

BOXER BREED COUNCIL CODE OF CONDUCT (Amend 26.3.95.)

Introduction:

The Code of Conduct shall form part of the "Application for Membership" of every Boxer Breed Club. All Members will be asked to read it carefully and only submit the "Application for Membership" if they are prepared to honour the Code.

1. **General.**
 - (i) The health and welfare of the Boxer are of extreme importance.
 - (ii) The Boxer should primarily be considered as a member of the family.
 - (iii) It is the responsibility of Members to ensure that the dogs in their care are not permitted to roam at large, or cause nuisance to neighbours or those carrying out official duties.
 - (iv) Members will ensure that their dogs bear some recognised means of identification and be kept fully leashed or under effective control when they are away from home, as is required by law.
 - (v) Members will clean up after their dogs in public places or anywhere where their dogs are exhibited.
2. **Health and welfare.**
 - (i) Members will properly house, feed, water and exercise all dogs under their care.
 - (ii) Preventative inoculations and/or alternative medication against all infectious diseases should be administered.
 - (iii) Veterinary advice will be sought if and when required.
 - (iv) The boarding of dogs should be investigated carefully and only reputable, licensed boarding kennels be selected.
3. **Dog exhibiting**
 - (i) Members will, when engaged in competitive events with their dogs, conduct themselves in such a way as not to bring discredit to the breed or Club, & will demonstrate good sportsmanship at all times.
 - (ii) Members will abide by Kennel Club Show Regulation when participating in the exhibition of any of their stock.
4. **Breeding:**
 - (i) The principle criterion to be considered in breeding will be the improvement of the breed.
 - (ii) Puppies will only be bred for sound and valid reasons and not solely as a commercial venture.
 - (iii) Members will only use dogs & bitches of good type, sound temperament & construction, with no known hereditary defects.
 - (iv) Members will only use dogs & bitches which are registered with the kennel Club.
 - (v) White stock shall not be bred from except in extraordinary circumstances under the Breed Council's Control Schemes for hereditary defects.
 - (vi) Members will keep accurate breeding records, registrations papers & pedigrees.
5. **Brood bitches.**
 - (i) Breeding should not be undertaken unless puppies can be properly accommodated & properly cared for.
 - (ii) It is a mistaken belief that litters are essential to a bitch's wellbeing.
 - (iii) It is desirable that a bitch has no more than three litters. A bitch shall not be bred from on consecutive seasons without due regard to her wellbeing. No bitch shall be bred from before she is eighteen months old or after her seventh birthday.
 - (iv) Members will ensure that a reliable person is near at hand at whelping.
 - (v) Veterinary advice shall be sought regarding the further mating of any bitch which has had difficulty in whelping.
6. **Stud Dogs.**
 - (i) The stud dog owner will ensure there are sound & valid reasons for any bitch being mated & for establishing, as far as possible, that the owner of the bitch can whelp & care for her & the puppies.
 - (ii) Commercial consideration will not be the reason for providing stud services.
 - (iii) The owner of the stud dog will be selective in the bitches which are covered. For example see 4 (v)
7. **Puppies.**
 - (i) White puppies should be humanely destroyed at birth. If they are retained they should be most carefully monitored before sale to ensure that they are not deaf. Puppies which are deaf or in other respects abnormal should not be sold.
 - (ii) In the event of white puppies being retained, they should be sold without Kennel Club registration/pedigree papers.
 - (iii) All puppies will normally be docked & dew-claws removed by four days of age.
 - (iv) Puppies will never be removed from the litter to go to their new homes until they are weaned. (Approximately seven to eight weeks old)
8. **Sales.**
 - (i) Members will never knowingly misrepresent the characteristics of the breed, nor falsely advertise dogs or puppies, nor mislead any person regarding the quality of a dog or puppy.
 - (ii) The breeder will carefully screen prospective buyers regarding their suitability as owners and advise on the characteristics of the breed.
 - (iii) Members will never sell a dog or puppy to commercial pet dealers or allow a dog or puppy to be given as a prize or donation in a contest of any kind.
 - (iv) Members will never sell stock on a payment by instalments basis.
 - (v) The sale of puppies on breeding terms is undesirable. However, where this should occur it will be done using the Kennel Club Form for the registration of loan or use of a Bitch for breeding.
 - (vi) Each purchaser of a puppy will be provided, at the time of purchase, with its pedigree, a diet sheet and information about grooming, training, worming and inoculations.
They will also be provided with a Boxer Breed Council Code of Conduct and be encouraged to join a Breed Club.
 - (vii) when selling or transferring a dog or puppy to another person, Members will ensure that all the relevant documents are provided to the new owner at the time or, where unavoidable, within reasonable time of the sale or transfer.
 - (viii) As breeders, members will take an interest in the welfare of their stock and will assure any new owner that they will always be available to help with any problems, and will assist with re-housing, if and when necessary. The Boxer Rescue Scheme should only be used as a last resort.
9. **Identification of stock**
 - (i) All stock will be identifiable according to current legal requirements.
10. **Abnormalities**
 - (i) Members will agree, without reservation, that any Veterinary Surgeon may report to the Kennel Club: a) All operations carried out on dogs or bred by them to correct any hereditary defects, b) All suspected or recognised defects in any dogs owned or bred by them.
 - (ii) The Boxer Breed Council's Control Schemes for Progressive Axonopathy and all other hereditary defects will be followed.
 - (iii) Breeders will report all cases of known or suspected hereditary defects to the Boxer Breed Council.

The Code of Conduct constitutes the required standard of behaviour expected of Club Members and any Member found in breach of these recommendations could be called upon to explain their actions to their Breed Club.