

Code of Ethics

of the

American Polish Lowland Sheepdog Association, Inc.

(APLSA)

(adopted March 25, 2013).

The American Polish Lowland Sheepdog Association, Inc., is a not-for-profit association of fun-loving Polish Lowland Sheepdog (PON) owners whose main goal is to maintain the integrity, health, protection, and standard of the Polish Lowland Sheepdog (PON) while providing social, charitable, and educational opportunities for all its members.

This requires the well-being of the breed and individual dogs through careful breeding and responsible ownership by its members, and includes engaging in any lawful act or activity which provides assistance to the improvement, health, shelter, safety, and protection of the Polish Lowland Sheepdog. As stewards of the breed, all APLSA members, breeders, and pet owners alike, agree to read, sign and abide by the basic principles contained in this Code of Ethics.

Responsibilities and Requirements for Members and Breeders:

1. Abide by the Constitution and Bylaws, Code of Ethics, and Code of Conduct of the APLSA and the rules of the American Kennel Club (AKC).
2. Make every effort to assist the novice Polish Lowland Sheepdog owner and the public with good education by providing information beneficial to the general well-being of the breed, including traits, characteristics, standard, health, temperament, grooming, and training.
3. Use the Polish Lowland Sheepdog standard as adopted and approved by the AKC to assess temperament and type for exhibition in AKC and APLSA events and for breeding.
4. Maintain the highest standards of health and sanitation, safety and security for any PON under their care, and keep only as many dogs for which they can provide the highest standard of care, attention, and affection and provide appropriate training, exercise, and supervision to ensure their dogs are well mannered, kept in safe conditions, and are not abused or neglected.
5. Make every effort to participate in health studies in the breed.
6. Participate in activities and programs sponsored by the APLSA.
7. Promote the Association, not individuals, when representing the APLSA in an official capacity.

CODE OF ETHICS(COE)—Adopted March 25,2013

8. Display good sportsmanship and conduct in a manner that gives credit to the APLSA and the breed. (See the separate document called the Code of Conduct of the American Polish Lowland Sheepdog Association, Inc.)
9. Encourage and promote public awareness of responsible pet ownership and care.
10. Share knowledge truthfully, constructively, and respectfully when conveying information concerning an individual PON or member of the APLSA.
11. To not engage in false or misleading advertising or any other misrepresentation of their Polish Lowland Sheepdog and/or the APLSA.
12. Neither use, give away, nor sell the APLSA membership list and/or logo without written consent of the APLSA's Board.
13. Sponsor new member applicant(s) by having more than a casual acquaintance with them. Actually knowing the applicant(s) and the living conditions of their dogs is the sole responsibility , obligation, and duty of each sponsor. Home visits are encouraged by APLSA members.
14. Ensure that in all dog related care and activities, the PON's welfare takes precedence over considerations of the breeder, trainers, owners , organizations, sponsors, and officials.
15. Ensure that all PONS they place are not brokered, wholesaled or consigned through a pet shop, auction, or other commercial establishment and are not offered as prizes in contests, raffles, or fundraising events.
16. Understand, before breeding, the basic laws of genetics, the standard of the breed and known health problems within the breed, and produce physically and temperamentally sound offspring. APLSA breeders must study and pass the ABC's of Dog Breeding Course recommended by AKC before embarking on a PON breeding career.
17. Adhere to AKC rules applying to litter and individual registrations, ensuring that any litter they produce is eligible for AKC registration. In addition, agree to adhere to AKC rules applying to age limitations for breeding and DNA profiles for stud and/or imported PONS.
18. Breed only dogs or bitches in good health, of characteristic type, sound structure, not afflicted with a known major hereditary disease and a steady temperament who are twenty-four months of age or older. The breeding adults must have a permanent OFA or Penn-Hip certifying that the dog or bitch exhibits no evidence of hip dysplasia and have a current CERF or examination from a Board Certified Veterinary Ophthalmologist within the last 24 months certifying the PON is free of inheritable eye diseases. CERF or examination

CODE OF ETHICS(COE)—Adopted March 25,2013

from a Board Certified Canine Ophthalmologist is required every two years until the PON is 8 years if age or older.

19. No stud dog or brood bitch Polish Lowland Sheepdog owner should be directly or indirectly involved with any dog broker, puppy mill, pet shop that retails dogs, auction, litter lot or sales, or any other commercial enterprise whose business is involved in these activities.
20. Have a written contract when leasing a bitch, offering stud services, or being involved in co-ownership. As per AKC recommendations, APLSA does not recommend co-ownership of PONS.
21. Ensure that litter numbers are consistent both with sound breeding principles and with the best interest of the individual bitch. Females should not be bred within consecutive heat cycles for litters producing greater than two puppies.
22. Perform health screening tests recommended by the APLSA that will help determine the genetic soundness of the dog or the bitch prior to breeding. Submit both positive and negative health screening test results to an open APLSA registry—CERF, OFA/PENN HIP, and thyroid testing. Any owner who does not disclose unfavorable health test results of their breeding stock to anyone that would be directly affected by such knowledge is engaging in unethical behavior.
23. Refrain from using dogs for breeding which, although, unaffected with a specific physical or temperament defect, consistently produce afflicted offspring with different mates.
24. Owners of a dog and bitch being considered for breeding purposes are required to disclose any health problems or faults in the lines behind either animal prior to breeding.
25. Raise well-socialized puppies and adults in a clean, safe, and secure environment and be prepared to keep puppies and adults until suitable homes are found.
26. Register litters with AKC and maintain complete health and breeding records on all breeding stock and on each resultant litter.
27. Adequately screen potential owners and make careful placements of PONS. Discuss common health issues in the breed and any known health issues or faults in a puppy or adult being placed or sold to a potential owner. In addition prior to placing any PON, discuss with the prospective owner the health, care, and behavior management need for the dog and provide recommendations for general care.
28. Agree not to place, transfer, or sell puppies earlier than eight (8) weeks of age. All puppies should have a veterinary examination and age-appropriate inoculations before they leave the breeder's home. Preferably, puppies should have permanent identification

CODE OF ETHICS(COE)—Adopted March 25,2013

(by microchip or tattoo or otherwise) prior to being transferred, placed, or sold. All puppies should have permanent identification no later than six months of age.

29. Include a complete medical record, a minimum or a three generational pedigree, an AKC registration form, instructions on feeding, health care, training, and grooming, and a written sales agreement or contract with any puppy or adult placed, transferred, or sold. **APLSA is against any contract requiring a puppy or adult back from a future litter.** Such limitations and any other specific terms attached to the sale should be made by written agreement and signed by both the breeder and the buyer. The written sales agreement should also state whether a guarantee of any nature is provided and, if so, set forth its terms and conditions or limitations. Also, provide new owners the membership application, health and veterinary care history, copies the individual's and/or sire and dam's APLSA required health certifications, and recommendations for general care and training.
30. Promptly transfer AKC registration papers to new owners, unless otherwise stated in a written agreement (i.e. spay-neuter contract). Puppies and adults of "companion" or pet quality should be placed or sold on AKC "Limited" registrations. A spay/neuter requirement is additionally recommended.
31. Maintain a supportive dialogue after a placement or sale to ensure the dog's welfare and answer the new owner's questions regarding any aspect of its behavior, health , or appearance. Members/breeders have an obligation to notify buyers of any genetic health problems in their line about which they become aware after the placement or sale. Agree to follow up on puppies after the sale to insure their continued care and remain available for advice, when sought, **for the lifetime of the dog.**
32. Transfer puppies to new owners in accordance with the law of their state and meet, at least, the minimum federal standard for transporting puppies (8 weeks of age).
33. Include in the written agreements (contract/sales agreement) whereby the breeder will accept the return of any dog or be responsible in finding a new home for any dog they have produced or sold regardless of circumstances of age. Stud dog-owners also agree to provide assistance to dogs of their breeding in need of re-homing whether through a shelter, auction, rescue organization or an individual.
34. Refrain from repeating any specific breeding that produced a life-threatening condition or reflected a genetic defect that affects the quality of life of a Polish Lowland Sheepdog (PON).
35. Mentor those to whom they place or sell any Polish Lowland Sheepdog (PON).
36. Participate in AKC recognized and APLSA recognized and/or approved competitions and seminars as a means to evaluate breeding stock

CODE OF ETHICS(COE)—Adopted March 25,2013

37. Not indulge in the practice of making “kennel majors”, or exhibiting filler dogs that they know themselves to be unworthy of championships, for the purpose of finishing dogs. Such practices lessen the meaning and value of a championship and do not serve the breed.
38. Breeders agree to attend APLSA or other approved seminars on a yearly basis.

The following are grounds for immediate disciplinary action:

39. Neglecting or abusing any Polish Lowland Sheepdog in the care of a member, as documented by the affidavits of three (3) witnesses.
40. Breeding or attempting to sell Polish Lowland Sheepdogs whose litter has not been AKC registered.
41. Knowingly registering or aiding or abetting in the AKC registration of non-purebred Polish Lowland Sheepdog(s).
42. Breeding for personal profit or commercial exploitation of the breed.
43. Behaving irresponsibly at show sites, trial sites, hotels and motels or treating judges, officials, spectators , and other dog owners and their dogs with disrespect. Incidents must be documented.
44. Brokering a Polish Lowland Sheepdog or accepting monetary consideration for placing a puppy for a breeder or for finding a puppy for a potential buyer.
45. Not accepting lifetime responsibility for the welfare of a Polish Lowland Sheepdog (PON) that one produces and refusing to take back or to re-home that dog.
46. Placing, selling, or aiding and abetting in the sale of a Polish Lowland Sheepdog (PON) to a laboratory, pet shop, wholesale dealer, broker, virtual pet outlet, auction, or any other inappropriate situation. Offering or aiding and abetting in a stud service or leasing a bitch to a wholesale dealer or brokering to any person involved with a laboratory , pet shop, or virtual pet outlet, or any other inappropriate situation. Offering any Polish Lowland Sheepdog as a prize. Displaying a Polish Lowland Sheepdog in public places for the purpose of immediate sale.
47. Not returning American Polish Lowland Sheepdog Association, Inc., property or official records as described in the APLSA Constitution and Bylaws and/or the APLSA Policies and Procedures Handbook.

Enforcement:

By initializing on the application this Code of Ethics and the Code of Conduct, I/ we acknowledge that I/ we understand and agree with the mission of the American Polish Lowland Sheepdog Association, Inc., and that I / we will do my/ our best to promote the best interest of the Polish Lowland Sheepdog and the American Polish Lowland Sheepdog Association, Inc.

Furthermore, I / we

will conduct myself/ourselves in a manner of good sportsmanship at conformation, companion and performance events, so as to reflect positively on the sport of purebred dogs. I/ we understand that violation of this Code of ethics and the Code of Conduct can subject me/ us to the disciplinary process provided by the APLSA Constitution and Bylaws.

. *Just a reminder that you need to initial that you agree to this Code of Ethics on your application!*****

-----*Below this line Board use only*-----

Date of Approval by Board: _____

Notes: