

# **NORTH OF ENGLAND BALMUTIAN CLUB**

## **CODE OF ETHICS 2016/17**

**ALL CLUB MEMBERS OF THE NORTH OF ENGLAND BALMUTIAN CLUB SHALL ABIDE BY THIS CODE OF ETHICS.**

### **Club Member.**

- 1) Will properly house, feed, water and exercise all dogs under their care and arrange for appropriate veterinary attention if and when required.
- 2) Will agree without reservation that any veterinary surgeon performing an operation on any of their dogs which alters the natural conformation of the animal, or who carries out a caesarean section on a bitch, may report such operation to the Kennel Club Ltd.
- 3) Will agree that no healthy puppy will be culled. Puppies which may not conform to the Breed Standard should be placed in suitable homes.
- 4) Will abide by all aspects of the Animal Welfare Act.
- 5) Will not create demand for, nor supply, puppies that have been docked illegally.
- 6) Will agree not to breed from a dog or bitch which could be in any way harmful to the dog or to the breed.
- 7) Will not allow any of their dogs to roam at large or to cause a nuisance to neighbours or those carrying out official duties.
- 8) Will ensure that their dogs wear properly tagged collars and will be kept leashed or under effective control when away from home.
- 9) Will clean up after their dogs in public places or anywhere their dogs are being exhibited.
- 10) Will only sell dogs where there is a reasonable expectation of a happy and healthy life and will help with the re-homing of a dog if the initial circumstances change.
- 11) Will supply written details of all dietary requirements and give guidance concerning responsible ownership when placing dogs in a new home.
- 12) Will ensure that all relevant Kennel Club Ltd. documents are provided to the new owner when selling or transferring a dog, and will agree, in writing, to forward any relevant documents at the earliest opportunity, if not immediately available.
- 13) Will not sell any dog to commercial dog wholesalers, retail pet dealers or directly or indirectly allow dogs to be given as a prize or donation in a competition of any kind. Will not sell by sale or auction Kennel Club Ltd. registration certificates as standalone items (not accompanying a dog).
- 14) Will not knowingly misrepresent the characteristics of the breed nor falsely advertise dogs nor mislead any person regarding the health or quality of a dog.
- 15) A Club, whose membership is so varied in every way, necessitates many kinds of activity to suit all tastes; but the dignity and prestige of the breed and Members should be upheld in whatever circumstances.

With an ever changing membership, amongst whom are numbered not only dog lovers of many years standing, but many who are newcomers to the world of dogs, it is considered that a Club Code of Ethics is appropriate and helpful to us all.

It is appreciated that this will not eliminate the many wrong practices which we all know exist, but it does create a common basis for us all. We have tried, as concisely as possible, to set out our thoughts under the following headings.

1. BREEDERS      2. EXHIBITORS      3. JUDGES      4. ALL MEMBERS

## **1. BREEDERS**

The Purpose of Breeding. All breeding shall be aimed at improvement of the breed.

The future of the Dalmatian is in the breeder's hands. Breeding should be from healthy stock of good temperament. It is therefore of paramount importance that all breeding stock is kept in peak condition with good food, plenty of exercise, and the type of living conditions which lead to a good happy temperament. This applies to stud dogs as well as bitches.

Breeding From Sound Stock. Members shall only breed from healthy stock of good temperament. Members shall only breed from Dalmatian Dogs and Bitches which have been Brainstem Auditory Evoked Response (BAER) hearing tested, carried out by a recognised person of appropriate qualification, as having Bilateral Hearing.

Members undertake and agree to have all surviving puppies bred by them Hearing Tested in accordance with the Kennel Club BAER Health Scheme by a recognised person of appropriate qualification and all results recorded promptly with the Kennel Club. The undertaking shall apply to litters bred by members in a partnership, irrespective of whether or not the other partners are members.

Members agree that, when breeding a litter, their paramount concern will be the welfare of the bitch and her puppies. This is especially true of any bilaterally deaf puppies among those born. Members agree that, in relation to such puppies, they will not pass the care and control of such a puppy to any person unless they are fully satisfied that, the person is completely aware of the special needs of the puppy and understands such a puppy will require additional training and support to provide for these particular needs.

In the current thinking, have you considered the absolute basics of having a litter?

The following criteria should be observed

- a) Is your bitch good enough to breed from?
- b) Are both the dog and the bitch free from known inherited defects?
- c) No bitch should be bred from if she has had 2 caesarean sections.
- d) No bitch should whelp without an interval of at least twelve months since the birth of her last litter.
- e) No bitch should be bred from more than four times.
- f) No bitch should whelp before the age of two years or once she has reached the age of eight years
- g) Have you studied the stud dog and his pedigree in enough detail? i.e. suitability for your line.
- h) Are both dog and bitch in prime health? No animal should ever be bred from which shows aggression or nervousness.
- i) Discuss every aspect of rearing a correct and happy litter, having regard to cost, accommodation, supervision and time, with an experienced breeder.

These paragraphs apply also to the Stud Dog Owner.

## **Stud Dog Owner**

- a) Is your dog good enough to breed from?

- b) Be certain you have checked all the basic points above with the owner of the bitch.
- c) Check that the bitch is correctly registered at the Kennel Club and without restrictions on the registration.
- d) It is the duty of the stud dog owner to visit and check all litters personally and to confirm that the above recommendations have been met. They should always be available to give help and advice, particularly to novice breeders.
- e) It is the duty of the stud dog owner to consider whether the dog is being overused.

Total honesty is essential on both sides concerning background information and knowledge of known faults in previous litters. The resultant puppies will bear the pedigree of both sire and dam, and the owners will carry equal responsibility for their welfare.

It is as much the stud dog owner's responsibility, as that of the brood bitch owner's to ensure these provisions are observed.

### **Care Of A Litter.**

A Member should not breed a litter unless he/she has the time and the facilities to devote proper care and attention to the rearing of puppies and the well being of the dam. A Member should not provide stud dog services unless satisfied the owner of the bitch also has such time and facilities.

### **Sale of Puppies**

The breeder should check prospective purchasers for suitability and inform them of the characteristics of the Dalmatian and the responsibilities of dog ownership.

- a) It is wise to have some puppy enquiries before contemplating a litter.
- b) Question prospective buyers closely and, if possible, arrange for the whole family to visit you and meet the adult dogs. If you feel it advisable, arrange a visit to their home, either by yourself, the owner of the stud dog, or the District Representative.
- c) Make sure the puppy will not be left alone for long periods at a time.
- d) Enquire as to the adequate facilities for exercising. Is there a fully enclosed garden?
- e) Children must be taught to respect animals. If there are young children or a baby is expected, be sure to discuss any possible problems thoroughly.
- f) Do not pass your puppy on until you can be sure it will receive kind and sufficient attention in every respect. It is essential that all new owners should feel able to return to the breeder for help and advice and, in case of disaster, for practical help on re-homing.
- g) When selling puppies abroad, use the facilities of the Club to check on prospective owners; check what will happen to the dog if a show career proves unsuccessful. No dog should be sold to countries where they are not protected by Anti Cruelty Laws.
- h) When selling puppies in this country, the same standards apply. Explain any faults and also the changes, both for better and for worse that can take place from eight weeks onwards! Total honesty is essential in every respect.

## **2. EXHIBITORS**

Dogs do not ask to be exhibited. They will do so willingly, and in return should be given that care and attention which makes it a pleasure for them.

Note the following points:

- a) Give ample opportunity to empty out before a journey and again before going on the bench and into the ring.
- b) Supply a comfortable mattress or bench rug.
- c) A coat may be necessary on a draughty bench, or when going from an overheated hall into a cold wind.
- d) Provide regular opportunities for exercise.

- e) If you must leave your dog unattended on the bench, check back regularly to ensure he is neither in trouble nor causing it.

By these and other means, you can alleviate the tedium and discomfort of a day cooped up on a bench. Above all, appreciate and allay the fears, which a puppy or novice dog must suffer at his first shows. A serious shock at this stage may never be forgotten.

There are some who should not be at a show at all, most particularly bitches in whelp or those in season. No animal, which is chronically nervous or bad tempered, should appear in the ring.

In the show ring, present your dog and yourself in immaculate condition. Watch to see what the judge will require and ensure that neither you nor your dog interferes with any other. Treat your dog calmly and kindly – he is there only to please you, not to obtain prizes. Do not allow disappointment to mar your behaviour either to your dog or to other exhibitors, and certainly not to the judge. Malicious comments regarding the judging, other exhibitors or their dogs is totally unacceptable either in the ring or outside it.

### **3. JUDGES**

All dogs should be treated with the utmost gentleness, and puppies in particular should only receive the quietest and kindest of handling. Each exhibitor should be treated courteously and have the full attention of the judge.

Judges come under very close scrutiny, and it is of the first importance that fair dealing is not only done but is seen to be done. By their own demeanour, both in and out of the ring, judges can create the right atmosphere and at the same time must be aware of all activities in their ring.

In addition to the Kennel Club Regulations regarding judging appointments, the following points should be considered:

- a) A written report to be produced for every show.
- b) Members should avoid canvassing for judging appointments and wait to be asked.

### **4. ALL MEMBERS**

Whether or not a dog is shown, it must be realised that it is always a pet and must be treated as such. When undertaking the ownership of a dog, you also assume total responsibility for its happiness and well being and, equally important, for its behaviour both in and out of your home. Dogs prosper on a happy interesting life, with good food, plenty of exercise, the right discipline and, above all, a great deal of love. Moreover, all Dalmatians crave human companionship. Those whose dogs do not live in the house should pay particular attention to ensuring that their pets enjoy the items listed in the two previous sentences.

Do not leave the dog at home for hours unattended. If you have children, particularly toddlers do be sure the dog has a “get-away” place, which is totally forbidden to the children. Take time to teach your pet dog the rules of good behaviour too. He can then take his place as a much-loved member of the family and not have to be shut away because his own naughtiness creates a problem. Take your dog to a training class. A short course of lessons will teach you as well as the dog!

It is essential that veterinary assistance should always be used whenever an animal, of any age, has to be put down.

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It should be remembered that, together with the dogs, we enjoy a marvellous sport and hobby. Owners can be hurt to the core by spiteful comment or condemnation in the ring from the judges. To each and

every dog lover their animals are precious, and we destroy ourselves as well as others when employing malicious comment, whether regarding stud dogs, bitches, litters, or even their owners.

Breed Clubs are formed for the benefit and furtherance of the breed and the reputation of that breed is dictated by the behaviour of the Members.

The **North of England Dalmatian Club** expects all of its Members concerned with breeding, acquisition or disposal of Dalmatians to conduct their business in an ethical manner whilst at the same time conforming to the Rules of the **North of England Dalmatian Club** and the Kennel Club Ltd. Overseas Members are expected to follow this code whilst conforming to the rules governing their Kennel Club.

If an alleged breach of these provisions is reported to the Club, this shall result in the Club undertaking an investigation that may result in the appropriate relevant action being taken.

Breach of these provisions may result in expulsion from club membership, and/or disciplinary action by the Kennel Club Ltd. and/or reporting to the relevant authorities for legal action, as appropriate.

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