

BLACK RUSSIAN TERRIER CLUB OF AMERICA, INC.

VOLUNTARY BREEDER CODE OF ETHICS

Introduction

It is understood that ethical behavior and morality cannot be legislated by the Black Russian Terrier Club of America, Inc. (hereinafter referred to as BRTCA), its Board of Directors, or its membership. It is the decision of each member to decide whether to sign and subscribe to this Breeder Code of Ethics.

This instrument is presented as a guide and educational tool for use by the BRTCA membership regarding ethical practices and conduct as designated by the BRTCA Board of Directors.

Those persons adhering to this Code of Ethics will be duly rewarded for their conscientious efforts and ethical practices. The signing of this document will bring an opportunity for those individuals to utilize the designation "MEMBER OF BRTCA ETHICAL BREEDER PROGRAM" in promoting and advertising their kennel and dogs.

Conversely, this instrument will provide a system whereby those individuals, after signing and subscribing to this Code and not adhering to these guidelines for ethical practices and conduct, will be subject to censure by the Board of Directors according to the current Constitution and Bylaws of the BRTCA.

Goals and Intentions

The goals and purposes of this Code of Ethics is to provide guidelines for the preservation and protection of the Black Russian Terrier as per its original purpose as a working dog, to educate members and breeders in matters regarding the safety, health, welfare, and care of the Black Russian Terrier, to provide guidelines to ethical practices and care as prescribed by the BRTCA, the American Kennel Club, and the United States Department of Agriculture.

Those members subscribing to this Code of Ethics shall also be automatic members of the "BRTCA Ethical Breeder Program Committee." The Committee shall meet at least quarterly and shall be responsible to provide educational

information to the membership through its newsletter, and may also be called upon to assist in organizing educational programs at the Club's national events or other functions.

Members of the BRTCA are encouraged to seek the experience and knowledge of the Ethical Breeder Program Committee for advice or to ask questions regarding any health, breeding, whelping, rearing, pedigree evaluation, genetic evaluation or other issue that may arise. The cooperation and openness of Committee Members to discuss any issue without censure of opinion or promulgation outside of the committee without knowledge and agreement of the parties involved is paramount to the future of the breed.

Club Overview

The BRTCA is a club composed of members devoted to the continued preservation, protection, and betterment of the Black Russian Terrier.

These members put this interest well ahead of any personal or commercial consideration. The following Code of Ethics is predicated upon this fundamental philosophy.

Member Overview

As a subscriber to this Code of Ethics, I believe that the preservation and the welfare of the Black Russian Terrier are of paramount importance. This supersedes any other commitment to the Black Russian Terrier, whether that is personal, competitive, or financial.

Therefore, I agree to act in accordance with the following Code of Ethics at all times, and understand that actions contrary to the Code may be grounds for disciplinary measures to be taken by the BRTCA Board of Directors. I also understand that there are extenuating circumstances that arise that may be contrary to the Code; and I will contact the Committee and/or the Board of Directors regarding such matters prior to taking any action.

I. Records and Registration

I understand that all records compiled by the AKC and the BRTCA depend entirely upon the accuracy of the information I provide. Therefore, I will register every eligible Black Russian Terrier owned, bred, or imported by me using either full or limited registration. In accordance with the AKC Rules for Registration and Transfer of Dogs, I will maintain complete and accurate records for each dog and litter. Pedigrees will be accurate and any titles earned by individual dogs, including non-AKC titles, will be verifiable. Health test results will be recorded on the pedigree and/or sales contract and verifiable. Tattoo or microchip numbers of dogs will be recorded on the pedigree and/or sales contract for identification purposes.

II. Breeding

I realize that the only purpose of breeding Black Russian Terriers is to attempt to bring the natural qualities of the breed to perfection in accordance with the Breed Standard. I will be objective in evaluating any dog or bitch considered for breeding using the criteria set forth by the Breed Standard, medically test for recognized genetic abnormalities prior to breeding, and objectively evaluate the mental soundness and temperament of the dog, the littermates and immediate ancestors to the best of my ability. The decision whether or not to breed any given dog will rest on the objective results of the evaluation. Titles earned by a dog, though an important accomplishment, measure of ability and/or adherence to the standard should not influence the evaluation nor give any more "weight" than the other evaluation criteria. Genetic health testing shall include at a minimum passing those established tests required for Black Russian Terriers to obtain a CHIC number through OFFA. All test results submitted through OFFA, PennHip, or other approved health testing registries shall be made public. If owner and dog reside outside of the continental United States, health testing submitted through other recognizable and reputable facilities (including foreign facilities) should be resubmitted to OFFA as well for re-evaluation or for addition to its database as appropriate. Temperament evaluation tests shall include at a minimum an approved

temperament test through ATTS or other certified and recognized temperament testing organization and/or CGC. As a breeder, I recognize the importance of disclosure of health and temperament information to the future of the breed. Recognizing that some faults and character traits are more insidious and damaging than others, novice breeders should consult with more experienced breeders to objectively determine a dog's fitness for breeding.

A. If I decide to breed a dog, I will:

1. To the best of my ability be selective with respect to the physical and mental soundness, health, temperament, and working ability of the dog.

2. Breed only after careful study and understanding of the Breed Standard as it applies to the pedigrees (i.e., ancestors) of the two dogs involved, and to the dogs themselves.

3. Breed Black Russian Terriers registered first with the AKC or approved AKC foreign registries. Dogs with limited registrations, though not required to be neutered or spayed, are not breeding quality; and any off-spring are not registerable as per the AKC regulations.

4. Be prepared to provide the proper care for both the bitch and her litter, and to retain the puppies for as long as is necessary to assure their placement in appropriate homes. Black Russian Terrier bitches are known to have as many as 12 puppies in a litter; and I agree to commit to caring for an unsold litter for an indefinite period, understanding the scope of this commitment. If I decide to cull a litter, for whatever reasons, the puppies will be humanely euthanized.

5. Never breed from or to any Black Russian Terrier known to me to have an inheritable disabling or potentially disabling defect, either physical or mental.

6. Specify the terms of all co-ownership agreements in writing, duly executed by all parties.

7. Register the litter with the AKC (or such other like registry if I do not reside within the United States) in accordance with the AKC's (or other foreign registry's) procedures for litter registration. Any other registry body may be used afterwards. Any individual puppies registered must be registered in accordance with the AKC

(or comparable foreign registry) procedure for individual registration and transfer of dogs. As the breeder, I retain the right to select either full or limited registration for each individual puppy in the litter or to rescind the limited registration according to AKC (or other foreign registry) procedures. As the breeder, I also retain the right to designate whether a dog is to be spayed/neutered as per contract with the buyer.

8. Encourage all puppy owners to health test their puppy at two years of age for, at a minimum, those health tests required for obtaining a CHIC number for Black Russian Terriers, including but not limited to testing of hips and elbows for dysplasia, heart, and eyes through CERF; to report all such results to the breeder and to make all such results open on the OFFA database. I will also provide all health information I receive to the owner of the sire.

9. Encourage all puppy owners to become a member of the Black Russian Terrier Club of America.

B. As the owner of the stud dog, I realize that I must exercise exemplary conduct in the use of my dog in order to abide by the standards set forth in this Code of Ethics. Therefore I will:

1. Use my dog only on bitches which, after critical evaluation, I feel are an asset to the breed, that have passed required health tests, and whose owner(s) agree to support this Code of Ethics. Owner(s) of dual registered bitches, or who are not members of the BRTCA, will be encouraged to adhere to the standards of this Code of Ethics.

2. Enter into a written Stud Service Contract, duly signed by all parties, prior to mating; and will supply a duly signed Stud Service Certificate after the time of mating.

3. Be aware that as the owner of the stud dog, I am as responsible for the puppies resulting from the mating as the owner of the bitch.

4. Assist the owner of the bitch in placing the puppies in appropriate homes; and if the occasion should arise, be willing to assist in the care of puppies that may be returned. I have no monetary responsibility to refund the cost of any puppy to any new owner or to replace any puppy, as this is the sole responsibility of the owner of the bitch.

5. Provide one free return service by the same dog for the bitch that has failed to conceive, providing the bitch still meets breeding criteria.

6. Adhere to the AKC Rules and Regulations concerning breeding ages of dogs and bitches.

C. As the owner of the bitch, I realize that I must exercise exemplary conduct in breeding her in order to abide by the standards set forth in this Code of Ethics. Therefore, I will:

1. Wait to breed a bitch until she is approximately 24 months of age, and then only if she is sufficiently mature, in excellent physical health, of sound temperament, and conforms to the Breed Standard.

2. Not breed a bitch for the first time after she has reached her sixth birthday unless receiving veterinary approval.

3. Adhere to the AKC rules and regulations governing the breeding ages of dogs and bitches.

4. Not allow a bitch to whelp more than two litters in any three consecutive six-month seasons.

5. Not allow a bitch to carry to term and rear more than six litters in her lifetime.

6. If I own more than one breeding age bitch, selectively choose which (up to three bitches) will be bred in any given year. I will not breed and raise more than three litters in any given year.

7. Take all necessary steps to eliminate the possibility of accidental breeding, including spaying if necessary, of all bitches owned and/or kept by me that are not of sufficient quality, health or temperament, or that have developed any condition that would render her unsuitable for breeding. I understand that an accidental breeding of an unsuitable dog or bitch is a violation of this Code of Ethics.

III. Care and Transfer of Puppies and Dogs

I will:

1. Provide all puppies/dogs with proper veterinary care and home care conditions, which include:

- A clean, dry, environment essential to the raising/keeping of dogs, whelping and rearing of puppies.

- A properly balanced nutritional diet as recommended by my veterinarian for adults and puppies.

- Necessary inoculations.
- Elimination of parasites (internal and external).

2. Have the choice of whether or not to remove dewclaws and dock tails from puppies. I will not be subject to criticism or censure for my decision.

3. Objectively evaluate to the best of my ability the puppies in any litter produced, and allow only those closely conforming to the Breed Standard that are medically sound and of sufficient temperament to be registered with a full registration. All others will receive a Limited Registration pursuant to the AKC Rules and Regulations for Registration of Dogs and/or neutered/spayed prior to transfer of full registration. I will make every effort to insure the puppies that are limited registered will not ever be used as breeding stock and will be spayed or neutered when age appropriate.

4. To the very best of my ability, screen all prospective owners to determine their suitability and motives in acquiring a Black Russian Terrier. Special attention will be given to educating the prospective owners regarding the financial responsibility, adequate environmental facilities, training and special demands of a Black Russian Terrier, whether a puppy or an adult.

5. Keep puppies until at least eight weeks of age before allowing them to leave for the new home, or as the local laws allow.

6. Include the following documentation/information to each new owner of a Black Russian Terrier upon transfer of the dog:

- Written Sales Contract and/or Co-Ownership Contract, signed by all parties, which shall include at a minimum the AKC registration numbers of the sire and dam, breeder's name and address, date of birth of the puppy, litter registration number, identification of the dog being transferred; provisions for the return, refund or replacement of the dog; any guarantees extended; and a statement to the effect that member will take the dog back at any time and/or be part of the decision in the dog being transferred to another home.

- Feeding instructions.

- Written medical records, which include immunizations, types of vaccine used, date(s) of inoculations, date(s) of wormings, and any other pertinent health or medical information, including results of all health and temperament testing which may have been performed.

- A pedigree listing at least three generations, showing valid titles for all ancestors, OFA and other medical certifications, and ID or tattoo numbers if known.

- Recommendations for training.

- A Certificate of Health, signed by my veterinarian.

- A copy of the AKC (or comparable foreign) Registration (litter or individual registration, either Full or Limited)

9. Encourage the new owner(s) to have their Black Russian Terrier checked by a veterinarian within 48 hours of time of acquisition.

10. Encourage the new owner(s) to keep me informed concerning the development of any dog obtained, and to advise me of any problems that may develop during the lifetime of the dog, as well as the eventual cause of death.

11. Be certain that any advertising I do of my Black Russian Terriers, either written or oral, is factual and honest in both substance and implication.

IV. General Conduct of Members

I will:

1. Attempt to educate each owner(s) or interested party, to be constructive as well as instructive in my comments.

2. Always demonstrate good sportsmanship.

3. Demonstrate conduct that is conducive to the advancement of our breed and Club.

4. Discourage those persons I deem unsuitable for ownership of a Black Russian Terrier and shall keep the right of refusal to prospective owner(s), without criticism or censure, from other members.

5. Provide an example by action in the manner in which I keep, train, and treat my Black Russian Terriers. Abide by all local and state regulations where I reside regarding the adequate care of my animals. Recognize the absolute need for proper training, socialization, and housing of a

protection breed to protect people, pets, livestock, wildlife, and the dog itself.

6. Assure that my dogs receive necessary medical care throughout their lifetimes. If a dog develops a chronic or acute medical or mental condition that interferes with the dog's quality of life, I shall be solely responsible for the care or humane euthanasia of the dog.

7. Conform to Section III of this Code should it ever become necessary to sell, give away, or otherwise rehome my Black Russian Terriers. I shall make legal arrangements for the dispersal of my dogs in the event I am no longer able to care for them, naming a trusted person to see after them. I will keep all the AKC records and medical records, as per the policies and procedures of the AKC "Record Keeping for Dogs" in an accessible area, or at least known to the person entrusted to see to the dog's care, and provide a means of identification (tattoo, micro chip, tags) for each dog so it can be readily identified.

I will not:

1. Knowingly falsify pedigrees, breeding information, medical records, titles, health information regarding the dog, or other pertinent information.

2. Sell Black Russian Terriers to pet shops, wholesalers or dealers, either on consignment or outright.

3. Supply Black Russian Terriers for auctions, raffles, or other such enterprises, whether or not a legal activity.

4. Knowingly sell to unethical parties or individuals whose intentions to resell or "puppy-mill" is known or suspect.

5. Purchase any Black Russian Terrier or litter for resell either to an individual or commercial establishment.

V. Exhibiting, Trialing and Public Activities

I will abide by the AKC Rules and Regulations for exhibiting and showing pure-bred dogs, which include regulations governing dogs changed in appearance by use of "artificial means." I will abide by the AKC Rules and Regulations governing the sport(s) in which I participate. I will do my utmost to present the Black Russian Terrier to the public as a dog I am proud to own and determined to protect. My

conduct at all times will reflect good sportsmanship and an all-consuming consideration for the welfare of the dog(s) in my charge.

VI. Enforcement/Exceptions

A gross violation of this Code of Ethics may be cause for disciplinary action under Article IV of BRTCA Constitution and By-Laws.

It is recognized that legitimate exceptions to this Code of Ethics may arise. In such cases, any member may request that the issue, concern, or problem be reviewed by the Committee or by the Board of Directors. Furthermore, in meritorious cases, upon sufficient evidence and under conditions where the welfare of the breed is assured, the Board of Directors may waive any of the foregoing provisions.

Any member wishing a waiver of any of the foregoing provisions is encouraged to first bring such request for waiver to the attention of the Committee for open discussion. The Member and/or Committee shall render a report and recommendation to the Board of Directors. The Board shall consider the Member's request, any evidence presented and the Committee's report in making its determination.

VII. Effective Date

In signing this Code of Ethics, I certify that any Black Russian Terrier I own or co-own that has been used as a sire or dam which has produced a litter within the last four months or is expected to produce a litter within the next 60 days, has met the health test requirements of this Code of Ethics. I understand that it is against the spirit of this Code of Ethics to utilize the "MEMBER OF BRTCA ETHICAL BREEDER PROGRAM" benefits to promote and advertise other kennels and dogs for sale whose owners do not meet the health criteria of this Code.

I hereby agree to be bound by the terms of this Code of Ethics from the date of signature of the attached certificate until such time as membership with the BRTCA is terminated or upon written notice to the Secretary thereof.