

# ATCA CODE OF ETHICS

## Preamble

The purpose of this Code of Ethics is to describe and set forth the ideals necessary to advance and protect the interests of the Australian Terrier and the members of the Australian Terrier Club of America. As the primary objective of the members of the Club is to keep, breed and promote healthy, happy Australian Terriers, true to their heritage and the standard, each member is obliged to consider the welfare of the breed foremost in the course of their proceedings as owners and fanciers. Whether engaged in activities involving competition, breeding, or selling of Australian Terriers, members are duty-bound at all times to refrain from any actions that would be prejudicial to the best interests of either the breed or the Club.

This Code of Ethics embodies the principles to which we subscribe as a condition of membership in the Australian Terrier Club of America. Membership is a privilege conferred by the Board of Directors, acting on behalf of the membership, upon those individuals who meet and uphold the high standards set forth in the Constitution and Bylaws and the Code of Ethics. As members, we are individually charged with abiding by this Code and expecting similar compliance from all other members.

Nothing in this Code of Ethics shall be construed to be in violation of the Constitution and Bylaws of the Australian Terrier Club of America or the rules and regulations of the American Kennel Club. If any provision of this Code of Ethics imposes a greater obligation and/or more stringent course of action than the Constitution and Bylaws, it shall prevail. Any individual who applies for membership will receive a copy of the Code of Ethics and by signing, declare his or her acceptance of its provisions in their entirety.

## General Conduct

- Read and be familiar with the Australian Terrier Club of America Breed Standard as approved by the American Kennel Club; support and abide by the Code of Ethics, the Constitution and Bylaws of the Australian Terrier Club of America and the rules of the American Kennel Club.
- Conduct themselves in a manner that reflects credit upon them, the breed, and the Club by practicing and promoting responsible dog ownership whether at home, while participating in dog events, or when traveling with their dog(s).
- Accept responsibility for educating the public about the breed and the importance of responsible dog ownership. Honestly represent the Australian Terrier by disclosing known health issues and advising prospective owners of the breed's characteristics and suitability.
- Refer the public to either the Club's Breeder Referral liaison or the ATCA web site when asked about the current/future availability of puppies and/or adult dogs. No member shall knowingly refer the public to anyone who has violated any of the principles set forth in this Code of Ethics.
- Encourage and educate new owners through constructive commentary and example.
- Participate in the efforts of the Australian Terrier Club of America to gather information assessing the health and longevity of the breed.
- Support activities and programs sponsored by the Australian Terrier Club of America to the best of their ability.
- Take responsibility for Australian Terriers that are impounded in humane societies, animal shelters or rescue organizations as circumstances permit.

## Responsibilities of Owners

- Put the welfare of each of their dogs above personal gain, profit and/or personal convenience.
- Assume responsibility for proper feeding, provide clean and safe living conditions, maintenance, socialization, exercise and training of all dogs in their care; retain or house only the dogs for which they have adequate time, facilities and resources.
- Provide their dog(s) with adequate health care and appropriate immunizations and/or serum titer level tests.
- Practice responsible dog ownership by keeping their dog(s) safe and under control at all times, being careful to observe local curb, leash and containment ordinances.
- Consider permanently identifying their dog(s) by tattoo or microchip implant.
- Re-home their dog(s) when necessary by making appropriate and responsible placements. At no time shall a member dispose of an Australian Terrier at an animal shelter, rescue facility, or through a secondary agent.

## Responsibilities of Exhibitors

- Display good sportsmanship at all dog events, both in and outside the ring, and treat all judges, competitors, officials, and spectators with courtesy.
- Conduct themselves at all times in a manner that will reflect favorably on the breed and the Australian Terrier Club of America.
- Refrain from maligning or misrepresenting other Club members or their dogs.
- Make every effort to prevent their dogs from injuring others or damaging another's property.
- Exhibit Australian Terriers that are conditioned and properly presented for competition. In the interest of good sportsmanship, members will make every effort to show entered exhibits on each day that they are scheduled to compete.

## Responsibilities of Breeders

- Accept and acknowledge that they have a lifetime responsibility to the breed, to those who purchase their puppies, and to the dogs they produce. A breeder is defined as an individual who allows the use of an Australian Terrier, whether owned or leased, to sire or produce a litter of puppies.
- Breed only to advance and improve the breed.

- Breed as closely as possible to the Australian Terrier Club of America Breed Standard as approved by the American Kennel Club. Any breeding will be undertaken with the object of producing sound, healthy Australian Terriers of good temperament and correct breed type.
- Educate themselves with regard to known health problems within the breed. Each member is urged to use appropriate tests for screening breeding stock.
- Disclose known health defects/issues affecting the dog, its ancestors, or its offspring when breeding or selling.
- Repeat breeding between a dog and bitch only if the breeding has produced no defect that compromises the health and well-being of the offspring. If the dog or bitch produces the same defect when bred to another partner, the member will refrain from further use of this animal for breeding.
- Use a written agreement clearly stating the conditions and terms of any stud service, co-ownership, or lease.
- Protect the health of the bitch and pups by providing a safe, sanitary environment, necessary veterinary care and adequate puppy socialization.
- Breed a bitch no sooner than her second season.
- Breed a bitch no more than two out of three consecutive seasons, or more than twice in eighteen months.
- Safeguard bitches under their care and supervision from accidental breeding.
- Permanently identify dogs of breeding age that are kept on their premises.
- Keep accurate records of all dogs and litters as required by the American Kennel Club.
- Retain pups until suitable placements are found.
- Ascertain whether any bitch brought to their stud will meet the requirements of this Code, whether owned by a club member or not.
- Allow use of their stud to a bitch whose owner has the required knowledge and the necessary facilities to whelp and care for the resulting litter, and will rear and place them conscientiously in accordance with this Code.
- Offer at stud only dogs that are sound, healthy, of correct breed type, and free of communicable diseases. It is recommended that the dog be at least one year of age.
- Ensure that all advertising of puppies, adults or stud service is factual and without misleading representations.
- Under no circumstances, engage in the wholesale buying and/or selling of dogs or litters of puppies. At no time shall a member sell to such places as catalog or wholesale houses, electronic/virtual pet outlets, pet shops, pet dealers/distributors, research laboratories or any speculative source of distribution. Members shall not participate in the offering of puppies or dogs as prizes in raffles, drawings, or contests of any sort, nor shall a member solicit puppies or dogs for such purposes.

#### **Australian Terrier Placements**

- Conduct a comprehensive interview of the prospective buyer/owner.
- Place dogs with a written contract signed by both parties, prior to the physical transfer of the puppy or dog, which includes at minimum the following:
  - a) The puppy or dog's gender, color, date of birth, and AKC registered names and numbers of sire and dam.
  - b) The type of AKC registration. AKC Limited Registration and/or a Spay/Neuter contract clause is strongly recommended for dogs not purchased as show/breeding stock.
  - c) The terms of any co-ownership, if applicable.
  - d) A statement that guarantees the health of the puppy or dog at the time of delivery.
  - e) A policy providing for the safe return of a puppy or dog after an initial veterinary check. Buyers will be encouraged to take puppies/dogs to the veterinarian of their choice within one week after sale. Any reimbursements involved in returning a dog will be stated.
  - f) A policy for replacement or reimbursement in case of death or significant health problems due to hereditary disease.
  - g) The breeder's statement of lifetime responsibility. The breeder will be prepared to take back any dog or puppy of their breeding and will assist in relocating the dog.
  - h) Provision for valid, accurate documentation to be conveyed (e.g. registration papers and pedigrees). AKC registration papers may be withheld only by mutual consent in writing at the time of sale. Registration papers shall not be sold independently of the puppy/dog.
  - i) Placement of puppies not sooner than eight (8) weeks of age, with ten (10) weeks being the recommended minimum age.
- Place puppies/dogs with age-appropriate vaccinations or serum titer certificates as indicated.
- Monitor placements to ensure that puppies/dogs are receiving proper care.
- Be available to their puppy buyers for advice and counsel throughout the lifetime of the dog.

Club welfare and reputation should be an important concern of all members and are expected to be placed above monetary gain and individual prestige. Every effort should be made by members to reconcile and settle differences within the Club ranks and in accordance with the Club's Constitution and Bylaws.

Members are reminded that pledging to a Code of Ethics entails a commitment to a high standard of practice and that observing the spirit of the Code is as important as adhering to its law. By signing below, the member agrees to abide by the provisions of this Code of Ethics. Failure to comply may be considered not in the best interest of the Australian Terrier Club of America or the Australian Terrier, and could result in disciplinary action as provided for in Article VI of the Club Bylaws.

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Signature

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Date of Acceptance