American Bloodhound Club Member Signed Code of Ethics

The American Bloodhound Club (ABC) Code of Ethics was developed in1993 and approved in 1994. This updated version of the ABC Code of Ethics was begun in 2016 and completed in 2017.
ABC members, through their responsible and caring stewardship of Bloodhounds, their relationships with other club members, and their interactions with the general public demonstrate the core values of personal integrity, honesty, fairness, and accountability set forth in this code. Acceptance of and commitment to the ABC Code of Ethics are an implicit part of membership in the American Bloodhound Club.

Members of the American Bloodhound Club Agree —

To uphold and to abide by the American Bloodhound Club Code of Ethics.

To protect and improve the Bloodhound, putting the welfare of the Bloodhound above personal gain or profit.

To provide each owner of our Bloodhounds, whether purchased or transferred, with accurate records regarding pedigree and certificate of health, including the name, address, and telephone number of the attending veterinarian.

To provide a written contract/agreement for each transfer of ownership or service, including special conditions related to that transfer of ownership or service.

Not to provide any Bloodhound, either by sale or donation, to any individual, commercial wholesaler, sales agent, or retailer for the purpose of resale or any other transfer of ownership to a third party; or as a lottery, auction, raffle, or similar prize; or for research.

Not to promote indiscriminate Bloodhound breeding practices (for example, by advertising the availability of "breeding pairs" or "bitches in whelp" for sale). We agree to act instead with due diligence in breeding Bloodhounds, basing decisions to breed on a careful study of factors such as family history, structure, breed type, temperament, and working ability, as well as tests (taking into account advancing technology and testing as recommended by the American Bloodhound Club Health Committee) and certifications; and to fully disclose test and other information about the sire and dam to prospective puppy buyers. We also agree not to release any puppy, under normal circumstances, to its new owner prior to seven weeks of age or what the local ordinance states. In breeding decisions and the release of puppies, medical exceptions and circumstances may be taken into consideration.

To assume responsibility, upon written notification, for any Bloodhound, on whose papers or by microchip identification we are shown as breeders, co-breeders, or owners, that either becomes homeless or requires re-homing. Ideally, we will resume immediate physical custody of the Bloodhound at our own expense. If the Bloodhound's condition (including, but not limited to physical infirmity, age, etc.) would be best served by an alternative solution, we agree to assume full financial responsibility for the Bloodhound until suitable disposition of the Bloodhound can be determined.

To educate the public about Bloodhounds, through honest representation of the breed's inherent personality, breed characteristics, and known health issues.

To offer assistance, encouragement, and mentorship to other ABC members and, in particular, to those who are new to the breed. We also agree not to degrade or make negative comments about other exhibitors/breeders or their dogs, whether in person or on all forms of electronic and social media.

To act in a sportsmanlike manner, as Bloodhound owners and as participants in any dog-related event or activity; to demonstrate goodwill; and to act with dignity when representing the Bloodhound breed.

Violations of the American Bloodhound Club Code of Ethics may be subject to sanctions and/or disciplinary actions as set forth in the American Bloodhound Club Standing Book of Rules.