

The Victorian Working Sheep Dog Association Inc.

A15093L ABN 52 101 431 860



CODE OF ETHICS JUNE 2012

Approved VWSDA Council 3/6/2012 (Constitution Appendix)



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CODE OF ETHICS

INTRODUCTION

This Code of Ethics prescribes the responsible ownership of working stock dogs that is expected of VWSDA members both at home and away from home in a sheep dog trial situation. It is predicated on the basic needs of working stock dogs as being:

- accommodation that provides protection from the elements;
- freedom of movement;
- readily accessible water and appropriate food;
- timely recognition and treatment of disease and injury;
- a safe transportation system to and from places of work;
- adequate exercise.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF MEMBERS

1. Legislative Requirements

- 1.1. Comply with State and Local government laws and regulations applying to the keeping, breeding and management of dogs.

2. Accommodation & Housing

- 2.1 Provide housing & equipment suitable for the size of dog and containment requirements
- 2.2 Provide adequate protection from adverse environmental conditions & climatic extremes
- 2.3 Provide adequate ventilation and sufficient space for dogs to stand and move freely at all times, including during transportation to & from sheep dog trials
- 2.4 Ensure that dogs are securely confined when not working and that there is no unsupervised access to stock
- 2.5 Tethering is common when in a sheep dog trial situation. Tethering systems used must ensure shade, limit the risk of tangling and prevent overlap of adjacent chains.

3. Health & Welfare

- 3.1 Provide appropriate food and water in clean containers to maintain good health
- 3.2 Ensure reasonable protection from disease, distress and injury
- 3.3 Provide prompt veterinary treatment in the case of injury or illness
- 3.4 Maintain cleanliness and hygiene in premises where dogs are kept
- 3.5 Make every effort to control pests such as fleas, ticks, etc.

- 3.6 Treat dogs regularly for internal and external parasites and vaccinate against common diseases
- 3.7 Provide sufficient exercise to maintain health and fitness.

4. Training

- 4.1 Ensure that dogs are not worked beyond their willingness and capabilities
- 4.2 Training methods used must be humane and not cause undue fear, distress or pain.

5. Working & Environmental Conditions

- 5.1 Ensure that dogs are not pushed beyond their natural abilities by administering drugs or medications to enhance performance
- 5.2 Ensure that dogs are not worked in conditions that may result in them suffering from hypothermia, hyperthermia or dehydration.

6. Breeding

- 6.1 Breeding will be primarily for the purpose of improving the quality and/or working ability of dogs
- 6.2 Bitches will not be bred until they have reached their second heat
- 6.3 Bitches will not be bred more than twice in 18 months
- 6.4 Take responsible action to reduce the incidence of hereditary diseases
- 6.5 Comply with registration requirements as specified in the *Victorian Working Sheep Dog Association Register Rules*.

7. Selling

- 7.1 Pups will not be sold until they are 8 weeks old
- 7.2 Ensure that persons acquiring pups/dogs understand the requirements for their care, welfare and responsible ownership and that they have the time and facilities to fulfil their responsibilities
- 7.3 Ensure that dogs sold or given away are in the best possible state of health
- 7.4 Ensure that dogs are not sold or disposed of to commercial pet wholesalers or to pet shops.

ENFORCEMENT

The Association reserves the right to nominate a Councillor, or nominee, to personally investigate any breach of this Code should it be considered serious enough to warrant such action. There may be a requirement to inspect a member's premises should it be deemed necessary.

Members failing to observe the provisions of this Code of Ethics will be dealt with under the *Rules of the Victorian Working Sheep Dog Association Inc*. Disciplinary action may include fine, suspension of privileges, and suspension or expulsion from membership.