

# Breeders' Code of Conduct

Applying to all Dogs NZ members holding current kennel names. The purpose of the Breeders Code of Conduct, as a Dogs NZ policy directive contained within the Registration Regulations, is to protect the welfare of the bitch and her puppies and to further protect and enhance the organisation's integrity.

**1. I will practise and promote responsible dog ownership ensuring that dog welfare is a priority at all times. This will be demonstrated by the following. My dogs will be:**

- appropriately housed, fed, exercised, and socialised,
- attended to regularly by a veterinarian,
- appropriately controlled to avoid them becoming a public nuisance,
- identified by micro-chip,
- registered with Dogs New Zealand.
- cleaned up after in public places,
- compliant with all legislation and by-laws governing dogs.
- never be offered directly or indirectly as prizes or donations in a competition by myself or any person I can influence

**2. I will always:**

- ensure the welfare of my sires, dams and puppies is a priority at all times,
- closely comply with the Animal Welfare Act in relation to breeding and sale of puppies/dogs,
- fully inform new owners of my dogs and puppies about:
  - how a dog should be cared for,
  - diseases that dogs may be prone to (including measures to take to ensure good health where appropriate),
  - how to socialise young dogs, and
  - dietary regime to be followed.
- provide full disclosure of health issues recognised in the breed, how to identify symptoms and mitigation measures available,
- observe best practice in relation to commercial transactions, protecting all parties and ultimately the dogs involved,
- be in control of the entire sale process for which I am accountable,
- provide new owners with all the appropriate Dogs New Zealand paperwork for sold, gifted or exchanged dogs, within two weeks and in line with sale agreements at no extra cost.

**3. I will observe the following specific practices:**

- I will not transfer from my care any puppy under the age of eight calendar weeks. Three days leeway is provided for collection. An exemption for a period greater than three days must be applied for and approved in advance by the Canine Health & Welfare Committee.
- I will research health issues to which my breed/s may be prone and will take all reasonable steps to eliminate or minimize those issues. These steps will always include giving serious consideration to matings I arrange, maintaining careful observations of the health of my stock and may include any of the veterinary checks available. Any test results will be made available to purchasers upon request.
- I will not mate any bitch at less than 12 months of age.
- I will not breed from a bitch aged eight years and over at whelping. Dispensation must then be applied for and approved by the Canine Health & Welfare Committee prior to the date of

mating. This process may entail obtaining a veterinary report.

- I will not breed more than two litters from the same bitch within 18 months. Dispensation must be applied for and approved by the Canine Health and Welfare Committee prior to the date of mating if a third litter is proposed. This process will entail obtaining a veterinary report. A 12 month "rest" period must follow the whelping of the 3rd litter if approved.
- I will not breed more than four litters from the same bitch. Dispensation must be applied for and approved by the Canine Health & Welfare Committee also prior to the date of mating. This process may entail obtaining a veterinary report.
- I will not mate a dog and a bitch that are close relatives (defined as father/daughter, mother/son or brother/ sister, i.e. same sire and dam, not necessarily same litter). Exemptions for numerically small breeds must be applied for and approved in advance by the Canine Health & Welfare Committee.
- I will not mate a bitch in cases where she has previously had three (3) caesarean sections except where a veterinarian has certified the fitness of the bitch for the mating and has provided a certificate of that opinion that is dated prior to the date of mating. Dispensation must then be applied for and approved by the Canine Health & Welfare Committee also prior to the date of mating.
- When using artificial insemination, surgical insemination may be undertaken only in circumstances as advised by the reproduction veterinarian.
- I will not use co-owned dogs, bitches or semen in my breeding without the knowledge and written consent of all owners and co-owners with an interest in the dogs, bitches or semen involved.
- If I wish to enter into a joint ownership arrangement with a new owner or to arrange access to the puppy for breeding or showing purposes once it is transferred/sold, I will fully explain the implications to the intending new owner and will encourage them to seek independent advice before committing to the transfer/sale. Before finalising the transfer/sale I will provide full documentation setting out the nature and terms of the arrangement. Further to the completion of Dogs New Zealand paperwork within the required two weeks of sale/transfer and I will allow a 90- day 'cooling down' period after the date of the transfer/sale during which time the new owner may withdraw from the arrangement and return the puppy at their own expense and transfer Dogs New Zealand registration back to me, after which I will fully refund the cost of the puppy.
- Where the new owner of a pup advises me of a health or behavioural issue with the pup that has arisen within nine months of the transfer/sale, or advises me at any time of an issue that may be due to a hereditary factor, I will at all times maintain cordial and helpful relations with the new owner. I will try to negotiate a mutually acceptable resolution with the new owner. In the event that the new owner and I cannot agree on any matter it may be referred to the Dogs New Zealand Director Secretary for consideration of mediation or a recommendation for referral to an appropriate civil authority.
- Any member has a right of review (Registration Regulation 4.4) by the Executive Council of any administrative decision made either pursuant to the Registration Regulations or any policy directive or discretionary power given to the administration pursuant to the regulations. 🐾

**To be made effective from 1 June 2024**

# DISPENSATIONS, PENALTIES AND CONDITIONS

(to apply from 1 June 2024)

BCOC Breach	Requirements for Dispensation	First Offence Penalties & Conditions*
Transfer care of puppy under the age of eight calendar weeks.	Exemption required to be approved by Canine Health and Welfare Committee for greater than the three-day leeway.	\$1,000 fine (per litter)
Mating a bitch less than 12 months of age.	No exemption is available.	\$3,000 fine (per litter) applies if bitch is mated and whelps at less than 12 months of age, OR \$1,000 fine (per litter) applies if bitch is mated at less than 12 months of age, and whelps at 12 months of age or over. A veterinary report will be required to certify the fitness of the bitch prior to its next mating. Puppies can be registered on any Register.
Breeding from a bitch eight years and over.	Dispensation must be applied for and approved by the Canine Health and Welfare Committee prior to the date of mating. A veterinary report will be required to certify the fitness of the bitch at time of application. If deemed unfit to be bred from the bitch will be endorsed 'not to be bred from'.	\$1,000 fine (per litter) applies if the bitch is whelped at over 8 years of age and dispensation has not been approved in advance. Puppies can be registered on any Register.
More than two (2) litters within 18 months.	Dispensation must be applied for and approved by the Canine Health and Welfare Committee prior to the date of mating. A veterinary report will be required to certify the fitness of the bitch at time of application. A 12 month "rest" period must follow the whelping of the 3rd litter if approved.	\$1,000 fine (per litter) applies if a 3rd litter is whelped within an 18-month period and dispensation has not been approved in advance. Puppies can be registered on any Register.
More than four (4) litters from the same bitch.	Dispensation must be applied for and approved by the Canine Health and Welfare Committee prior to the date of mating. A veterinary report will be required to certify the fitness of the bitch at time of application.	A \$2,000 fine (per litter) applies, and the kennel name is suspended with the fine payable before reinstatement, if applicable Puppies can be registered on any Register.
Close relative mating.	Exemptions for numerically small breeds must be applied for and approved in advance by the Canine Health & Welfare Committee.	\$1,000 fine per litter applies if a first-generation mating is whelped where an exemption has not been approved in advance. Puppies can be registered on any Register.

**\* Second Offence**

In cases where a member breaches the BCOC (any offence) a second time the fine (per litter) will double.

**\* Third Offence**

In cases where a member breaches the BCOC (any offence) a third time the litter will be registered on the Limited Register (number II) and the kennel name will be suspended with a \$3,000 fine (per litter) applying and payable before reinstatement, if applicable.