

BREEDERS OF WORKING HEALTH TESTED LGDs

LIVESTOCK GUARDIAN DOG EDUCATION NETWORK

Code of Ethics

This Code of Ethics is presented as a guide for breeders, and potential breeders, of purebred working Livestock Guardian Dogs, whose aim is the welfare and improvement of each individual breed. It is designed to protect and advance the interest of purebred working Livestock Guardian Dogs.

As a Conscientious Breeder and Member, I promise to conduct my activities as follows:

1. I will conscientiously plan each litter based on the sire's and dam's health testing, stable temperament, sound physical qualities and innate working aptitude, in relation to the official standard of the individual breed, and, before producing a litter, I will consider the possibilities of properly placing puppies which I cannot keep.
2. I will use for breeding only those dogs which are healthy, free from congenital defects and/or disqualifying faults, have proof of health testing, are of sound temperament, and are working livestock guardian dogs.
3. I will breed only mature bitches and dogs. Maturity and time proves their ability for working aptitude and allows age appropriate health testing. I will encourage spay/neuter for dogs that are placed as pets.
4. I will health test all breeding stock before breeding. I will provide the health testing results to potential buyers (preferably via the OFA open online database and/or copies of certifications). Health testing requirements and recommendations as prescribed by the breed's individual breed club, with the minimum, if breed club/CHIC health requirements are not available, being for hip dysplasia (OFA, Pennhip, OVC, etc), and strongly suggested for elbow dysplasia (OFA, OVC, etc), and for eye diseases (CAER, CERF, etc).
5. I will be responsible for my dogs' safety through proper containment, identification, and supervision. I will not allow my dogs to infringe on the rights of others by running loose or being a nuisance. I will be responsible for my dogs' quality of life by providing basic training, attention, and a commitment in my time and guidance to my dogs and any litters produced.
6. I will handle and socialize each litter of puppies, and provide all proper care, food and medical treatments as deemed appropriate by my veterinarian, including age applicable vaccinations and de-worming.
7. I will keep accurate breeding records of matings and pedigrees of all my dogs and litters, and will register breeding stock and subsequent litters with my breed club and/or appropriate registry.
8. I will responsibly screen potential puppy buyers and make available to the novice the benefit of my advice and experience. I will assist in rehoming, or will take the dog back, should the buyers ever become unable to keep it.
9. I will never let puppies leave my possession until they are at least 8 weeks of age and will provide buyers with written details on feeding, general care, and health records.
10. I will conduct myself always in a manner that will protect and advance the interest of purebred, working Livestock Guardian Dogs.

signature

date

print name