

Quality Breeders are encouraged to abide by the following code of ethics. For each item listed, a point system has been allocated and each quality breeder will have their accumulated points displayed in their profile on the Quality Breeders Association Inc., (QBA) website. The QBA Standards Committee reserves the right to amend this living document at any time after acceptance by a majority vote of the committee. If changes are made, they will be posted on our website within 30 days and each member will receive an electronic copy of the changes

1. Quality Breeders are encouraged to abide by their parent kennel club recommendations, or code of ethics, in terms of health screening for appropriate diseases or conditions common to their breed before mating of breeding stock, and to have regular checks by their veterinarian, or qualified personnel, before each breeding.

2. Quality Breeders agree to provide their breed(s) the following: adequate shelter for their location; clean water at all times and fresh food daily. Quality Breeders are encouraged to utilize proper sanitary measures when cleaning up after their dogs. Quality Breeders will provide enough regular exercise and activity for the breed and appropriate socialization practices; and will provide adequate veterinarian care for all animals in their care. This includes but is not limited to: vaccinations, heartworm prevention, specific to your area requirements etc.

3. Quality Breeders are encouraged to NEVER sell to pet stores, retailers, puppy brokers or middlemen. In addition Quality Breeders are encouraged not to engage in flea market sales, roadside sales, auctions or any transaction where the member does not deal directly with the puppy's new owner. Quality Breeders are encouraged to accept the responsibility to find suitable homes for ALL their puppies.

4. Quality Breeders are encouraged to utilize a questionnaire for potential puppy buyers before they adopt their puppy to evaluate the new home, owners and proper placement of the puppy. Quality Breeders are encouraged to supply new owners with the following: a sales contract that includes a written health guarantee, adequate instructions on how to care for their new puppy, proper registration, or application, paperwork either at the time of sale or in a timely manner, as agreed at time of sale, i.e.: breed club, AKC, CKC, Micro-chip registrations.

5. Quality Breeders are encouraged to accept back or re-home any dogs that they have bred. At no time shall these animals be turned over to any animal shelter or humane society. This should be clearly stated in a written sales contract and signed by both parties. Quality Breeders are encouraged to replace any dog with genetic issues affecting the quality of life or poor temperament that was not induced by poor environment. This clause can be superseded by local laws i.e.: Florida Dog and Cat Lemon Law Statue 828.29. Responsible breeders should be encouraged to take the appropriate action in cases where dogs under their responsibilities are determined to be unfit for placement in a home due to health or temperament issues. Rehabilitating or euthanizing the animal as appropriate. No healthy place-able animals should ever be euthanized for convenience.

6. Quality Breeders shall have no record of dog abuse or neglect with any humane/ rescue society, kennel club, breed association or Department of Agriculture. Quality Breeders should have no record of surrendering any dog to a shelter or rescue society.

7. Quality Breeders are encouraged to have no more than three different breeds of dogs they breed. QBA will, however, have a separate classification for Commercial Breeders as long as they meet the required criteria.

8. Quality Breeders are encouraged to furnish QBA with references by fax or email from the veterinarian that they use, stating how long they have been of service to the breeder and any additional comments that they wish to make about their adult dogs, vaccination schedule and whether or not they have visited the premises / kennels, if so – on what date or with what frequency.

9. Quality Breeders are encouraged to furnish QBA with a recent statement of inspection by e-mail or fax. This inspection may be carried out by a local authority, recognized kennel club, breeders association, or licensed veterinarian. QBA has provided a standard form which can be emailed or printed for ease of completion and conformity.

10. Quality Breeders are encouraged to furnish QBA with references by fax or email from two or three puppy buyers that have been to breeder's facility, or that have adopted more than one puppy from separate litters". This reference should address the housing and care of puppies, the health of the puppy received, and paperwork that was furnished. QBA has provided a standard form which can be emailed or printed for ease of completion and conformity.

QBA reserves the right to revoke any membership, without refund, if any person is found to have a prior, or pending, conviction in relation to animal abuse. While the above standards are recommendations for Quality Breeders we encourage all members to abide by these standards. Any member having been found to give false information i.e.: advertising as to doing health screenings when in actuality they do not do health screenings, will result in a suspension of membership or a reduction in points for the first offense and revocation for any subsequent offenses. QBA also reserves the right to revoke or suspend membership after receiving three or more written complaints, either by regular standard mail or electronically, from other QBA members or members of the public or if they are found to be knowingly falsifying records or misrepresenting themselves to the association.

QBA will have four regular paid levels of yearly membership being Bronze, Silver, Gold and Platinum but will also provide members the ability to advance from regular Member status through advanced member to Master Breeder status by complying with, and providing proof of compliance, to the above standards. Points will be awarded for each compliance, with a total of 1,000 points being available, and as set forth below:

Member Breeder – 400 points  
Novice Breeder – 600 points  
Advanced Breeder – 800 points  
Master Breeder – 1,000 points

Points accumulated will be shown on the QBA website under the breeders' profile.