



## **Delaware Valley Dalmatian Club, Inc. Code of Ethics**

The purpose of this Code of Ethics is to set forth principles by which members of the Delaware Valley Dalmatian Club can be guided in the welfare and betterment of Dalmatians.

### **All Members Should:**

1. Ensure that dogs which they own or which are in their care are provided adequate food, shelter, exercise, medical care and human companionship and are always kept in sanitary conditions.
2. Ensure that dogs which they own or which are in their care are inoculated against rabies, at a minimum, and are free from parasites such as worms.
3. Become knowledgeable in the fundamentals of owning and training dogs.
4. Practice good sportsmanship at all times.
5. Make available the benefit of one's experience and knowledge when asked.

### **All Members Who Breed Dogs Should:**

1. Learn the basic laws of genetics and understand the American Kennel Club standard of the breed before attempting to breed dogs.
2. Consider the possibilities of properly placing puppies or having to keep puppies produced before deciding to have a litter.
3. Register all breeding stock with the American Kennel Club and keep accurate records of all matings, litters and pedigrees.
4. Use for breeding stock only adult Dalmatians which are of sound condition and free from congenital defects such as orchidism or deafness and which do not have a disqualification as noted in the American Kennel Club standard of the breed.
5. Breed only healthy bitches which have matured past the first season and which are preferably at least two years old.
6. Provide maximum health protection for breeding stock and litters with appropriate inoculations and test to ensure that their breeding stock is free from brucellosis and other diseases, as appropriate.
7. Hearing test all litters using BAER (Brainstem Auditory Evoked Response) method.



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8. Permit stud service and lease a stud or a bitch only to individuals who give satisfactory evidence that they will provide proper care and attention and agree with this Code of Ethics.
9. Not sell or consign puppies or adult dogs to pet shops or other commercial or wholesale dealers or brokers.
10. Follow honest, ethical business practices in sales and breeding contracts or agreements, provide to buyers and honest evaluation of a dog according to the American Kennel Club standard of the breed and honor all contracts and agreements.
11. Sell or consign puppies or adult dogs only to individuals who give satisfactory evidence that they will provide proper care, human companionship and attention, training and exercise.
12. Transfer puppies only after they have reached at least eight weeks of age.
13. Require written agreements signed by all parties for all sales and other transactions, deliver all the forms necessary for registration with the American Kennel Club as per the agreement, provide written results of hearing testing and provide a four generation pedigree.
14. Guarantee the health of a puppy or adult dog in writing, subject to a veterinarian's examination within 48 hours of sale or longer at the breeder's option and provide written proof of inoculation and worming given prior to the sale.
15. Provide a buyer with written details on feeding, general care and training, be available to provide assistance and advice to a buyer and be willing to accept the return of unwanted dogs produced by one's bitch or sired by one's stud dog.
16. Be willing to act as a mentor to those less knowledgeable or experienced.

(Adopted by vote of the membership of the Delaware Valley Dalmatian Club, Inc. on July 11, 1999 and updated July 2019)