



THE AUSTRALIAN SHEPHERD CLUB OF AMERICA®

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Code of Ethics for ASCA Breeders

The Breeders Code of Ethics is a longstanding ASCA document. It describes what ASCA would like its breeding community to strive for in terms of personal and professional ethics.

The Australian Shepherd Club of America, 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.

Records

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

Breeding

- A. A breeder should plan each breeding with the paramount intention of improving the breed.
- B. A breeder should select sire and dam with an eye to conformation, temperament, and working ability with a careful study of the ASCA Breed Standard, pedigrees, and basic principles of genetics.
- C. 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 ASCA Breed Standard. They should refuse the breeding if, in their opinion, it is not in the best interest of the breed. Should they refuse the breeding, a full explanation of their reasoning should be given to the owner of the bitch.
- D. A breeder should use for breeding purposes only those individuals free from defects such as monorchidism, cryptorchidism, deafness, albinism, and other such disqualifying defects.
 1. They should use only those individuals whose hips have been x-rayed for dysplasia and rated normal to excellent by a qualified radiologist.
 2. They should take care to use only dogs whose eyes have been examined and found free from signs of ocular deformities.
 3. They should further refrain from using an individual who, although free from the above defects, consistently produced afflicted puppies.

Health

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

Sales

- A. The breeder should be discriminating in the sale of their puppies and concerned with the type of homes in which they are placed. With this in mind, Australian Shepherds will not be donated for raffles, giveaways, or sold to dog wholesalers or retailers, such as pet shops.

- B. A breeder should provide a minimum six-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 the replacement of the puppy with another, within a reasonable length of time after the return of the puppy originally purchased.
- C. A breeder should transfer all applicable registration papers at the time the purchase agreement is completed and agreeable to both parties.
- D. Upon sale of a dog/puppy, the breeder should provide all buyers with a two or more generation pedigree (if known) including coat, eye color, the occurrence of a naturally bobbed tail, diet and care information, health guarantee, and inoculation record (including date and type of serum).
- E. A breeder should refrain from releasing a puppy until at least seven weeks old or eight weeks old if the puppy is to be shipped.

Advertising

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

Member Relations

- A. The exhibiting of dogs being a sport, ASCA members will be expected to express good sportsmanship in all activities involving the Australian Shepherd.
- B. Members should refrain from unnecessary criticism of another's dog.
- C. As a matter of ethics, the breeder pledges to help educate the general public as well as graciously assist the novice breeder in all with which they are familiar.

Implementation

- A. Any infractions of the code should be reported, in writing, to the ASCA Board of Directors in accordance with the Bylaws.
- B. 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.