

MIDLAND BEDLINGTON TERRIER CLUB

GENERAL CODE OF ETHICS

All members of the Midland Bedlington Terrier Club undertake to abide by its general Code of Ethics.

Last updated April 2015

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 who performs 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 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 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. Will not sell by sale or auction Kennel Club registration certificates as standalone items (not accompanying a 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) Before breeding a litter, equal consideration should be given to type, temperament and soundness, Nervous or aggressive dogs should not be bred from. New breeders should seek the advice on suitability of sires for their bitches, from experienced breeders.
- 16) No bitch should be required to have more than 4 (four) litters, due regard being given to the number of puppies whelped. No bitch should be mated at more than two out of three successive seasons and never without regard to the wellbeing of the bitch. No bitch should be mated before her second season and never before the age of sixteen months, or after the age of eight years.
- 17) All breeding should be aimed at the improvement of the breed. Members should do all in their power to discourage breeding from clearly inferior specimens and those members who own stud dogs should refuse service to such specimen's Particular care should be taken where the owner of a bitch is not a member of a Bedlington Terrier Club registered with Kennel Club.
- 18) No member should breed a litter unless he is reasonably sure of finding homes for the puppies. No puppies should leave the breeder before the age of EIGHT weeks.
- 19) No Bedlington terrier should be sold to Countries where they are not protected by anti-cruelty laws. (If in doubt consult DEFRA or the Kennel Club).
- 20) No Bedlington which has any physical defect or which shows any definite departure from the standard should be sold without the buyer being made fully aware of such defect or departure from the standard and its possible consequences. Members should sell only animals which to the best of their knowledge, are in good health at the time of the sale.
- 21) It should be impressed on buyers that they should contact the breeder in the event of any problems with the Bedlington. Breeders should make every effort to be of assistance in these circumstances.
- 22) Copper Toxicosis and Hyperkeratosis are the two health problems found in some Bedlington Terriers. (Copper Toxicosis is hereditary). All breeding stock should be DNA tested for the former. Guidance should be sort prior to breeding from any carrier or affected animal. No affected dog should be used for breeding. No dog which is a carrier should be mated to another carrier.

Hyperkeratosis is easily seen in the feet; pads have deep cracks, horny or corny excrescences. No affected animals should be bred from. Further information is available from the Bedlington Terrier Health Group.
- 23) Any dog to be used for breeding should be examined by an ophthalmic vet, recognised by the KC, to confirm the dog is free from Total Retinal Dysplasia. No affected dog should be used for breeding.

- 24) Close inbreeding is to be discouraged, seek Kennel Club guidance before breeding.
- 25) Officers and Committee of the club are always ready to help with any queries or problems. It is advantageous to be a member of one or more Breed Clubs.

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.