



THE MALTA KENNEL CLUB

CODE OF ETHICS

I. Introduction and Purpose :

These guidelines are presented with the full realization that ethics cannot be legislated, and that most individuals desire and intend to do what is right. The purpose of these guidelines, therefore, is to set forth principles of practice that the Malta Kennel Club would have all its members and those associated with it adhere to as they strive to accomplish the club's goals and purposes so clearly stated in the Rules & Regulations. These guidelines present the minimum in ethical practices.

II. Practices :

In keeping with the Malta Kennel Club and its dedication to further its stated purposes, these practices should be followed as far as possible: -

PART 1:

To ensure that all dogs in my care are provided adequate food, shelter, human companionship, and medical care; to maintain good standards of physical and mental well-being (including regular contact with people and exposure to the outside world) of my dog(s), and to care for them properly, obtaining professional veterinary care whenever necessary.

PART 2:

A dog is for life and therefore, I will be responsible for the welfare of my dog(s), and any puppies I help bring into this world by breeding. If circumstances of life force me to have to part with my dog(s), I will do everything possible to see that it is placed in a good home.

PART 3:

To become educated in the fundamentals of owning, breeding, and exhibiting dogs.

PART 4:

To understand the basic laws of genetics, the standard of the breed/s, and the difference between the correct and the incorrect way to breed before attempting any breeding program. All breeding should be carefully planned to reduce hereditary defects.

PART 5:

All breeding stock should be registered with the Malta Kennel Club. To keep complete, true and accurate records of all matings, litters, and pedigrees.

PART 6:

To explain in detail to all prospective Dog purchasers the disadvantages, as well as the advantages, of owning the breed.

PART 7:

To follow good 'business' practices and ethics in sales and breeding contracts and to honour all agreements. Written agreements are encouraged.

PART 8:

To refrain from breeding unless there is strong indication that a sufficient number of homes are available for the resulting puppies and to be willing to consider the return of unwanted dogs produced by my brood bitch or sired by my stud dog.

PART 9:

To ensure that no female will be bred before reaching 18 months of age nor before her second season and that no female will be bred after she has reached 8 years of age. To ensure that no male will be bred before he has reached one year of age.

PART 10:

To honour all stud service and breeding agreements and that written agreements are to be preferred.

PART 11:

To be extremely discriminating when considering the acceptance of bitches for breeding to my stud dog, especially those whose owners who are not prepared to follow these guidelines.

PART 12:

To ensure that the health status of all puppies and breeding candidates is known and taken into consideration in all breeding decisions.

PART 13:

To transfer puppies only after they have reached at least seven weeks of age, to provide at least a three generation pedigree (issued by the Malta Kennel Club), and to ensure that the buyer has the physical facilities to properly care for the dog.

PART 14:

To ensure that puppies and adults produced by my brood bitch or stud dog are never knowingly sold or consigned for raffles, auctions, giveaways, prizes, or other such projects.

PART 15:

To recognize that careful follow-up of all genetic defects is the responsibility of the owners of both the sire and dam of every litter.

PART 16:

To ensure that all advertising is factual and not misleading. To never engage in malicious criticism and to separate fact from fiction before repeating comments heard from others.

PART 17:

To adhere to rules of the M.K.C. while exhibiting; to practice the principles of good sportsmanship; to conduct myself, whether as a spectator or exhibitor, in a manner which will reflect credit upon myself, The Malta Kennel Club, and the breed, regardless of location or circumstances, and to consider competitors as a challenge, not a threat.

PART 18:

If I should become aware of any mistreatment of a any Dog, I will report this to the Secretary of the MKC in writing for discussion by the Committee.

PART 19:

To ensure that whilst engaged in the art and science of judging, that I will be influenced only by the quality of the animals to be judged.

PART 20:

To always ensure that my actions are directed toward the best interests of Dogs and the Malta Kennel Club.

PART 21:

Tail docking and ear cropping are not recommended.