

# Code of Ethics

## Great Pyrenees Club of California

(A California Non-Profit Corporation)

The Great Pyrenees Club of California, Inc., in keeping with its constitutional aim of encouraging responsible ownership of Great Pyrenees, has adopted the following Code of Ethics to promote and foster the highest standards among breeders and owners and to encourage sportsmanship and cooperation in the improvement and advancement of our breed. All members in good standing of the Great Pyrenees Club of California subscribe to and uphold this Code.

### ARTICLE I - TREATMENT

**Section 1.** All Great Pyrenees owned by or in the care of members shall be given a proper, healthy environment, nutrition and care at all times. No member's dog may be treated in an inhumane manner, subjected to cruel or unusual punishment or abused, nor may any dog be subjected to any conditions likely to eventuate in unnecessary danger to the animal's life.

**Section 2.** Members shall be diligent in the handling of their dogs in public places and shall do so in a manner as to minimize the risk of trauma or danger to any human being or other animal.

**Section 3.** Members recognize their responsibility to protect the name and reputation of the breed and shall not allow their dogs to roam at large unsupervised, nor to become a public nuisance, nor to become a public trust.

**Section 4.** Treatment and handling of active livestock guardian dogs owned by members shall be consonant with the best management techniques for such dogs.

### ARTICLE II - RECORDS

**Section 1.** Each member who breeds his bitch or use his stud at service shall keep accurate records of stock, matings and pedigrees.

**Section 2.** Any member who falsifies a registration or knowingly misrepresents a pedigree shall be reported to the American Kennel Club.

### ARTICLE III BREEDING

**Section 1.** A breeder shall plan each breeding with the paramount intention of improving the breed and breeds and only when he is in a position to give proper care to both bitch and offspring.

**Section 2.** A breeder selects stud and matron with an eye to conformation and temperament after a careful study of the breed standard, pedigrees and basic principles of genetics.

**Section 3.** The owner of the stud uses equal discretion in contracting for the use of his dog.

**Section 4.** A breeder safeguards his bitches from matings which are not carefully planned and, in the event of such a mating, does all within his power to prevent pregnancy in the bitch.

**Section 5.** A breeder does not breed for the sole intention of improving his bitch for the show ring, as the fun and excitement of showing shall always be held secondary to the serious improvement of the breed.

**Section 6.** A breeder uses for breeding only those individuals free from unstable temperament and hereditary defects such as mon- or crypt-orchidism, malocclusion, deafness, entropion eyelids, dysplasia, etc. Only in exceptional circumstances, exercising extreme caution, does he use any animal with faulty pigmentation.

(a) He shall use only those individuals whose hips shall have been x-rayed after the age of one (1) year and pronounced free of dysplasia by a Certified Veterinary Radiologist, but he shall keep in mind the strong recommendation that such x-ray take place after the age of eighteen (18) months and the extended period of his liability specified in Article IV, Section 3(b). In consideration, the Club is obligated to furnish any member a list of such radiologists.

(b) He shall further refrain from using an individual who, although free from hereditary defects, consistently produces afflicted offspring.

(c) Any breeder or stud owner breeding from lines in which any of the above occurs has the ethical obligation to disclose this to his buyers.

**Section 7.** Recognizing the extended growth pattern of a giant breed, the breeder shall not:

(a) breed his bitch before her second heat;

(b) breed his bitch before eighteen (18) months, except on the recommendation of a veterinarian;

(c) breed his bitch more than two (2) out of three (3) heats.

**Section 8.** Stud Service

(a) No member shall offer at stud any animal who does not meet the qualifications of this article

(b) If the stud has not been bred before, has not produced a live litter or has had breeding problems in the past, such information shall be provided to the bitch owner before the bitch is shipped.

(c) Prior to accepting any bitch for service, it is the obligation of the stud owner to advise the novice breeder of the responsibilities, problems, obligations and expenses involved in breeding a litter.

(d) It shall be the responsibility of the stud owner to ascertain that any bitch brought to his stud shall meet the requirements of the Code, whether owned by a club member or not. He shall further ascertain to the best of his ability that any produce of this breeding shall be raised and sold in a manner in keeping with the ethical standards of this Code. He shall supply any bitch owner who is not a Club member with a copy of this Code and explain its provisions.

(e) The owner of the stud is under no obligation to service a bitch who is not as represented by her owner or presents serious hereditary defects or unstable temperament.

(f) The owner of the stud shall not accept a bitch for service if the owner is not in a position to maintain the bitch in a safe and healthy manner.

(g) Bitches shall be bred only to the stud specified by her owner, unless an acceptable substitute is agreed upon by both parties.

(h) Insofar as is possible, at least 2 services shall be effected. It is the obligation of the stud owner to offer a free return service under the same conditions if no litter results. A litter is defined for the purposes of this Code as a minimum of 2 live pups at 36 hours after birth.

(i) Owners of stud and bitch shall sign a written agreement, clearly stating the conditions and terms of service.

## **Section 9. Artificial Breeding**

(a) Breedings done via artificial insemination are subject to all the terms of this article.

(b) Owners of the stud and bitch must familiarize themselves with the pertinent AKC regulations for the registration of the offspring of such breedings.

## **ARTICLE IV - SALES**

**Section 1.** A breeder shall be discriminating in the sale of his puppies and concerned with the type of homes in which they are placed. Therefore, Great Pyrenees shall not be donated for raffles or give-aways, or sold or consigned to pet stores or animal brokers.

**Section 2.** A breeder shall be available to buyers for whatever advice, reasonable aid and assistance they may need for the lifetime of their dog. GPCC members shall help and support their fellow members in fulfilling this obligation. Recognizing this lifetime responsibility to the dog they have allowed to be produced, breeders and stud owners shall also aid the Rescue Committee when a dog of their breeding comes to its attention.

**Section 3.** A breeder shall, for his protection and that of the buyer, provide adequate written contractual proof of sale and guarantees.

**Section 4.** Recognizing that congenital defects, including dysplasia can mean pain and heartbreak to animal and owner, the breeder shall observe the following:

(a) if a pup is declared dysplastic to the satisfaction of the breeder (readings by two or more radiologists as specified by the breeder are considered adequate), the breeder, in agreement with the buyer, has the following options:

(1) refund the full purchase price in exchange for the afflicted animal and his papers or documentation of the death of the animal;

(2) refund to pet price as established by the breeder upon veterinary documentation that the animal has been sterilized.

(3) replacement in kind with a dog of equal or better quality

(b) From the best medical point of view, except in case of a lame or troubled animal, the first plate should not be taken before twelve (12) months; however, it is recommended that the first plate be taken at a minimum of eighteen (18) months, since it has been determined that a much more definitive reading can be made at this increased age. In order to protect the breeder from an excessive period of liability, the breeder is not obligated to extend the options beyond thirty(30) months except in questionable cases where it may be extended up to three (3) years at the discretion of the radiologist.

(c) It is understood that any dog that dies or must be destroyed before the age of 15 months, due to a physical or temperamental condition which is hereditary, shall be replaced with an animal of original value or, if that is not possible, the full purchase price shall be refunded. Veterinary certification of the hereditary congenital condition and/or a veterinary autopsy report is required for a replacement or refund.

**Section 5.** The breeder shall supply the AKC individual registration form or a written guarantee that it shall be supplied by the time the pup is four (4) months old or upon completion of sale. A puppy may, for good cause, be sold without papers if this is understood and agreed to in writing by both parties, as specified by the AKC.

Any animal sold by the breeder as "not of show/breeding quality" or for use as a livestock guardian dog shall be sold without registration papers or with an AKC Limited Registration and in either case, with a mandatory spay/neuter proviso. A breeder may provide application for full registration upon proof of sterilization of the animal or upon reassessment of the animal as being of show/breeding quality.

**Section 6.** Upon releasing the puppy, the breeder shall follow these guidelines:

- (a) He shall supply a pedigree of no less than (four) 4 generations.
- (b) He shall provide written information as to the prior care of the puppy.
- (c) He shall supply records from the attending veterinarian which shall detail inoculations given, including date and type of serum and dates at which future inoculations are due.
- (d) He shall supply a copy of this Code of Ethics and information about the Club. The Club shall be obligated to make copies of this Code and Club information available to the breeder.
- (e) He shall release only puppies which are, to the best of his knowledge, in good health.
- (f) Puppies being released shall have had the necessary inoculations, microscopic fecal examinations and worming if necessary.
- (g) All puppies leaving the breeder shall be at least seven (7) weeks old, except those to be shipped who shall be at least nine (9) weeks old.

## **ARTICLE V - ADVERTISEMENT**

**Section 1.** All advertising of puppies and adult dogs, written or oral, shall be factual and as forthrightly honest as possible in both substance and implication.

**Section 2.** Advertising and promotion, written or oral, shall be confined to the aspects of the breeders stock and shall in no way degrade the stock of others.

**Section 3.** The breeder shall be cautious in discussing the show prospects of any puppy he sells lest he imply a guarantee of show success.

**Section 4.** He shall be equally cautious in encouraging buyers as to breeding prospects inasmuch as the breeding of a Great Pyrenees is not to be undertaken lightly by any owner.

## **ARTICLE VI - LIVESTOCK GUARDIAN DOGS**

**Section 1.** All provisions of this Code apply to livestock guardian dogs except as specified.

**Section 2.** Members recognize the inherent dangers and opportunities presented to the breed by its guarding function and will not engage in the breeding or selling of livestock guardian dogs unless they are willing to undertake the responsibility for owner education about the use and behavior of such animals.

**Section 3.** The ideal Great Pyrenees is successful both in the show ring and in the field. Although it is usually impractical to show working dogs, it must be kept in mind that the show dog and the working dog are equally in need of sound and typical structure and temperament. Therefore, breeders must not separate their breeding stock into "show" and "livestock" when one has a lower standard of quality than the other.

**Section 4.** It is the obligation of the breeder to determine the specific needs of the buyers and to be available to them for information and advice.

**Section 5.** Dogs sold solely as livestock guardians must be sold on spay/neuter agreements as it is generally accepted that the neutered animal makes a more attentive livestock guardian. It is strongly recommended that pairs of pups not be sold to the same party, as single pups bond more strongly to the livestock. Under no circumstances shall breeders sell un-neutered litter mates of the opposite sex to one buyer.

## **ARTICLE VII - MEMBER RELATIONS**

**Section 1.** Members shall be aware at all times that the club exists both to improve the breed and to encourage responsible ownership of Great Pyrenees and that these aims are to be uppermost in the minds of members in all their activities within the breed.

**Section 2.** It shall be borne in mind at all times that the showing of dogs is a sport. Good sportsmanship shall be expected from both winners and losers, in and out of the show ring.

**Section 3.** Members shall refrain from unnecessary and unconstructive criticism of another's dog.

**Section 4.** Novices are encouraged to seek the advice and assistance of more experienced owners and breeders, and the more experienced shall graciously assist the novice with his problems and share, for the good of the breed, the benefits of his knowledge.

**Section 5.** In all questions of ethics covered or not covered by the Code, the individual member shall act solely in the best interests of the breed and the membership as a whole shall willingly aid any Great Pyrenees owner in upholding these interests.

**Section 6.** Members shall bear in mind that a Code of Ethics is more than a set of rules; it is a commitment to a high standard of practice in owning and breeding and that adherence to the spirit of such a Code is as important as adherence to its law.

## **ARTICLE VIII - IMPLEMENTATION**

### **Section 1.**

All infractions of the Code of Ethics shall be treated as set out in Article VI, Section 2 of the GPCC By Laws.

### **Section 2.**

Since this machinery has been established to prevent harmful gossip, any member who indulges in this sort of gossip rather than reporting an alleged violation for investigation shall be judged by the Board to be in willful violation of the Code and shall be subject to discipline.

## **ARTICLE IX - EXCEPTIONS**

**Section 1.** The Board of Directors may waive any of the foregoing provisions and members are urged to bring to the Board any problems which confront them in their efforts to comply with the Code. A closed Board meeting for information only may be requested.

### **Section 2.**

- (a) Members wishing to apply for Code exception shall submit the proposal in writing to all Board members at least ten days prior to a Board meeting.
- (b) The initial proposal shall include all pertinent information. The proposal shall be considered by the Board at the first meeting following receipt and shall be attached as an exhibit to the Board meeting minutes.
- (c) Any additional pertinent facts or stipulations brought out in discussion shall be made a part of this proposal. The proposal shall be published and distributed to the membership prior to the following Board meeting at which a decision shall be rendered.
- (d) Members applying for Code exceptions are urged to present them in person to the Board and may bring qualified witnesses.
- (e) All non-bulletin expenses necessary to fulfill the publication requirement of Section 2 (c) shall be borne by the petitioner.