

THE PORTUGUESE WATER DOG CLUB OF IRELAND

Code of Ethics

The Portuguese Water Dog Club of Ireland recognises its responsibility to preserve and protect the Portuguese Water Dog. To this end certain standards of ethics are laid out for the guidance of members, who should have read and familiarised themselves with the Standard for the Breed.

Members of the Portuguese Water Dog Club of Ireland are ambassadors for the Breed and its reputation rests unequivocally with the breeders and those active in the Breed.

Where a Member is outside the jurisdiction of Ireland, whether as a resident or on a temporary basis, all references in this Code of Ethics to “the Irish Kennel Club” shall be read as meaning “the Irish Kennel Club or the relevant overseas Kennel Authority (provided such overseas Kennel Authority is recognised by the Irish Kennel Club)”.

Acceptance of Code

1. Membership of the Portuguese Water Dog Club of Ireland assumes acceptance of this Code.

Conduct of Members

2. All Members should conduct themselves at all times in such a manner as reflects the credit of ownership of the Portuguese Water Dog. They should be honest with prospective owners and fellow breeders, and should not knowingly misrepresent the characteristics of the breed nor falsely advertise or mislead any person regarding the health or quality of a dog.
3. All Members of the Portuguese Water Dog Club of Ireland are expected to conduct themselves in a respectful and sportsmanlike manner towards judges, stewards and fellow exhibitors, both inside and outside the show ring.

Irish Kennel Club Limited (“I.K.C.”)

4. All Members agree to abide by the rules and regulations, and the Code of Ethics of the I.K.C., particularly regarding the age of breeding,
5. All Members agree to breed only from animals registered with the I.K.C. or, where applicable (e.g. stud dogs outside the jurisdiction), from animals registered with the relevant overseas Kennel Authority (provided such overseas Kennel Authority is officially recognised by the Irish Kennel Club), and to keep accurate records.
6. All Members agree, without reservation, to report to the I.K.C. any instance where a veterinary surgeon performs an operation on any of their dogs which results in the alteration of its natural conformation.

Duties of Breeder

7. All Members should breed only from mature dogs and bitches – bearing in mind that this Breed matures slowly – and it is advised that bitches be at least 18 months old. Both prospective sire and dam should be clear of Dilated Juvenile Cardiomyopathy (DJCM), eye tested and hip scored as evidence that they are clear of known eye conditions and having a hip score of less than or equal to that recommended by the BVA or another recognised scoring authority. The prime concern should always be to produce healthy and sound dogs who will be a credit to the Breed. Dogs and bitches should be sound in temperament with no tendency towards nervousness or aggression.
8. All Members agree that no healthy puppy shall be culled and that puppies which may not conform to the Breed Standard should be placed in suitable homes.
9. No member should breed a litter unless he/she has the time and facilities to devote proper care and attention to the rearing of the puppies and to the well-being of the dam, and no member should provide stud services unless he/she is satisfied that the owner of the bitch has such time and facilities. In providing stud services to bitches, members should ensure that the bitch is physically and mentally sound.
10. Unregistered animals should not be used for breeding. Stud services should be refused to unregistered or un-registerable animals.

Hereditary Defects

11. There is no shame in producing an animal with a hereditary defect. The shame is in hiding the truth and failing to do anything about it. Hereditary defects are, unfortunately, present in the Breed. However, they can be reduced or completely eliminated when enlightened breeders are willing to face up to the problems and deal with them. Members who seek to hide the truth of hereditary defects from their fellows or who ignore hereditary problems and continue to breed from animals they know to be defective will be setting the Breed on the path to destruction and are, therefore, in direct breach of this Code of Ethics.
12. Members who are prepared to come forward and admit that there may be a hereditary defect in their animals are, in the long-term, making a positive contribution to the health and successful future of the Breed. The Committee of the Portuguese Water Dog Club of Ireland will morally support those who find they have unknowingly bred a litter found to be suffering from a hereditary defect.

Duties of Seller

13. When selling animals, members should be honest in their dealings with clients both at home and abroad, putting the interest of the Breed before profit.
14. Puppies should be at least seven weeks old when passed to new owners. Before going to their new homes puppies should be wormed and micro-chipped, have received their first vaccination, and be in good health. A pedigree, a diet sheet, records of any veterinary treatment and details of further worming should be given at the time of sale.
15. All relevant I.K.C. documents should be provided to the new owner when selling or transferring a dog, and the breeder will agree, in writing, to forward any relevant documents at the earliest opportunity, if not immediately available.
16. It is recommended that breeders endorse all registrations with the agreement that such endorsements shall be lifted once the animal is tested and proven to be of good enough quality to be bred from (i.e. clear of eye problems, clear of Dilated Juvenile Cardiomyopathy (DJCM), low hip score (see 7 above) and of good quality both in structure and temperament).
17. Breeders should provide 'after-sales' service where requested and be prepared to take back or re-home any puppy or adult bred and/or sold by them should the present owner have to part with it for whatever reason.
18. Under no circumstances should animals be sold to pet shops, dealers or laboratories.
19. Every effort should be taken to ensure the health and safety of all dogs at all times. Where appropriate, expert advice should be sought. Above all, members should be very vigilant when selling dogs, especially outside of Ireland.

Duties of Ownership

20. The welfare of the dog must be considered at all times.
21. All Members should ensure that their dogs are properly housed, fed and watered and have regular exercise. Appropriate veterinary attention should be provided when required. Members should not keep more dogs than they can properly care for, nor regularly leave their dogs unattended for the greater proportion of the day.
22. Members transporting their dogs in a vehicle should do everything necessary to ensure the safety of such dogs. Where appropriate, the dogs should have access to water. During hot weather, Members should ensure that their dogs do not become overheated or distressed in a vehicle and that there is adequate ventilation (through windows, doors or other suitable source of air).
23. All Members should respect and honour their older dogs.

Civic Responsibilities

24. All Members should acknowledge their responsibility to clean up after their dogs when in public places.
25. All Members should ensure that their dogs wear properly tagged collars and that they are kept leashed or under effective control when away from home.
26. Members should not allow any of their dogs to roam at large or to cause a nuisance to neighbours or those carrying out official duties.
27. Members transporting dogs from one jurisdiction to another should abide by the laws of the countries through which they are travelling. Where necessary, Members should ensure that their dogs have the relevant vaccinations and/or passports in order to protect the health of dogs and to reduce the possibility of transmitting disease to healthy animals.

Breach of Code of Ethics

28. Breach of any of the provisions of this Code of Ethics may result in expulsion from membership of the Portuguese Water Dog Club of Ireland, and/or disciplinary action by the I.K.C., and/or reporting to the relevant authorities for legal action, as appropriate.