



Breeders' Code of Conduct

Applying to all Dogs NZ members holding active kennel names. The purpose of the Breeders Code of Conduct, as a Dogs NZ policy directive contained within the Registration Regulations, is to protect the welfare of the bitch and her puppies and to further protect and enhance the organisation's integrity.

1. I will practice and promote responsible dog ownership ensuring that dog welfare is a priority at all times. This will be demonstrated by the following. My dogs will be:

- appropriately housed, fed, exercised, socialised and have received regular veterinary attention
- appropriately controlled to avoid them becoming a public nuisance
- properly identified (including micro-chipping and registration)
- cleaned up after in public places
- compliant with all legislation and by-laws governing dogs and the sale of dogs.

They will never be:

- offered directly or indirectly as prizes or donations in a competition by myself or any person I can influence.

2. I will practise responsible breeding by always:

- ensuring that the welfare of my sires, dams and puppies is a priority at all times
- closely complying with the Animal Welfare Act in relation to breeding and sale of puppies/dogs
- fully informing new owners of my dogs and puppies about:
 - how a dog should be cared for
 - diseases that dogs may be prone to (including measures to take to ensure good health where appropriate)
 - how to socialise young dogs, and
 - a dietary regime to be followed.

In particular this will include frank disclosure of any health issues that are recognised in the breed, how to identify symptoms and mitigation measures available.

- observing best practice in relation to commercial transactions, protecting all parties and ultimately the dogs involved
- being in control of the entire sale process for which I am accountable
- providing new owners with all the appropriate Dogs New Zealand paperwork for sold dogs, on time and in line with sale agreements at no extra cost.

3. I will observe the following specific practices:

- I will not transfer from my care any puppy under the age of eight calendar weeks. Three days leeway is provided for collection over the previous weekend. An exemption for a period greater than three days must be applied for and approved in advance by the Canine Health & Welfare Committee.
- I will research health issues to which my breed/s may be prone and will take all reasonable steps to eliminate or minimise those issues. These steps will always include giving serious consideration to matings I arrange, maintaining careful observations of the health of my stock and may include any of the veterinary checks available. Any test results will be made available to purchasers upon request.
- I will not mate any bitch at less than 12 months of age.
- I will not breed from a bitch aged eight years and over at whelping except where a veterinarian has certified the fitness of the bitch for the mating and has provided a certificate of that opinion that is dated prior to the date of mating. Dispensation

must then be applied for and approved by the Canine Health & Welfare Committee also prior to the date of mating.

- I will not breed more than two litters from the same bitch within 18 months except where a veterinarian has certified the fitness of the bitch for the mating and has provided a certificate of that opinion that is dated prior to the date of mating. Dispensation must then be applied for and approved by the Canine Health & Welfare Committee also prior to the date of mating. A 12-month "rest" period should follow the third litter.
- I will not breed more than four litters from the same bitch except where a veterinarian has certified the fitness of the bitch for mating and has provided a certificate of that opinion that is dated prior to the date of mating. Dispensation must then be applied for and approved by the Health & Welfare Committee also prior to the date of mating. There will be no more than six litters from one bitch in her lifetime, with no exceptions. **(Updated 1 June 2020)**
- I will not mate a dog and a bitch that are close relatives (defined as father/daughter, mother/son or brother/ sister, i.e. same sire and dam, not necessarily same litter). Exemptions for numerically small breeds must be applied for and approved in advance by the Canine Health & Welfare Committee.
- I will not mate a bitch in cases where she has previously had three (3) caesarean sections except where a veterinarian has certified the fitness of the bitch for the mating and has provided a certificate of that opinion that is dated prior to the date of mating. Dispensation must then be applied for and approved by the Canine Health & Welfare Committee also prior to the date of mating.
- I will not use co-owned dogs, bitches or semen in my breeding without the knowledge and written consent of all owners and co-owners with an interest in the dogs, bitches or semen involved.
- If I wish to enter into a joint ownership arrangement with a buyer or to arrange access to the puppy for breeding or showing purposes once it is sold, I will fully explain the implications to the intending buyer and will encourage him/her to seek independent advice before committing to the sale. Before finalising the sale I will provide full documentation setting out the nature and terms of the arrangement and I will allow a 90-day 'cooling down' period after the date of the sale during which time the buyer may withdraw from the sale and return the puppy at their own expense upon which I will fully refund the cost of the puppy.
- Where the buyer of a pup advises me of a health or behavioural issue with the pup that has arisen within nine months of the sale, or advises me at any time of an issue that may be due to a hereditary factor, I will at all times maintain cordial and helpful relations with the buyer. I will try to negotiate a mutually acceptable resolution with the buyer. In the event that the buyer and I cannot agree on any matter it may be referred to the Dogs NZ Director Secretary for consideration of mediation or a recommendation for referral to an appropriate civil authority.
- Any member has a right of review (Registration Regulation 4.4) by the Executive Council of any administrative decision made either pursuant to the Registration Regulations or any policy directive or discretionary power given to the administration pursuant to the regulations.

To be made effective from 1 May 2019 with updates.

Breeders' Code of Conduct Fine Increases

Dogs New Zealand Executive Council at its February meeting approved the following recommendations from the Canine Health & Welfare Committee to increase the fines for breaches of the Breeders Code of Conduct (changes in red). Applying to all Dogs NZ members holding active kennel names, the new fines will be **made effective from 2 May 2022**.

Rationale: The purpose of the Breeders Code of Conduct, as a Dogs NZ policy directive contained within the Registration Regulations, is to protect the welfare of the bitch and her puppies and to further protect and enhance the organisation's integrity.

PENALTIES AND CONDITIONS (to apply from 2 May 2022)

Breeders' Code of Conduct Practice	Penalties and conditions
I will not transfer from my care any puppy under the age of eight calendar weeks. Three days leeway is provided for collection over the previous weekend. An exemption for a period greater than three days must be applied for and approved in advance by the Canine Health & Welfare Committee.	First BCOC offence: \$1,000 fine (per litter) applies if the application for early release has not been approved in advance. Puppies can be registered on any Register.
I will not mate a bitch at less than 12 months of age.	First BCOC offence: \$1,000 fine (per litter) applies if bitch is mated at less than 12 months of age. A veterinarian letter is required to certify the fitness of the bitch prior to its next mating. Puppies can be registered on any Register.
I will not breed from a bitch aged eight years and over at whelping except where a veterinarian has certified the fitness of the bitch for the mating and has provided a certificate of that opinion that is dated prior to the date of mating. Dispensation must then be applied for and approved by the Canine Health & Welfare Committee also prior to the date of mating.	First BCOC offence: \$1,000 fine (per litter) applies if the bitch is whelped at over 8 years of age and dispensation has not been approved in advance. A veterinarian letter is required to certify the fitness of the bitch at time of notification. If deemed unfit to be bred from the bitch will be endorsed 'not to be bred from'. Puppies can be registered on any Register.
I will not breed more than two litters from the same bitch within 18 months except where a veterinarian has certified the fitness of the bitch for the mating and has provided a certificate of that opinion that is dated prior to the date of mating. Dispensation must then be applied for and approved by the Health & Welfare Committee also prior to the date of mating. A 12-month "rest" period should follow the third litter.	First BCOC offence: \$1,000 fine (per litter) applies if a 3rd litter is whelped within an 18 month period and dispensation has not been approved in advance. A veterinarian letter is required to certify the fitness of the bitch prior to its next mating. Puppies can be registered on any Register.
I will not breed more than four litters from the same bitch except where a veterinarian has certified the fitness of the bitch for mating and has provided a certificate of that opinion that is dated prior to the date of mating. Dispensation must then be applied for and approved by the Health & Welfare Committee also prior to the date of mating. There will be no more than six litters from one bitch in her lifetime, with no exceptions.	A \$2,000 fine (per litter) applies and the kennel name is suspended with the fine payable before reinstatement, if applicable. Puppies can be registered on Register II.
I will not mate a dog and a bitch that are close relatives (defined as father/daughter, mother/son, brother/sister i.e. same sire and dam, not necessarily the same litter). Exemptions for numerically small breeds must be applied for and approved in advance by the Canine Health & Welfare Committee.	\$1,000 fine per litter applies if a first generation mating is whelped where an exemption has not been approved in advance. Puppies can be registered on Register II.
I will not mate a bitch in cases where she has previously had three (3) caesarean sections except where a veterinarian has certified the fitness of the bitch for the mating and has provided a certificate of that opinion that is dated prior to the date of mating. Dispensation must then be applied for and approved by the Canine Health & Welfare Committee also prior to the date of mating.	First BCOC offence: \$1,000 fine (per litter) applies if a 4th litter is whelped where a bitch has previously had three (3) caesarean sections and dispensation has not been approved in advance. A veterinarian letter is also required to certify the fitness of the litter at the time of notification. Puppies can be registered on any Register.

Second Offence In cases where a member breaches the BCOC (any offence) a second time the fine (per litter) will increase to **\$2,000**.

Third Offence In cases where a member breaches the BCOC (any offence) a third time the litter will be registered on the Limited Register (number II) and the kennel name will be suspended with a **\$3,000** fine (per litter) applying and payable before reinstatement, if applicable.