

RHODESIAN RIDGEBACK CLUB OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA (Inc.)
DOMESTIC RULES – APPENDIX A - CODE OF ETHICS

The primary role of this Code is to serve the welfare and interests of Rhodesian Ridgebacks - as a Breed and individually, in any activity involving ownership, breeding, sale and exhibition of Rhodesian Ridgebacks, members should act with this in mind. All members of the Rhodesian Ridgeback Club of W.A. (Inc.) are required to adhere to its principals.

1. The acquisition of a Rhodesian Ridgeback is to assume responsibility for its welfare and behaviour until its death or transfer to a new home.
2. Concern for the animal should always take precedence over personal gain, profit or glory.
3. A breeder shall only breed from registered Rhodesian Ridgebacks which conform to the breed standard. All breeding animals will have been x-rayed and scored for Hip and Elbow Dysplasia (a combined total score not greater than 15 is required), tested for DM (Degenerative Myelopathy) and JME (Juvenile Myoclonic Epilepsy), and are believed to be free of other hereditary defect. A copy of the hip and elbow scores, DM and JME results, will be sent to the Club officials for verification and recording. RR's should also normally be mentally and physically sound and not suffering from acute nervousness or aggressive tendencies.
4. Bitches should not be used for breeding unless the bitch has reached adequate maturity for that breed, noting that the minimum breeding age for bitches across all breeds is twelve (12) months RRCWA recommended breeding age is (2) and should not be used for breeding more than twice in any eighteen (18) month period (in unusual circumstances two (2) litters in three (3) seasons is acceptable) without the prior approval of the members' Member Body) or over the age of seven (7) years. No bitch should be expected to produce more than four (4) litters her lifetime. Should a breeder feel it necessary to go outside these limits, the opinion of a veterinarian must be sought first.
5. All puppies must be carefully examined for dermoid sinus a few days from birth and at least twice thereafter before leaving for new homes. Any puppy discovered to have a sinus before leaving the breeder should be humanely euthanized. When a sinus is detected after the puppy has been sold the breeder should, in consultation with the new owner :-
 - a) agree a financial contribution towards the operation to remove the sinus and neuter the puppy, OR
 - b) take the puppy back and either reimburse the owner OR undertake, in writing, to supply another puppy. In this event, the puppy may be humanely euthanized. or be operated upon for the removal of the sinus and neutered. Thereafter it may be retained or rehomed without charge.
6. All puppies should be inoculated, and none should leave the breeder under the age of eight (8) weeks. They should be accompanied by a diet sheet, details of worming and inoculation certificate. All puppies sold must be registered.
7. Ridgeless and mismarked puppies shall be registered on the Limited Register. New owners of ridgeless puppies should give an undertaking to neuter at the appropriate time.
8. Puppies shall not be sold through dealers, pet shops, puppy farms, etc. Puppies should be sold direct after the breeder has attempted to ascertain that the new owners have the facilities, time and commitment to correctly raise, train, exercise and appreciate a large, active but sensitive hound.
9. A breeder must make every effort to rehome any of their dogs that subsequently need it.
10. Stud dog owners must satisfy themselves as to the suitability, breeding and condition of any bitch presented to them and also as to the conditions under which any resultant litter would be reared.
11. No member should engage in false or misleading advertising or other falsification of their Rhodesian Ridgebacks, nor should they malign judges, fellow competitors, breeders or owners by making false or misleading statements about other dogs, members' practices or character.
12. When a Ridgeback must be humanely euthanized, it will be provided with a death free of pain or suffering and where possible a veterinarian will perform the euthanasia.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Breeders should be available to their purchasers for consultation, even after the completion of the sale; like wise new owners should give credit to their breeders' concern by periodically informing them of their dogs' welfare.

Checks for dermoid sinus should be undertaken by at least two competent persons, i.e.: experienced breeders/veterinary surgeons with some knowledge of sinus and its detection.

Owners of bitches should ensure that any bitch to be mated to another persons stud dog has had a pre-mated vaginal swab showing her to be free of infection. Should the bitch have an infection then the owner should ensure that appropriate veterinary treatment is in progress.

All new owners should be made aware of the facts about sinus, its implications for the breed and how to detect its presence.