

EASTERN COUNTIES GOLDEN RETRIEVER CLUB - GENERAL CODE OF ETHICS *(Updated April 2018)*

All members of the Eastern Counties Golden Retriever Club undertake to abide by its general Code of Ethics. All members:

1. Will properly house, feed, water and exercise all dogs in their care and arrange for appropriate veterinary attention if and when required.
2. Will agree without reservation that any veterinary surgeon who performs an operation on any of their dogs which alters the natural conformation of the animal or who carries a caesarean section on a bitch may report such operations to the Kennel Club.
3. Will agree that no healthy puppy will be culled. Puppies which may not conform to the Breed Standard should be placed in suitable homes.
4. Will abide by all aspects of the Animal Welfare Act.
5. Will not create demand for, nor supply puppies that have been docked illegally.
6. Will agree not to breed from a dog or bitch which could be in any way harmful to the dog or to the breed.
7. Will not allow any of their dogs to roam at large or to cause a nuisance to neighbours or those carrying out official duties.
8. Will ensure that their dogs wear properly tagged collars and will be kept leashed or under effective control when away from home.
9. Will clean up after their dogs in public places or anywhere where their dogs are being exhibited.
10. Will only sell dogs where there is a reasonable expectation of a happy and healthy life and will help with the re-homing of a dog if the initial circumstances change.
11. Will supply written details of all dietary requirements and give guidance concerning responsible ownership when placing dogs in a new home.
12. Will ensure that all relevant Kennel Club documents are provided to the new owner when selling or transferring a dog, and will agree, in writing, to forward any relevant documents at the earliest opportunity, if not immediately available.
13. Will not sell any dog to commercial dog wholesalers, retail pet dealers or directly or indirectly allow dogs to be given as a prize or donation in a competition of any kind. Will not sell by sale or auction Kennel Club registration certificates as stand alone items (ie not accompanying a dog).
14. Will not knowingly misrepresent the characteristics of the breed nor falsely advertise dogs nor mislead any person regarding the health or quality of a dog.
15. Provide affectionate human companionship.
16. Will arrange to have all the relevant health screening advised for the breed to be carried out prior to mating any animal for the first time and will arrange for annual re-examination where required. At the minimum this is to include screening for hip and elbow dysplasia and eye testing.
17. Must not allow their Golden Retriever to be mated to a dog of another breed, EXCEPT in the case of a mating planned by a recognised organisation and that produces and trains assistance dogs.
18. Will not breed a litter unless they have the time and facilities to provide proper care and attention to the well-being of the dam and rearing of puppies.
19. Stud dog owners should satisfy themselves that the owner of the bitch has the time and facilities, before allowing for their dog to be used, as well as the bitch holding a current clear eye certificate, along with the usual recognised health tests for the breed.
20. Will screen prospective owners of puppies before agreeing to a sale. These owners must be advised of breed characteristics and the need for training, exercise and human companionship.
21. In the case of endorsements, these must be explained to the new owners who must sign that they understand and accept the conditions.
22. Should encourage a new owner to keep them informed of the dog's progress. Should breeders find hereditary problems occurring in their stock, they should be honest about it, in order that it is not unknowingly perpetuated.
23. Will not sell any dog to any laboratory.
24. Where a breeder pays to be on the Club's puppy list, we reserve the right for a Club Representative to visit the breeder's premises to ensure that Code of Ethics is upheld.

Breach of the above provisions may result in expulsion from Club membership, and/or disciplinary action by the Kennel Club and/or reporting to the relevant authorities for legal action as appropriate.