

## **NATIONAL AUSTRALIAN SHEPHERD ASSOCIATION** **CODE OF ETHICS**

All members of the National Australian Shepherd Association undertake to abide by its general Code of Ethics.

### **Club members:**

1. Will properly house, feed, water and exercise all dogs under their care and arrange for appropriate veterinary attention if and when required.
2. Will agree without reservation that any veterinary surgeon performing 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.
3. Will agree that no healthy puppy will be culled. Puppies which may not conform to the Breed Standard should be placed in suitable homes.
4. Will abide by all aspects of the Animal Welfare Act.
5. Will not create demand for, nor supply, puppies that have been docked illegally.
6. Will agree not to breed from a dog or bitch which could be in any way harmful to the dog or to the breed.
7. Will not allow any of their dogs to roam at large or to cause a nuisance to neighbours or those carrying out official duties.
8. Will ensure that their dogs wear properly tagged collars and will be kept leashed or under effective control when away from home.
9. Will clean up after their dogs in public places or anywhere their dogs are being exhibited.
10. 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.
11. Will supply written details of all dietary requirements and give guidance concerning responsible ownership when placing dogs in a new home.
12. Will ensure that all relevant Royal 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.
13. 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.
14. Will not sell by sale or auction Royal Kennel Club registration certificates as stand-alone items (not accompanying a dog).
15. 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.

16. No bitch should whelp under the age of two or over the age of eight. No bitch should be bred from on consecutive seasons unless permission from the Royal Kennel Club has been granted.
17. Breeders and stud dog owners should only breed from dogs that are registered with the Royal Kennel Club breed register or other internationally recognised Kennel Club.
18. Stud dogs should only be bred to bitches that are registered with the Royal Kennel Club Breed register or other internationally recognised Kennel Club and ensure that the bitch has been fully health tested or meets the Royal Kennel Club minimum requirements for health testing.
19. The owners of stud dogs should also accept an equal responsibility for the health and aftercare of the resulting progeny.
20. All animals should be x-rayed for Hip Dysplasia and Elbow Dysplasia and scored under the Royal Kennel Club/BVA scheme or fully scored under a recognised international Kennel Club approved scheme before being mated.
21. All animals should be certified clear of eye defects within twelve months prior to being mated and all breeding stock should undertake at minimum all the health tests required by the Royal Kennel Club.
22. Merle to Merle matings must not be undertaken by any NASA Breeder.
23. Colour testing of all potential stud dogs and brood bitches is recommended.
24. Breeders and stud dog owners should keep accurate records. The details of matings, pedigrees, progeny and all sales or exchanges of Australian Shepherds should be kept for a minimum of five years.
25. A puppy should not be released until it has attained the age of eight weeks. When it is to be transported by road, rail, sea or air it should not be released until it has attained the statutory age.
26. Breeders should take responsibility for all puppies born and in the case of owners needing to rehome, breeders should help with any rehoming.
27. Members should offer help and advice in all aspects relating to the Australian Shepherd to any person showing interest in the breed.
28. Members should be able to voice their opinions but refrain from unnecessary criticism of other members and their dogs and be sportsmanlike in all events and competitions as well as on social media.

*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.*