

National Labrador Retriever Association: CODE OF ETHICS

The National Labrador Retriever Association, the NLRA, the Parent Club for the United Kennel Club, supports the UKC Breeder's Code of Ethics and hereby incorporates it into the NLRA Position Statement on Ethical Breeding. At a minimum, NLRA members are required to pledge in writing that they will adhere to the UKC's Breeder's Code of Ethics.

- NLRA draws particular attention to the Breeding paragraph which states:
 - I believe that only those dogs known to be free of serious or disqualifying defects should be used for breeding.
 - I will not breed monorchids, cryptorchids, dogs with vicious or shy temperaments, or dogs with serious defects or disqualifications addressed in their breed standards.
 - As a responsible breeder, I will refrain from using a dog that, although free from serious or disqualifying defects, consistently produces afflicted puppies.

The NLRA supports the Canine Health Information Center standards for Labrador Retrievers which stipulate the basic or minimum health screenings which should be performed on breeding animals.

- NLRA supports the role of CHIC in cooperation with OFA to make health data public and BLRC encourages all members to make all health screening results public.
- NLRA supports the stipulated health screenings listed on CHIC for Labrador Retrievers as a MINIMUM screening for each breeding candidate.

NLRA encourages members to screen their Labradors for the following additional health concerns within the breed and also to make these results public:

- Progressive Retinal Atrophy
- Retinal Dysplasia/OSD
- Cardiac Health Screening via OFA
- D Locus

NLRA encourages members to conduct breeding programs above reproach and with full transparency, and to report ALL DNA test results to the NLRA Health Research Project.

Member's Affirmation: I affirm that I will abide by all the provisions of the UKC's Breeder's Code of Ethics, and that I will support the BLRC by screening my Labradors with the CHIC requirements, and will submit those to the OFA data base. I will not breed or promote Labradors with serious defects or disqualifications in the UKC Breed Standard, this includes dogs who carry the dilute gene.

Name [printed]: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

United Kennel Club, Inc. Breeder's Code of Ethics

The United Kennel Club, Inc., requests that all breeders subscribe to 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 UKC registered breeds.

RECORDS

I am familiar with, and follow, the "[UKC Kennel Requirements](#)." I will keep accurate records, and retain those records for a minimum of five years. These records will include: stud service contracts, pedigrees, all litters produced and all dogs/puppies sold. I will use the "Breeder's Record" that the UKC provides to me, or a similar form, to maintain these records. I will report to the Registration Office of the United Kennel Club, Inc. any person who falsifies a registration, or knowingly misrepresents a pedigree.

BREEDING

- I shall plan each breeding with the paramount intention of upholding the Breed Standard and improving the Health of the breed.
- I will select the stud dog and brood bitch with an eye to conformation, temperament and working instinct and ability, with a careful study of the breed standard and the principles of genetics.
- I will not breed any male or female until they are both physically and mentally mature.
- Before entering into any breeding arrangement, I will scrutinize the pedigree, conformation and working potential of both the sire and dam, keeping in mind the ideal of the breed. I have an obligation to refuse the breeding if, in my opinion, it is not in the best interest of the breed.
- As a responsible stud dog owner, I understand that should I refuse a breeding, I will fully explain my reasons to the owner of the bitch.
- I believe that only those dogs known to be free of serious or disqualifying defects should be used for breeding. I will not breed monorchids, cryptorchids, dogs with vicious or shy temperaments, or dogs with serious defects or disqualifications addressed in their breed standards.
- As a responsible breeder, I will refrain from using a dog that, although free from serious or disqualifying defects, consistently produces afflicted puppies.
- I will require the buyers of pet quality puppies to spay or neuter them.

HEALTH

I will maintain high standards of health and care for my dogs, and guarantee the health of my puppies at the time of sale.

I will not keep any number of dogs that I cannot provide for financially, physically and mentally.

I will maintain and sustain high quality husbandry practices for all my dogs/puppies on my premises, during travel and at any area where I keep/house/exhibit/train my dogs/puppies.

SALES

- I will be discriminating in the sales of my puppies, and concerned with the type of homes in which they are placed. I will not knowingly sell my dogs/puppies to dog wholesalers or retailers or to those who specifically breed for color/markings outside of the breed standard.

- I will transfer all applicable registration papers at the time the purchase agreement is completed and is agreeable to both parties.

Upon the sale of a dog/puppy, I will provide the buyer with a properly executed UKC Registration Certificate, diet record, an inoculation and parasite control record and a health guarantee.

- I will refrain from releasing any puppy until it is at least seven (7) weeks old, or eight (8) weeks old if the puppy is to be shipped.

ADVERTISING

- My advertising of dogs/puppies will be factual and honest, both in substance and implication.

- I will avoid encouraging buyers regarding the breeding potential of a dog/puppy. I believe breeding purebred dogs involves certain responsibilities, and I will not take it lightly.

EXHIBITOR/BREEDER RELATIONS

- I understand that exhibiting dogs is a sport, and that I am expected to express good sportsmanship in all activities.

- As an exhibitor, I will refrain from unnecessary criticism of other people's dogs.

- As a matter of ethics, I pledge to help educate the general public as well as to assist the novice breeder.

IMPLEMENTATION

This Code of Ethics is intended as an expression of goals for breeders, exhibitors and fanciers. It is not to be construed as a rule or regulation to be enforced by punishment. Breeders are expected to police themselves in a civil and responsible manner.

VIOLATION

If the BLRC receives substantiated information that I have violated the Breeder Code of Ethics, I will receive a letter from the BLRC explaining the issue or charge. I will have 30 days to respond with my written explanation. The BLRC Board (and possibly UKC administration) will meet by conference call or Skype, to discuss the complaint and the explanation. The BLRC will have 30 days to respond to me, in writing, of their disciplinary decision, if any, which may include a warning or up to loss of membership and notification to other dog registries or authorities, if appropriate.

Name [printed]: _____ **Signature:** _____ **Date:** _____