



# Code Of Ethics

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**All members of the RMIWA must abide by the following Code of Ethics.**

This code is designed to establish a standard of conduct to be followed by all members of the Rocky Mountain Irish Wolfhound Association in the course of breeding, selling, exhibiting, care and advertising of Irish Wolfhounds. The difficulty of covering all situations is recognized and for this reason, any failure to comply with the intent of this code will be handled in the same manner as a specific violation.

1. **GENERAL.** Each member of the Association will consider the welfare of the breed uppermost when engaged in any activities involving the breeding, exhibiting, care and selling of Irish Wolfhounds, and will refrain from any actions which would be prejudicial to the best interest of the breed and the Association. Every dog should be provided with humane living quarters and personal care as well as adequate veterinarian supervised health care.
2. **BREEDING.**
  - a. All breeding stock shall be in good health and free from communicable disease.
  - b. While X-raying of breeding stock is not mandatory, it is highly recommended. Individuals whose dog or bitch is to be bred to another's are urged to furnish and request such X-rays for the stud and bitch. These X-rays should meet the established Orthopedic Foundation for Animals standards.
  - c. No bitch shall be bred in 3 consecutive heat season. A bitch should have reached a minimum age of 24 months, and it is recommended that she be 30 months old, and at least be in her third season. A bitch should be bred only if in good health.
  - d. Full disclosure by either party of a proposed breeding of what the dog or bitch has previously produced and the background details as known should be provided when requested.
  - e. To breed carefully and with discrimination for the purpose of improving the breed, and to kindly discourage owners from breeding unless they have the facilities, time, and resources to adequately care for a litter. Breed only after a careful study of the breed standard, the basic principles of genetics, and the pedigrees of the pair in question.
  - f. In order to protect all the parties, it is recommended that stud service contracts be in writing and executed by both parties.
  - g. The owner of the stud dog should follow the progress and sale of any puppies resulting from the use of his stud, and insure the well-being of these puppies as he is equally responsible for the resulting litter.
  - h. The owner of the stud dog shall not split the resulting litter in lieu of a stud fee for the primary purpose of resale, as this is considered unethical.
  - i. To breed to the standard as set by the Irish Wolfhound Club of America, and approved by the American Kennel Club.
  - j. It is recommended that both sire & dam have passed the health testing required by IWCA guidelines.
  - k. Irish Wolfhounds without registration papers shall not be used for breeding.
  - l. It is recommended that crossbred litters be neutered. Questions on this matter should be addressed to the Board of Directors.
3. **SALES.**
  - a. No member of the Association shall engage in wholesaling of Irish Wolfhound litters or individual sales of puppies, or adults to pet shops, pet dealers, catalog houses or other commercial establishments, nor shall they be given as prizes in contests nor exploited to the detriment of the breed or of pure-bred dogs.
  - b. All Irish Wolfhounds shall be in good health and condition, free from communicable disease and/or cosmetic alteration. No adult or puppy shall be sold without adequate immunization against disease

in terms of its age.

- c. It is recommended the breeder retain breeding control of all puppies sold that are not sold on the AKC Limited Register.
- d. Any puppy sold which subsequently develops a congenital or disqualifying defect attributable to the breeding shall be:
  - i. replaced by the breeder with another puppy; or
  - ii. the money refunded and the dog returned to the breeder; or
- e. A puppy or adult showing serious deviation from the standard, rendering it unsuitable for breeding, shall be sold only on AKC Limited Registration. All other puppies or adults shall be registered, or shall be eligible for registration with the AKC and the buyer shall be provided with accurate and valid papers.
- f. Any puppy which is deformed or irreversibly ill shall be humanely destroyed.
- g. All potential new owners shall be screened in order to determine their suitability as Irish Wolfhound owners. Special attention shall be paid to matters such as adequate physical facilities and the financial responsibility for proper care.
- h. Every puppy, upon being turned over to its new owner, shall be accompanied by the following items:
  - i. feeding instructions
  - ii. medical records, which shall include immunizations, types of vaccine used, dates of inoculations and date of wormings.
  - iii. a three generation pedigree
  - iv. AKC registration papers for those puppies sold for showing.
  - v. information on available literature about Irish Wolfhounds.
  - vi. A copy of RMIWA Club Membership Application & copy of last RMIWA Hound Pause.
- i. All new owners shall be encouraged to have their puppies checked by a veterinarian within 7 days of taking delivery.
- j. The new owner shall be advised to keep the breeder informed about the development of the puppy, and of any problems which may occur during the life of the dog.
- k. The breeder shall make it clear that he is prepared to take back the dog at any age in the event that the new owner is unable to keep it or find a good, breeder approved new home for it.
- l. Any conditions to a sale should be clearly spelled out in a written agreement so that there be no misunderstandings. This includes co-ownership agreements.
- m. The seller of a pet animal, or a quality animal which will not be shown or bred, should recommend sterilization for the comfort and convenience of both the animal and the owner & in accordance with current accepted veterinary practice.
- n. The breeder shall not release any puppies to a new home until at least 12 weeks of age. Puppies under 12 weeks of age shall never be exported or imported.

#### **4. EXHIBITING.**

- a. All members of the Association shall conduct themselves at all times in a manner which will reflect credit upon themselves and upon the breed, regardless of the location or circumstances, but especially when attending a dog club meeting or show or performance event, whether as an exhibitor or as a spectator, and generally practice good sportsmanship.

- b. Members shall never exhibit an animal which has had cosmetic surgery or alteration in conformation, except for obedience &/or rally, as per AKC regulations.

5. **GENERAL CONDUCT.**

- a. The members of the Association shall:
  - i. make every effort to educate any new owner or interested person, and to be both instructive and constructive in their comments;
  - ii. demonstrate good sportsmanship both inside and outside the show ring at all times;
  - iii. always behave in a manner that will be conducive to the advancement of our breed and our Association;
  - iv. maintain sanitary conditions for their dogs, and provide adequate exercise, the proper diet, and necessary health care;
  - v. conform to all the items regarding placement and sales listed above, should it become necessary to sell, give away, or otherwise place their animal(s);
  - vi. in all questions of ethics not covered by this Code, act in the best interest of the breed.
- b. The members of the Association shall not surgically or otherwise unethically alter the appearance of their hound for showing, breeding or selling. The following are examples of surgical procedures that are considered unethical if done for the purpose of deceptively enhancing the dog:
  - i. removal of congenital skin blemish
  - ii. changing set or carriage of ears –
  - iii. alteration of the location of the testes
  - iv. increasing or decreasing dewlap
  - v. setting or altering carriage of the tail
  - vi. altering the natural dental arcade
  - vii. correcting entropion or ectropion
  - viii. correction of stenotic nares, elongated soft palate, and other congenital impediments to air-flow
  - ix. correction of harelip
  - x. correction of cleft palate
  - xi. correction of orthopedic deformities
  - xii. removing excessive skin folds in any body area
  - xiii. correction of preputial deformities
  - xiv. correction of umbilical or other hernias of genetic origin
  - xv. alteration of body conformation or coloration.

It is unethical for a veterinarian to perform any surgical procedure on a purebred dog for the purpose of concealing a congenital or hereditary abnormality which causes the dog to not conform to its breed standard. It should be pointed out that such surgical operations may be done when the dog's health and welfare are at stake; however, the veterinarian performing these procedures should advise the owner that the dog should be sterilized. If any surgery need be done for the health & wellbeing of the hound, it should be removed from all breeding programs.

In the "Rules Applying to Registration and Dog Shows" by the AKC, Chapter 16 Section 8 states "A dog which is blind, deaf, castrated, spayed, or which has been changed in appearance by artificial means except as specified in the standard for its breed, or a male which does not have two normal testicles normally located in the scrotum, may not compete at any show and will be disqualified except that a castrated male may be entered as Stud Dog in the Stud Dog Class and a spayed bitch may be entered as Brood Bitch in the Brood Bitch Class. A dog will not be considered to have been changed by artificial means because of removal of dew claws or docking of tail if it is of a breed in which such removal or docking is a regularly approved practice which is not contrary to the standard. Neutered dogs and spayed bitches would be allowed to compete in Veterans Classes only at independent specialties and/or those all-breed shows which do not offer any competitive classes beyond Best of Breed."

c. Complete and accurate breeding records shall be maintained as follows as required by the AKC:

i. For the Sire and Dam:

1. AKC registered name, number, and date of whelp.
2. Names and addresses of registered owners.
3. Dates of actual breeding.
4. DNA on sire & dam is recommended by AKC

d. For the Resulting Litter:

- i. Date of whelp and AKC Litter number.
- ii. Number and sex of puppies whelped alive.
- iii. Number and sex of puppies dead at birth.
- iv. Name, sex and registration date for each live puppy.
- v. Name and address of owner of each live puppy.

e. All records should be made available to the Irish Wolfhound Club of America for incorporation into statistical data. All records of this nature are for information purposes only and are kept confidential.

6. **ADVERTISING.** All advertising shall be truthful and ethical. Any claims made must be provable. Fraudulent advertising, misrepresentations or misleading statements shall constitute prima facie evidence of violations of the intents of the Code.
7. **INFRACTIONS.** It is the responsibility of each member to make an inquiry concerning suspected violations of this Code. Violations or infractions of the Code are to be brought to the Board's attention and dealt with in the manner prescribed by the Association's Constitution and By-Laws.

Board members may not take an active part in decisions which personally affect them.

Any member with a possible ethical problem may, at this request, have that problem reviewed by the Board for its recommendations. Furthermore, the Board of Directors may, upon sufficient evidence and under certain conditions where the good of the breed is protected, waive any of the foregoing provisions.