

# **The Hunt, Point & Retrieve Gundog Association - Code of Ethical Practice**

All members of the H.P.R.G.A. 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, or who carries out a caesarean section on a bitch, 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.
  - Compliance with the Code of Ethics and the law when away from home i.e. not at Kennel Club licensed events covered by the show/trial regulation.
  - Compliance with Kennel Club regulations when competing at a licensed event.
- 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 rehoming 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.

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Members of the HPRGA are encouraged to follow their respective breed club guidelines.

The HPRGA strongly recommends:

- a) *When planning a litter **members** are encouraged to take advantage of all health and screening checks relevant to each individual breed.*
- a) *No member should breed a litter unless he/she is reasonably sure of finding good homes for the puppies before a mating is considered. Owners of stud dogs should make it very clear to bitch owners of the commitment and facilities necessary to rear a litter. It is the responsibility of all stud dog owners to investigate the history of all visiting bitches. No bitch should be mated unless she fulfils the criteria as stated in this document.*
- b) *Before breeding a litter, serious and equal consideration should be given to construction, temperament, health, working ability and soundness, in and for the choice of breeding stock. It should always be born in mind that aggression and nervousness form no part of an HPR's temperament and character. All breeding should be aimed at the improvement of the breeds. Breeders should, at all times strive to produce stock sound in mind and body that fits the breed standard and carries an instinct to work.*
- c) *When making the decision to mate a bitch, all consideration should be given to her health and welfare and to the unborn puppies. No bitch should have more than one litter a year and never without consideration to the well being of the bitch. No bitch should be mated before her second birthday. No bitch should be mated after the age of seven years and 10 months. No bitch should have more than 4 litters in her lifetime, except under extraordinary circumstance.*
- d) *All puppies should be registered with the Kennel Club. It is the Associations preference is that Breeders make use of a puppy sales agreement: an example of which can be requested from the Secretary.*
- e) *No puppies should leave the breeder before the age of 7/8 weeks. It is advised that use is made of the endorsements available at the time of registration. Puppies should only be sold to homes where it is known that the needs and welfare of the puppy is a priority and fully understood at each developmental stage [e.g. feeding regime, company, exercise etc.] No dogs or puppies should be exported to Countries where they are not protected by anti-cruelty laws. If doubt exists, DEFRA or the Kennel Club should be consulted.*
- f) *Prospective buyers of puppies and/or adults should be carefully screened for suitability and should be fully advised of the characteristics of the HPR breeds, stressing the necessity for care, grooming, training, ample exercise and an understanding of owning a hunting breed of dog.*
- g) *Purchasers of puppies or adults should be provided at the time of sale with a pedigree, diet sheet and information about training, worming and inoculations. The purchaser should also be provided, where applicable, either at the time of sale or as soon as possible thereafter, with the necessary documents pertaining to Kennel Club registration. If endorsements are in place these must be pointed out at the time of sale in accordance with KC requirement.*
- h) *It should be impressed on buyers that they should contact the breeder in the event of any problem arising with the puppy or adult and the breeders should make every effort to be of assistance in these circumstances and that in the case of a dog needing to be re-homed the breeder takes the responsibility to assist as much as possible in achieving this end.*

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- i) No puppy should be knowingly sold to laboratories, pet shops or dealers in dogs or to persons known to sell stock to any of the above, nor should any stud services be provided to such persons (a dealer is defined as any person who regularly buys dogs as an agent for sale at a profit; a person who buys dogs as an agent for a known individual is not necessarily a dealer).*
- j) No puppy or adult which has any apparent physical defects or which shows any definite departure from its Breed Standard should be sold without the buyer being made aware of such defects and the possible consequences. Members should only sell puppies and adults, which, to the best of their knowledge and belief, are in good health at the time of sale.*
- k) Advertising by members should be strictly factual. Misleading exaggeration or unfounded implications of superiority should not be used. Members should also refrain from making unfair or untrue statements about dogs or practices of others.*
- l) It would be considered unethical to exhibit/compete with a bitch at any show/trial/test/game fair, training group etc. that is more than four weeks in whelp or in season. The latter with the exception of shows where the classes are single sex. No dog or bitch should be exhibited/or compete if considered to be in less than the best of health and condition.*
- m) The Hunt, Point and Retrieve Gundog Association will not tolerate harsh handling in any way shape or form. Anyone found to be punishing a dog unduly and/or unfairly will be promptly reported to the Kennel Club.*

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