

MCA CODE OF ETHICS

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of these Code Of Ethics is the preservation and the welfare of the Mudi breed, and they will guide the members of the Mudi Club of America to always act in the best interest of the breed. Therefore, all members shall uphold these mentioned practices to the best of their ability, and also aid others in honoring the contents as well.

In breeding the Mudi, the main emphasis will be on preserving the working ability and other outstanding qualities of this breed, along with proper appearance and sound structure. It is crucial that the MCA Code Of Ethics be followed by those who are concerned with the propagation of physically, mentally, and temperamentally sound Mudi of proper breed type. Members are encouraged to educate the general public with the contents of this code to ensure no party becomes innocent partners in improper breeding practices or unsatisfactory living conditions for a Mudi. Consistent with the above, as a member of the Mudi Club of America, I agree with and will adhere to the Code Of Ethics as set forth below.

II. RECORDS

I agree to keep accurate and updated records of any breeding stock. If the dam or stud dog(s) are not available for prospective puppy buyers to see, I will (to the best of my ability) supply recent pictures of the absent dogs. Ideally these pictures will show detail of conformation, i.e. side, front, and rear views of the Mudi(s) in question. In this way, prospective puppy buyers are better equipped to make an informed decision.

I will keep accurate hard copies of health records so I can supply puppy buyers with photocopies of both parent's pedigrees and/or any valid health certificates such as OFA (Orthopedic Foundation for Animals), PennHip (University of Pennsylvania Hip Improvement Program), or CERF (Canine Eye Registration Foundation) certification.

III. BREEDING

I agree to use for breeding only those Mudi which have been deemed structurally sound by a reputable orthopedic registry. I will require OFA passing hip results (or an equivalent orthopedic registry, such as PennHip) and OFA normal elbow results with certification number. I will also require that breeding animals have their eyes tested and certified clear of heritable eye disease from the Canine Eye Registration Foundation (CERF). *(Sire & Dam must have eyes certified or re-certified within each year they will be used for breeding, and BEFORE an actual breeding takes place)*

I will breed only Mudi with no disqualifying faults and no radical departure from the official standard as accepted by the MCA/UKC/AKC-FSS/FCI. Consistent with the above, I will agree to breed in a discriminate manner and only upon strong evidence of the possibility of finding suitable homes for the resulting puppies. I understand, and agree, that to breed indiscriminately may lead to overpopulation and contribute to the deterioration of the Mudi breed.

As owner of a bitch, I will breed only normal, healthy, mature Mudi. I will not breed a bitch before two years of age nor will I permit said bitch to produce litters in three consecutive seasons. I will not repeat a breeding that has produced a serious genetic defect in the offspring. I will refuse to breed a bitch to a stud which has disqualifying faults, which does not have OFA documentation on hips and elbows (or an equivalent orthopedic registry), and CERF documentation on eyes, or which I consider to be in poor health. I will not breed, nor breed to, any animal of questionable (i.e. overly shy, nervous, or aggressive) temperament.

As owner of a stud dog, I will breed only normal, healthy mature dogs. I will not breed a male before two years of age. I will refuse stud service to any bitch that has disqualifying faults, which does not have OFA documentation on hips and elbows (or an equivalent orthopedic registry), and CERF documentation on eyes, or which I consider to be in poor health. I will refuse stud service to any bitch of questionable (i.e. overly shy, nervous, or aggressive) temperament.

If I produce a litter of puppies and for some reason become unable to care for, sell, or place the puppies resulting from that litter, I will offer the litter to members of the board and/or the rescue coordinator of the MCA for placement. If necessary there will be no money exchanged, putting the life and welfare of the puppies first.

If for any reason I produce puppies from parents without proper orthopedic health certification, such as OFA/PennHip, or eye examine certification, such as CERF, I will disclose this to all prospective puppy buyers. Furthermore I will encourage and recommend such health tests be performed on any Mudi that will be used for breeding.

IV. HEALTH

I agree to maintain good standards of health and care for my dogs, including proper veterinary care. I further agree that proper health includes proper socialization which means regular contact with people and exposure to the outside world including contact with other animals.

V. WELFARE

If I am unable to keep a mature healthy Mudi, for any reason, I will contact the MCA rescue coordinator, or a board member, and attempt to place the dog in a new home. I will make every effort to avoid turning the dog over to an "animal shelter" or to a veterinarian for euthanization.

VI. SALES

I will urge prospective puppy buyers to adopt the MCA Code Of Ethics and will recommend to the public breeders who uphold this code as well. I will refuse to sell to dog wholesalers, dealers, retailers, and their agents. I also agree that I will not personally act as an agent, dog dealer or wholesaler in any manner or form. If for any reason this should become necessary for me to do in regarding a Mudi, I will submit a request with a full explanation in writing to the Board for approval. A similar letter will also be required from the owner of the litter or dog(s) in question.

I will use a contract or written agreement with any sale or purchase involving a Mudi. To the best of my ability, I will state clearly to a buyer whether the puppy or dog being sold is potentially a pet, show, or working dog. In addition I will provide information to all buyers on the Mudi temperament wherein it pertains to their need to perform some type of activity.

I will not release any puppies before they are seven (7) weeks of age and only with the full knowledge that they are healthy and have had the required veterinarian evaluations, inoculations, and care appropriate for their age. I will provide, in oral or written form, recommendations for the proper care of any puppy I sell which will include but not be limited to: physical and mental health, housing, feeding, grooming, exercise, and training. I will supply buyers of puppies or adult dogs accurate health, breeding, and litter registration records and at least a 3-generation pedigree. Registration papers may be withheld on a Mudi suspected of carrying a serious fault that would make it detrimental for breeding purposes until the Mudi has proven otherwise or been rendered incapable of reproducing. However, the seller must keep on file the registration available for future needs. The withholding of registration papers must be in written agreement and signed by both the buyer and seller. I will recommend that puppy purchasers provide obedience training at the proper age, and immediately for adult dogs. Further I recommend that buyers give their Mudi a job to do, such as herding, flyball, agility, obedience, or any other dog sport/activity a Mudi may excel in.

I will recommend that my puppy buyers render incapable of reproducing any Mudi that has developed disqualifying or serious faults (this includes a bad temperament as deviates from the standard). As a breeder I will make every serious effort to see that every dog will have an adequate home and will be properly cared for. Co-ownership contracts, and SALES/LEASE agreements should only be entered into with extreme caution, and always keeping the welfare, and best interest of the dog as the primary consideration.

VII. ADVERTISING

I agree that my advertising, oral and written, shall be factual and not worded so as to attract undesirable buyers, or to encourage the raising of purebred Mudi as an easy money scheme.

VIII. GENERAL CONDUCT AND SPORTSMANSHIP

I shall conduct myself at all times in a manner that will reflect credit upon me, the MCA, and the breed, regardless of the location or circumstances, but especially when attending dog shows or trials, whether as an exhibitor or spectator. If I should become aware of the maltreatment, misuse or need for relocation of any Mudi, I will notify one or all of the following for the resolution of the problem: a member of the Board of Directors, the appropriate authorities in the area, the breeder, and the MCA Rescue

Coordinator.

IX. RECOMMENDED PRACTICES

As a MCA member, I will encourage working titles to retain the breed's natural working ability. As a MCA member, in addition to the required breeding tests mentioned above, I will also seek out the following tests if I feel they are of value for the well being of my Mudi: patellar luxation (OFA - normal), brucellosis test, a recognized temperament test (such as CGC or ATTS), herding instinct test, etc.

If any member feels they must deviate from the above-mentioned Code Of Ethics, it is advisable to contact the MCA board members so the situation can be reviewed, and recommendations can be given.

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