



## THE GERMAN SHORTHAIRED POINTER CLUB OF CANADA

### CODE OF ETHICS

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These guidelines have been established in accordance with the objects of the German Shorthaired Pointer Club of Canada and are intended to protect and advance the German Shorthaired Pointer by maintaining high breed standards, responsible breeding practices and integrity in dealing with purchasers and responsible ownership of GSPs.

The Code's nature is not punitive, but rather a guideline that is informational.

#### **OWNERSHIP**

1. Member dogs must be maintained with their safety and good health in mind at all times, including adequate and appropriate attention and socialization, feeding, veterinary attention, housing, routine care, exercise and training.

#### **BREEDING**

1. Maintain high standards of canine health, including cleanliness of facilities, and veterinary care.
2. **It is recommended** that dogs and puppies get positive exposure to other dogs once they have received all of their vaccinations. As breeders we must try to guide our puppy people to do so.
3. Breed only with the intention of maintaining the integrity of the breed while striving to improve the health and performance of our dogs.
4. Breed only healthy, mature dogs and bitches of good temperament and qualities substantially conforming to the official standard of the GSP. Do not breed bitches before 2 years of age.
5. Breed only dogs or bitches that have been tested clear of hereditary diseases and defects such as Elbows, Hip Dysplasia, Heart, Cone Degeneration (CD), Lupoid Dermatitis (LD), CERF eyes, Thyroid, etc. and check background for health issues such as epilepsy for which there is no test yet.
6. Breed only dogs or bitches that do not have the following faults: Dish faced, China or wall eyes, flesh coloured nose, extreme overshot or undershot. A dog with coat that is tricoloured, red, orange, lemon, tan or a solid white dog.
7. Refuse stud service to any bitch which is obviously inferior in quality or temperament or not registered with the Canadian Kennel Club or the American Kennel Club or an established recognized Kennel Club registry.
8. Do not breed any bitch before 2 years of age and not more than twice in any two-year period or after the age of 8 years and limit litters to a maximum of 4.

#### **SALES**

1. Do not sell or consign puppies or adult dogs to pet shops, brokers, or other commercial dealers, nor offer them as raffle prizes or for auction.
2. Honestly evaluate the quality of each German Shorthaired Pointer sold, fairly representing field and/or show potential, its possible faults and make the buyer aware of the distinction between pet quality and show quality.



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3. Do not release any puppies for sale before they are 7 weeks of age. Research has shown that puppies placed prior to this are deprived of much needed interaction and learning opportunities with their littermates and mother and may be adversely impacted.
4. Furnish the buyer with a pedigree, CKC registration papers, veterinary and immunization records, feeding schedule and general care instructions.
5. Screen prospective buyers with a detailed application and a visit, if possible, to assure that puppies will have the proper home and environment.
6. Encourage purchasers of pet quality puppies, or those not intended to be used for breeding, to spay/neuter the animal **no younger than 14 months of age, to allow for proper growth development and possible prevention of future injuries that can be associated with early spay/neuter. Be willing to explain/include information to the purchaser on this subject and include this clause in the sales contract.**
7. Sell on a Non-Breeding registration those going to pet homes whose owners are not presently committed to putting a conformation and/or field championship title together with at least 1 working title.
8. Do not misrepresent in advertising, any dog or puppy for sale, or include misleading information regarding the background or potential of the animal.
9. Provide the purchaser with a written contract offering to refund the purchase price or replace any puppy, within a given number of years, found to have a disabling or life threatening genetic defect which prevents the dog from fulfilling its purpose.
10. Provide the purchaser with copies of health certifications of sire and dam (or information on how to view this on the OFA website). Disclose any health issues that could potentially affect the dog or would impact the next generation by breeding that dog.
11. Assist in the placement of any dog sired by their stud dog whose breeder of record has refused to help in the placement of said dog.
12. Follow up on puppies after the sale to insure their continued care.
13. Encourage puppy buyers to participate in German Shorthaired Pointer activities such as field tests, obedience trials, field trials, tracking tests, agility, conformation shows, and recommend membership in the GSPCC and other local clubs (e.g. GSPFCA, OVPDC, APBC) or include a membership form in your puppy package.
14. Be willing to take back dogs of your breeding at any stage of their lives.