

# **BULLMASTIFF CLUB OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA INC**

## **CODE OF ETHICS**

1. The betterment and well-being of the Bullmastiff shall be the primary consideration of every member of the Club and is a condition of membership.
2. Breeding shall be done only for the purpose of improving the breed and when planning Bullmastiff matings, every effort must be made to control or, if possible, eliminate faults, especially if such faults are hereditary.
3. A bitch should not be allowed to conceive until at least 18 months of age, nor subsequently bred from more than once in every 12 month period. A bitch should not generally be allowed to conceive a first litter over the age of 5 years, nor having had a previous litter, after her 6th birthday. No bitch should have more than four litters. Owners of Stud Dogs shall not allow bitches which are over or under age to be mated and should refuse a mating to any bitch which is not in physical condition.
4. In the event of a owner being unable to continue to keep the Bullmastiff, the breeder shall make every effort to help find a new home for the dog.
5. Breeders shall not knowingly misrepresent the characteristics of the Bullmastiff, nor falsely advertise, or mislead any person regarding the performance of any dog.
6. Breeders shall give a comprehensive backup service with every puppy they sell, i.e. if a puppy develops any hereditary disease or congenital defect becomes apparent within 6 months of sale, breeder must be prepared to take it back and refund full purchase price. In cases where the new owner wishes to keep the puppy despite the defect, an amicable agreement must be reached between both parties.
7. Dogs consistently showing vicious tendencies towards human beings must not be bred from or shown under any circumstances.
8. Owners shall ensure at all times dogs under their control are properly housed, fed, watered, exercised and receive proper Veterinary attention if and when required.
9. Dogs shall not be allowed to roam at large and when away from home shall be kept fully leashed, or under effective control at all times.
10. Owners shall not permit any of their pure bred dogs to be mated to a dog of a different breed, to a cross-bred dog, or to an unregistered dog of the same breed.
11. Puppies shall not be sold or otherwise transferred from the breeder's care under eight weeks of age, thus allowing for vaccination to be given at six weeks of age.
12. Breeders shall ensure that all persons acquiring dogs from them clearly understand their responsibility for the care and welfare of the animal and that they have the time and facilities (i.e. adequate fences, sufficient room and proper shelter, etc.) to perform their obligations.
13. Breeders shall provide to all purchasers of their dogs, written details of all dietary and immunisation requirements and/or an appropriate publication relating to such requirements and responsible dog ownership.
14. Breeders shall not sell any dog to commercial dog wholesalers, retail pet dealers, or directly or indirectly allow a dog to be given as a prize or donation in a contest of any kind.
15. Good sportsmanship shall always be observed by members and disparaging remarks about fellow members or their stock should be strongly discouraged.
16. Owners shall ensure when selling or transferring a dog to another person that documents as required by the SACA inc. will be provided to the purchaser or transferee when applicable.
17. All breeders will xray all breeding stock for Canine Hip Dysplasia and Elbow Dysplasia and have xrays graded through an AVA approved scheme prior to being bred. The ideal practice of only breeding stock whose score is below the current breed average score is fully endorsed by the club.
18. The club strongly discourages any member from vigorously exercising, including exhibiting, training or any other exercise of Bullmastiffs at times when the temperature exceeds 33 degrees at the proposed location.