

PYRENEAN SHEPHERD CLUB OF AMERICA CODE OF ETHICS



The Pyrenean Shepherd Club of America exists to improve and protect the breed and these aims should be uppermost in the minds and actions of its members.

Members shall demonstrate good sportsmanship and behave in a manner that will be conducive to the advancement of our breed and the Pyrenean Shepherd Club of America, with the welfare of the dog always being the foremost concern.

TREATMENT OF PYRENEAN SHEPHERDS

All Pyrenean Shepherds in the care of members will be provided a clean, healthy environment, and given proper nutrition and veterinary care. Because the Pyrenean Shepherd breed is not suited to a kennel environment, members will assure that all their Pyrenean Shepherds receive individual attention on a daily basis. All Pyrenean Shepherds should be given training and socialization with humans and other animals sufficient to enable them to become well-adjusted assets to society.

BREEDING

1. Members recognize that anyone breeding Pyrenean Shepherds, whether by offering stud service or producing a litter from their own bitch, bears great responsibility to the future of the breed. The ultimate goal of the responsible breeder should be to produce sound, attractive, healthy puppies with good temperaments, whether for pet or show. Breeders should have a basic knowledge of genetics, the breed, dog breeding in general, and the specific faults and virtues of their chosen genetic lines. They should also be aware of potential health problems, associated both with the breed itself, and the specific lines. Motivation for breeding the Pyrenean Shepherd should be the improvement of the breed, and not solely for financial gain.

2. Pyrenean Shepherds used for breeding should conform as closely as possible to the breed standard. Both parents should be screened for discoverable genetic defects prior to breeding, including, but not limited to, the screenings recommended by the PSCA to receive a CHIC number. (See: <http://www.caninehealthinfo.org/brdreqs.html?breed=PS> for the specific requirements.) Recognizing that no dog is genetically perfect; that maintaining a rich and diverse gene pool is important for the long-term health of the breed; and that good breeding decisions must balance many factors, it is suggested that breeders give the highest health priority to selection against heritable disorders that significantly decrease quality of life and that have the greatest likelihood for improvement through careful breeding decisions. PSCA members' highest motivation is their love for their dogs, and difficult decisions should be resolved in a manner that places the best interests of the dogs and the breed at the forefront. In the rare case of using dogs with genetic defects, it is imperative that all abnormal test results (along with inherent risks) must be made available to all persons involved in the litter, including puppy buyers.

3. Members are encouraged to sell all dogs that are not intended for breeding or conformation exhibition with a Limited Registration.

4. Members will take responsibility for all the dogs they produce. Members understand that if sufficient good homes with responsible owners are not found in the form of puppy buyers or adoptive homes, it is incumbent upon the breeder to keep all unplaced puppies of his production and provide them with proper care and attention. Members should also be willing to take back any dog they have produced at any time during its life.

5. Members will safeguard their Pyrenean Shepherds from unplanned breedings.

6. Members will not allow any bitch in their care to be bred before her second heat or under the age of 18 months. A normal bitch (i.e. having a six month cycle) should not be bred more than 2 out of 3 consecutive seasons.

SALES

1. Members shall make every effort to educate all interested persons and to represent the breed honestly to prospective buyers.

2. Breeders will be discriminating in the sale of puppies and adult dogs. They will be particularly concerned with the type of homes in which their dogs are placed. No member will engage in the wholesaling of litters, or in the sale of any Pyrenean Shepherd to pet shops, dealers, catalog houses, or other commercial establishments involved in the reselling of dogs; nor will any Pyrenean Shepherd be donated or given as a prize in contests, raffles, or fundraising events, no matter how charitable.

3. Before agreeing to sell a Pyrenean Shepherd, breeders will educate potential buyers about the temperament and qualities of the Pyrenean Shepherd, and about its grooming, training and exercise needs. Breeders will also determine the capability and intention of the potential buyer to provide proper care and an appropriate environment for a Pyrenean Shepherd for its entire natural life. Breeders will refuse to place a Pyrenean Shepherd with any potential owner who does not appear well suited to owning a Pyrenean Shepherd.

4. Breeders will be available to buyers for whatever reasonable advice, aid, and assistance they may need for the life of that dog.

5. All agreements should be in writing, and be clearly understood by all parties. Dogs should be guaranteed against serious hereditary afflictions and replacements or dollar refunds offered, where necessary. The agreement should specify whether dogs will have "Full" or "Limited" registration.

6. When transferring possession of a puppy or adult dog, the breeder will follow these guidelines:

- a) Each dog sold will be, to the best of the seller's knowledge, in good health, free of parasites, and will have had adequate immunization for its age. Records detailing all dates and types of medical care given to the dog will be supplied to the buyer.
- b) Breeder will provide written instructions to the buyer on the feeding, health, training, and grooming needed for the proper care of the puppy/ dog.
- c) Puppy must be a minimum age of 7 weeks old, unless a minimum age of 8 weeks old is required by law, before leaving the breeder.
- d) Breeder will supply a pedigree of no less than 3 generations.