

CODE OF ETHICS

Section I

Purpose

- A. We believe that the welfare of the Polish Tatra Sheepdog breed (Owczarek Podhalanski), and of my own Tattras is of paramount importance. It supersedes any other commitment to Tattras whether that is personal, competitive, or financial.
- B. The Polish Tatra Sheepdog Club of America recognizes its responsibility to preserve, protect, and improve Polish Tatra Sheepdog. It further recognizes that the quality and reputation of the breed rests squarely in the hands of its breeders.
- C. When breeding Polish Tatra Sheepdogs, the emphasis shall be placed upon the working ability and other outstanding qualities of character of this breed as well as upon appearance. It is mandatory that a Code of Ethics be subscribed to by those who are concerned with the propagation of physically, mentally and temperamentally sound Polish Tatra Sheepdogs of proper breed type.
- D. Measures should be taken to acquaint the general public with the contents of this Code so that they may not become innocent partners to improper breeding practices.
- E. The Polish Tatra Sheepdog Club of America is a Club composed of members devoted to the continued betterment of the breed.
- F. We recognize the difficulty of covering all situations and for this reason any failure to comply with the intent of this Code shall be handled in the same manner as a specific violation.

Section II

Breeding

- A. The purpose of breeding the Polish Tatra Sheepdog is to attempt to bring their natural qualities to perfection in accordance with the breed standard. There exists a constant danger that ignorant or disreputable breeders may, by improper practices, produce physically, mentally or temperamentally unsound specimens to the detriment of the breed
- B. Members shall breed only after a careful study of the Breed Standard, the basic principles of genetics, and pedigrees of the pair in question, as well as the dogs themselves.
- C. Members shall refuse to breed from any Polish Tatra Sheepdog known to have an inheritable, disqualifying, disabling, or potentially disabling defect.
- D. Members shall be prepared to provide the proper care for both the bitch and her offspring, and to retain the puppies for as long as it is necessary to assure their placement in suitable homes.
- E. Both the dog and the bitch should test negative for Brucellosis prior to breeding.
- F. Both the dog and the bitch to be bred are both documented purebred Polish Tatra Sheepdogs, and registered through the Polish Tatra Sheepdog Club of America.
- G. The owner of the bitch to be bred agrees to register the resulting litter with the Polish Tatra Sheepdog Club of America.
- H. As the owner of a bitch/dog, members will agree to breed only bitches/dogs that are a minimum age to two and which are healthy.
- I. Members will not permit their bitch to produce litters in three consecutive seasons.
- J. Members will cull puppies from their litters with serious or life threatening deformities that will profoundly affect their quality of life.
- K. Members agree to use for breeding only those Polish Tatra Sheepdogs that are free from hip dysplasia as verified by normal hip x-rays and written veterinary evaluation and certification from the OFA (Orthopedic Foundation for Animals). Puppies resulting from the breeding of non-OFA certified dogs/bitches would only be allowed a "Conditional Registration" with the PTSCA. This "Conditional Registration" is for tracking purposes only and OPs so registered are NOT to be bred. The "Conditional Registration" can be changed at a later date if and when the OP in question certifies with the OFA and this change is authorized by the PTSCA.

- L. All breeding dogs and bitches shall have DNA blood typing performed prior to being bred and all resulting puppies from such a mating will be DNA parentage tested (blood samples only) after having been permanently tattooed in right ear with PTSCA number and prior to leaving the litter to their new homes. DNA testing will be submitted only to Stormont Laboratory in Woodland, CA (or any other laboratory that PTSCA deems acceptable) on a standardized form (obtainable from PTSCA) and results of said tests shall be reported to the breeder and to PTSCA. Failure to tattoo and DNA test will delay or possibly void registrations of the dogs in question.

Section III

Advertising

- A. Advertising by members should be as factual as possible. Misleading exaggeration or unfounded implications of superiority should not be used and all advertising should be worded so as not to attract undesirable buyers or to encourage the raising of purebred Tattas as an easy money scheme.
- B. Members should refrain from making unfair or untrue statements about the dogs or practices of others:
- C. Members shall make every effort to educate every potential new owner or interested person, and to be both instructive and constructive in their comments.

Section IV

Sales

- A. Members agree to use a sales contract or written agreement with the sale or purchase involving a dog. In the sales contract it will be, to the best of the members ability clearly stated to the buyer whether the puppy being sold is of potential show/breeding quality or pet quality type.
- B. Any member selling a puppy or a dog, which he knows to have a physical condition or a serious deviation from the breed standard, which indicates that the breeding of the animal would be detrimental to the welfare of the breed, will so inform the buyer in writing. The sale will be made with an agreement in writing, signed by both buyer and seller, that the dog is not to be bred. Additional agreements pertaining to spaying or neutering of the animal are strongly encouraged
- C. Members will refuse to recommend to or sell to breeders who do not conform to this Code, or to dog wholesalers/dealers and retailers (pet stores). A dealer/wholesaler is defined as a person who regularly buys puppies in the hope of selling them for profit. Further, members agree that they will not provide stud service to an individual who is known to have sold puppies to the above. It is also agreed that dogs will not be donated for raffle purposes or sold to any home if there is reason to believe that the dog would not be properly cared for, or would be used for improper purposes.
- D. Prospective buyers of puppies should be screened for suitability and should be advised of the characteristics of the Polish Tatra Sheepdog.
- E. Buyers of puppies/adult dogs should be given accurate written health, breeding and registration records, and all available pedigree information. All puppies/adult dogs should be sold only in good health and a certificate of health from a veterinarian should accompany each dog when sold.
- F. Members will urge puppy purchasers to provide at least basic obedience training at the proper age.

Section V

Health

- A. Members agree to maintain good standards of health and care for their dogs, including proper worming, inoculations, diet, and routine veterinary care.

Section VI

Conduct

- A. Members will conduct themselves at all times in a manner which will reflect credit upon themselves and the breed, regardless of the location or circumstances but especially when attending dog shows or trials, whether as an exhibitor or spectator.
- B. Members agree that they will not co-own a dog and participate in the breeding of said dog with a person who does not subscribe to and support this Code of Ethics.
- C. If a member becomes aware of the mistreatment, misuse or need for relocation of any Polish Tatra Sheepdog, they will agree to notify any or all of the following for resolution of the problem; Club President or any of the other Officers of the Club or Board of Directors, the correct authorities in the locale where the problem exists or the breeder of said dog (if known).
- D. All members shall be shown a copy of this Code of Ethics when joining, and by the act of joining shall signify their acceptance of this Code in its entirety by their signature on the membership application

Section VII.

Violations and Recourse

- A. It is the responsibility of each member to make an inquiry concerning suspected violations of this Code. Should such a violation appear to exist, the Board of Directors should be notified immediately in writing.
- B. The President shall, at the time of receipt of a complaint, notify the Board member who lives closest to the accused and shall send a copy of the complaint to him/her. An impartial Club member in the same locale shall be chosen to assist in the investigation of the complaint. After a thorough investigation, including direct correspondence with both the complainant and the accused, the investigators will make a written report of their investigation to the President, who will in turn notify the remaining Board Members of the course of the investigation. If it is determined that the complaint has merit, the accused may be directed by registered mail, to comply with the directive, or if the violations are of a serious character, the matter will be turned over to the Board of Directors for disciplinary procedures as set out in the Constitution and By-laws of the PTSCA.
- C. Any member who disagrees with any action taken under this section has the right to appeal that action to the full Board of Directors.
- D. Board members may not take an active part in decisions, which personally affect them.

Section VIII

Exceptions

- It is recognized that legitimate exceptions to this Code of Ethics may arise from time to time. Any member with a possible ethical problem may, at his/her 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