

# POLISH TATRA SHEEP DOG CLUB OF AMERICA

## Code of Ethics



### Section I - Purpose

*The purpose of the Code Of Ethics is to educate the public about the Polish Tatra Sheepdog breed (Owczarek Podhalanski) in order to protect owners and breeders of becoming innocent partners of improper practices. The Code of Ethics is published on the Club's website and available to all. Members belonging to the Polish Tatra Sheepdog Club of America agree to comply to the Code of Ethics.*

- A. The Polish Tatra Sheepdog Club of America (PTSCA) is a Club composed of members devoted to the continued betterment of the Polish Tatra Sheepdog breed (Owczarek Podhalanski). 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.
- B. PTSCA believes that the welfare of the breed is of paramount importance and supersedes any other commitment to Tatra whether personal, competitive, or financial.
- C. PTSCA recognizes that the quality and reputation of the breed rests squarely in the hands of its breeders and owners and as a whole, the PTSCA is responsible to protect and improve the Polish Tatra Sheepdog.
- D. Failure to comply with the intent of this Code shall be handled in the same manner as a specific violation.

### Section II – Health

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

### Section III – Conduct

- A. PTSCA members shall conduct themselves at all times in a manner that reflects credit upon themselves and the breed regardless of the location or circumstances but especially so while attending dog shows or trials either as an exhibitor or spectator.
- B. If a dog is co-owned, PTSCA members agree not to breed the dog if both partners do not subscribe to and support this Code of Ethics.
- C. If a member becomes aware of the mistreatment and/or need of relocation of any Polish Tatra Sheepdog, the member agrees to notify the breeder of said dog (if known), any Officer or Director of the Club or the correct authorities in the locale where the problem exists.
- D. By joining the PTSCA, the member signifies acceptance of this Code of Ethics in its entirety by his/her signature on the membership application. Each new member will be given a copy of the Code.

### Section IV – Advertising

- A. Advertising by members should be as factual as possible. Exaggeration or unfounded implications of superiority are considered misleading. Advertising should not be used to attract undesirable buyers or to encourage the raising of purebred Tatra as an easy money scheme.
- B. Members shall practice truth-in-advertising and refrain from making unfair or untrue statements about the dogs or practices of others.
- C. PTSCA Members shall make every effort to educate all new owners or interested parties by being both instructive and constructive in their comments.

## **Section V – Breeding**

*Because 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 the following guidelines are agreed upon by all members of the PTSCA*

- A. When breeding Polish Tatra Sheepdogs, emphasis shall be placed upon the working ability and other outstanding qualities of character of the breed as well as appearance.
- B. The purpose of breeding the Polish Tatra Sheepdog is to attempt to bring the breed's qualities to perfection in accordance with the breed standard.
- C. 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.
- D. Members shall refuse to breed from any Polish Tatra Sheepdog known to have an inheritable, disqualifying, disabling defect.
- E. Members shall be prepared to provide the proper care for both the bitch and her offspring. The breeder shall retain the puppies for as long as it is necessary to assure their proper placement in suitable homes.
- F. Both the dog and the bitch should test negative for Brucellosis prior to breeding.
- G. Both the dog and the bitch to be bred are both documented/registered purebred Polish Tatra Sheepdogs.
- H. The owner of the bitch to be bred agrees to register the resulting litter.
- I. As the owner of a bitch/dog, a member agrees to breed only bitches/dogs that are a minimum age of two years and which are healthy.
- J. Members will not permit their bitch to produce litters in three consecutive seasons.
- K. Members will cull puppies from their litters with serious or life threatening deformities that will profoundly affect their quality of life.
- L. Members agree to use for breeding only those Polish Tatra Sheepdogs that are free from hip and elbow dysplasia, as verified by normal hip/elbow x-rays after the age of two years with written veterinary evaluation results from the OFA (Orthopedic Foundation for Animals) or PennHip . If a dog is bred on a preliminary OFA or PennHip, a permanent evaluation is required for all dogs bred after 24 months of age.

## **Section VI – Recommendations**

- A. Obtain a DNA profile on all dogs used for breeding.
- B. Permanent Tattoo in the right ear prior to leaving the litter to their new homes.
- C. Refrain from breeding dogs with abnormal thyroid. A Thyroid panel should be taken and sent to a qualified individual or University for results before the first breeding and repeated every two to three years for breeding stock.
- D. Transfer puppies to new owners in accordance with the laws of their state and meeting at least the minimum federal standard for transporting puppies (8 weeks of age).

## **Section VII – Sales**

- A. Members agree to use a sales contract or written agreement with the sale or purchase involving a dog. The sales contract will, to the best of the member's ability, clearly state to the buyer whether the dog being sold is 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 recommended.
- C. PTSCA 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 VIII – 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 PTSCA 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 the 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 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 IX – 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