

## CODE OF ETHICS

This Code of Ethics is presented as a guide for the owners, breeders, and potential breeders of Rhodesian Ridgebacks, whose foremost aims should be the welfare and improvement of the Breed. All should do everything in their power to protect and advance the interests of the Breed and its' Standard. They consider the Breed and the following principles when engaged in any activities involving the breeding, exhibiting and selling of Rhodesian Ridgebacks and refrain from any activities which would be detrimental to the best interests of the Breed and the TRINITY VALLEY RHODESIAN RIDGEBACK CLUB OF TEXAS.

When in doubt about any of the following points, an ethical owner consults authorities, such as veterinarians, humane societies, experienced breeders, or the TVRRCOT Board of Directors.

1. When contemplating a breeding, the ethical owner directs his efforts toward breeding Rhodesian Ridgebacks of exceptional quality and considers the probability of humanely placing the offspring. He sincerely believes his breeding stock represents the Standard and is sound mentally and physically.
2. He studies and weights the faults and attributes of a stud and bitch and informs himself of those considered genetic (inheritable). He is then sincere in his intent not to breed dogs with defects which are likely to cause impairment of the health of the dogs or offspring; or would cause pain or suffering to the dogs or offspring or be a gross disregard of the Standard.
3. An ethical owner does not sell or give away stock with known genetic defects such as the above mentioned, except under a non-breeding agreement. He informs the new owner of such defects before sale is completed.
4. The ethical owner considers the health and growth of his bitches and refrains from breeding them too early or too late in their age, or too often. An average is considered: no more than two out of three heat seasons, and never at the time of the first season, unless this occurs after 18 months of age. After a bitch is five years old, her owner seeks the opinion of a veterinarian regarding her health for breeding. For any deviation, he consults with competent authorities.
5. An ethical breeder breeds only purebred, AKC registered Rhodesian Ridgebacks. Members residing in countries other than the United States ethically follow the registration policies of their respective countries.
6. An ethical breeder accurately registers his stock and keeps correct records of matings and pedigrees; and no registration is sold separately from the dog.
7. An ethical breeder does not wholesale litters of sell and stock to such places as pet dealers, catalogue houses, or other sources of commercial distribution; nor does he engage in the over breeding of stock for profit, with no regard for quality and health.
8. An ethical owner does not supply stock for raffles, "give-away" prizes, or similar projects; and he does not encourage raising Ridgebacks merely as a moneymaking scheme.
9. An ethical owner informs his buyers of the Dermoid Sinus and how to detect it. (He can refer to Major Hawley's description in the book The Rhodesian Ridgeback, available from Natalie D. Carlton, 5630 N. Abington Road., Tucson, AZ 85743).
10. The ethical owner sells stock to individuals only after he has sincerely attempted to ascertain that they will give them proper care.
11. An ethical breeder is available to his buyers for consultation, even after completion of the sale. And, the new owner gives credit to his breeder's concern, periodically informing him of his dog's welfare, problems, and the like.
12. An ethical owner does not allow his Ridgebacks to roam.
13. All dogs are kept under sanitary conditions and given maximum health protection through fecal checks, worming (when necessary), inoculations, and periodic examination by a veterinarian; all treated humanely.

14. When a Ridgeback must be destroyed, an ethical owner intends a death free of pain or suffering and has a veterinarian humanely perform the euthanasia.
15. The ethical owner informs himself of and follows AKC rules. He especially does not transport under aged puppies to dog shows for the purposes of sale. He never takes to shows dogs which have not been properly immunized.
16. No ethical owner engages in intentionally false or misleading advertising, or other falsifications of his Ridgebacks, NOR does he malign his judges, fellow competitors, or fellow Ridgeback owners by making false or misleading statements regarding their dogs, breeding practices, or person; he calmly and objectively presents any alleged misconduct to the proper representatives of the Club.
17. Each Ridgeback owner should feel obligated to project the interests of the Breed by conducting himself in a manner reflecting credit upon himself, his breed, and the TRINITY VALLEY RHODESIAN RIDGEBACK CLUB OF TEXAS.