

NATIONAL ROTTWEILER COUNCIL (AUSTRALIA)



NATIONAL CODE OF ETHICS

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1. PREAMBLE

Aspirational Section: This is a preamble, that outlines what the NRC(A) aspires to, or the ideals it hopes to live up to:

- The NRC(A) and its members are the protectors of our friend the Rottweiler in Australia.
- The NRC(A) and its members will always take care of the welfare of the Rottweiler.
- The NRC(A) shall be affiliated with the International Federation of Rottweiler Friends (IFR) and Australian National Kennel Council (ANKC).
- The NRC(A) shall keep a stud book, issue pedigrees and maintain records on matters to improve the health, virtues and characteristics of the Rottweiler.
- The NRC(A) and its members shall breed the Rottweiler as a working dog in accordance with the FCI Breed Standard.
- The NRC(A) and its members shall provide education and training for the owners and breeders of Rottweilers and the community.
- The NRC(A) and its members shall organize exhibitions, evaluations and sporting events for Rottweilers.
- The NRC(A) and its members will uphold our Code of Ethics, our Code of Conduct and our Rules and Regulations.
- The NRC(A) and its members will uphold the principles of natural justice.

2. PURPOSE AND INTENT

“WHY HAVE CODES OF ETHICS?”

"The need for special ethical principles in a breed society/ club is the same as the need for ethical principles in society as a whole. They are mutually beneficial. They help make our relationships mutually pleasant and productive. A breed society/club is a voluntary, cooperative organisation, and those who must conform to its rules are also those who benefit from the conformity of others. Each has a stake in maintaining general compliance."

Our Code of Ethics, our Code of Conduct and our Rules and Regulations need to:

- Define accepted/ acceptable behaviors;
- Promote high standards of practice;
- Provide a benchmark for members to use for self evaluation;
- Establish a framework for professional behavior and responsibilities;
- Show the organisation's social responsibilities;
- Outline how we deal with unacceptable breeding and ownership practices as well as poor personal conduct.

"But we must remember that good laws, if they are not obeyed, do not constitute good government. Hence there are two parts of good government; one is the actual obedience of citizens to the laws, the other part is the goodness of the laws which they obey..." (Aristotle, Politics 1294a3-6)

3. CODE OF PERSONAL CONDUCT

- (a) A member shall conduct themselves with courtesy towards others and in a manner that will reflect credit on the Rottweiler and their owners and breeders;
- (b) Cooperate with the NRC(A) and its members to promote and protect the Rottweiler;
- (c) A member shall not knowingly or recklessly misrepresent the NRC(A), its members or the Rottweiler;
- (d) A member shall display good sportsmanship and conduct at all times so as to reflect credit upon themselves, the NRC(A) and its members;
- (e) Members shall constantly strive to improve their knowledge of the Rottweiler, and their knowledge of the requirements for the care, welfare and betterment of the Rottweiler;
- (f) A member shall not participate in or support any activity that involves cruelty or damage to animals, excluding legal hunting activities;
- (g) A member shall not indulge in false or misleading advertising relating to the conformation, characteristics or performance of that member's dog;

- (h) A member shall not misrepresent nor malign the conformation, characteristics or performance of another member's dog.

4. CODE OF ETHICS FOR BREEDERS

- (a) A breeder will only breed for the purpose of improving the breed and to the Breed Standard;
- (b) A breeder will only breed with Rottweilers that have passed the NRC(A) requirements for breeding as stated in the Breeding Regulations;
- (c) A breeder will only breed with Rottweilers that are registered with the NRC(A) and ANKC;
- (d) A breeder will only breed their Rottweilers to other registered Rottweilers;
- (e) A breeder shall keep accurate records of all Rottweilers bred by them, registered by them and sold by them;
- (f) Breeders shall continually strive to eliminate hereditary diseases within the Rottweiler breed.

5. CODE OF ETHICS FOR OWNERS AND KEEPERS OF ROTTWEILERS

- (a) Ensure that all Rottweilers under my care and control are provided with adequate food, water, shelter and receive proper Veterinary care if and when required;
- (b) Provide training to maximize the social adaptation of my Rottweilers so they do not become a social problem;
- (c) Provide exercise and socialization for the Rottweilers in my care;
- (d) Provide a secure home for any of the Rottweilers under my care and not allow Rottweilers under my care to roam and when at large, ensure that they are kept fully leashed or under effective control;
- (e) Ensure that all Rottweilers under my care are microchipped and registered with the relevant government authority.

6. CODE OF ETHICS FOR ADVERTISING OR PROMOTION

A member will not make false or misleading claims about Rottweilers that they are selling or advertising.

7. CODE OF ETHICS FOR SALE OR DISPOSAL OF ROTTWEILERS

- (a) A member shall not sell directly or indirectly to any commercial, wholesale or retail pet dealers, nor shall they knowingly permit a dog to be advertised, displayed or sold on commission by a commercial dog wholesale, retail pet dealer or as auctioneer;
- (b) A member shall not offer any dog owned by them directly or indirectly to be offered as a prize or as a donation in a contest of any kind;
- (c) A member shall provide the purchaser of the Rottweiler with the following documentation:
 - (i) Certified Vaccination Certificate
 - (ii) A written receipt
 - (iii) Copy signed Sales Agreement/Contract
 - (iv) Written dietary information
 - (v) Copy of Pedigree
 - (vi) Information on responsible ownership of a Rottweiler
 - (vii) And any additional documentation that is required according to ANKC Rules and Regulations.
- (d) A member shall not allow a puppy owned or bred by them to leave their care or control until that puppy has reached 8 weeks of age.

8. REGULATIONS FOR THE BREEDING OF ROTTWEILERS IN AUSTRALIA

8.1 PRE BREEDING REQUIREMENTS

Rottweiler breeding is the breeding of working dogs as stated in the FCI Breed Standard. Rottweilers for breeding:

- (a) must meet the Breed Standard;

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- (b) must be free of any of the disqualifying faults listed in the Breed Standard;
- (c) must be sound of health, mentally and physically;
- (d) must have an ANKC certificate of registration and pedigree (Main Register); they cannot have ANKC Limited registration;
- (e) must be x-rayed for both hip dysplasia and elbow dysplasia. They cannot be x-rayed before 12 months of age. Prior to having the Rottweiler x-rayed the owner must contact the NRC(A) to arrange for the approved documentation to be sent to them. This documentation outlines the procedures for the examining Veterinarian to follow and details the requirements for identification of the x-ray plate and the details to whom the x-ray and documentation is to be sent to for evaluation. Further, the examining Veterinarian must conduct an examination of the Rottweiler's eyes and mouth to ensure that the Rottweiler has correct dentition, that being 42 teeth and a scissor bite and that its eyes are of the same color and the eye lids are normal. All the information regarding the dentition and eyes is to be detailed on the relevant forms which are to be provided to the owner upon their request for the x-ray forms;
- (f) it is currently desirable and recommended, but not at present mandatory, that Rottweilers have passed the NRC(A) Breed Survey Program (See Appendix B).

8.2 BREEDING REQUIREMENTS

- (a) Only Rottweilers that have no disqualifying faults and have x-rayed hip and elbow results that meet the requirements of the NRC(A) Hip/Elbow Scheme shall be allowed to be bred with (See Appendix A);
- (b) A male Rottweiler cannot be put to stud until he reaches 18 months of age;
- (c) A female Rottweiler cannot be mated until she reaches 22 months of age;
- (d) A female Rottweiler should not be bred more than twice in any 12 month period, but if she is bred twice in a 12 month period then she is not to be bred for a period of 12 months after her second litter;

- (e) A female Rottweiler cannot be bred after she reaches 7 years and 10 months of age.

9. CODE OF ETHICS FOR ROTTWEILER STUD DOG OWNERS

- (a) A member will only allow their stud dog to be mated to a female Rottweiler that meets the NRC(A) breeding requirements;
- (b) The owner of a Rottweiler stud dog must provide to the owner of a female Rottweiler a copy of the following documentation:
- ANKC certificate of registration and pedigree
 - NRC(A) hip and elbow dysplasia evaluation report
 - NRC(A) dental and eye reports
- (c) The owner of a Rottweiler stud dog must obtain from the owner of the Rottweiler female and keep copies of the following documentation:
- ANKC certificate of registration and pedigree
 - NRC(A) hip and elbow dysplasia evaluation report
 - NRC(A) dental and eye reports
- (d) If a female Rottweiler mated to a member's stud dog fails to conceive then the stud dog owner shall offer a repeat service to the same female provided that she continues to meet the breeding requirements.

10. COMPLIANCE

Non-compliance with the Regulations set out as detailed is deemed to be misconduct. Penalties for misconduct may include, but not be limited to:

- Loss of endorsement;
- Suspension of membership rights and privileges;
- Financial fine/penalty;
- Member club is to provide a written submission detailing the facts and supportive documentation. Their submission is to also detail the recommended course of action.

APPENDIX A

NRC(A) HD AND ED SCHEME

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APPENDIX B

NRC(A) BREED SURVEY PROGRAM

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