

CENTRAL FLORIDA POLISH LOWLAND SHEEPDOG FANCIERS CLUB, INC. (CFPLSFC)

CODE OF ETHICS and GUIDE TO BEING A RESPONSIBLE PON OWNER

The Central Florida Polish Lowland Sheepdog Fanciers Club (CFPLSFC) to protect, preserve and promote the advancement, proper breeding, care, and showing of the Polish Owczarek Nizinny (PON), aka Polish Lowland Sheepdog, as well as ethical practices, establishes this Code of Ethics. All members in good standing with CFPLSFC subscribe to and uphold this Code of Ethics.

Members should 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, showing, and breeding. Adherence to the spirit of such a Code is as important as adherence to its law.

CFPLSFC MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. Abide by all AKC rules and regulations where they pertain.
2. Support and abide by the AKC standard for the PON.
3. Support and abide by the CFPLSFC Constitution and By-laws.
4. Support and abide by the CFPLSFC Code of Ethics.
5. Consider the health and welfare of the animals in your care, as well as the health and welfare of the breed in general, as uppermost in importance.
6. Maintain contact with the breeder of your dog advising the breeder of the dog's progress, as well as any training or health problems that may occur. The breeder should make reasonable effort to maintain contact with the purchaser.
7. Never abandon or dispose of a PON in a shelter or a pound. If unable or unwilling to care for the dog, contact the breeder to enlist his/her support in finding a new home.
8. Refrain from unnecessary and unconstructive criticism of another person's PON and from personal attacks upon fellow members.
9. Practice and promote responsible dog ownership including the conduct and control of your dog in public places.
10. Respect the property of others, including facilities used for dog events, especially by use of proper sanitary measures.
11. Suggest you participate in any surveys on each and every PON. Pet owners (those not showing or breeding their dogs) are encouraged to test their PONs in accordance with item 3.a. - 3.d., ³ON BREEDING².
12. All owners should consider themselves to be ambassadors of the breed and conduct themselves accordingly. Breeders and exhibitors of PONs shall be knowledgeable of the breed and be able to educate new members, prospective members, new/novice owners and any person inquiring about PONs to the basic traits and characteristics of the breed.

BREEDER RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. A breeding shall never be undertaken to satisfy a sales demand or solely for monetary

purposes. Rather, it shall be done for the purpose of producing a better dog according to the AKC PON Standard. Members shall be forthright and honest regarding their bitch's or stud dog's strong and weak points, reproductive record and familial history.

2. A. breeding shall not be done unless the owner of the bitch can properly care for the litter, including proper time for socialization and play with the puppies.

3. Only dogs (males) and bitches that are free of major (serious) hereditary defects, of sound temperament (e.g., non-aggressive, not overly shy), free of parasites and communicable diseases are to be used for breeding. PONs having hip dysplasia, eye defects or other significant hereditary problems must not be bred. Documented results of tests required below must be provided.

a. Dogs and bitches should not be used for breeding until at least 24 months of age.

b. Dogs and bitches used for breeding shall have their hips certified at 24 months (OFA certification). Only PONs with a normal OFA certification (Excellent, Good, Fair) shall be used for breeding using OFA guidelines. Any OFA evaluation prior to 24 months of age is considered preliminary only and must be re-done after the animal has achieved 24 months of age.

c. Dogs and bitches used for breeding shall have their eyes examined annually between 12 months of age and 8 years of age, and/or prior to any breeding by a Board Certified Veterinary Ophthalmologist. Only eye examinations performed by a CERF-certified veterinary ophthalmologist using proper equipment are conclusive. If found clear or normal, this exam will qualify them for a CERF certificate stating that the eyes are clear of hereditary defects on the examination date. Due to the nature of hereditary eye defects this exam must be repeated annually, or prior to any breeding if such exam was not conducted within the past 12 months. Only PONs with a current CERF certification will be bred.

d. Dogs and bitches used for breeding should have a full thyroid panel test before their first breeding. Subsequent tests shall be done if clinical signs of potential thyroid problems appear. PONs having thyroid problems should not be bred. Suggested test is the AKC/OFA Thyroid test.

e. A Brucellosis test shall be done before each breeding, whether natural or by artificial insemination, whenever both PONs are not owned by and in possession of the same owner. Dogs must be tested if used in a natural breeding as recently as four weeks. Only PONs testing negative will be bred.

4. Other than the exception noted below, regardless of tests performed in their home country, any non-U.S. born PON shall have U.S. eye and hip certifications, as described above performed prior to breeding in the U.S. and test result documentation is required. 5. When frozen sperm is used (foreign or US) all tests must be current at the time of sperm collection and will stand as approved for all the sperm collected - regardless when used unless a problem with the stud is found after collection that is found to be harmful to the breed and then the sperm must be rejected. 6. Refrain from further use of any dog or bitch that has produced offspring having serious defects detrimental to the animal's well being, affecting normal functions or impairment of vital functions and produces like results with a different mating partner. Such dogs or bitches should be neutered/spayed.

7. A bitch should not be bred to produce puppies more often than twice within eighteen (18) months. It is recommended that bitches over eight (8) years of age not be bred without prior examination, consultation and approval by a licensed veterinarian.

8. The breeder will make every effort to determine that the PON as a breed and the individual

PON to be sold is compatible with the potential buyer.

9. All PONs sold shall be in good condition, physically sound and of good temperament (e.g., non-aggressive, not overly shy), and should be free of parasites and disease. PONs shall be examined by a licensed veterinarian to insure freedom from disease and shall have received all vaccinations appropriate for their age before delivery to the buyer.

10. An aggressive or overly shy PON shall be carefully placed by the breeder using AKC Limited Registration, with the buyer(s) willing to obedience train the PON. Registration can be changed to a full registration if the buyer can demonstrate the temperament problem has been corrected.

11. Make full use of AKC Limited Registration or spaying/neutering contracts in selling animals with disqualifying faults or, in the breeder's opinion, lacking the quality adequate for breeding.

12. Use clear concise written contracts to document the sale, the use of stud dogs and lease arrangements including the use, when appropriate, of non-breeding agreements, spaying/neutering contracts and/or Limited Registration.

13. When a prospective buyer has made a deposit and the seller cannot deliver the PON, the seller must return the deposit immediately. Similarly stud fees paid, where the female does not get pregnant or other terms of the stud agreement have not been met, shall be returned immediately. To avoid potential problems, it is recommended that no deposit or only a token deposit be taken from a prospective buyer and stud fees not be accepted until it is known that the breeding is successful.

14. Provide complete written information to the buyer including feeding instructions, grooming requirements, medical records, training and socialization needs. Encourage buyers to attend obedience classes. Provide a five-generation pedigree, AKC registration papers, and vaccination record.

15. Puppies shall not leave the breeder before eight (8) weeks of age, or ten (10) weeks of age, if shipped. Puppies may not be sold from any temporary marketplace. PONs are not to be sold to laboratories. No litters are to be taken on assignment for resale, nor dogs wholesaled to pet shops, auctions, dealers, contests, raffles, etc. Nor is a member to act as a broker for PONs. Further, sellers should refrain from knowingly selling to unethical breeders or persons whose intentions are suspect.

16. Breeders should make themselves available after the sale as consultants to assist in education, grooming, health, and other care questions including behavior problems.

17. Understand and agree that the breeder shall be willing to take back or assist in finding a new home for any dog that you sold at any time in its life, if requested to do so.

18. All advertising shall be honest and not in any way be misrepresentative or fraudulent.

19. No member shall knowingly falsify pedigree or breeding information.

EXHIBITOR RESPONSIBILITY:

1. Exhibit PONs whenever possible and encourage the presentation of high quality stock.

2. No member will show dogs or be a party to showing dogs that are not clean or properly groomed, nor shall they solicit entries of unprepared or ungroomed dogs for the purpose of gaining championship points.

3. Members shall instruct handlers and groomers on the proper grooming of PONs, in accordance with the AKC Standard, shown in AKC Conformation competition.

4. Be willing to help the novice exhibitor and breeder. Always use constructive and honest criticism.

5. Refrain from false or malicious criticism of a judge's decision.

By joining the CFPLSFC, I accept this code in its entirety. Any documented violation of this Code of Ethics shall be dealt with as provided in the CFPLSFC By-laws. Each member of the CFPLSFC has accepted the responsibility to protect the interests of the breed by conduct designed to reflect credit on the member, the PON breed and the CFPLSFC.
6. Members are to follow the AKC Code of Sportsmanship.

Agreed to: Agreed to:

Date: Date: