



# Breeders' Code of Ethics

*Applying to all Dogs NZ members holding active kennel names.*

**1. I will practice and promote responsible dog ownership ensuring that dog welfare is a priority at all times. This will be demonstrated by the following. My dogs will be:**

- appropriately housed, fed, exercised, socialised and have received regular veterinary attention
- appropriately controlled to avoid them becoming a public nuisance
- properly identified (including micro-chipping and registration)
- cleaned up after in public places
- compliant with all legislation and by-laws governing dogs and the sale of dogs.

They will never be:

- offered directly or indirectly as prizes or donations in a competition by myself or any person I can influence.

**2. I will practise responsible breeding by always...**

- ensuring that the welfare of my sires, dams and puppies is a priority at all times
- closely complying with the Animal Welfare Act in relation to breeding and sale of puppies/dogs
- fully informing new owners of my dogs and puppies about: – how a dog should be cared for
  - diseases that dogs may be prone to (including measures to take to ensure good health where appropriate)
  - how to socialise young dogs, and – a dietary regime to be followed.

In particular this will include frank disclosure of any health issues that are recognised in the breed, how to identify symptoms and mitigation measures available.

- observing best practice in relation to commercial transactions, protecting all parties and ultimately the dogs involved
- being in control of the entire sale process for which I am accountable
- providing new owners with all the appropriate Dogs New Zealand paperwork for sold dogs, on time and in line with sale agreements at no extra cost.

**3. I will observe the following specific practices...**

- I will not transfer from my care any puppy under the age of eight calendar weeks.
- I will research health issues to which my breed/s may be prone and will take all reasonable steps to eliminate or minimise those issues. These steps will always include giving serious consideration to matings I arrange, maintaining careful observations of the health of my stock and may include any of

the veterinary checks available. Any test results will be made available to purchasers upon request.

- I will not mate any bitch at less than 12 months of age.
- I will not breed from a bitch aged eight years and over at whelping except where a veterinarian has certified the fitness of the bitch for the mating and has provided a certificate of that opinion that is dated prior to the date of mating.
- I will not breed more than two litters from the same bitch within 18 months.
- I will breed no more than **six litters** from one bitch in her lifetime, with no exceptions.
- I will not mate a dog and a bitch that are close relatives (defined as father/daughter, mother/son or brother/sister, i.e. same sire and dam, not necessarily same litter). Exemptions for numerically small breeds must be approved in advance by the Canine Health & Welfare Committee.
- I will not use co-owned dogs, bitches or semen in my breeding without the knowledge and written consent of all owners and co-owners with an interest in the dogs, bitches or semen involved.
- If I wish to enter into a joint ownership arrangement with a buyer or to arrange access to the puppy for breeding or showing purposes once it is sold, I will fully explain the implications to the intending buyer and will encourage him/her to seek independent advice before committing to the sale. Before finalising the sale I will provide full documentation setting out the nature and terms of the arrangement and I will allow a 90-day 'cooling down' period after the date of the sale during which time the buyer may withdraw from the sale and return the puppy at their own expense upon which I will fully refund the cost of the puppy.
- Where the buyer of a pup advises me of a health or behavioural issue with the pup that has arisen within nine months of the sale, or advises me at any time of an issue that may be due to a hereditary factor, I will at all times maintain cordial and helpful relations with the buyer. I will try to negotiate a mutually acceptable resolution with the buyer. In the event that the buyer and I cannot agree the matter will be referred to the Club/Member Liaison Officer for mediation or arbitration.

**Effective from 1 January 2016**