

HEART OF TEXAS LABRADOR RETRIEVER CLUB CODE OF ETHICS

The Heart of Texas Labrador Retriever Club has adopted the following Code of Ethics as a guide for all members whose highest aim is the welfare and improvement of the purebred Labrador Retriever. Any conduct deemed prejudicial to the welfare of the breed or the Club may be brought before the club to be considered under the guidelines in the Heart of Texas Labrador Retriever Club Constitution and By-Laws.

Members have the responsibility of raising their dogs to be well-mannered representatives of the breed and maintaining their dog's health and well being.

Members have the responsibility of educating the public with regard to various aspects of the breed and of setting a positive example for the public with respect to the socializing, training, maintenance and healthcare of Labrador Retrievers.

Members are required to exhibit good sportsmanship in all dog or club related events and to promote the positive aspects of the sport of pure-breed dogs and the human-canine bond.

Members are to refrain from disparaging other owners, exhibitors, breeders or their dogs.

Members are expected to acknowledge that they have a life-long responsibility for the dogs they breed and that their assistance may be required should a puppy or dog they place needs to be re-homed.

The Heart of Texas Labrador Retriever Club acknowledges that each individual breeder is responsible for his/her own decisions regarding their breeding program. In order to maintain the breed's purpose and soundness, the following are guidelines:

All breeding stock should:

- a) be mentally sound, possessing the typical Labrador temperament and trainability
- b) be old enough to be reliably evaluated for inherited defects and mature enough to rear puppies successfully
- c) have a third party evaluation of quality, which indicates that the dog is above average for the breed and worthy of being bred
- d) be free of dilute gene (all Labradors should be black, yellow or chocolate only)
- e) be purebred Labradors

The minimum screening for inherited defects in breeding stock should include:

- a) orthopedic evaluation for hip and elbow dysplasia
- b) eye exams for inherited eye disease
- c) genetic screening for recessive disorders known to the breed

Puppies going to new homes should have:

- a) appropriate vaccinations, wormings and vet exams
- b) appropriate paperwork, contact information and educational material

The Heart of Texas Labrador Retriever Club hopes that by following these guidelines, members will continue their successful stewardship of the purebred Labrador Retriever and will increase the public's awareness and appreciation for the breed.