

## Code of Ethics

Revised 4/22/2010

### I. Responsibilities of Members

- a. Read and familiarize yourself with the American Staffordshire Terrier Club breed standard for the American Staffordshire Terrier that is approved by the American Kennel Club. Support and abide by the rules of the American Staffordshire terrier Club and the American Kennel Club.
- b. Appreciate the unique nature of the American Staffordshire terrier and try to develop the characteristics this dog has inherited through selective breeding (intelligence, desire to please, with friendly, outgoing nature towards people.) Cull all shy or timid dogs from breeding programs
- c. Assume the responsibility of proper feeding, maintenance, health care and training at all times.
- d. Always conduct yourself in a manner that will reflect credit on yourself and the breed. Refrain from public criticism or malicious degrading of others or their dogs.
- e. Participate within one's own means in the defense against canine legislation discriminatory or injurious to the welfare of the American Staffordshire Terrier and all purebred dogs.
- f. Never knowingly sell or place an American Staffordshire terrier with unethical persons or those who would not provide proper and humane care to the dog. Refuse to sell any American Staffordshire Terrier to any pet shop or any wholesale dealer in dogs.
- g. Should you become aware of the mistreatment, abuse, or need for relocation of an American Staffordshire Terrier, make every effort to be of assistance by notifying the breeder of the dog involved, the local authorities and helping in any other way in which you are able.
- h. Always try to be faithful to the STCA, and uphold this code. Public slandering of the club, or its Board of Directors as a whole, is in direct breach of this Code of Ethics.

### II. Responsibilities of Breeders/ Brood Bitch/ Stud Dog

- a. Do not breed American Staffordshire Terriers that are not registered by the American Kennel Club or by kennel clubs recognized by the American Kennel Club or kennel clubs recognized by the American Kennel Club.
- b. Strive in each breeding to improve the breed according to the AST breed standard. Conscientiously plan every breeding based on parents of appropriate temperament, appearance, and other desirable qualities.
- c. Be aware of genetic defects which can be harmful to the breed. When breeding, endeavor to select animals that will reduce the incidence of genetic problems, while enhancing the positive attributes and abilities of the breed. Be open with all people interested in the welfare of the American Staffordshire Terrier and discuss physical or temperament defects in your own stock.
- d. Do not breed any bitch which is not mature (never before the third heat) and in good health. Do not breed any male that is not mature or at least twelve (12) months of age. Do not allow puppies to go to their new homes until at least 7 weeks of age.
- e. If a bitch is to be bred twice consecutively, she must be allowed a full year of rest before being bred again.
- f. Act responsibly toward all puppies produced by your brood bitch or stud for the lifetime of the puppies. Recommend that the breeder encourage the owner to contact the breeder if he or she can no longer keep a dog at any time in the dog's life.
- g. Understand that the written contracts are strongly recommended for all transactions such as sales, guarantees, co-ownerships, breeding rights agreements, bitch leases, stud services, etc. Keep accurate records and pedigrees and give new owners registration papers or forward as soon as possible.
- h. Use and promote the use of the American Kennel Club non-breeding registration on pet quality puppies which are sold or placed by you.

