

Canadian Dogo Argentino Club

Breeder's Code of Ethical Conduct

The following Code of Ethical Conduct governs the members of the Canadian Dogo Argentino Club in all actions concerned with breeding, selling, exhibiting, owning and protecting this breed. Wherein there may be situations and circumstances not outlined in this code, members shall represent themselves in a manner in keeping with the spirit and intent of this code.

The protection and preservation of this breed is an obligation one accepts with ownership of a Dogo Argentino.

The owner of a Dogo Argentino will put the welfare of each of his or her Dogo Argentino above personal gain, profit and/or personal convenience.

At all times CDAC members will conduct themselves responsibly, honorably, and exhibit the qualities of good sportsmanship.

The purpose of breeding Dogo Argentinos is to bring the Breed Standard to life. In order to do this, one must

1. Have a clear understanding of the Breed Standard.
2. Have a basic knowledge of genetics.
3. Know the pedigrees of both dog and bitch - understanding faults and strengths and the genetic defects on both sides.

In addition, a member who undertakes to breed a bitch or use their Dogo at stud shall

1. Never breed for the pet market but only to preserve the breed and improve the breed.
2. As far as possible, breed only those animals free from hereditary defects.
3. Breed only those animals that have attained the minimum height as specified by the breed standard.
4. Be prepared to provide the proper care for both the bitch and the litter and to retain the puppies for as long as is necessary to find proper homes, even if that means retaining the entire litter for their lives.
5. Never import or export litters of Dogo Argentinos or sell entire litters, either to a private party or for commercial resale.
6. Never buy or sell bitches in whelp.

The owner of the sire must also be prepared to take responsibility for placement of the puppies, referring prospective purchasers to the bitch owner and helping with screening of homes, if asked. In other words, the owner of the sire should regard those puppies the same as if they owned them themselves.

Both bitch and dog owners should:

1. Ascertain that some homes are available prior to the breeding.
2. Have a contract covering placement of puppies, screening of buyers, fee, return service and any other specifics.

In general:

1. One should never breed for personal profit or commercial exploitation of the breed.
2. While it is expected that breeders will sell their most promising puppies to other serious students or guardians of the breed, breeders should also sell on a non-breeding contract or limited registration.
3. Breed only those bitches that are in excellent health, generally between the ages of 20 months and 7 years. Consult veterinarian if working on outliers.
4. Breeders will act responsibly towards all puppies produced by their bitch for the lifetime of the puppies.

Care and Sale of a Litter

The breeder must:

1. Provide the Bitch with supervision and care while in the whelping and nursing phases and provide puppies with care and socialization from birth until they leave for their new homes.
2. Provide all puppies with proper veterinary care and a clean and safe home environment. The puppies should be parasite-free, have a good diet and the appropriate immunizations.
3. Be prepared to euthanize any puppy that is deformed or irreversibly ill.
4. Determine the quality of each puppy. It is recommended that breeders not use the phrase "show quality" as it is difficult to ascertain whether this is true until the puppy is considerably older.
5. Place only the most promising puppies in homes where the puppies may be bred and then only after the breeder has carefully investigated the new owners' qualifications for becoming future breeders of Dogo Argentinos. Breeders must exercise the utmost care whenever placing puppies with full registration and without a non-breeding contract.
6. Breeders should have in place an appropriate screening process for selecting homes for their puppies. The availability of a fenced area for the Dogo(s) to exercise in is essential.
7. Give the prospective buyer an honest appraisal of cost management, as well as the physical, mental and nutritional needs peculiar to the breed.
8. Provide each new owner at the time of sale the following:
 - a. Transfer of ownership documents.
 - b. Feeding instructions.

- c. Medical records that include number and type of vaccines, dates of vaccinations, date of deworming.
- d. An CDAC membership application.

General Dos and Don'ts:

1. Should not release a puppy to its new home prior to 8 weeks of age.
2. Breeding rights should not be sold without proper screening for appropriate buyers.
3. All new owners should be advised to keep the breeder informed about the development of the puppy and should be told to contact the breeder immediately concerning any health problems, physical abnormalities, and/or death of the dog.
4. The breeder should likewise keep in contact with the new owner for the life of the dog.
5. The contract of sale should include a stipulation whereby the breeder will be notified of any plan on the part of the owner to resell or otherwise dispose of the puppy. This stipulation would also require the buyer to either return the dog to the breeder or place it with new owners who have been approved by the breeder.
6. If a puppy is to be co-owned, an agreement should be drawn covering all details of the co-ownership and signed by both owners.
7. All puppies should be evaluated as sound and in good health at the time of sale.
8. Each breeder should be willing to replace a puppy if the puppy proves to have a structural or health defect. Such a problem should be confirmed by breeder and owner's veterinarians.

Records

Complete and accurate records shall be maintained as follows:

For the sire and dam of the litter

1. Registered names and numbers and date of whelp.
2. A 3-generation pedigree of both parents.
3. Names and addresses of registered owners.

For the litter

1. Date of whelp.
2. Registered name, sex and sale date of each puppy.
3. Name and address of owner of each puppy.
4. When possible, follow through on cause and date of death of any dogs placed.