



FLAT-COATED RETRIEVER SOCIETY OF CANADA, INC

CODE OF ETHICS

Introduction

This Code of Ethics applies to all members of the Flat-Coated Retriever Society of Canada. The foremost aim of the Society is preserving and improving the character, natural retrieving ability, breed type and soundness, both physical and mental, of the Flat-Coated Retriever.

Every person who is associated with the Flat-Coated Retriever, whether a pet owner, breeder, hunter, competitor, trainer or handler, has a duty and responsibility to preserve and protect our breed.

It is particularly important that breeders place a strong emphasis on the dual-purpose nature of our breed as defined in the Breed Standard when evaluating breeding prospects. The Breed Standard as approved by the Canadian Kennel Club is the only standard of excellence by which the Flat-Coated Retriever shall be judged.

The Flat-Coated Retriever Society of Canada's Code of Ethics establishes minimum criteria for the responsible ownership of Flat-Coated Retrievers.

Requirements

The following general requirements and breeder requirements are considered ascertainable standards needed for the welfare of our breed.

General Requirements for All Members

- 1) Members must ensure the health and well-being of their dogs. This includes providing proper shelter in a safe and healthy environment and a secure area for keeping dogs when they are unsupervised. It also includes supplying appropriate nutrition, exercise, training and companionship.
- 2) Members will arrange for appropriate veterinary attention as required and maintain a high standard of health and care for their dogs
- 3) Members will ensure that their dogs are not a nuisance to neighbours or community by properly controlling and licensing where required.
- 4) Whenever and wherever Members compete with their dogs, they will behave with decorum and due regard for the requirements of the host organization, its venue and at their lodgings.
- 5) Members shall never sell or give a Flat-Coated Retriever to a third-party agent, a pet shop, commercial dealer or health organization for the purpose of experimentation or to a laboratory. Nor shall a Flat-Coated Retriever be sold or given for auction, raffle or prize.
- 6) Members shall be courteous, cooperative and responsible, respecting and not denigrating another Member.
- 7) All Members are encouraged to participate in breed health studies and health databases where such opportunities exist.



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Requirements for Breeders

Definition:

A Breeder is defined as anyone who owns or is responsible for any bitch or stud dog that is used for breeding, even if bred only one time. Breeders are expected to understand the breed standard.

The requirements for Breeders are divided into two categories:

- Breeder Code of Conduct
- Breeder Regulations

Breeder Code of Conduct

1) All breeding stock **must**:

a) Be of sound temperament that is typical of the Flat-Coated Retriever breed: stable, friendly, trainable, and willing to work. Temperament is of utmost importance to the breed and must never be neglected.

b) Be in good health, including freedom from communicable disease

2) The Flat-Coated Retriever is very slow to mature and therefore dogs and bitches should not be **less than** 24 months of age at the time of the first breeding. The Breeder must use only healthy adult dogs and bitches that have passed all health clearances listed in the breeder's requirements.

3) In addition to the mandatory health tests outlined in the Breeder Regulations, it is highly encouraged that breeders obtain health certifications for patellae, elbows, heart and thyroid as well as undertake a gonioscopy eye exam.

4) No bitch shall produce more than three (3) litters of normal size in her lifetime. Bitches older than eight (8) should not be bred.

5) Members will not intentionally mate siblings, half siblings, mother to son, or father to daughter.

6) Care must be taken to prevent accidental breedings from occurring. In the event of such breeding, if health clearances are not already in place, they must be obtained promptly. Progeny from such litters will be given a limited registration or be co-owned by the breeder until the health of the parents can be documented. Repeated accidental breedings indicate poor kennel management and can result in action by the Complaints Review Committee.



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- 7) Breeders should provide honest and clear information on Flat-Coated Retrievers to the prospective purchaser prior to the actual sale. This information should include the following:
- Knowledge that the breed is a high-energy breed that requires a significant amount of daily exercise.
 - The breed likes to be with people.
 - Dogs should not be confined to kennels for extended periods of time.
 - Obedience training is essential for all puppies
 - Common health issues faced by Flat-Coated Retrievers.
- 8) As stated in the CKC Breed Standard for the Flat-Coated Retriever, the only acceptable colours for the breed are black and liver. While yellow is a disqualifying colour and breeders should not breed with a goal of producing yellow puppies, where possible, all puppies, regardless of colour should be treated equally. Buyers of black or liver puppies purchased for breeding from a litter with yellow in it are to be notified in writing that their puppy could carry the yellow gene.
- 9) A responsible breeder will require CKC non-breeding spay/neuter contract on puppies that are sold as pets.

Breeder Regulations

The following are of sufficient importance that violations, if reported and verified, will result in disciplinary action by the Flat-Coated Retriever Board of Directors following recommendations from the Complaints Review Committee.

- 1) All dogs that are bred must have hips that are certified free of dysplasia by OFA (Orthopedic Foundation for Animals) or a board-certified veterinary equivalent.
- 2) a. All North American dogs that are used for breeding must have a current clearance by a board certified ACVO ophthalmologist. It is highly recommended that the results are submitted to CERF or OFA .
b. Where semen is being used from a dog that resides outside of North America, foreign eye exams performed by a certified veterinarian will be accepted.
- 3) In the case of frozen semen used from a deceased dog, the dog must have passed the hip and eye tests required by the breed club in the country that the dog resided in and at the time the semen was collected.
- 4) All puppies leaving the breeder's possession must be more than seven weeks old, with the exception of puppies for potential guide dogs, which may be released between six and seven weeks of age.



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5) Breeders must adhere to CKC rules applying to litters and individual dog registrations. The following are minimum rules for Flat-Coated Retriever breeders:

- Litter must be eligible for registration with appropriate registry in the country of birth. (i.e. Canada-CKC, USA -AKC)
- The Breeder must make every effort to supply the purchaser with registration paperwork in a timely manner. Suggested time frame is within one month of purchase of a puppy (unless otherwise stated in purchase contract).
- The Breeder must provide purchaser with a written sales contract specifying at least the following:
 - a) The guarantee for the puppy or dog covered by the contract,
 - b) Breeding or non-breeding of dogs must be clearly addressed. Breeders must use available tools (e.g., CKC non-breeding registrations, spay-neuter contracts, private non-breeding agreements etc.) to ensure puppies they produce are bred wisely or not at all.
 - c) That the dog will never be given or sold to any person or party listed above under "General Requirements 5".

6) A responsible Breeder **MUST** be willing at any time to take back or help relocate any Flat-coat Retriever that he or she has sold.

It is expected that all Breeders will go above and beyond the above requirements for the betterment of the breed.

Enforcement

Any member may report alleged violations of the Breeder Regulations to the Complaints Review Committee for review. The steps for filing such a report are outlined in the Complaints Policy and Guidelines.

The Complaints Review Committee will investigate the report following the procedure outlined in the Complaints Policy and Guidelines. Their findings and recommendations will be forwarded to the FCRSC Board. The Board shall review and consider all recommendations and have the power to take action against a member that has violated the Code of Ethics, based on the findings of the Complaints Review Committee. (See Complaints Policy and Guidelines)

Acceptance

Each prospective member of the Society will agree to comply with the Constitution, Bylaws and Code of Ethics of the FCRSC, by signature on the application for membership.

Each member will reaffirm compliance by signature when membership is renewed.

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