

## THE NEWFOUNDLAND CLUB CODE OF ETHICS

All members of The Newfoundland Club undertake to abide by its general Code of Ethics.

### **Club members:**

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, may report such operation to the Kennel Club.
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 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 registration certificates as stand alone 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.

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

KC/GJ September 2008

Newfoundland owners must, at all times, strive for the perfection and well being of the breed and, by their care, training and handling of their dogs, do all they can to enhance the breed's reputation as a trustworthy family companion.

### **BREEDER'S CHARTER**

Should breeders find hereditary problems occurring in their stock, they must be honest and open about it, to ensure that the diseases are not knowingly perpetuated. They should also agree, without reservation, that any veterinary surgeon operating on their dogs, to correct an hereditary defect, may report such an operation to the Kennel Club and to the Club.

**AS A BREEDER OF NEWFOUNDLANDS,** I will adhere to the Kennel Club Code of Ethics, and any Newfoundland Club Code of Ethics in force, at all times, in addition, I will ....

1. Always strive for the well-being and improvement of the breed and do all I can to enhance the Newfoundland's reputation as a sound and trustworthy family companion.
2. Be aware of the inherited skeletal and heart problems within the breed and undertake to screen all Newfoundlands which are intended to be bred from and refrain from a mating which may perpetuate genetic defects. Provide the Honorary Secretary of The Newfoundland Club with the results of any health screening tests carried out.
3. Not allow any Newfoundland owned by me or in my care to be mated with another breed nor any Newfoundland not registered with the Kennel Club.
4. Breed only from bitches which conform, as near as possible to the Breed Standard and are of good character.
  - (a) A bitch must not whelp a litter before 12 calendar months have elapsed since the date of the previous whelping.
  - (b) Not whelp a bitch before her second birthday.
  - (c) Not allow a bitch to whelp after her seventh birthday.
  - (d) Not mate a bitch for the first time in her life after her fifth birthday.
5. I understand that only in extenuating circumstances, supported by written veterinary evidence and with the prior consent of the Club Committee, can exceptions be made.
6. Not breed a litter unless I have the time & facilities to devote proper care to the welfare of the bitch and her puppies, for as long as necessary.
7. Not breed a litter unless I am reasonably sure that suitable homes are already arranged.

8. Refrain from any mating which might reasonably be anticipated to produce colours or colour combinations not included in the breed Standard.
9. Not allow puppies to leave my premises before the age of seven weeks and not before having a health check by a veterinary surgeon.
10. Screen all prospective owners of my stock for suitability, before agreeing a sale.
11. Advise all new owners of breed characteristics and needs, as regards grooming, exercise, diet, housing & training. I will do all I can to ensure that prospective owners are made aware of the disadvantages of the breed, as regards size, mess and cost, before allowing them to commit themselves to a purchase.
12. Not knowingly sell a Newfoundland to a home where it will habitually be left on its own.
13.
  - (a) Supply buyers with a five-generation pedigree, on which all relevant colours & recessive colours, as well as all known information regarding health screening of the dogs named therein will be given. This should include all hip & heart scores, as well as elbow scores, if available.
  - (b) Provide details of any veterinary treatment a dog has had before leaving my care.
  - (c) Provide a diet sheet, together with information on training, inoculation, worming & other health care and also advise on the advantages of insurance.
  - (d) Provide Kennel Club Registration & Transfer certificates as soon as possible and no later than three months after the date of purchase.
14. Endorse with “Not for Export” and “Progeny not eligible for Registration” the pedigrees of all Newfoundland’s bred & sold by me. The endorsement may only be rescinded by me and the purchaser is to be advised of this and all other conditions of sale, **in writing**, before the sale is completed. (It is now a KC requirement that this clause is agreed, in writing, by all parties to the sale)
15. Not knowingly supply a Newfoundland to a laboratory or for experimental purposes or for resale to a dealer. (A dealer is defined as a person who acquires puppies or adults with the intention of selling them for profit).
16. Encourage owners of dogs bred by me to keep me informed of their animal’s health & progress and to contact me if they have any problems. I will provide them with every possible advice & assistance.
17. Be prepared to take back and either keep or re-home stock bred by me, only using the Breed Welfare Schemes as a last resort.
18. Not sell dogs to countries which do not have reciprocal agreements with the Kennel Club or which, by reason of climate or philosophy, are unsuitable for Newfoundlands.

**IN ADDITION, AS A STUD DOG OWNER, I WILL ....**

19. Not provide the services of my dog to any bitch unregistered at the Kennel Club, nor to a bitch of a different breed.
20. Ensure that any bitch to be brought to my dog for mating conforms to the Breed Standard, is in good physical condition, of good character, has been screened for hereditary diseases and that the result of such screening are known to me and have been submitted to the Honorary Secretary of the Newfoundland Club. Also ensure that the bitch conforms to the conditions listed in Paragraph 5 of this Charter.
21. Undertake that any dog offered by me at stud is of good character, conforms to the Breed Standard, has been screened for all known hereditary diseases and that the results of such screening have been made available to the Honorary Secretary of the Newfoundland Club.
22. Take all reasonable steps to ensure that the owners of any bitch brought to me for mating have the time, facilities & knowledge to care for the mother & her puppies and that they have homes arranged for the puppies.
23. Refrain from any mating which might reasonably be anticipated to produce colours or colour combinations which are not included in the Breed Standard.
24. “Stud dog must have a colour-flow echo Doppler examination by a veterinary surgeon with a diploma in veterinary cardiology (DVC) prior to their first use at stud”.

#### i. BREEDING

All breeding stock must be screened prior to being mated for the first time.

Breeding should always be undertaken with the maintenance and improvement of the breed in mind and should not be primarily for financial gain. Matings should be planned selectively.

1. Owners should be aware of the Hip Dysplasia & Heart problems within the breed and arrange to have all breeding stock screened & officially scored. (Ideally dogs with high scores should NOT be bred from). This will be done with the BVA/KC Hip Dysplasia Scoring Scheme and the Veterinary Cardiologists Scoring Scheme with the aim of eradicating these diseases from the breed. Owners will also comply with item C. of the Membership Application form giving permission for these results to be published. Details of litters for sale will be passed on to prospective buyers only where proof has been provided that both parents have been through the BVA/KC Hip Scoring & Heart Schemes.
2. Before breeding, all stock should be thoroughly screened for any other genetic defect and a careful analysis of the conformation, pedigree, temperament and known hereditary and genetic defects of the Sire and Dam be made by the owners.
3. The Cystinuria status of all breeding stock should be determined by D.N.A. test prior to first mating.

## ii. STUD DOGS

- a). No owner shall provide the services of a stud dog knowing that the conditions of the Newfoundland Breed Code of Ethics and Breeders Charter may be breached.

### b) Recommendations for the screening of Newfoundlands for the Presence of Genetic Heart Defects.

The main genetic heart conditions of concern in the Newfoundland Dog are Subvalvular Aortic Stenosis (SAS) and Dilated Cardiomyopathy (DCM). SAS is present from birth, but DCM will not develop until some later time of life (anything from 18 months onward). In the absence of a DNA test for either of these diseases, clinical examination to detect the presence of either disease, by a suitably qualified Veterinary Surgeon, must suffice.

**Auscultation** (Stethoscope Test) is the simplest method of screening for the presence of SAS (generally, this test is not capable of auscultating DCM). However, this test is not absolutely fail safe and a proportion of dogs with mild SAS will not be identified by this method.

**Colour-flow echo-Doppler examination** (echocardiography) is a more reliable method of diagnosis for heart defects. The anatomy of the inside of the heart can be visualised and the efficiency of contraction and speed of blood flow within the heart can be measured. As well as identifying animals with SAS, this technique will also identify those dogs which have developed signs of DCM (and other heart abnormalities).

### TO REDUCE THE PERPETUATION OF GENETIC HEART DISEASE IN NEWFOUNDLAND DOGS;

- i. All breeding stock must be screened prior to being mated for the first time.
- ii. All animals must be at least 12 months old at the time of screening.
- iii. Prior to mating for the first time ALL breeding stock **must** have a colour-flow echo-Doppler examination performed by a Veterinary Surgeon with a Diploma in Veterinary Cardiology (DVC)\* prior to their first use at stud. **Only animals with an anatomically normal Aortic valve and a blood flow across the Aortic valve of no greater than 1.7 metres per second, and showing no evidence of any other inherited disease such as Patent Ductus Arteriosus (PDA) or Dilated Cardiomyopathy (DCM), should be considered for breeding.**
- iv. **ALL OTHER NEWFOUNDLAND BREEDING STOCK**  
The Newfoundland Club strongly recommends that **all other Newfoundland breeding stock** (brood bitches and dogs used at stud prior to March 2000) should undergo a colour-flow echo-Doppler examination performed by a Veterinary Surgeon with a Diploma in Veterinary Cardiology (DVC)\*. **Only animals with an anatomically normal Aortic valve and a blood flow across the Aortic valve of no greater than 1.7 metres per second, and showing no evidence of any other inherited disease such as Patent Ductus Arteriosus (PDA) or Dilated Cardiomyopathy (DCM), should be considered for breeding.**
- v. Alternatively, the less reliable screening method of auscultation may be employed as a first indicator of heart status. Veterinary surgeons must have either a Certificate in Veterinary Cardiology (Cert. VC) a Certificate in small animal Cardiology (Cert. SAC) or Diploma in Veterinary Cardiology (DVC). Where a score is 1/6 or higher,

examination by echocardiography is recommended to determine the cause of the murmur.

- vi As Newfoundlands that have inherited the gene for DCM may develop the disease at any point throughout their lives, it is recommended that breeding stock undergo a colour-flow echo-Doppler examination (performed by a Veterinary Surgeon with a Diploma in Veterinary Cardiology (DVC)\* every two years. ***Those animals which have developed signs of DCM since their last colour-flow echo-Doppler examination should not be bred from.***
- vii Newfoundlands which a Veterinary Cardiologist identifies as having 'equivocal' results may be considered for breeding, *provided the animal is reassessed within 2 years and any progeny are also evaluated as soon as is practicable.*

\* Colour-flow echo-Doppler examination performed by a Veterinary Surgeon with a Certificate in Veterinary Cardiology (Cert.VC) or a Certificate in Small Animal Cardiology (Cert SAC) is an acceptable alternative ONLY IF the vet has undergone further training (in echo-Doppler technique) and has been assessed and 'accredited' by the Veterinary Cardiovascular Society.

#### IV. BITCHES

4. Owners must refrain from breeding from a bitch more than twice in twenty-four months, or whelping prior to two years of age or after her seventh birthday. Nor should she be bred from for the first time over the age of five years. Only in extenuating circumstances and with Veterinary approval obtained in writing, should exceptions be made by application to the Committee.
5. No owner should breed a litter unless they have the time and facilities to devote proper care and attention to the rearing of the puppies and the well-being of the dam. No owner shall provide stud service unless they are satisfied that the owner of the bitch has such time & facilities.
6. No owner should breed a litter unless they are reasonably sure of finding suitable homes for the puppies. No puppies should leave the breeder before the age of SEVEN weeks.
7. Prospective owners of puppies should be screened for suitability, advised of breed characteristics, the need for grooming, exercise and specialised feeding as a puppy, also the advantages & disadvantages of raising and owning a Newfoundland. No puppy should be sold to a home where it will be habitually without human company.
8. Should breeders find hereditary problems occurring in their stock, they should be honest and open about it to ensure that it is not unknowingly perpetuated.

#### TRANSFER OF STOCK

9. A buyer should be supplied with a signed five generation pedigree, giving date of registration, colours of all dogs and recessive colours carried, if known, noted thereon. It is also recommended that the BVA/KC Hip & Heart Scores are included on the pedigree.

Information on inoculations, worming, other veterinary care that the puppy or dog has had is to be supplied.

Each purchaser to be provided at the time of sale with a diet sheet, information on training, inoculations, worming other veterinary care and the advantages of insurance.

The breeder to provide Kennel Club Registration and Transfer Certificates as soon as possible, but no later than three months after date of purchase.

No owner shall knowingly sell a Newfoundland to a Laboratory nor any known retail or wholesale pet dealer. Members will not knowingly sell to Countries with unsuitable climates & questionable treatment of animals. At the discretion of the Committee (and unanimous vote of those present at such a meeting) a member breaking this rule shall cease to be a member under paragraph 9(b). Such action will be confirmed by members at a Special General Meeting of the Club. Nor should stud services be provided for such persons. No Newfoundland should be sold or offered as a prize in a raffle or competition, nor auctioned. NB. A dealer is defined as any person who regularly buys puppies with the intention of selling them for a profit. A person who buys a puppy as an agent for a known individual is not necessarily a dealer.

10. All puppies should have its/their registration endorsed by the breeder at the Kennel Club 'Progeny not for Registration'. The registration should also be endorsed 'Not for Export'. This can be rescinded by the breeder. The purchaser must be advised of this condition of sale, in writing, before purchase has been completed, and advised of the conditions for lifting this.
- 11 It is recommended that a Sale of Agreement is signed by both parties prior to sale of puppies.

#### BEHAVIOUR

- 12 A breeder should encourage a new owner to liaise with them in order that information may be forthcoming on the Newfoundland's progress.
- 13 Newfoundland owners shall at all times exhibit good sportsmanship, and the more experienced owners and breeders shall be ready to give help to newcomers when asked to make their knowledge & experience available for the good of the breed.
- 14 Breeders should be responsible for the stock which they have bred and sold and should be prepared to take back and either keep or rehouse dogs of their own breeding. If this is not possible, breeders would be ideally expected to make a donation to welfare to defray the expenses incurred and only use the Breed Welfare Scheme as a last resort. However, all Newfoundland owners MUST be aware of their responsibility to the breed as a whole, by reporting to the nearest representative of a Newfoundland Welfare Scheme any dog they consider requires help.