

# **CODE OF ETHICS OF THE AUSTRALIAN SHEPHERD CLUB OF AMERICA**

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(The Carolina Australian Shepherd Club urges members and breeders to abide by these Code of Ethics established by ASCA.)

The Australian Shepherd Club of America (ASCA) in keeping with its Constitutional aim of breeding for the working ability as well as other outstanding qualities of the Australian Shepherd has adopted the following Code of Ethics to promote and foster the highest standards among breeders, owners and fanciers, and to encourage sportsmanship and cooperation in the improvement and advancement of our breed. All members in good standing with ASCA subscribe to and uphold this code.

## **ARTICLE I – RECORDS**

1. Each member who breeds his bitch or uses his stud for services should keep accurate records of stock such as stud services, pedigrees, all litters produced, sales of dogs/puppies, all exchanges involving Australian Shepherds for a minimum of five (5) years.
2. Any member who falsifies a registration or knowingly misrepresents a pedigree should be reported to the ASCA Board of Directors.

## **ARTICLE II – BREEDING**

1. A breeder should plan each breeding with the paramount intention of improving the breed.
2. A breeder should select stud and matron with an eye to conformation, temperament, and working ability with careful study of the ASCA Breed Standard, pedigrees, and basic principles of genetics.
3. Before entering into any breeding agreement, a breeder should scrutinize the pedigree, conformation, and working potentials of both sire and dam keeping in mind the ideal Australian Shepherd as described in the Australian Shepherd Standard. He should refuse the breeding if, in his opinion, it is not in the best interest of the breed. Should he refuse the breeding, a full explanation of his reasoning should be given the owner of the bitch.
4. A breeder should use for breeding purposes only those individuals free of defects such as monorchidism, cryptorchidism, deafness, albinism and other such disqualifying defects.
  - a. He should use only those individuals whose hips have been x-rayed for dysplasia and rated normal to excellent by a qualified radiologist.
  - b. He should take to use only dogs whose eyes have been examined and found free of signs of ocular deformities.
  - c. He should further refrain from using an individual who although free from above defects, consistently produces afflicted puppies.

## **ARTICLE III – HEALTH**

1. A breeder should maintain high standards of health and care for his dogs and guarantee the health of puppies at the time of sale.

## **ARTICLE IV – SALES**

1. A breeder should be discriminating in the sale of his puppies and concerned with the type of homes in which they are placed. With this in mind, Australian Shepherds shall not be donated for raffles, give-aways, sold to wholesalers or retailers such as pet shops or the like.
2. A breeder should, for his own protection as well as that of the buyer, provide adequate written contractual proof of sale and guarantees.
3. A breeder should provide a minimum (6) month written guarantee against crippling or handicapping congenital defects on all pet puppies sold, and should additionally guarantee the sale of breeding stock puppies against all hereditary defects and any disqualifying faults for a like period. All guarantees should at least provide for replacement of the puppy with another, within a reasonable length of time after return of the puppy originally purchased.
4. A breeder should transfer all applicable registration papers at the time purchase agreement is completed and agreeable to both parties.
5. Upon the sale of a dog/puppy the breeder should provide all buyers with a two (2) or more generation pedigree (if known) including coat and eye color and indication of NBT occurrence, diet and care information, health guarantee and inoculation record (including date and type of serum).
6. A breeder should refrain from releasing a puppy until it is at least seven (7) weeks old or eight (8) weeks old if puppy is to be shipped.

## **ARTICLE V – ADVERTISING**

1. The breeder agrees that all advertising of dogs/puppies should be factual and honest in both substance and implication.
2. The breeder should be cautious in encouraging buyers as to breeding potential, as the breeding of Australian Shepherds is not to be taken lightly.

## **ARTICLE VI – MEMBER RELATIONS**

1. The exhibiting of dogs being a sport, ASCA members shall be expected to express good sportsmanship in all activities involving the Australian Shepherd.
2. Members should refrain from unnecessary criticism of another's dog.
3. As a matter of ethics, he pledges to help educate the general public as well as graciously assist the novice breeder in all with which he is familiar.

## **ARTICLE VII – IMPLEMENTATION**

1. Any infractions of the code should be reported, in writing, to the ASCA Board of Directors in accordance with the Bylaws.
2. Only when a breeder continues to deviate from these ideals and is not cooperative in rectifying an error will the situation be presented to the Board of Directors for disciplinary action.