

This version of the member Code of Conduct has incorporated suggestions from members and directors including those with legal expertise. The committee thanks those who sent constructive suggestions to the committee either directly or through their Director.

CCA CODE OF CONDUCT Revision 9/28/2023

Collie Club of America Code of Conduct (formerly known as The Code of Ethics)

I. INTRODUCTION:

This code establishes a standard of conduct to be followed by all members of the Collie Club of America, Inc. We recognize the difficulty of covering all situations and, for this reason, any failure to comply with the intent of the code shall be handled in the same manner as a specific violation. The welfare of all Collies is the responsibility of all members. Failure to conduct oneself in compliance with this *Code of Conduct* shall be considered prejudicial to the best interests of the Collie.

All members shall be required to accept and sign the Code of Conduct in its entirety as a condition to joining the Collie Club of America as a member. Membership applications without a signed Code of Conduct will not be processed and will be returned. Members agree to accept the most current code upon membership renewal. Any member violating this Code may be subject to reprimand and/or subject to CCA Bylaws Article VI Suspension and Expulsion, if formal charges are brought forward.

II. Standard of Conduct - Welfare of the Collie

A. Breeding, Selling, and Exhibiting

1. No member shall knowingly sell or place, trade or give any Collie of any age to pet dealers, catalog houses, or other commercial sources; nor shall Collies be given as prizes, auctioned, or exploited to the detriment of the breed.
2. No Collie should be sold with defects of health or temperament that would interfere with its normal function as a suitable pet or companion. All known defects shall be disclosed to the new owner in writing. Utilizing the standards of the CCA Health Statement is encouraged as a basis for health testing.
3. All dogs shall be transferred, sold, or placed in good condition, free of communicable diseases, with health guaranteed for a reasonable length of time. This should include a written health record that includes an inoculation schedule, an eye examination done either by a licensed veterinarian trained in veterinary ophthalmology or a certified veterinary ophthalmologist, and/or genetic eye specific testing. Dogs should have some type of permanent identification, such as a microchip or tattoo, before leaving the breeder/seller.
4. Collie puppies shall not be released until eight (8) weeks of age. Puppies sold as pets should be sold with AKC Limited Registration. Spay/neuter agreements are strongly recommended on all Collies sold as pets.
5. A written agreement shall be used between the buyer and seller for all transactions. The agreement should include a request that the seller be contacted in the event, at any time, the owner is unable to keep the dog. When contacted it will be the obligation of the seller to make every effort to assist the (original) buyer in placement of the dog.
6. No member shall sell or aid in selling to a person who they have reason to believe cannot or will not provide proper care and environment for the Collie. Members shall not abandon or put dogs in shelters, pounds, or rescue.
7. All breedings shall be done with the intention of advancing and protecting the breed. All Collies used for breeding shall be in good health and free from communicable disease. Dogs known to be sterile, cryptorchid, or monorchid shall not be offered at stud. Stud dog and bitch owners shall notify the other breeder of any physical problems and/or any known inherited genetic defects or any other condition in their dogs.
8. Bitches shall be bred only to selected stud(s). Owner(s) of the bitch must be consulted before any other stud is used.
9. All financial and breeding arrangements shall be made in advance of sales or service and agreed to in writing by both parties.
10. Owners participating in a breeding shall use a contract to define what a breeding is, what methods are allowable (i.e witnessed tie, AI, chilled or frozen semen), and any other factors to be considered.

B. Proper Care

1. All members shall provide proper care, nutrition, and a suitable environment for their Collies including meeting or exceeding applicable ordinances and/or legal requirements.
2. Collies shall not be kept in circumstances or numbers where their needs cannot be adequately met.
3. Collies will be provided with routine veterinary care as required for the well-being of the dog.

III. Standard of Conduct - Good Sportsmanship and Member Behavior

It is important to remember that all members represent the Collie and the Collie Club of America when attending Club events or other dog-related activities, discussing Club business, and/or debating Club policy. Members should treat each other with respect, civility, and good sportsmanship at all times and in all communication.

A. General

1. All advertising shall be honest and not in any way misrepresentative or fraudulent. Variety shall be designated in all advertising.
2. Whether at home, traveling, at shows or motels, all members shall conduct themselves at all times in such a manner as to reflect credit on the sport of dogs in general and the CCA and Collies in particular.
3. Members shall not violate any dog-related applicable local, state, or national laws or ordinances.
4. No member shall intentionally or maliciously malign another member by making false or misleading statements about that member, his or her dogs, or breeding practices. No member shall harass or threaten another member for any reason.
5. No member shall impersonate another member, CCA officer, or other entity, including communicating under an unauthorized name or false pretenses.
6. Members are expected and encouraged to provide timely feedback to the CCA Board, most commonly through their Director, on current issues brought forth for discussion.

B. CCA Events

1. Members are responsible for traveling to CCA events with appropriate/required health certificates and vaccination status for dogs in the member's care.
2. Abusive or aggressive behavior toward anyone at any CCA event shall not be tolerated and will result in an Event Committee Hearing. This includes behavior directed toward volunteers, participants, exhibitors, committee members, judges, event officials, venue management, etc.
3. Members shall follow AKC and CCA policies and guidelines while attending events. Failure to do so will result in an Event Committee Hearing.
4. No puppies under 6 months old shall be brought into any CCA event space unless an AKC event is being held that allows a specific exemption (such as 4-6-month puppy competition) and the puppy is entered.
5. Members shall comply with all AKC and CCA guidelines on unentered dogs.
6. No unentered puppies or dogs shall be brought to any CCA event solely to be sold. If a member makes arrangements with a buyer to deliver a sold puppy or dog when traveling to CCA events, arrangements for said transfer must be made away from the event venue.

C. Social Media

1. Introduction: The Collie Club of America Board understands the role social media plays in our lives and in helping promote the CCA, but it is important to understand that blogs, FaceBook, Instagram, X, chat groups, etc. are essentially public domain venues. What is posted or shared on these sites is not only a direct reflection on the poster, but on the clubs and organizations that poster represents. In the current anti-breeder and anti-pure-bred climate, it is especially important to project a positive image of our sport, our Collies, our Club, and our members.
2. CCA online communities should be informative and enjoyable for all members. Members should be aware of personal responsibility when posting to social media sites, especially when non-members might be privy to those conversations.
3. Communication between members shall be appropriate, respectful, constructive, and correct.
4. On CCA specific sites posts that do not meet CCA conduct standards shall be removed by the moderator(s).
5. Members are encouraged to share materials promoting CCA events and public outreach such as links to CCA educational material from the website, premium lists, dates of national and regional AKC approved events, seminars, Meet the Breed events, and CCA Outreach.
6. No information posted on a member-only forum such as CCA News and Communique shall be shared externally without the authority and/or express permission to do so.
7. Members should avoid public comment or action intended to impugn the integrity of members of the CCA including its Officers, Directors, and/or Committees. Concerns and suggestions for improvement should be brought to the attention of the appropriate CCA committee, Director, and/or CCA Board Officer.

I have read the above *Code of Conduct* and agree to abide by it as a CCA member:

_____ Signature