

Northern Counties Staffordshire Bull Terrier Club General Code of Ethics

All members of the Northern Counties Staffordshire Bull Terrier Club 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 operation 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 in any way be harmful to the dog or the breed.
7. Will not allow any of their dogs to roam at large or to cause a nuisance to neighbors' 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 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 available immediately.
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. Will not sell by sale or auction Kennel Club registration certificates as stand alone items(not accompanying the dog
14. 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.
15. It is recommended that Stafford bitches be not mated under the age of **sixteen months** at the time of mating nor after attaining the age of eight years, between which ages no more than six litters should be produced. A bitch should not be mated the season after whelping.

16. Stud dogs should only be used for the betterment of the breed and only allowed to mate bitches which are registered at the Kennel Club

17. All members dogs should be tested for all relevant eye conditions under a Kennel Club approved scheme whose results are published and that all breeding stock, dog or bitch, should be DNA tested for both L-2- HYDROXYGLUTARIC ACIDURIA (L2 HGA) and HEREDITARY JUVENILE CATARACTS (HC) before they are bred from, unless they are from parents shown to be hereditarily clear.
Note: Hereditarily clear means that a dog has been bred from parents that is either (a) both DNA tested clear or (b) parents are registered as hereditarily clear

18. New Litter Limits & Caesareans

The Kennel Club announced that it would be reducing the number of litters allowed from any **one bitch from six litters to four**. This was effective for litters born on or after 1st January 2012. At the same time, the KC has confirmed that it will no longer register any puppies born either by caesarean section or naturally from any bitch which has previously had two such operations, again effective 01 January 2012

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.

