

Code of Ethics

AN 8

6.5.1998

This Code of Ethics is established in accordance with the objectives of the RRIF to protect and advance the interests of Rhodesian Ridgebacks, and to provide guidelines for responsible ownership and ethical breeding practices.

ALL BREEDERS AND OWNERS OF RHODESIAN RIDGEBACKS SHALL:-

- 1.1 ensure that all Rhodesian Ridgebacks in their care are properly housed, fed, exercised and will receive adequate veterinary attention from a qualified veterinarian when necessary.
- 1.2 not knowingly misrepresent the characteristics of the breed, not falsely advertise or mislead any person regarding the performance, quality or health of any Rhodesian Ridgeback.
- 1.3 ensure that all persons acquiring a Rhodesian Ridgeback from them, understand their responsibilities for the care and welfare of such dogs.
- 1.4 provide to all persons acquiring a Rhodesian Ridgeback from them, written details of all dietary as well as vaccination and deworming requirements.
- 1.5 ensure that the proper vaccinations are administered at the proper time by a veterinarian.
- 1.6 ensure that no puppy bred by him/her is released to a purchaser until it has reached a minimum age of 7 weeks from date of birth.
- 1.7 not knowingly sell any dog directly to commercial dog wholesalers or retail pet dealers.
- 1.8 have an x-ray taken of their breeding stock for hips evaluation at the minimum age of 12 months but preferably at the age of 18 months. Ensure that all Rhodesian Ridgebacks x-rayed can be identified by a microchip implant or tattoo.
- 1.9 consider not to breed too early or too late in age or more than once a year. A veterinary opinion is necessary when the bitch has reached the age of 5 years, for breeding purposes.
- 1.10 consider that Rhodesian Ridgeback puppies with minor defects will be sold with breeding restriction or/and sterilised. It is recommended to cull at birth puppies showing serious congenital defects e.g. dermoid sinus.
- 1.11 seriously consider replacing any puppy sold as a show prospect or breeding stock which subsequently develops a genetic disqualifying defect, provided this defect is brought to the notice of the breeder within 12 months and a written agreement had been established between the seller and the purchaser at the time of the transaction.
- 1.12 breed with pure-bred Rhodesian Ridgebacks registered with the Kennel Union of Southern Africa (KUSA).
- 1.13 ensure that, when selling or transferring a Rhodesian Ridgeback to another person, the documents required by KUSA will be provided to the purchaser or transferee.
- 1.14 ensure the promotion of the breed
- 1.15 motivate new owners of Rhodesian Ridgebacks to become members of the RRIF.
- 1.16 breed only for the purpose of improving the breed.
- 1.17 display good sportsmanship and conduct, whether at home, at shows, or in public meetings, in such a manner as to reflect credit upon themselves and the RRIF.
- 1.18 inform purchasers of the existence of any breeder's restriction in writing, the lifting thereof, and obtain signed acceptance of such restriction as elaborated upon in our AN2.
- 1.19 ensure that the best examples of the breed are retained in the breeder's country and placed with suitable persons so that our gene pool is not depleted and so that we can continue to provide the best the breed has to offer in perpetuity, but in doing so to send only excellent examples of the breed overseas so that the good name of the breeder (and the country of birth) is protected.