



The Portuguese Water Dog Club of America, Inc.

CODE OF ETHICS

This code is established to further the objectives of the Portuguese Water Dog Club of America, Inc. (PWDCA) set forth in Section 2 of the Club Constitution. All PWDCA members have an obligation to protect the Portuguese Water Dog and its future by putting the breed's welfare before any consideration of profit or personal advantage and by protecting it from exploitation, irresponsible promotion and careless breeding. Adherence to this Code is strongly recommended by the PWDCA.

1. Members shall:
 - abide by the Constitution and By-laws of the PWDCA and the rules of the American Kennel Club (AKC).
 - encourage and support the PWDCA Directory of Dogs and Health Registry with specific attention to testing for health disorders directly related to the Portuguese Water Dog.
 - conduct themselves at all times in such a manner as to reflect credit on the sport of purebred dogs and Portuguese Water Dogs in particular. This includes respect for show sites, convention facilities (hotels), public recreation facilities, other dog owners and their dogs, and all other aspects of responsible dog ownership.
2. Breeders and/or stud dog owners shall:
 - adhere to the guidelines set forth in the PWDCA Breeder's Agreement.
 - maintain the best possible standards of canine health, cleanliness and care.
 - assume life-long responsibility for all puppies they produce.
 - breed only dogs that are in compliance with all current PWDCA health requirements, and are in good health and free from communicable diseases.
2. Breeders (owners of the brood bitch) shall:
 - keep accurate breeding records, registrations, and pedigrees.
 - evaluate honestly the structural and mental qualities of all Portuguese Water Dogs sold, and fairly represent that evaluation, and when needed request assistance from more experienced breeders.
 - provide a sales contract, signed by all parties involved, which would include but not be limited to all services and sale arrangements mutually agreed upon, adjustments, replacement conditions, etc. This contract shall require that the breeder be contacted whenever an owner can no longer keep a dog at any time in the dog's life so that the breeder may either assist in the placement of, accept the return of, or pay said dog's expenses should the dog be placed with Rescue and Relocation.
 - furnish appropriate paperwork, e.g., AKC registration or transfer documents unless written agreement is made at the time of sale that papers are being withheld, pedigree, health information on parents, details on feeding, general care, inoculation program, grooming instructions, obedience, etc.
 - require buyers to spay/neuter any dog not suitable for breeding, and/or sell puppies on limited registration when appropriate.
 - be fair, open and honest in conducting business and advertise honestly in a manner that is in no way misleading or fraudulent.
 - verify to the best of their ability that the purchasers of puppies will be responsible owners who will provide proper homes and care.
 - assume responsibility for educating and assisting new owners in caring for their dog for the lifetime of the dog.
3. Breeders are expected to supply PWDCA Associate membership form and a copy of the Code of Ethics to all puppy/adult dog buyers.
4. No Portuguese Water Dog will be sold or consigned to commercial facilities, businesses or agents thereof.