

NATIONAL LABRADOR RETRIEVER CLUB, INC. CODE OF ETHICS

This Code of Ethics is presented as a guide for owners, breeders, and potential breeders of Labrador Retrievers, whose foremost aims should be the welfare and improvement of the breed. All should do everything in their power to protect and advance the interests of the breed. They should consider the breed and the following principals when engaged in any activities involving the breeding, exhibiting and selling of Labrador Retrievers and refrain from any activities which would be detrimental to the best interests of the breed and The National Labrador Retriever Club.

In this section we will address concerns of the breeder. Potential breeders must ask themselves if they have the knowledge, time and resources to be a breeder. This issue affects the quality, health and future of the animals themselves, as well as the breed. Breeders have a responsibility to research and understand genetics, common breed problems and the particular line they plan to perpetuate.

This code applies to both the owners of the brood bitch and the stud dog:

1. Breeders should only breed with the intentions of improving the breed, and only when the breeder is in a position to properly care for the bitch and litter and capable of finding suitable homes for the puppies. The breeder should recognize that it may be necessary to house offspring for a considerable length of time and be prepared to provide suitable facilities during this period.
2. Breeders should breed only stock that is in good health and which is physically and temperamentally sound. No dog or bitch should be bred that is suspected of having any serious inheritable defect or disease.
3. Both parents should have at a minimum:
 - a) Appropriate hip clearances, either by Orthopedic Foundation for Animals (OFA), PennHip, Wind Morgan or appropriate clearance for country of residence.
 - b) An annual eye check and be certified normal by the Canine Eye Registry Foundation (CERF) or an annual eye exam or report from an ACVO Board certified ophthalmologist marked "normal" both eyes, or appropriate clearances for country of residence.
4. A bitch should not be allowed to produce an excessive number of litters. Sufficient time should be allowed between litters for the bitch to recuperate.
5. Breeders will raise their puppies in a healthy environment with adequate socialization. All puppies will be inoculated and wormed in accordance with veterinary recommendations. No puppy will be placed in a new home before the age of seven weeks.
6. Breeders will screen each puppy buyer and strive to place each dog in a permanent home. Under no circumstances will an ethical breeder engage in wholesaling litters nor will they sell to pet dealers or retailers, catalog houses, commercial breeding operations, or supply puppies or dogs for raffles, lotteries, auctions, or laboratories. Breeders will assist in the placement or relocation of the dog to a new home, if purchaser's situation changes so they can't keep their pet.
7. All breeders must keep accurate and thorough breeding records. Each breeder will supply to each purchaser a bill of sale, a three generation pedigree, health record, registration (unless it is withheld by written agreement of both parties), and instructions for care and feeding. **ABOVE ALL, BREEDERS SHOULD BE HONEST** when dealing with puppy purchasers in all matters such as pedigrees, clearances, and inherited attributes.

This final segment on the code will deal with the conduct of individual members. Individual members will:

1. Exhibit good sportsmanship at all dog-related activities.
2. Make themselves available to assist novices and the general public with information concerning the Labrador Retriever.

3. Only humane methods should be used when showing or training dogs. Under no circumstances will mistreatment or brutality be tolerated.

4. When confronted by a situation not covered in this Code of Ethics, the member will conduct themselves as they would like to be treated.

5. In general, all members should provide:

- a) Adequate food, water and shelter from the elements.
- b) Routine medical care.
- c) Kind and responsible ownership.

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.

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NLRC Website Breeder Directory Posting Agreement/Requirements

I. The National Labrador Retriever Club, Inc. exists for the protection and betterment of the breed, to encourage education of the general public who may want to add a Labrador to their family and to meet a social responsibility to it's members, the general public, and the Labrador world in particular. To this end, we adopted a Code of Ethics to be used as a guideline for all members to follow.

II. The NLRC maintains a listing of member breeders on it's web site who have agreed to answer questions from the general public about choosing reputable breeders or stud dog owners, explaining the importance of screening for hereditary diseases, and to answer general questions about the Labrador retriever breed.

Conditions Applying to Breeder Directory Participation:

Members who are in good standing with the NLRC and the AKC may apply to be included on the NLRC web site breeder listing by completing and signing this application for review and submitting the required fee. Participating members will refrain from any activities which would be detrimental to the best interests of the breed and The National Labrador Retriever Club, Inc. The listing period runs January 1 through December 31. Participation is a privilege and listings are not subject to automatic renewal; member must reapply annually for continued participation. Fees collected for the breeder listings go directly to the club's research fund.

Complaints received concerning participating breeders will be forwarded the Breeder Directory Grievance Committee. The Grievance Committee will act in an information gathering capacity only. The complaint must be made in writing, signed by the complainant, and state details fully and explicitly. The breeder complained against shall receive a copy of the complaint and accorded 30 days to reply in writing to the Grievance Committee. After such time, the NLRC Board of Directors will review information presented by the Breeder Directory Grievance Committee and make a determination as to the member's continued participation in the Breeder Directory; Board's decision is final. If a breeder's listing privilege is revoked, the Breeder Directory listing fee paid for the current listing period will be refunded to the member.

Listings that include a link to the member's home page will be subject to specific conditions as outlined below.

Conditions Applying to Listings with Breeder's Web Site URL:

A. The NLRC Breeder Directory web listing service is intended for the primary purpose of providing material of educational value to the public. Educational material on training, socialization, general health issues, showing, obedience and working issues as well as reference material and reference links are highly encouraged.

B. The NLRC encourages all web site listers to promote the Labrador retriever in accordance with the content and language described in the FCI breed standard. The Labrador retriever breed standard is a guideline used to describe and define breed characteristics such as general appearance, size, color, and temperament.

C. The NLRC Web Site Review Committee may decline, withhold or remove a web site listing for nonconformity with listing requirements. The review committee will notify the member immediately of the decision to remove or reject a listing and afford the member 30 days to make suggested changes in order to meet the requirements of this agreement. Member agrees that the decision made by the NLRC Board is final.

D. The NLRC logo is copyright and is for the club use only.

E. Website listing privileges are not transferable in the event a kennel is sold or transferred to an individual who is not a member of the NLRC.