

Valid from 2024-01-01

# Code of Ethics

for members of the Swedish Kennel Club (SKK)



SVENSKA KENNELKLUBBEN

# Code of Ethics for the Swedish Kennel Club

*This Code of Ethics is applicable to members of the Swedish Kennel Club (SKK) and its member organisations from 2024-01-01.*

## 1. Rules for members of the Swedish Kennel Club (SKK) organisation

Each member of the SKK organisation:

- 1:1 *Shall* treat and care for dogs and other animals with care, in accordance with established practice as well as the applicable animal protection laws. This means that neither an SKK-authorized kennel liaison officer nor any government authority should have any reason to warrant remark against the conditions in which the animals are kept. Shall cooperate and ensure that SKK-authorized kennel liaison officer can conduct visits.
- 1:2 *Shall* act and behave in such a way that does not damage or oppose SKK or its member organisations and shall not speak disparagingly in neither writing nor conversation about functionalities with roles within SKK.
- 1:3 *Shall* follow SKK rules and regulations and carry out the obligations/commitments that are stipulated in SKK agreements, and in all other respects work to fulfil the obligations/commitments that may be entailed by dog-related activities, and shall in no way circumvent SKK decisions or regulations.
- 1:4 *Shall* never appoint a front-man, nor act as such, by registering puppies/dogs under another person/kennel's name,

when the true breeder is another person. Additionally, members shall not entrust a distributor, nor act as such, for the sale or purchase of dogs.

## 2. Ethics regulations for breeders and dog owners

Dog breeding shall be conducted in such a manner that it furthers the health and well-being of both the bitch and her offspring. Each member using their dog for breeding purposes shall be familiar with the SKK breeding policy, breed standard, testing and registration regulations, breed-specific breeding strategies and current provisions in animal protection legislation. Breeding shall take place with quality in mind and with great responsibility.

Each member of the SKK organisation:

- 2:1 *Shall* only breed dogs of the same breed registered with SKK or a foreign kennel association that has been recognised by SKK. All puppies in a litter must be registered in SKK and this must take place at the same time.
- 2:2 *Shall* only use dogs for breeding that do not have any severe diseases/defects, and that have a good and typical temperament for the breed. Any dog that displays a behavioural disorder in the form of excessive fear reactions or aggressive

behaviour in unprovoked or, ordinary situations for the dog, shall not be used for breeding. Shall only mate pairs that, based on the available information, do not increase the risk for serious illness/defect amongst the offspring. As the owner of a breeding dog, shall comply with the SKK health programme. For breeds that require results from a veterinary/genetic examination and/or cognitive examination/cognitive description, a valid certificate of such shall be issued for the breeding dogs prior to mating.

Shall not breed from dogs that, upon DNA testing for serious diseases with established recessive heredity, are determined to be carriers of double alleles (homozygous). Dogs who have been established as carriers of an allele (heterozygous) for a serious disease with established recessive heredity shall only be used for mating with another dog who has been declared free of genetic/hereditary disease and under the condition that breeding is not in conflict with the appropriate health programmes.

- 2:3 *Shall* not mate father with daughter, mother with son or full brothers and sisters with each other.
- 2:4 *Shall* only use dogs in breeding that are able to reproduce naturally. If artificial insemination (AI) is used, the respective veterinarian responsible for the AI shall certify that the dog and bitch are not assessed to have a reduced sex drive or inability for normal mating. AI shall always be performed by a registered veterinarian.
- 2:5 *Shall* not use a dog/bitch for breeding until the dog displays the physical and behavioural maturity of an adult dog. Bitches may be mated at the earliest at the age of eighteen (18) months.

*Shall* not transport a pregnant bitch or puppy in contravention of applicable regulations issued by the Swedish Board of Agriculture (Jordbruksverket).

*Shall* not mate a bitch who has reached the age of seven (7) years, if she has not previously had a litter of puppies. Bitches who have reached the age of seven (7) years must always undergo a veterinary examination prior to mating. The certificate shall state that the bitch is in such a condition that she can produce a litter of puppies without risk to her health. Upon mating, the veterinary certificate may not be older than one (1) month and shall be appended to the registration application. A bitch, regardless of breed, may not be mated after she has reached the age of ten (10) years.

*Shall* not allow a bitch to produce more than five (5) litters. Should a bitch produce two (2) litters within twelve (12) months, the bitch shall then be rested for a minimum of twelve (12) months before the next litter. Bitches that have puppies after the age of seven (7) must always rest at least twelve (12) months between litters.

- 2:6 *Shall* ensure before sale that the puppies live in an environment that is beneficial to their physical and cognitive development. They shall also be well socialised amongst both humans and other dogs. Puppies shall not be separated from their mother - other than temporarily - before the puppy turns eight (8) weeks old. Puppies shall be delivered no earlier than when they have reached eight (8) weeks old and shall be ID-marked and have undergone a veterinary examination.

## Valid from 2024-01-01

Each breeder of the SKK organisation:

**2:7** *Shall* always draw up and adhere to an agreement when selling or otherwise transferring ownership of a dog. The contents of the agreement shall be determined by SKK and a copy of the registration certificate and veterinary examination shall be appended. The veterinary examination certificate may not be older than seven (7) days prior to the day of delivery.

**2:8** *Shall* always draw up and adhere to an agreement when signing over a dog as a foster home dog. The contents of the agreement shall have been established

by SKK. Kennels/breeders shall have no more than ten (10) dogs at the foster home. "Foster home" refers to the person who has bought, or otherwise acquired the dog from the seller on the proviso for using dogs for breeding, testing, competition or exhibition.

**2:9** *Shall* always provide true and complete details of their dogs and breeding activities.

*SKK General Committee (SKK/CS) hold the right to grant exemption from this code of ethics in certain cases, where particular reason exists*

Before mating, do not forget to find out the registration requirements for your particular breed.

The SKK website, [www.skk.se](http://www.skk.se) provides the applicable registration rules and links to the breed-specific breeding strategies (RAS) for your breed.

The website also contains information about how the ground rules must be interpreted as well as policy statements from SKK's Central Committees.



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