

GALRC Code of Ethics

This code has been established in accordance with the objectives of the Greater Atlanta Labrador Retriever Club and is set forth as a guideline to protect and advance the health, interest and working ability of the Labrador Retriever by maintaining high breeding standards, and by encouraging sportsmanlike competition at official American Kennel Club events.

GENERAL

As an aid in understanding the Labrador Retriever, the GALRC recommends that members adhere to the following practices:

1. Learn and understand the AKC Standard for the Labrador Retriever and breed with the intention of conforming to it.
2. Agree to and acknowledge that the Labrador is only three colors: Black, Yellow & Chocolate.
3. Strongly encourage spaying /neutering of non-breeding animals at the appropriate age.

BREEDING

As an aid in evaluating the suitability of potential stud dogs and brood bitches, the GALRC recommends that members adhere to the following practices:

1. Breed only with the intentions of improving the breed and the assurances of finding suitable homes for all puppies.
2. Select only healthy AKC Stud dogs and Brood bitches that are good representatives of the Breed, and which are:
 - a. examined annually and certified free of inheritable eye disease by a board certified veterinary ophthalmologist.
 - b. after 24 months of age are certified radiographically free of hip dysplasia by the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals (OFA) or other recognized registry. This certification may include OFA numbers or evaluations.
 - c. breeder will follow the current LRC guidelines for breed health related testing and understand the evolving availability of tests and tools.
 - d. breed only animals that are dilute free, either tested or known clear via parentage.
3. Breed only mature bitches and provide facilities for excellent pre- and post-natal care for both the dam and the puppies. Whelping brood bitches more than once in a calendar year on a regular basis is strongly discouraged.
4. Refusal to breed a stud dog or a brood bitch to any dog which is markedly inferior physically or temperamentally and qualify your refusal.

HEALTH

The owner shall maintain the best possible standards of canine nutrition, health, cleanliness, and veterinary care, including mental health and proper socialization. Neglect or abuse of any dog in the care of a member will not be tolerated.

SALES

The owner/breeder shall:

1. Not breed, sell or consign puppies or adults to pet shops, commercial dealers, brokers, mail order houses or wholesale outlets.
2. Strongly encourage spaying /neutering of non-breeding animals. Limited registration is highly recommended.
3. Only release puppies to their new homes/owners once it is safe to do so; they are health checked by a licensed veterinarian; and the buyer is furnished details of feeding, general care, current and future medical inoculations, pedigree, etc. Owner/breeder shall also guarantee the general health of the puppy/dog at the time of the sale. Owner/breeder shall also recommend that the new owner seek veterinary attention in a reasonable time frame after the sale.
4. Screen all prospective puppy buyers to assure that the puppies will have a safe and loving home.
5. Follow up after the sale of puppies to ensure their continued care and to encourage the owners to become involved in purebred dog activities.
6. Comply with the terms of any contract or guarantee, written or otherwise, unless just cause for noncompliance can be shown.

SPORTSMANSHIP

Owners/breeders should always conduct themselves in a manner which will reflect credit upon themselves, Labrador Retrievers, and other individuals involved in the sport of purebred dogs, regardless of their location or circumstances.

Each new member must sign and date the GALRC Code of Ethics before their application will be considered.

Name (First Last): _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____