



The Estrela Mountain Dog Club (UK)

Code of Ethics

Mandatory Kennel Club Code of Ethics:

All breeders who register their puppies, and new owners who register ownership of their dogs with the Kennel Club, accept the jurisdiction of the Kennel Club and undertake to abide by its general Code of Ethics.

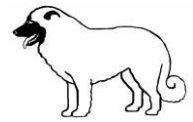
Breeders/Owners:

- Will properly house, feed, water and exercise all dogs under their care and arrange for appropriate veterinary attention if and when required.
- Will agree without reservation that any veterinary surgeon who performs an operation on any of their dogs which alters the natural conformation of the animal, or who carries out a caesarean section on a bitch, may report such operations to the Kennel Club.
- Will agree that no healthy puppy will be culled. Puppies which may not conform to the Breed Standard should be placed in suitable homes.
- Will abide by all aspects of the Animal Welfare Act.
- Will not create demand for, nor supply, puppies that have been docked illegally.
- Will agree not to breed from a dog or bitch which could be in any way harmful to the dog or to the breed.
- Will not allow any of their dogs to roam at large or to cause a nuisance to neighbours or those carrying out official duties.
- Will ensure that their dogs wear properly tagged collars and will be kept leashed or under effective control when away from home.
- Will clean up after their dogs in public places or anywhere their dogs are being exhibited.
- 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.
- Will supply written details of all dietary requirements and give guidance concerning responsible ownership when placing dogs in a new home.
- 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.
- 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).
- 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.



EMDC (UK) Specific Code of Ethics

1. The Committee of the EMDC (UK) will endeavour to assist members to overcome any problems and to answer queries to the best of their capabilities at all times.
2. The welfare and preservation of the Estrela Mountain Dog should be the first consideration of all members above all else.
3. No bitch should produce a litter prior to her 2nd birthday. No bitch should produce their first litter after their 5th birthday. At no time should a bitch give birth after her 8th birthday. No bitch should have more than one litter within a 12 months period. Over breeding will be seriously frowned upon.
4. If a member is considering breeding, they must ensure that their facilities are conducive to the health and wellbeing of the bitch and her puppies. It is also the stud dog owner's duty to satisfy themselves that the conditions for rearing the litter are appropriate. Breeders must have facilities to house any unsold puppies for as long as is necessary. It is the Breeders responsibility to ensure the wellbeing of any dog bred by them which may need re-homing at any time during its life.
5. When planning the use of any dog for breeding, honest consideration should be given to type, temperament and soundness of both intended parents. Encouragement should not be given to anyone seeking to use a dog of inferior quality. Monetary gain should never be a factor when breeding is considered.
6. In view of the potentially crippling nature of Hip Dysplasia and its high degree of inheritability, the EMDC (UK) policy is that all stock should be x-rayed after the age of 12 months, prior to breeding. Only dogs whose hips are within an acceptable range should be considered for breeding purposes. The Kennel Club 'mean' score for the breed may be used as a guide. Stud dogs and Brood bitches which have consistently produced progeny with high scores should be withdrawn from breeding and their progeny should not be bred from.
7. It is understood that despite a breeder's best intentions, and vigilant health testing, hereditary defects may occur. The EMDC (UK) will maintain health records for the breed and if any hereditary defect should appear the breeder or owner is requested to inform the Health Co-ordinator. The breed Health Co-ordinator will also instigate a scheme to monitor general health problems within the breed.
8. Breeders should satisfy themselves of the suitability of owners. Potential owners should be informed of the good and bad traits of the breed. Such owners must also be made aware of any known health defects in a puppy as well as any definitive departure from the breed standard.
9. No puppy should leave the breeder before the age of 8 weeks.
10. When a new owner collects their puppy, the breeder must ensure that the Pedigree, Diet Sheet and Kennel Club Registration Form (pending timely return from the KC) are provided. Details regarding micro-chipping, worming and vaccinations must also be made available. It is required that owners must be made aware of any puppy which is not registered with the Kennel Club.
11. No puppy should be exported before the age of 12 weeks unless they are travelling with an escort. Care should be taken to ensure that Countries to which dogs of any age are exported have



adequate anti-cruelty laws in force. No Estrela should ever be knowingly sold to a laboratory, pet shop, dealer or any person connected to such.

12. Breeders must be aware that they have a responsibility to any dog bred by them for the duration of their life, therefore they should be willing to assist their owners in any way possible
13. Members who bring the breed into disrepute due to their behaviour may be asked to explain their actions to the Committee. The Club reserves the right to take any action they may deem necessary.

Breach of these provisions may result in expulsion from club membership, and/or disciplinary action by the Kennel Club and/or reporting to the relevant authorities for legal action, as appropriate.

NOTE: Members are encouraged to give a copy of this document along with an application for membership of the EMDC (UK) to all new Estrela owners for their information. Further copies of both documents are available from the Secretary, and also on this EMDC (UK) website.