



## ***Atlanta Golden Retriever Club***

### **ADOPTED CODE OF ETHICS**

Revised May 17, 2010

#### **General**

*All members shall:*

- 1) Abide by the by-laws of the AGRC and the rules of the AKC. Any member suspended from the AKC will automatically be suspended from the AGRC for a like period of time.
- 2) Maintain the best possible standard of canine health, nutrition, cleanliness, veterinary care and mental health (i.e. socialization).
- 3) Conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike manner at all dog-related functions.
- 4) Encourage testing for hip dysplasia and any other breed specific health problems.

#### **Breeding**

The Club encourages all members to obtain clearances as stated by the Golden Retriever Club of America Code of Ethics prior to breeding any dog.

*All members shall:*

- 1) Learn and understand the AKC standard for the Golden Retriever and breed according to the standard.
- 2) Breed with the intention of improving the breed.
- 3) Breed AKC registered Golden Retrievers only to other like Goldens.
- 4) Keep accurate records of dogs, matings, litter sales/placements and pedigrees as required by AKC.
- 5) Choose only healthy AKC parents of good temperament and physical qualities.
- 6) Breed only mature bitches.
- 7) Breed only mature stud dogs with all GRCA listed clearances to mature bitches with all GRCA listed clearances and refuse stud services to those bitches that do not conform to the above standards.

#### **Ethical Breeder Mission Statement**

The AGRC has a responsibility to promote the breeding of Golden Retrievers who meet the highest standards. The public views our Breeder's Referral List as an official endorsement by the AGRC of the breeders who are on it. Therefore, that endorsement should only be given to breeders whose dogs have all of their health clearances, who have participated in one or more venues appropriate for Goldens, and breed dogs who are sound in both mind and body. Those breeders listed on, and recommended by The AGRC Breeder Referral List, should be limited to only those breeders who meet these high standards.

- 1) The Breeder must be a member in good standing of the Golden Retriever Club of America.
- 2) The Breeder must abide and breed in accordance with the Code of Ethics of the Golden Retriever Club of America and the Atlanta Golden Retriever Club.
- 3) The Breeder must participate on an ongoing basis in one or more of the following venues sanctioned by the AKC, GRCA and/or AGRC: Conformation, Obedience, Tracking, Field, Agility or Rally.
- 4) Breeders breeding more than 10 litters per year will be under review by the Board for continued participation on the Breeder Referral List.
- 5) Any breeder on the Breeder Referral List will be obligated to produce all recommended GRCA Clearances on Sires and Dams listed upon request.

## **Adopted Code of Ethics, cont'd.**

### **Sales**

*All members shall:*

- 1) Evaluate dogs honestly and base prices on the quality of each individual.
- 2) Not breed, sell or consign puppies or adults to pet shops or other commercial dealers. Dogs shall not be offered as raffle prizes or in mail-order catalogs.
- 3) Screen prospective buyers to insure that all dogs have a safe and loving home.
- 4) Not release puppies to new homes until the age of seven weeks.
- 5) Sell all pet quality animals (those sold for non-breeding purposes) under Limited Registration and Strongly recommend that purchasers spay or neuter said animals.
- 6) Furnish buyers with details on feeding, general care, training, medical inoculations, pedigrees, etc. Also furnish AKC papers unless written agreement is made at time of sale.
- 7) Advertise honestly and conduct ethical business practices.
- 8) Follow up on dogs after the sale to insure their continued care, offer option to return dog if no longer able to care for properly and offer assistance in placing dog with new owners if necessary.
- 9) Encourage owners to become involved in purebred dog activities.

This code is established in accordance with the objectives of the Atlanta Golden Retriever Club. It serves to protect and advance the interest of Golden Retrievers by requiring high breeding and care standards and by encouraging sportsmanlike conduct at all dog related activities.

Any violation of the Code of Ethics by any club member may be submitted to the board in writing for consideration. The board may dismiss the charges or request an evaluation committee be formed to take further action.