



MARITIME GOLDEN RETRIEVER CLUB

Code of Ethics

A Guide for Breeders and Owners of Golden Retrievers

This Code of Ethics is presented for members of the M.G.R.C. who are breeders and owners of Golden Retrievers whose foremost aims are the welfare and improvement of the breed and to promote the interest of the Golden Retriever in Canada.

An ethical breeder is constantly aware of the underlying responsibilities to the breed and he conducts all related activities as follows:

Sec. 1 Community Relations

Members should ensure that their dogs are not a nuisance to their neighbors or the community in general and that they are properly controlled, inoculated, licensed, and supervised at all times. Members should try to do all they can to foster good relations between dogs, their owners and the community.

Sec. 2 Breeding Practices

(a) General

Before deciding to produce a litter the breeder considers the possibilities of properly placing puppies he cannot keep himself

(b) Health

All his stock is kept under sanitary conditions and is given maximum health protection through worming, inoculations and annual veterinary examinations.

(c) Selection of Breeding Stock

1) The breeder must ensure that all breeding is carried out with the Canadian Kennel Club Breed Standard in mind.

2) He only breeds healthy adult dogs and bitches over 18 months of age and of sound temperament.

3) In consideration of the aim of the overall improvement of the breed, the breeder must decline any breeding when the presence of any undesirable or potentially debilitating genetic or behavioural trait is known or suspected in either the sire or dam. As a minimum requirement, all breeding stock must hold, prior to breeding:

i) A certificate of examination from the Ontario Veterinary college (O.V.C.) indicating no evidence of hip or elbow displasia at a minimum age of 18 months.

or

A certificate of examination from the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals (O.F.A.) indicating no evidence of hip or elbow displasia at a minimum age of 24 months.

ii) A current annual certificate of examination from a Diplomat of the American College of Veterinary Ophthalmology (D.A.C.V.O) indicating no evidence of inherited eye disease or functional abnormalities of the eye

or

A current annual certificate of examination from a member of the Canadian Association of Veterinary Ophthalmologists (C.A.V.O) indicating no evidence of inherited eye disease or functional abnormalities of the eye.

In addition, all breeding stock should hold, prior to breeding:

iii) A certificate of examination from a Diplomat of the the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine - Cardiology (D.A.C.V.I.M.-C.) indicating no physical signs of cardiovascular disease

or

Where a D.A.C.V.I.M.-C. is unavailable, a certificate of examination from a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (D.V.M.) indicating no physical signs of cardiovascular disease.

4) The breeder spaces the litters of any bitch by allowing a maximum of two (2) consecutive litters and a maximum of three (3) litters within five (5) heats.

(d) Registration

He registers all stock and keeps accurate records of matings and pedigrees. The breeder registers all Golden Retrievers born in Canada with the Canadian Kennel Club and keeps accurate records, as required by the Canadian Kennel Club, including records of all breedings, whelpings, and pedigrees.

(e) Advertising

All his advertising is factual. It is not so worded as to attract undesirable buyers, or to encourage raising Golden Retrievers merely as a money making scheme. He does not supply puppies or adult dogs for raffles, "give-away" prizes or other such projects.

If a person submits information to be printed in a Club publication which states that a dog/bitch is free from hip displasia and/or an inherited eye or blood condition, that person must, at the same time, supply a copy of the appropriate certificate fo clearance.

(f) Sales

General - The breeder does NOT sell or consign puppies (12 months of age or less) or adult dogs to pet stores or other commercial dealers. The breeder sells Golden Retrievers, permits stud service and leases studs or bitches only to individuals who give satisfactory evidence the will give them proper care and attention, and who are in accord with the Code of Ethics.

Contracts - The breeder sells Golden Retrievers, permits stud service and leases studs or bitches with a written contract which outlines the obligations and responsibilities of both seller and purchaser regarding the purchase arrangements, fees, financial arrangements, breeding/non-breeding conditions of sale, replacement or refund warranties, health warranties, co-ownership terms, and conditions for removal of the C.K.C. non-breeding agreement. The written contract must clearly state the maximum time limit for all terms and conditions of the contract and/or warranty.

Conditions of acceptance of deposits on puppies or stud services and terms of full or partial refunds or forfeiture of deposits must also be clearly stated in writing.

(g) Sale of Puppies

(1) The breeder provides buyers with written details of feeding, general care, dates of worming and a certificate of all inoculations given. The breeder will provide buyers with a four generation pedigree and the results of any hip, eye, heart and blood examination carried out on the dog being purchased and on it's sire and dam.

(2) All stock leaving his possession is at least seven weeks old, with the exception of puppies shipped as potential guides for the blind, when requested between six and seven weeks of age.

(3) Non-Breeding Agreement - All golden Retrievers sold in Canada must be sold on the Canadian Kennel Club Non-Breeding Agreement. This agreement must not be cancelled unless the adult dog obtains the minimum requirements for breeding stock as defined in section (2)(c), Selection of Breeding Stock, or unless the breeder has proof the dog has been spayed or neutered.

Exceptions to this clause may be made only in cases where breeders are selling Golden Retrievers to foreign countries, the individual wishes to exhibit in a foreign country such as the United States or in cases of co-ownership where the breeder retains control of the breeding rights. In such cases, a private purchase agreement must be executed between the breeder and the purchaser which is in keeping with the principles of the use of the Canadian Kennel Club Non-Breeding Agreement and this Code of Ethics.

The breeder shall not charge the buyer a fee to cancel the C.K.C. Non-Breeding Agreement, except for reimbursement of the applicable C.K.C. fees.

Sec. 3 Conduct

The breeder makes available to the novice the benefit of his advice and experience.

At all times, members conduct themselves in a manner which reflects credit upon themselves, the Club, and the breed. When confronted by a situation not governed by this Code of Ethics, the Club member conducts himself as he would like to be treated under similar circumstances. When complaints are received regarding alleged non-compliance with this Code of Ethics, the breeder involved will be asked to appear at a meeting of the Executive at which no less than three (3) members shall be present, of which one shall be the one he delegates, for consideration of the complaint; and if the complaint appears valid, for consideration of possible action.