

# Evergreen Golden Retriever Club

## Code of Ethics

Revised November 2010

The Evergreen Golden Retriever Club (EGRC) endorses the following Code of Ethics for its members. It is the purpose of EGRC to encourage its members to perfect; through selection, breeding, and training; the type of dog most suitable in all respects for work as a companion gun dog; and to do all in its power to protect and advance the interests of Golden Retrievers in every endeavor.

### **I. Responsibilities as a Dog Owner:**

Members must ensure that their dogs are kept safe and under control at all times. Members should properly train their dogs so that they are an asset to the community and not a nuisance. Dogs must be maintained with their safety and good health in mind at all times, including adequate and appropriate socialization, feeding, grooming, personal attention, veterinary care, housing, exercise, and training.

### **II. Responsibilities as a Member of EGRC:**

Keeping in mind that Members and their dogs represent the breed, EGRC, and the sport of purebred dogs in general, Members are:

- A. (Breed Standard) Urged to accept the standard of the breed as approved by the American Kennel Club (or the other applicable governing body of the country in which they reside or exhibit) as the only standard of excellence by which the Golden Retriever is to be judged.
- B. (Behavior) Expected to conduct themselves with integrity and good sportsmanship at all events and competitions, abiding by the applicable rules and regulations set forth by the governing bodies for such events and competitions. Their behavior should be in accord with the purposes and intent of the EGRC Constitution and By-Laws.
- C. (Breed Knowledge) Expected to educate themselves regarding all aspects of the Golden Retriever and to share that knowledge with one another and the general public.
- D. (Co-Member Courtesy) Expected to treat their fellow club members with courtesy and respect, acknowledging and accepting a diversity of goals and opinions, in a spirit of goodwill and friendship.
- E. (Club Positions) Expected to fulfill the obligations of any positions held within the Club, and do so without using that position to further their own interests.

### III. Responsibilities as a Breeder:

Breeding stock should be selected for the betterment of the breed. Breeders should aim to perfect, by careful selective breeding, Golden Retrievers that possess the appearance, soundness, temperament, natural ability and personality that is reflected in the standard of the breed, and to do all possible to advance and promote the perfection of these qualities.

Breeding is an art as well as a science. Delineating the principles of an art is not always easy, so some leeway must be given to knowledgeable and experienced breeders to assess the genetic potential of each dog and each breeding combination. It is recognized that, while there is no genetically perfect animal or breed, breeders should make every effort to reduce the problems recognized to exist in the Golden Retriever. The following are the accepted breeding practices for Golden Retrievers endorsed by EGRC, as established by the Golden Retriever Club of America.

EGRC members who breed Golden Retrievers are encouraged to maintain the purpose of the breed and are expected to:

- A. (Honesty) Demonstrate honesty and fairness in dealing with other owners, breeders, purchasers of dogs, and the general public.
- B. (Breeding Stock) Follow proper breeding procedures by carefully evaluating breeding stock. Animals selected for breeding should:
  1. (Temperament) Be of the temperament typical of the Golden Retriever breed, i.e., stable, confident, friendly, trainable, and willing to work. Temperament is of the utmost importance to the breed and must never be neglected;
  2. (Health) Be in good health and be free from communicable disease;
  3. (Genetic Screening) Possess the following examination reports in order to verify status concerning possible hip dysplasia, elbow dysplasia, hereditary eye or cardiovascular disease:
    - a. Hips – for U.S. dogs, a report from the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals (OFA) or PennHIP, at 24 months of age or older. For dogs outside the U.S., a report from a health registry approved by the Golden Retriever club of that country (e.g., Canada - Ontario Veterinary College; Great Britain - BVA/KC Hip Score) A report from the accepted health registry of another country may be used for U.S. dogs that are 24 months of age or older when x-rayed.
    - b. Elbows – for U.S. dogs, a report from Orthopedic Foundation for Animals at 24 months of age or older. For dogs outside the U.S., report from a health registry approved by the Golden Retriever club of that country at 24 months of age or older. A report from the accepted health registry of another country may be used for U.S. dogs that are 24 months of age or older when x-rayed.

- c. Eyes – appropriate report from a Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Ophthalmology (ACVO) or from a BVA/KC approved ophthalmologist (Great Britain), or a report from the Canine Eye Registry Foundation. For dogs outside the U.S., a report from an ophthalmologist as recommended by the Golden Retriever club of that country after 1 year of age. Examinations must be done within 12 months of a breeding.
- d. Hearts – appropriate report from a Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Medicine, Cardiology Specialty or a certification by the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals by a cardiologist (the number will be followed by a C) at 12 months of age or older.

Breeders of Golden Retrievers in the U.S. who use health registries from other countries should fully reveal their reasons for doing so.

- 4. (Other Disorders) Give consideration to other disorders or problems that may contain a genetic component, including but not limited to allergies, hypothyroidism, epilepsy, panosteitis, osteochondritis desiccans (OCD), bleeding disorders, swallowing disorders such as cricopharyngeal dysfunction (CD), and cancer.
  - 5. (Age) Give consideration to the age of dogs used for breeding. Generally, a Golden Retriever is not physically and mentally mature until the age of 2 years; an individual dog's suitability as a breeding animal is difficult to assess until that time.
- C. (Record Keeping) Follow AKC requirements for record keeping, identification of animals, and registration procedures.
  - D. (Provide Documentation) Provide appropriate documentation to all concerned regarding the health of dogs involved in a breeding or sale, including examination reports screening for disorders of the hips, elbows, eyes, and heart. If any such examinations have not been performed on a dog, this should be stated.
  - E. (Screening Buyers) Carefully screen prospective buyers in order to place puppies and dogs into proper homes. Breeders should sell puppies, permit stud service, and/or lease any stud dogs or brood bitches only to individuals who give satisfactory evidence that they will give proper care and attention to the animals concerned, and who may be expected generally to act within the intent of the statements of this Code of Ethics.
  - F. (Third Parties) Not sell dogs at auction, or to brokers or commercial dealers.
  - G. (Releasing Puppies) Not release puppies prior to seven (7) weeks of age, and preferably not before eight (8) weeks of age.
  - H. (Contracts) Use clear, concise written contracts to document the sale of animals, use of stud dogs, and lease arrangements, including the use, when appropriate, of non-breeding agreements and/or Limited Registration.

- I. (Return of Dogs) Understand and acknowledge that they may need to take back, or assist in finding a new home for, any dog they produce at any time in its lifetime, if requested to do so.
- J. (Materials for Buyers) Provide buyers with AKC registration papers, a pedigree of three (3) or more generations, feeding schedule, vaccination and worming information, written instructions on housetraining, their assurance that they will be available to answer future questions, and a signed contract which includes a statement of their expectation that they will be contacted if the buyer is ever unable to keep the dog.

#### **IV. Enforcement:**

Members with repeated and/or flagrant violations of this Code of Ethics may be subject to suspension or expulsion from the Club, as provided for in the Club By-Laws (Article VI, Discipline).

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Revised and approved by the EGRC Membership November 2010. To be reviewed every two (2) years.