

Appenzell Mountain Dog Club of America

Code of Ethics

Members shall bear in mind that a Code of Ethics is more than a set of rules; it is a commitment to a high standard of practice in owning and breeding. Adherence to the spirit of such a Code is as important as adherence to its law.

PURPOSE / BASIS

The AMDCA (Appenzell Mountain Dog Club of America), in keeping with its commitment to encourage the development of high-quality Appenzeller Sennenhunds, has adopted the following COE to promote and foster the highest standards among breeders and owners; and to encourage cooperation in the improvement, advancement and protection of our breed.

The purpose of this COE (Code of Ethics) is to provide members and breeders with a set of guidelines relating to the proper maintenance, breeding, selling and overall protection of the Appenzeller Sennenhund breed.

All AMDCA member breeders, owners of stud dogs and club officials are obligated to know and comply with these guidelines.

GENERAL RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Encourage members and breeders to respect the standard of the Appenzeller Sennenhund as approved by the AKC FCI as the standard by which Appenzeller Sennenhunds shall be bred and judged.
2. Member breeders shall ensure the basic health screening tests for all breeding stock is completed and Canine Health Information Center (CHIC) certification is obtained prior to breeding.
3. Ensure that all Appenzellers being used for the purpose of breeding comply with the breed standard prior to being bred.

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4. Promote friendship and cooperation amongst breeders, owners and exhibitors of Appenzeller Sennenhunds assisting them in every way reasonable for the benefit of the breed.
5. Promote the general welfare of the Appenzeller Sennenhund and oppose cruel and inhumane treatment of all dogs.
6. Act with responsible and courteous behavior privately and publicly as a representative of the Appenzeller Sennenhund breed and the AMDCA. This includes but is not limited to maintaining control of their Appenzeller Sennenhund at all times, cleaning up after their dog/s in public places, and leaving public facilities in the same condition in which they were found.
7. Become familiar with and will abide by the rules of the AKC.

TREATMENT

1. All Appenzellers owned by, or in the care of members shall be given a proper, healthy environment, nutrition, and care always. No member's dog shall be treated in an inhumane manner, subjected to cruel or unusual punishment, and/or be mentally or physically abused. Nor may they be subjected to any conditions likely to eventuate in unnecessary danger to the animal's health. No member shall have more dogs than he or she has facilities to adequately keep.
2. Members shall be diligent in the handling of their dogs in public places and shall do so in a manner as to minimize the risk of trauma or danger to any human being or other animal.
3. Members recognize their responsibility to protect the name and reputation of the breed and shall not allow their dogs to roam at large, unsupervised, nor to become a public nuisance nor to become a public trust.
4. Members agree to train their dogs in basic obedience.

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REGISTRATION

1. All breeder members shall register their Appenzeller litters with the AMDCA.
2. All members shall register their individual Appenzellers with the AMDCA.
3. All members shall register their imported Appenzeller with AMDCA.
4. Members who export an Appenzeller to another country shall ensure the legal owners name is registered on the export pedigree.

Whereas all litter and individual Appenzeller registrations for dogs born in the US or imported into the US shall be registered with the AMDCA, the AMDCA also recommends that all Appenzellers are registered with the AKC FSS (American Kennel Club Foundation Stock Services).

BREEDERS

Minimum and maximum age:

1. Males: Minimum age of 2 (two) that have passed all required health tests. There is no maximum age limit for males providing they are in good health.
Females: Minimum age of 2 (two) that have passed all required health tests until the maximum age of 9 (nine).
2. Breeders understand and agree that they will only breed when able to give proper care to the female and the resulting offspring. Breeders will discourage owners of females from breeding unless they themselves have the facilities, time, resources, and knowledge required to adequately care for the female and the resulting offspring.
3. Breeders will not intentionally breed any female before the age of 24 months. The health and wellbeing of the female will be of utmost importance and will determine the frequency of breeding.

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4. Breeders will carefully select males and females giving utmost importance to health, conformation and temperament, and only after careful study of the breed standard, the individuals and their near relatives, the pedigrees and basic principles of genetics, will proceed with the mating.
 - a) Breeders shall only breed Appenzellers with sound and typical structure and conformation, shall be of sound temperament and free from crippling or disabling hereditary defects.
 - b) Breeders shall refrain from using an individual who, although free from such hereditary defects, consistently produces afflicted offspring from different mates.
 - c) Breeders will refrain from breeding havana brown to havana brown.
 - d) Breeders will refrain from breeding lines in which any serious or disabling, hereditary defect consistently occurs.
 - e) Prior to breeding, breeders will seek consultation and recommendations from an approved AMDCA co-efficient specialist as part of their breed planning process.
5. Breeders shall refrain from breeding until potential breeding dogs have had their patella's certified, their eyes certified and their hips and elbows X-rayed, and their radiographs interpreted by the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals (OFFA) and have received their Canine Health Information Center (CHIC) certification.
6. Breeders shall only breed their females to foreign dogs that have their required health tests certified in their country of origin.
7. Breeders will continue to update their knowledge of genetic defects which are harmful to Appenzellers.
8. Breeders will be open and honest with all persons interested in the welfare of Appenzellers. They will be willing to discuss possible genetic defects and faults in Appenzellers as a breed.
9. Breeders will try to stay in contact with the buyers of their puppies to better evaluate the progress of their breeding program.

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10. Breeders will endeavor to produce only physically and temperamentally sound Appenzellers, which are of breed type in their breeding program.
11. Breeders will preserve and maintain the breed for future generations through the judicious selection of breeding stock.

Breeders agree that:

- a) Their kennel shall be equipped to raise more than eight (8) puppies.
 - b) They will breed a maximum of two (2) litters per female in two (2) calendar years of the date of the litter when a female's litter exceeds five (5) puppies.
 - c) After rearing a litter of more than eight (8) puppies, their female will be given a breeding break of at least one (1) heat cycle. The period between the litter and the next breeding date is decisive.
 - d) All puppies that do not meet the breed standard in all respects will be sold as non-breeding pet/companion dogs. Some examples of less than standard traits are:
 - aggressive or overly shy
 - clearly showing physical or behavioral abnormalities
 - overshot or undershot mouth
 - entropion/ectropion, wall eye
 - sickle tail, definitely pendent tail, kink tail
 - other than double coat
 - other than tri-colored coat
 - other than black or havana-brown main color
 - incorrect white markings, or lack of white markings
 - long coat
12. Breeders will offer a written agreement of sale specifically stating any warranty offered on the puppy. No promise or agreement shall be made orally that is not later put in writing.
 - a) Breeders shall supply the new owner with an AMDCA 3-generation pedigree within six (6) months of the sale date.

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- b) Breeders will register all Appenzellers sold under the designation “pet/companion quality” with an AMDCA Limited Recording, which means that the dog cannot produce AMDCA recordable litters.
 - c) Breeders will register all Appenzellers sold as “show and breeding prospects” with a full AMDCA registration.
13. It is the responsibility of every breeder to supply identification for the puppies they breed as per the AMDCA requirements. The identification may be in the form of a microchip or tattoo - it may be both.
 14. Rear dew claws should be removed between the 3rd and 5th day of age. The final decision on whether rear dew claws are removed or remain is the breeder’s personal choice. Front dew claws shall remain intact.
 15. Breeders will consider the welfare of the Appenzeller above any personal gain or profit. They will be discriminating in the sale of their dogs and to the best of their ability ensure that the buyer’s home is adequate and that they will always provide responsible and humane care. Breeders will not sell to anyone if they have a reason to believe they will not, or are not, able to provide proper care for the puppy or dog.
 16. Breeders will not breed or be a party to the breeding of an Appenzeller for the purpose of wholesaling litters or the selling of individual or groups of Appenzellers to such places as pet dealers/brokers (domestic or foreign), catalog houses, auctions, puppy mills, raffles, laboratory research facilities or other commercial sources of distribution.
 17. Breeders will explain to prospective owners their obligations regarding Appenzellers. Breeders will make themselves available to their buyers for whatever advice, reasonable aid, and assistance that they may require for the life of their dog.
 18. Breeders will release no puppy under 8 (eight) weeks old to its new home.

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19. The registered owner's name must be on the pedigree certificate. The costs are to be borne by the breeder.
20. All dogs that breeders sell/place will be immunized, wormed as appropriate for the age of the dog, and microchipped. Breeders will provide the buyers with written instructions on the care of this dog, a three-generation pedigree certificate and a vaccination report.
21. Breeders shall keep accurate records and will be certain to give any new owner of any Appenzellers sold by them, the bill of sale. Breeders will forward other papers as required or specified in their sales agreement.

STUD SERVICE

1. Owners of stud dogs shall not offer to stud any animal who does not meet breeding qualifications as noted above.
2. If the stud has not been bred before, has not produced a live litter, or has had breeding problems in the past, the stud dog owner will inform the female owner.
3. The stud dog owner will ascertain that any female brought to them for stud service shall meet the requirements of the AMDCA Code of Ethics. They will also ascertain to the best of their ability that any progeny of this breeding shall be raised and sold in a manner in keeping with the ethical standard of this Code. Stud dog owners will not provide a stud service to any female whose owner is not an AMDCA member, with allowable exceptions for owners who reside in a foreign country and are members in good standing of an Appenzeller Mountain Dog Club in that country, the goals and code of conduct of which club are similar to those of the AMDCA.
4. Stud dog owners will not offer stud service as a prize in any raffle.
5. Stud dog owners will use a written stud contract, specifying the terms of payment for the stud service, any guarantee of return service, what constitutes a litter or fulfillment of service, when the litter registration

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papers will be signed, when pick puppy(s) will be chosen, etc. No promise or agreement shall be made orally, which is not later put into writing.

6. The owner/holder of a stud dog is obliged to keep a record of the breeding file and to present these documents upon request.

ADVERTISEMENT

1. All advertisements of puppies and adult dogs, written or oral, shall be factual and as forthrightly honest as possible in both substance and implication.
2. Advertising and promotion, written or oral, shall be confined to the aspects of the breeder's stock and shall not degrade the stock of others.
3. The breeder shall be cautious in discussing the show and/or breeding prospects of any puppy for sale, lest he/she imply a guarantee of success which cannot be assured.
4. He or she shall be equally cautious in encouraging buyers as to breeding prospects, inasmuch as the breeding of an Appenzeller is not to be undertaken lightly by any owner.

AMENDMENTS

Amendments to these regulations must be submitted to the Board of Directors for review for approval and then go to membership to vote on. Amendments shall come into force 20 days after being announced, at the earliest.

This revision to the Code of Ethics was approved by majority vote of the AMDCA membership on May 08, 2023.