

Code of Ethics

Grand Traverse Kennel Club

Code Of Ethics Provisions Applicable to All Members:

All prospective members shall be given a copy of this Code when applying for GTKC membership. If and when the Code is revised, the Club shall provide all current members and applicants for membership with the revised document. It is then incumbent upon each member or applicant to take whatever action is necessary to achieve compliance with the revised or new Code content.

Members are obligated at all times to conduct themselves in a manner to reflect credit on themselves, their breed, the sport of dogs, and the Grand Traverse Kennel Club.

Each member shall be familiar with AKC rules and abide by these rules.

Each member shall consider the welfare of his or her breed in the breeding, selling, and exhibiting of dogs and shall refrain from any activity which would not be in the best interest of that breed.

Each member shall maintain the best possible standards of canine health, cleanliness, and care.

No member shall sell dogs to research laboratories for commercial purposes or deal with anyone that is suspected of such practices.

Members selling dogs must screen potential buyers to ensure the dogs are being placed in good homes.

No member shall engage in false or misleading advertising.

No member shall use the name of the Grand Traverse Kennel Club except for official Club business and correspondence. However, a member may note in his or her advertisement that he or she is a member of the Club, signifying his or her compliance with this Code of Ethics.

Deliberate failure to comply with this Code of Ethics is subject to report, and if substantiated, will result in suspension or expulsion from the Club by action of the Board of Directors. All infractions of the Code should be reported to the Club President in writing. The President will turn the report over to an Ethics Committee, consisting of one Board member and to impartial Club members. This committee will investigate the complaint and report back to the President. If the complaint is deemed justifiable, the accused and the complainant shall appear before the Board for a hearing.

Provisions applicable to Breeder members only:

No member shall engage in the wholesale distribution of dogs of any age to Pet Dealers, Catalog Houses, or other commercial sources, nor knowingly sell to or deal with any person who sells to such establishments or who is suspected of such dealings.

Each member, in considering the breeding of a litter or allowing the use of a stud dog for this purpose, shall breed to the standard for that breed, striving always to better that breed, and not simply for commercial reasons.

Members selling litters of dogs shall use written contracts to specify all puppies must be registered with the AKC; minimum training requirements; recommendations for the care, safety, and well-being of the dog; and that the dog shall be returned to the seller for placement if the buyer, for any reason, should no longer want the dog.

No dog showing serious defects in type, temperament, or structure shall be offered at stud, nor shall owners of studs accept for breeding any bitches showing such defects.

Members breeding dogs shall research pedigrees and available breed health registry information to ascertain the existence of defects in breeding stock (i.e., health issues and deviations from the breed standards).

All breeding stock shall be free of serious defects of type, temperament, and structure and be in the best of health and condition.

If a dog or bitch has produced offspring with a serious inherited defect, such as blindness, lameness, or impairment of a vital function, that animal must be removed from the breeding program.

When servicing a bitch, only the chosen stud shall be used, unless a substitute is approved by the owner of the bitch. Artificial breeding requires permission of the owner of the bitch prior to breeding.

All dogs shall be healthy, free from communicable disease, with a written health guarantee.

Any dog sold with papers shall be without inherited defects as far as can be determined. An animal with a defect rendering it unsuitable for breeding or showing shall be sold with a limited registration, and a spay/neuter agreement. The buyer must be aware of the defect and agree in writing to abide by the seller's recommendations.

I, _____, do fully understand the provisions of this Code and, by my signature, do attest that I am currently compliant with same and intend to remain in compliance with this Code and all future revisions of the Code for as long as I shall remain a member.

Signature: _____ Date: _____