

Code of Ethics

Refer to the Club Constitution and Bylaws, Article 1.

Preamble

The Code of Ethics is established and agreed to by the membership to ensure the good name and reputation of the Club and its members is maintained. This can only be accomplished by every member taking personal responsibility for maintaining and abiding by this Code of Ethics as included in these Bylaws. Members shall bear in mind that a Code of Ethics is more than a set of rules; it is a commitment to a high standard of practice in owning and breeding and that adherence to the spirit of the code is as important as adherence to its law.

It is important, therefore, that the Code of Ethics be reviewed periodically to ensure that it is relevant in today's environment. It should, above all, reinforce our dedication to the Labrador Retriever and demonstrate that our practices and behaviours result in a positive public perception of the Labrador Owners Club and its members.

This Code of Ethics will be in effect from August 1, 2012 and will cover breeding stock, breeders, and buyers until future revisions are made.

Section 1

We must breed the best Labrador Retrievers that we can. This means:

1. Type, function and temperament characteristics as established by the CKC Breed Standards
2. Breeding stock must have:
 - Certified clear radiographs by a certified radiologist (e.g. OFA, OVC) for hip dysplasia and elbow dysplasia
 - Current (within the last 12 months) by a Board Certified Veterinary Ophthalmologist certified normal or breeder option
 - Exercise Induced Collapse (EIC) testing via blood test or buccal
 - Centronuclear Myopathy (CNM) testing via blood test or buccal
3. It is recommended that all breeding stock be shown to be Brucellosis free
4. Breeding bitches and dogs must not be bred before 18 months
5. All dogs and bitches owned must receive routine health checks by a veterinarian
6. Breeding stock that is being used or serviced by LOC members should meet the standards outlined in 1 through 5 above.

Section 2

All LOC club members will provide their dogs with appropriate facilities – housing, food, and health care (mental and physical)

Breeders are encouraged to be available to their buyers for the life of the dog for reasonable aid, knowledge, and direction in the welfare of the animal.

Members who sell puppies to pet homes will do so on CKC or personal non-breeding contracts and encourage the spaying or neutering of puppies and adults.

Breeders should consider the market and breed only if one is able to place the pups in appropriate homes or accept the responsibility for the care of any unsold dogs

LOC members will not intentionally engage in the breeding or selling of non- purebred or mixed – breed dogs

Section 3

Members should warranty their puppies for the hereditary or genetic defects outlined in Section 1 above. Warranties should also cover any other defects that are deemed by an accredited veterinarian to be hereditary or genetic in origin and which alters the quality of the pup's life or prevents the attainment of the purpose for which the pup was placed. Solutions to such issues shall be set out in the Breeders Sale Agreement and may include:

- Return of the animal and replacement OR
- Refund of the purchasers money OR
- Other solutions to which the breeder and the purchaser mutually agree

The breeder is responsible for any and all Labrador Retriever(s) that they have sold for the life of that dog. If at any time the owner is unable to care for the dog, the breeder will take the dog back and decide what is the best course of action to take with the dog. The same will apply if a rescue organization notifies the breeder that one of their dogs has come into rescue. If the breeder is unable to take the dog back, the breeder will assist with the cost of care and upkeep for the dog until it is re-homed and will work to find a replacement home

Section 4

Breeders are encouraged to provide written guidelines outlining the responsibilities of both the breeder and the purchaser

Puppies will not be placed prior to the age of 7 weeks and only after a Veterinarian or Animal Health Technician has deemed the puppy able to be placed.

Purchasers will be instructed to immediately place the dog under the care of a veterinarian on a lifelong basis.

Section 5

Dogs are not to be placed with a dealer or broker or pet shop or to be given as prizes in contests, lotteries, and auctions, be knowingly sold for animal research or sold to persons who will donate the puppy to an organization which will use it for fund raising.

Section 6

Prior to accepting any bitch for stud service, it is the obligation of the stud owner to meet the standards outlined in Section1 and to advise breeders of the responsibilities, problems, obligations and expenses involved in breeding a litter.

Current documentation regarding certification of health clearances should be made available to and by both parties.

Section 7

Members should support and represent the Club's purposes in all canine activities, observe a high standard of sportsmanship, goodwill and friendship at shows, trials and meetings and treat their dogs with the respect that is their due.

Members will refrain from harsh training methods or abuse and promote positive re-enforcement when working with their dogs in any field of endeavour.

Section 8

Members shall be aware at all times that the Club has a major interest in protecting the breed. This should be kept uppermost in the minds of Club Members in all of their activities.

Members should strive to keep abreast of current issues relating to the breed.

LOC Privacy Policy

The LOC collects and maintains a databank of membership information supplied by individual LOC members. This includes name, address, telephone numbers, e-mail, webpage, tattoo numbers, involvement and interest with the breed. This information is collected and used only for LOC renewal information, newsletter addressing, official club business as well as posting of individual kennel contact information on the official LOC website if requested. Information will not be shared or supplied to outside organizations unless permission has been given to do so. If you have questions or concerns in regard to The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act please contact the LOC Privacy Information Officer.