which registration papers are to be signed or withheld, they should include specific provisions addressing those issues.
6. The use of a club or AKC logo without appropriate permission is considered unethical and could be illegal.

Approved by the Parent Club Committee August 1, 2010

Code of Ethics Project

The American Kennel Club Delegates Parent Club Committee wishes to thank the following 103 Parent clubs for participating in this project by submitting their documents.

Breed (Alphabetical order)	Club
Afghan Hound	Afghan Hound Club of America, Inc.
Airdale Terrier	Airdale Terrier Club of America
Akita	Akita Club of America
Alaskan Malamute	Alaskan Malamute Club of America, Inc.
American Eskimo Dog	American Eskimo Dog Club of America
American Staffordshire Terrier	Staffordshire Terrier Club of America
American Water Spaniel	American Water Spaniel Club
Australian Cattle Dog	Australian Cattle Dog Club of America
Australian Shepherd	United States Australian Shepherd Association
Australian Terrier	Australian Terrier Club of America, Inc.
Basenji	Basenji Club of America, Inc.
Basset Hound	Basset Hound Club of America, Inc.
Beagle	National Beagle Club
Bearded Collie	Bearded Collie Club of America, Inc.
Belgian Malinois	American Belgian Malinois Club
Belgian Sheepdog	Belgian Sheepdog of America, Inc.
Belgian Turvuren	American Belgian Turvuren Club, Inc.
Bernese Mountain Dog	Bernese Mountain Dog Club of America, Inc.
Bichon Frise	Bichon Frise Club of America, Inc.
Black Russian Terrier	Black Russian Terrier Club of America
Bloodhound	American Bloodhound Club
Border Collie	Border Collie Society of America
Border Terrier	Border Terrier Club of America, Inc.
Bull Terrier	Bull Terrier Club of America
Bulldog	Bulldog Club of America
Bullmastiff	American Bullmastiff Association, Inc.
Cardigan Welsh Corgi	Cardigan Welsh Corgi Club of America, Inc.
Cavalier King Charles Spaniel	American Cavalier King Charles Spaniel Club, Inc.
Chihuahua	Chihuahua Club of America, Inc.
Chinese Shar-Pei	Chinese Shar-Pei Club of America, Inc.
Chow Chow	Chow Chow Club, Inc.
Clumber Spaniel	Clumber Spaniel Club of America, Inc.
Collie	Collie Club of America, Inc.
Dachshund	Dachshund Club of America, Inc.
Dandie Dinmont Terrier	Dandie Dinmont Terrier Club of America, Inc.
Doberman Pinscher	Doberman Pinscher Club of America
Dogue de Bordeaux	Dogue de Bordeaux Society of America, Inc.
English Cocker Spaniel	English Cocker Spaniel Club of America, Inc.

Field Spaniel	Field Spaniel Society of America
Finnish Spitz	Finnish Spitz Club of America
Flat-Coated Retriever	Flat-Coated Retriever Society of America, Inc.
French Bulldog	French Bulldog Club of America
German Pinscher	German Pinscher Club of America
German Shorthaired Pointer	German Shorthaired Pointer Club of America
German Wirehaired Pointer	German Wirehaired Pointer Club of America
Golden Retriever	Golden Retriever Club of America
Gordon Setter	Gordon Setter Club of America, Inc.
Great Pyrenees	Great Pyrenees Club of America, Inc.
Greyhound	Greyhound Club of America
Havanese	Havanese Club of America
Irish Red and White Setter	Irish Red and White Setter Association
Irish Setter	Irish Setter Club of America, Inc.
Irish Terrier	Irish Terrier Club of America
Irish Wolfhound	Irish Wolfhound Club of America
Italian Greyhound	Italian Greyhound Club of America, Inc.
Japanese Chin	Japanese Chin Club of America
Keeshond	Keeshond Club of America, Inc.
Kerry Blue Terrier	United States Kerry Blue Terrier Club, Inc.
Komondor	Komondor Club of America, Inc.
Maltese	American Maltese Association, Inc.
Mastiff	Mastiff Club of America, Inc.
Miniature Bull Terrier	Miniature Bull Terrier Club of America, Inc.
Miniature Pinscher	Miniature Pinscher Club of America, Inc.
Miniature Schnauzer	American Miniature Schnauzer Club
Newfoundland	Newfoundland Club of Ameica, Inc.
Norwegian Elkhound	Norwegian Elkhound Association of America, Inc
Norfolk Terrier	Norfolk Terrier Club
Norwich Terrier	Norwich Terrier Club of America
Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever	Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever Club (USA)
Pembroke Welsh Corgi	Pembroke Welsh Corgi Club of America, Inc.
Pharaoh Hound	Pharaoh Hound Club of America
Pointer	American Pointer Club, Inc.
Pomeranian	American Pomeranian Club, Inc.
Poodle	Poodle Club of America, Inc.
Portuguese Water Dog	Portuguese Water Dog Club of America, Inc.
Pug	Pug Dog Club of America, Inc.
Puli	Puli Club of America, Inc.
Rhodesian Ridgeback	Rhodesian Ridgeback Club of the United States, Inc.
Rottweiler	American Rottweiler Club
Saint Bernard	Saint Bernard Club of America
Saluki	Saluki Club of America
Samoyed	Samoyed Club of America, Inc.
Schipperke	Schipperke Club of America, Inc.
Sealyham Terrier	American Sealyham Terrier Club

Shetland Sheepdog	American Shetland Sheepdog Association
Tibetan Mastiff	American Tibetan Mastiff Association (ATMA)
Tibetan Spaniel	Tibetan Spaniel Club of America
Tibetan Terrier	Tibetan Terrier Club of America, Inc.
Toy Fox Terrier	American Toy Fox Terrier Club
Vizsla	Vizsla Club of America, Inc.
Weimaraner	Weimaraner Club of America
Welsh Springer Spaniel	Welsh Springer Spaniel Club of America, Inc.
Welsh Terrier	Welsh Terrier Club of America, Inc.
West Highland White Terrier	West Highland White Terrier Club of America, Inc.
Whippet	American Whippet Club, Inc.
Wire Fox Terrier	American Fox Terrier Club
Wirehaired Pointing Griffon	American Wirehaired Pointing Griffon Association