

Working Beauceron Association

BREEDER CODE OF ETHICS

I. PURPOSE

In Beauceron breeding, emphasis shall be placed on health, working ability, and other outstanding qualities of character of this breed, as well as maintaining breed type. It is mandatory that a Code of Ethics be subscribed to by those who are concerned with the propagation of physically, mentally and temperamentally sound Beaucerons of proper breed type and working ability.

Measures should be taken to acquaint the general public with the contents of this Code so that they might not become innocent partners in improper breeding practices.

Consistent with the above, I will agree to breed discriminately and only upon strong evidence of finding suitable homes for the resulting puppies. I understand that to breed inadvisably may lead to over-population and contribute to the deterioration of the Beauceron breed.

II. RECORDS

If I breed my bitch or use my stud dog in service, I agree to keep accurate records of stock, matings and pedigrees, and to register my breeding stock with the American Kennel Club or the Canadian Kennel Club.

I agree to submit all breeding records to the Working Beauceron Association Archive Committee for record keeping of all working Beaucerons produced in North America.

III. BREEDING

A. I agree to take the overall conformation of all breeding dogs into consideration before breeding. I agree to recognize the AKC, CKC and FCI Beauceron Breed Standards as equally correct standards of which to judge conformation, whereas it does not supersede working ability. In regards to discrepancies between the standards, breeders are urged to use their best judgment. Form follows function, but should not be completely disregarded.

B. I agree that the working ability of the Beauceron should be preserved and reproduced. At least one breeding dog in each mating MUST be proven (via titles, certifications, or video

working ability, to be reviewed by the Breeding Committee) in a historical working capacity, including but not limited to:

- a. Ranch/Livestock Work
- b. Competition Herding
- c. Bite Sports (French Ring, IGP, MondioRing, PSA)
- d. Security/Personal Protection
- e. Detection
- f. Police Work
- g. Military Work
- h. Search and Rescue/Recovery (SAR)

C. I agree NOT to use for breeding:

- monorchid or cryptorchid dogs
- dogs/bitches with any of the following:
 - Osteochondritis Dissecans/Osteochondrosis;
 - any degenerative joint disease;
 - Dilated Cardiomyopathy;
 - any genetic heart defects;
 - undershot or overshot bites with loss of contact;
 - ectropion or entropion;
 - unsound temperaments such as fearful or aggressive.

D. If I produce a litter of puppies where multiple pups from a litter have a serious genetic defect or faulty temperaments, I will not repeat that breeding.

E. I will not breed a dog with any known hereditary conditions affecting health, longevity, or performance.

F. I will not breed a bitch more than two (2) consecutive seasons.

G. I will refrain from using a dog/bitch who, although free from the above defects, produced afflicted puppies in multiple litters with different partners.

H. I will not breed genotypic harlequin (merle) to genotypic harlequin.

I. I will not offer stud service to brokers, agents who resell dogs, pet shops, or bitches who have not been properly screened for health disorders.

J. COE Breeders are given grace for 1 accidental litter, which does not abide by these rules, per 3 year period. All advertising should be consistent with the nature of how said litter came about, accidentally.

K. HEALTH OF BREEDING DOGS:

- a. Dogs/Bitches Born in the USA or Canada or Imported Younger than 24 Months:
- i. **HIPS** - Dogs/Bitches must have OFA Normal (Excellent, Good, or Fair) certification number or a PennHip assessment that is clear of hip dysplasia/osteoarthritis.
 - ii. **CARDIAC** - Dogs/Bitches must be OFA Cardiac Normal by an echocardiogram with the evaluation performed by a board-certified cardiologist within 12 months of breeding.
 - iii. **EYES** - Dogs/Bitches must be OFA Eyes Normal within 12 months of breeding.
 - iv. **ELBOWS** - Dogs/Bitches must be OFA Elbows Normal.
 - v. **CANINE HEALTH INFORMATION CENTER (CHIC)** - Dogs/Bitches need to have an OFA Canine Health Information Center certificate at the time of breeding. The CHIC provides a source of health information for owners, breeders and scientists that will assist in breeding healthy dogs. Canine Health Information Center is intended to encourage health testing and sharing of all results, normal and abnormal, so that more informed breeding decisions can be made.
 - vi. **DNA** - Dogs/Bitches that are phenotypically black and rust yet descend from any phenotypically harlequin ancestry within the first three generations must have a DNA merle test completed by UC Davis or Tilia and publicly available on OFA.

Dogs/Bitches must be DNA tested for long-coat carrier status prior to breeding. All results must be provable.
 - vii. **TEMPERAMENT** - Dogs/Bitches must be of sound temperament as described in the standard. To ensure better temperaments are being used, all breeding stock are recommended to have at least one of the following:
 1. a Tres Bon or better at the Working Beauceron Association's Nationale d' Elevage (or the French club's equivalent);
 2. American Temperament Test Society passing evaluation;
 3. American Kennel Club's CGCU title.Any dogs/bitches that have been excused from any competition venue three (3) or more times for shyness or aggression cannot be used for breeding. Dogs/Bitches that have a Schutzhund/IPO/IGP BH or French CSAU are exempt from this requirement.
 - viii. **AGE** - Dogs/Bitches must be at least two (2) years of age or older.

- ix. **INJURY** - Dogs/Bitches must meet all above requirements unless the dog/bitch has an injury which precludes one of the subsections on health testing. The injury must be both documentable and proven to be the direct cause of the ineligibility for passing the subsections health test(s).
 - x. **OPTIONAL** - It is optional to include shoulders, spines, dentition, genetic hearing and thyroid testing on breeding stock. It is strongly recommended that all Beaucerons used for breeding have a genetic profile completed by Embark or a similar entity.
- b. Dogs/Bitches Born Outside of the USA or Canada
- i. **Imported Adult Dogs/Bitches** may be used for breeding for the first 6 months they are in the USA if they meet the following criteria:
 - 1. Hips: Hips have been X-Rayed and certified hip dysplasia free by the appropriate certifying organization;
 - 2. Cardiac: Have a cardiac “clear” echocardiogram reading from a board-certified cardiologist within 12 months of breeding.After the first 6 months, all dogs/bitches must comply with the health testing requirements of Dogs/Bitches born inside the USA or Canada.
 - ii. **Dogs residing outside of the USA or Canada** and being used for breeding via natural, fresh or frozen semen must have certified hips and hearts cleared by a board-certified cardiologist in their county of residence, if available.

IV. **HEALTH MAINTENANCE**

I agree to maintain good standards of health and care for my dogs, including proper veterinary care. I further agree that proper health includes regular contact with people and exposure to the outside world. Working Beauceron Association members are always encouraged to contribute bloodwork/sample submissions for various ongoing research studies. It is highly recommended that breeders continue to annually monitor the heart function on all dogs 7 years or older that have been used for breeding.

V. **SALES**

Before initiating any sale, I as a breeder recognize the duty I have to upholding and preserving the Beauceron breed. Integrity and honesty will be upheld during all advertisements and sales.

- A. I will refuse to recommend, sell, or trade to breeders who do not conform to this code or to dog wholesalers, resellers, and retailers.
- B. I will not donate a Beauceron, breeding rights or semen for raffle purposes or sell/trade to any home if I have reason to believe that the puppy or dog will not receive proper care.
- C. I will use a written sales contract with any sale, trade or purchase involving a dog.
- D. To the best of my ability, I will state clearly to a buyer whether the puppy or dog being sold is potentially a breeding, working or pet type.
- E. I will not release puppies before they are eight (8) weeks of age and only with full knowledge that they are healthy and have had the required medical inoculations and care.
- F. I will give buyers of puppies or adult dogs accurate health, breeding and registration records and at least a three (3) generation pedigree.
- G. Full AKC or CKC registration papers should be withheld, and limited registration given, on any dog which is suspected of carrying a serious defect that would make it unsuitable for breeding purposes, until the dog has been proven otherwise or rendered incapable of reproducing.
- H. I will recommend to my puppy purchasers that they render incapable of reproducing any dog which has developed a serious defect or health issue.
- I. I will not sell littermates or “breeding pairs” to novice owners.

As a breeder, I recognize that I have a lifetime responsibility to ensure that every dog I place has a safe home and will be provided proper care for life. I will urge my puppy purchasers to provide obedience training at the proper age. Unless required by law, no Working Beauceron Association member will allow their puppies or dogs to be disposed of in an animal shelter or allowed to remain in or be rehomed by a rescue organization, other than Working Beauceron Association Rescue.

I will not act as an agent, dealer, or wholesaler in any manner or form which includes purchasing, obtaining, or acting as a seller or an advertising entity of any dog, puppy or litter in its entirety for resale. If I help another individual obtain a dog from a foreign country, I will not inflate the cost of helping a person import a dog, charge a fee to import a dog, or otherwise collect any money over and above personal expenses. Any contract when importing a dog shall be between the breeder of the foreign dog and the new owner of said dog; no contract between the facilitator of a purchase from a foreign country and myself will be created. I will not act as an agent of any sale.

VI. WELFARE

I will refuse to participate or sell to anyone who is involved in dog fighting/pitting or animal abuse of any kind.

VII. ADVERTISING

I agree that my advertising, both oral and written, shall be factual, and not worded as to attract undesirable buyers or to encourage the raising of Beaucerons as an easy money scheme. I will not offer a dog or puppy up for trade on any swap/trade sites, groups or pages. Breeders are required to keep PennHip assessments and produce the documents upon request and/or publish the DI as part of any litter announcement. Anywhere health certification that is published must have links to said OFA results or copies of results must be shown in any advertisements.

VIII. GENERAL BREEDER CONDUCT AND SPORTSMANSHIP

- A. I shall conduct myself at all times in a manner that will reflect credit upon me as a breeder, the Working Beauceron Association and the breed.
- B. I agree that I will not co-own a Beauceron nor participate in the breeding of said Beauceron with anyone who does not have the best interest of the Beauceron's working integrity in mind. I realize that not everyone I deal with will be a member of the Working Beauceron Association or have signed the Working Beauceron Association Code of Ethics, but I will not lower my standards when dealing with a non-member nor will I jeopardize the quality of the breed.
- C. To make every effort, if abuse or neglect of a Beauceron I have produced comes to our attention, to seek lawful remedy of the situation.
- D. I will not recommend or support another breeder, trainer or Beauceron owner that I know to be of poor character, lacking moral ethics or who does not have the best interest of the Beauceron's working integrity in mind.

Breeder Code of Ethics List Eligibility:

- Has produced a minimum of 1 Beauceron litter which abides by the current (at the time of breeding) WBA COE;
- Has produced at least 1 Beauceron litter in the past 3 years which abides by the current (at time of breeding) WBA COE;
- Agrees to submit yearly breeding records to the WBA to be recorded and published by the Archive Committee which include:

- Registered Names and Numbers of:
 - Sire
 - Dam
 - Produced Puppies
 - Date of Birth
 - Number of puppies born including male/female ratio and color ratio
 - EXAMPLE: DN12345678 *Sire Name Here* x DN87654321 *Dam Name Here*

3 M (1H / 2B&T) 1 F (1 B&T) Born – 8/30/2021

DN11111111 *Puppy 1*

DN11111112 *Puppy 2*

DN11111113 *Puppy 3*

DN11111114 *Puppy 4*

- Must be a member in good standing of the WBA;
- Must be currently training or participating in some form of work/sport with their Beauceron;
- Sign and abide by the WBA COE; must re-sign upon renewal (every 3 years).

Renewal Requirements:

- Has submitted all breeding records for their previous tenure which abide by the current (at time of breeding) WBA COE;
- Has produced at least 1 Beauceron litter in the past 3 years which abides by the current (at time of breeding) WBA COE;
 - This requirement can be waived IF the breeder has a confirmed pregnancy at the time of reapplication and their previous litter (of more than 3 years ago) abided by the COE at the time of breeding (must submit breeding records of most recent litter if not already in WBA's records);
- Is a member in good standing with the WBA;
- Has signed the WBA COE.

Breeder of Merit Designations:

Breeder of Merit designation will be awarded to breeders who fulfill all of the standard COE requirements as well as:

- Temperament tests all owned breeding stock according to **Section II Subsection K(a)(vii)**;
- Completes genetic testing with Embark or a similar entity on all owned breeding stock;

Breeder of Merit Gold designation will be awarded to breeders who fulfill all of the standard Breeder of Merit requirements as well as:

- Completes all optional health testing on all owned breeding stock;
- Uses only proven working Beaucerons for every breeding pair.

As a Beauceron breeder, I am requesting inclusion as a “Code of Ethics” breeder on the Working Beauceron Association website and agree to adhere to this Code of Ethics. By signing below, I also agree that I have read and adhere to the Breeder Code of Ethics eligibility requirements.

Breeder Name _____

Kennel Name _____

Date: _____

Signature: _____

Printed Name: _____

For the purposes of this Code of Ethics, AKC refers to the American Kennel Club, CKC refers to the Canadian Kennel Club, and FCI refers to the Fédération Cynologique Internationale.

ADOPTED: 5 February 2022