

# Potomac Staffordshire Bull Terrier Club

## Code of Ethics

### I. GENERAL GOALS AND CONDUCT

As members of the Potomac Staffordshire Bull Terrier Club, we pledge:

- To protect the integrity of the Staffordshire Bull Terrier breed, and to promote the betterment of the breed in accordance with the breed standard.
- To further the understanding and appreciation of the breed.
- To never under any circumstances condone, support, or ignore the practice of pitting a dog against any other animals in a fight for pleasure or profit. Information regarding this type of abuse to animals shall be reported to the proper humane authorities.
- To stay abreast of current State/Local laws and legislation related to the dog. Your awareness can help in the prevention of Breed Specific Laws.
- To foster a cooperative, helpful and productive spirit at dog shows, obedience and sporting trials, and other events.
- To value and foster sportsman-like conduct and communication among Staffordshire Bull Terrier owners and breeders.
- To encourage rescue programs for the Staffordshire Bull Terrier breed to help ensure that all Staffordshire Bull Terriers have a good home.
- To provide a clean, healthy, safe and otherwise positive environment for Staffordshire Bull Terriers and to ensure proper and regular veterinary care as needed.
- To abide by the Constitution and By laws of the Potomac Staffordshire Bull Terrier Club and the rules of the American Kennel Club (AKC).

### II. PUBLIC TRUST

As members of the Potomac Staffordshire Bull Terrier Club, we value the confidence and trust others have placed in us as club members and breeders of Staffordshire Bull Terriers.

Accordingly, we are committed to excellence in our breeding programs, full disclosure to others, and forthrightness in our dealings and transactions.

We specifically pledge:

- To the best of our ability, to disclose known conditions and special circumstances of Staffordshire Bull Terriers placed by us, including genetic conditions, temperament, record of inoculations, and medical records. Within reason, we will strive to disclose all information that would materially affect the health or value of the Staffordshire Bull Terrier, and will disclose all other information that a typical person under the circumstances would consider important in the decision to purchase the dog. The disclosure requirement includes only information that is reasonably available to a typical Staffordshire Bull Terrier breeder. It does not create a duty to provide medical tests or evaluations beyond what is usual and customary for a Staffordshire Bull Terrier breeder, unless specifically requested by the purchaser.
- To place in new homes Staffordshire Bull Terriers that are in healthy condition with reasonable prospects for continued good health. We pledge not to place Staffordshire Bull

Terriers with known conditions that are life threatening and/or seriously detrimental to the animal's well being such as blindness, deafness, lameness or impairment of the vital functions without complete disclosure to--and understanding of--the new owner.

- To refrain from breeding carriers of genetic problems unless the breeding is conducted reasonably, carefully, knowledgeably, and under controlled circumstances, and as part of an overall good-faith program of line rehabilitation or
- To control the breeding of Staffordshire Bull Terriers (i) with known genetic problems or (ii) that are clearly inferior specimens, considering proper temperament, physical & mental soundness, desired characteristics inherent to the breed type, and other factors. When it is appropriate to place such pet-quality Staffordshire Bull Terrier with the general public, we will register the Staffordshire Bull Terriers as non-breeding stock. In the alternative, we will obtain the written consent of the transferee to withhold A.K.C. registration papers of such Staffordshire Bull Terriers until they are spayed or neutered, at which time papers may be furnished unless applicable law requires otherwise. We will provide purchasers of puppies with accurate and valid papers to include a minimum three-generation pedigree and a written statement as to whether a particular guarantee is provided (including any terms, conditions or limitations to the guarantee), together with complete medical records and instructions for care and feeding.
- To make available to the novice the benefit of our advice and experience, and to help educate the public with regard to the standard and total well being of the Staffordshire Bull Terrier.

### **III. BREEDING PRACTICES**

We are committed to promoting quality in our breeding of purebred Staffordshire Bull Terriers and to doing all that is possible to bring their natural qualities to perfection. We specifically pledge:

- To familiarize ourselves thoroughly with the breed standard of the Staffordshire Bull Terrier as defined by the AKC and strive to breed dogs of proper temperament, physical & mental soundness and of characteristic breed type, which are free of genetically transmitted debilitating defects.
- To base our breeding decisions upon moral, medical, ethical as well as practical concerns, accepting responsibility for our actions in recognition that as breeders we occupy a position of trust and responsibility to our breed and its fanciers.
- To breed stud dogs and bitches only when they are of suitable health and at the minimum age in keeping with AKC guidelines.
- To refrain from breeding a bitch unless proper facilities and adequate time are available to care for puppies. Members offering dogs at stud will request similar assurances from the owners of bitches to be bred.
- To breed stud dogs or brood bitches only to purebred registered Staffordshire Bull Terriers whose owner(s) are not in any way involved with pet shops, puppy brokers, puppy mills, litter lot sales, research laboratories or any commercial enterprise whose business it is to deal in similar activities.
- No brood bitch will be bred more than twice in any three consecutive seasons.

- To keep and properly care for puppies until they are suitably placed. The Potomac Staffordshire Bull Terrier Club supports inoculating all puppies and adults with customary vaccines. A record of all such inoculations will be provided to the purchaser prior to the transfer of ownership. However, understanding that some breeders do practice holistic medicine and have a bonafide objections to inoculations, a full and prominent written disclosure of non-inoculations prior to transfer of ownership will be acceptable.
- To avoid from engaging in wholesaling, mass production, or distribution of Staffordshire Bull Terriers and from selling breeding stock to pet dealers, catalog houses or other commercial sources of distribution. To avoid supplying Staffordshire Bull Terriers for raffles, lotteries or prize-giving contests. To avoid and admonish these and any similar activities that would belittle or trivialize the breed or place profit before home-based quality care and breeding.
- To screen prospective buyers of Staffordshire Bull Terriers to ensure suitability to own and care for a Staffordshire Bull Terrier. Also, to advise prospective buyers of the characteristics of the breed and the need for grooming, exercise and other care.
- To consult with known authorities regarding the names of specific countries outside the United States where dog fighting has not been made an illegal practice and refuse all export to these countries.
- To take back or attempt to make suitable arrangements for Staffordshire Bull Terriers placed by us with individuals who can no longer care for them.
- To impress upon buyers that they should contact the breeder in the event of a problem with their Staffordshire Bull Terrier. To make a genuine effort to be of assistance to buyers if a problem arises.

The intent of the Potomac Staffordshire Bull Terrier Club's Code of Ethics is to protect the welfare of the Staffordshire Bull Terrier and to provide education to its membership and the general public. Members should bear in mind that adherence to this Code of Ethics represents a commitment to a high standard of practice in owning and breeding Staffordshire Bull Terriers. This Code of Ethics details certain minimum practices necessary to uphold the objectives of the Potomac Staffordshire Bull Terrier Club, as outlined in Article I, Section 2 of our Constitution.