

TIBETAN SPANIEL CLUB OF SCOTLAND

CODE OF ETHICS

The Tibetan Spaniel Club of Scotland is committed to responsible dog ownership and to the future of the breed. Unfortunately, there can be a problem of Tibetan Spaniels that need to be rehomed and the club, therefore wishes to ensure that members are aware of good practice and are prepared to make commitment towards responsible dog ownership. The aim of this code is to provide K.C. guidance in Part 1 to all owners of Tibetan Spaniels and in Part 2 to those who wish to breed them. Members are strongly advised only to buy dogs from reputable breeders.

PART 1: Kennel Club (Mandatory)

They will properly house, feed, water and exercise all dogs under their care and arrange for appropriate veterinary attention if required.

They will agree without reservation that any veterinary surgeon performing an operation on any of their dogs which alters the natural conformation of the animal, may report such operation to the Kennel Club.

They will agree that no healthy puppy will be culled. Puppies which may not conform to the Breed Standard should be placed in suitable homes.

They will abide by all aspects of the Animal Welfare Act.

They will not create demand for, nor supply, puppies that have been docked illegally.

They will agree not to breed from a dog or bitch which could be in any way harmful to the dog or to the breed.

They will not allow any of their dogs to roam at large or to cause a nuisance to neighbours or those carrying out official duties.

They will ensure that their dogs wear properly tagged collars and will be kept leashed or under effective control when away from home.

They will clean up after their dogs in public places or anywhere their dogs are being exhibited.

They will only sell dogs where there is a reasonable expectation of a happy and healthy life and will help with the re-homing of a dog if the initial circumstances change.

They will supply written details of all dietary requirements and give guidance concerning responsible ownership when placing dogs in a new home.

They will ensure that all relevant Kennel Club documents are provided to the new owner when selling or transferring a dog, and will agree, in writing, to forward any relevant documents at the earliest opportunity, if not immediately available.

They will not sell any dog to commercial dog wholesalers, retail pet dealers or directly or indirectly allow dogs to be given as a prize or donation in a competition of any kind. Will not sell by sale or auction Kennel Club registration certificates as stand-alone items (not accompanying a dog).

They will not knowingly misrepresent the characteristics of the breed nor falsely advertise dogs nor mislead any person regarding the health or quality of a dog.

PART 2: MEMBERS CONSIDERING BREEDING A LITTER

Veterinary advice does not suggest that a bitch is any better or healthier if she has a litter.

Anyone who breeds a litter should accept an on-going commitment for each puppy for life. Breeding Tibetan Spaniels is not an easy option, it is time consuming and often is not financially rewarding.

It is important that members should only breed a litter if they have the time and facilities available to devote proper care and attention to the well being of the dam and the puppies.

If a member wishes to breed a litter, he/she should be reasonably sure of finding homes for the puppies. Tibetan Spaniels are not a well-known breed and suitable homes can be difficult to find.

BREED STANDARDS: All breeding stock should be Kennel Club registered and hold clear B.V.A. K.C. Progressive Retinal Atrophy certificates. They should be healthy and follow closely the official Kennel Club Standard and should only be bred from with the objective of improving the overall standard of the breed. Equal thought should be given to temperament, health, type and soundness. Nervous or aggressive dogs are not satisfactory as pets or breeding stock. Members should refrain from and discourage breeding from inferior Tibetan Spaniels.

WELFARE OF THE BITCH: No bitch should have an excessive number of litters (it is recommended that not more than 4) and no bitch should be mated at every season. No bitch should have a litter before they are sufficiently mature and preferably not before eighteen months of age. No bitch can have a litter after eight years of age (The K.C will not register puppies born after this age without permission having first being granted).

STUD DOGS: Only entire dogs should be used at stud. Members who own stud dogs should be aware of the need to improve the breed and enhance the reputation of the sires. They should refuse stud services to inferior specimens of the breed and to people who do not have the time, facilities, or responsible attitudes for caring for dam and puppies. Only Kennel Club registered bitches with current clear B.V.A./K.C. Progressive Retinal Atrophy certificate should be accepted.

Owners of stud dogs should not provide stud services to laboratories, pet shops or dealers or to persons known to sell puppies to any of them.

CONDUCT: Members should always conduct themselves to reflect credit on dog ownership. Officers and Committee members are always ready to help with problems wherever possible.

PUPPY SALES: Puppy sellers should always be aware of legislation e.g. The Trades Description Act and the Animal Welfare Bill.

No Tibetan Spaniel should knowingly be sold to laboratories, pet shops or dealers or to anyone known to sell to them, or to allow them to be offered as prizes in a raffle or competition.

Prospective buyers of puppies should be checked thoroughly for suitability and ability to provide long term homes with a happy and healthy life.

They should be advised of the characteristics of the breed, grooming and exercise requirements and the need for a social environment.

PUPPY INFORMATION: No puppy should leave the dam before 8 -10 weeks of age. The breeder to provide for each puppy: -

1. A Diet Sheet. 2. Written confirmation of worming. 3. A receipt for purchase.

4. A signed pedigree on completion of sale. 5. K.C. registration and transfer form on completion of sale.

It is expected that breeders will ask a purchaser for first refusal should the dog need rehomed at any stage in its life.

EXPORT: No Tibetan Spaniel should be sold to any country without legislation for the protection of animals from cruelty similar in intent to such laws in Great Britain and who do not have a reciprocal agreement with the Kennel Club.

KENNEL CLUB ENDORSEMENT SCHEME: Members should be aware of this free provision and use as appropriate when registering puppies.

1. Progeny not eligible for registration.

2. Not eligible for issue of export pedigree.

Such endorsements can only be lifted at the written request of the individual imposing it, subject to approval by the Kennel Club General Committee

AFTER SALES SERVICE:

It should be impressed on buyers that they should contact the breeder in the event of problems with the puppies.

Breeders should make every effort to assist with the rehoming if it becomes necessary at any stage in the dog's life.