

THE OLD ENGLISH SHEEPDOG CLUB OF GREATER SEATTLE

CODE OF ETHICS

Adopted July 22 2006

1. Old English Sheepdog Club of Greater Seattle (OESCGS) members, in order to preserve and promote the advancement and proper breeding and showing of the Old English Sheepdog as well as invoking ethical practices do hereby set forth this Code of Ethics. Understanding this Code of Ethics cannot possibly cover every circumstance a member may experience, all members shall conduct themselves at all times as they would expect to be treated under similar circumstances.
2. Members shall sell their Old English Sheepdogs in good condition, physically sound, and with good temperament at the time of delivery to the best of their knowledge. At the time of sale, members shall ensure that their dogs have received all vaccinations appropriate for their age and region as recommended by a Veterinarian. The member shall provide to the buyer a record as to the date and types of immunizations, worming, identity of parasites, and medications used. The member shall also provide written instructions to the buyer on feeding, health, training, and grooming for the adequate care of the puppy or adult dog.
3. Members selling their Old English Sheepdogs shall guarantee all dogs against hip dysplasia, monorchisms, cryptorchidism, cerebella ataxia, eye and hearing defects, and hereditary thyroid disease. Members shall disclose to the buyer information regarding other potential hereditary defects and diseases such as dental irregularities and shall provide information regarding the health and soundness of the dogs background. The member shall provide a written contract between buyer and seller, which shall address the above faults up to the age of two years, and include conditions and breeding services, and other criteria.
4. Members selling Old English Sheepdogs not intended for showing/breeding shall inform the prospective buyer in writing of known or suspected faults, shall require a spay/neuter agreement and shall use an AKC Limited Registration.
5. Members shall provide accurate and valid registration forms, application forms, and pedigrees to the buyer. Members shall not transfer any registrations independently of the animal sold. Members shall not sell, wholesale, auction, or donate their Old English Sheepdog and/or breeding rights to pet shops, wholesale dealers, or contest sponsors. Members shall not sell puppies from any temporary marketplace or transient headquarters, and members shall not sell or provide litters on consignment for resale. All member advertising shall be factual, honest, forthright in nature, and not misleading.
6. All members will sell their dogs on a signed contract that requires the buyer to return the animal to the breeder if the buyer can no longer keep the animal. The member and buyer shall negotiate all financial arrangements at the time of purchase.
7. The OESCGS recommends all member animals sold or being used for breeding and their offspring, be permanently identified by microchip, DNA, or tattoo.

8. Members shall ensure that all males and bitches used for breeding are in good health, good physical condition, of sound temperament, and free from disqualifying faults. Member breeder shall show that both dog and bitch are free of hip dysplasia prior breeding as diagnosed/certified by the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals (OFA) or a Certified Veterinarian Radiologist. Member breeders shall ensure that all males used for breeding have their eyes examined by a Board Certified Veterinary Ophthalmologist after reaching fifteen months of age and prior to any breeding. The OESCGS also recommends the examination be repeated every two years. The OESCGS also recommends an annual thyroid panel. Members shall not breed their Old English Sheepdogs that have hip dysplasia, hereditary eye defects or deafness, auto-immune disease cerebellar ataxia, or any other significant hereditary problem.
9. Member breeders shall use a written stud contract. The stud dog owner is responsible to properly provide for visiting bitches and breed them only to the stud specified by the stud dog owner in writing. The stud dog owner and owner of the bitch shall mutually consent in writing to a change of stud dog.
10. Member breeders shall only use bitches for breeding that have reached twenty-four months of age, and whose hips have been certified free of hip dysplasia by the OFA or a Certified Veterinarian Radiologist. Member breeders shall ensure that bitches skip a season between litters and not breed their bitches on consecutive seasons unless there are extenuating circumstances.
11. Member breeders shall ensure that males used for breeding are at least eighteen months old and be diagnosed as free of hip dysplasia by the OFA or a Certified Veterinarian Radiologist. OESCGS recommends that member breeders consider this screening preliminary only, and they resubmit the male for re-examination for OFA/Certified Veterinarian Radiologist certification when the same dog reaches twenty-four months of age and before breeding.
12. Members shall ensure that puppies are at least eight weeks old before sale. The breeder shall provide the buyer a period of no less than five or more than seven days to have the animal examined by the buyer's veterinarian. During this time, the buyer shall have the privilege of returning the animal to the seller for full refund of purchase price, based on documented findings of the veterinarian. The member and buyer shall mutually agree during this period, if appropriate, to obtain additional data such as lab reports. OESCGS recommends that if at any time the buyer is unhappy with the purchase or it becomes impossible for the buyer to keep the animal, the buyer shall notify the breeder who will accept the dog from the buyer.
13. Members shall only show Old English Sheepdogs when the dog is clean and properly groomed for the show ring. Members shall not enter un-groomed or unprepared dogs solely for the purpose of gaining championship points.
14. All members shall advance and encourage good sportsmanship at all times.
15. The OESCGS shall review all claims of alleged misconduct prejudicial to the best interests of the Club or Breed and take disciplinary action against any member under the provisions of our by-laws, Article IX.
16. The board shall always be available for clarification and interpretation of the Code of Ethics.