



Code Of Ethics

of the

Miniature American Shepherd Club of the USA, Inc.

The Miniature American Shepherd Club of the U. S. A. (MASCUSA), in keeping with its aim of breeding for the working ability, as well as other outstanding abilities of the Miniature American Shepherd, has adopted the following Code Of Ethics to promote and foster the highest standards among breeders, owners and fanciers, and to encourage sportsmanship and cooperation in the improvement and advancement of our breed. All members in good standing with MASCUSA subscribe to and uphold this code.

Title I - Records

Each member who breeds his bitch or uses his stud for service should keep accurate records of stock such as stud services, pedigrees, all litters produced, sale of dogs/puppies, all exchanges involving Miniature American Shepherds for a minimum of five (5) years.

Any member who falsifies a registration or knowingly misrepresents a pedigree should be reported to the MASCUSA Board of Directors.

Title II Breeding

A breeder should plan each breeding with the paramount intention of improving the breed.

A breeder should select a stud and dam with an eye to conformation, temperament, working ability and intelligence with a careful study of the Miniature American Shepherd Breed Standard, pedigrees and basic principles of genetics.

Before entering into any stud service arrangement, a breeder should scrutinize the pedigree, conformation and working potentials of both sire and dam, keeping in mind the ideal Miniature American Shepherd as described in the Miniature American Shepherd Breed Standard. He should refuse the breeding if, in his opinion, it is not in the best interest of the breed. Should he refuse the breeding, a full explanation of his reasoning should be given to the owner of the bitch.

A breeder should use for breeding purposes only those individuals free of defects, such as monorchidism, cryptochidism, deafness, albinism and other disqualifying defects.

He should use only those dogs whose hips have been x-rayed for dysplasia and rated fair to excellent by OFA.

He should use only dogs whose eyes have been examined and found free of ocular deformities by a qualified Veterinary Ophthalmologist.

He should further refrain from using dogs who although free from genetic defects, consistently produces afflicted puppies.

Title III - Health

A breeder should maintain high standards of health and care for his dog(s) and guarantee the health of puppies at the time of sale.

Title IV - Sales

A breeder should be discriminating in the sale of his puppies and concerned with the type of homes in which they are placed. With this in mind, Miniature American Shepherds shall not be donated for raffles, give-aways, sold to dog wholesalers or retailers, such as pet shops or the like.

A breeder should, for his own protection, as well as that of the buyer, provide adequate written contractual proof of sale and guarantees.

A breeder should provide a minimum six (6) months written guarantee against crippling or handicapping congenital defects on all pet puppies sold and should additionally guarantee the sale of breeding stock puppies against all hereditary defects and any disqualifying faults for a like period. All guarantees should at least provide for replacement of the puppy with another, within a reasonable length of time after the return of the puppy originally purchased.

A breeder should transfer all applicable registration papers at the time the purchase agreement is completed and agreeable to both parties.

Upon sale of a dog/puppy, the breeder should provide all buyers with a three (3) generation pedigree, including coat and eye color and indication of NBT occurrence, diet and care information, health guarantee and inoculation record (including date and type of serum).

A breeder should refrain from releasing a puppy until it is at least eight (8) weeks old or ten (10) if the puppy is to be shipped.

Title V - Advertising

The breeder agrees that all advertising of dogs/puppies should be factual and honest in both substance and implication.

The breeder should be cautious in encouraging buyers as to breeding potential, as the breeding of Miniature American Shepherds is not to be taken lightly.

Title VI - Member Regulations

The exhibiting of dogs being a sport, MASCUSA members shall be expected to express good sportsmanship in all activities involving the Miniature American Shepherd.

Members should refrain from unnecessary criticism of another's dog.

As a matter of ethics, he pledges to help educate the general public, as well as, graciously assist the novice breeder in all with which he is familiar.

Title VII - Implementation

Any infraction of the Code of Ethics should be reported, in writing, to the MASCUSA Board of Directors in accordance with the Bylaws.

Only when a breeder continues to deviate from these ideals and is not cooperative in rectifying an error, will the situation be presented to the Board of Directors for disciplinary actions.