

MINIATURE BULL TERRIER CLUB OF AMERICA

CODE OF ETHICS

Approved by the membership of the MBTCA, this voluntary Code of Ethics has been established to set guidelines for breeders and owners of Miniature Bull Terriers that will help insure their welfare and future. Breeding from quality, healthy stock will produce more animals closer to the breed standard and therefore better show dogs; but equally important, such careful breeding will improve overall breed health and preserve the unique breed personality and character which make the Miniature Bull Terrier a delightful pet and companion.

THEREFORE, ALL MEMBERS SHALL

1. Provide all dogs in their care, with the highest possible standards of nutrition, shelter, cleanliness, veterinary care, exercise, training, socialization, and individual attention so that all the dogs may become well-adjusted companions.
2. Follow good business Practices and ethics in sales and breeding contracts and honor all agreements. Written agreements are encouraged.
3. Ensure that all representation and advertising of individual dogs and the breed in general are factual and not misleading.

AND FURTHER, BREEDERS AND OWNERS OF STUD DOGS SHALL

1. Thoroughly understand the published AKC official standard for the breed to be able to recognize correct breed type, breed temperament and sound structure. This is essential in order to select breeding animals with the objectives of increasing overall quality, while decreasing the incidence of health and temperament problems with a genetic component.
2. Refuse to allow their dogs to participate in matings which, in their judgment, are not in the best interest of the breed.
3. Research pedigrees of the animals to be bred and require documented health testing of these animals. disclose to the owners of the stud and of the bitch any known health or temperament problems in these animals or in litters they have produced.
4. Screen breeding stock for hereditary health problems using the recommended tests contained in the **RECOMMENDED HEALTH TESTING ADDENDUM** which is attached and an integral part of this Code of Ethics. The Recommended Health Testing Addendum shall be continuously monitored by the MBTCA Genetics and Health Committee to insure that the testing guidelines are in line with the most current available health screening standards. While the Code of Ethics may be amended only by vote of the entire MBTCA membership, the Recommended Health Testing Addendum may be

modified by approval of the MBTCA Board of Directors on a recommendation made by the Genetics and Health Committee. Request from club members for changes in the Recommended Health Testing Addendum shall be referred to the Genetics and Health Committee.

5. Refuse to breed a dog known to be affected with a serious inherited defect or temperament problem.
6. Maintain records of dogs, matings and litters in accordance with official AKC registry requirements. In addition, keep careful health record of each puppy in each litter. Notify the owner of the litter's sire of any health problems that appear among the puppies. The owner of the sire should also keep records of each litter and notify breeders who have used the dog if serious health problems start to show up in his pups. Breeders or owners of dogs which develop documented inheritable disease should make every reasonable effort to notify owners of related dogs so that breeders will have more complete information when planning future matings and so that potentially vulnerable dogs may have their health more closely monitored. For the same reasons, any dog failing any of the recommended health screening tests should be reported to the dog's breeders and to owners of closely related dogs. All of the above notifications to the breeders must include copies of the original test results so that there is documentation for each case reported.
7. Encourage puppy buyers to have health screening done even if the dog will never be bred to catch potential problems early and to take measures to lessen the severity of such problems. Breeders need to keep in touch with puppy buyers to monitor puppy progress and to keep a health record of each puppy. Breeders should strongly encourage new owners to tattoo or microchip their dogs and to register this permanent identification with the appropriate registry.
8. Strongly consider not breeding any Miniature Bull Terrier until two years old or older, at which time the dog is old enough for its heart and kidney tests to have validity.
9. Refrain from breeding a litter until such time as the breeder can properly rear all puppies until they are placed in good homes. Accept the return of puppies, if necessary during their entire lifetimes. Although the breeder has the greatest share of responsibility for puppies bred, the owner of the puppies' sire also should have enough interest in his dog's offspring to be willing to help in the rescue and placement of these needy dogs.
10. Refuse to engage in wholesaling or distribution of litters of Miniature Bull Terriers or selling of breeding stock to pet dealers, catalog companies or other commercial sources of distribution. Nor shall Miniature Bull Terriers be offered in drawings, raffles, auctions, lotteries, or for laboratory experiments.
11. Determine to the best of their ability the suitability of any individual buyer to meet both the common and unique needs of the Miniature Bull Terrier. They shall not transfer puppies before seven weeks of age. The breeder should provide the new owner with the following:
 - a. Four or five generation pedigree.
 - b. Feeding schedule for the first few weeks.
 - c. Immunization schedule and veterinary health check report.

- d. AKC registration form, either the regular blue slip or the Limited Registration form.
- e. Written information concerning care, feeding, training, socialization and accident prevention. A recommended reading list with titles on how to raise and train a puppy plus Bull Terrier and Miniature Bull Terrier breed books. Also the breeder's offer to be available for consultations and guidance throughout the dog's life.
- f. Contract specifying that the dog cannot be sold to a third party but must be returned to the breeder if owner cannot keep the animal.
- g. Strongly recommend neutering of non-breeding animals at or before six months of age. The breeder shall appropriately use the AKC's Limited Registration option for dogs not of breeding quality.

RECOMMENDED HEALTH SCREENING ADDENDUM

Breeders and stud dog owners shall screen all of their breeding stock for hereditary problems using the following recommended tests:

- a. The BAER test to determine if hearing is normal in both ears or if the animal is deaf in one ear or in both ears. This test may be given to dogs after six weeks of age. Results of this test are valid for the dog's lifetime.
- b. Eye exam by a board certified veterinary ophthalmologist to check for persistent pupillary membrane, glaucoma, signs of lens luxation, and whatever other tests are required for CERF certification. Breeding stock should be checked for lens luxation every six months. Gonioscopy, a one-time test, is recommended at one year or older.
- c. Heart exam by a board certified veterinary cardiologist. The exam should include a cardiac ultrasound (echocardiogram) with color Doppler so that left ventricular outflow tract velocity may be accurately and numerically designated. A test done at two years of age or older probably need not be repeated for breeding clearance unless suspected heart disease develops. The presently accepted parameters for cardiac health of breeding candidates are LVOT rates of less than 2.2 m/sec with no multiple minor or any major structural defects present.
- d. Kidney health tested by urinalysis yielding a protein:creatinine ratio of 0.5 or less. A protein:creatinine ratio of 0.3 or less is preferred. A ratio of above 0.3 is cause for retesting and the possible inclusion of a more definitive Blood Urea Nitrogen (BUN) test to establish kidney health. The urinalysis test is most valuable in dogs over eighteen months of age. It should be repeated annually for all Miniature Bull Terriers, not merely breeding stock.
- e. Breeders may want to check their dogs for normal patella, thyroid function, and skin problems.

As other health screening tests become available, breeders should make use of them. The tests recommended here are available now and should be used on all breeding stock. As other health screening tests become available, the MBTCA Genetics and Health Committee will recommend them for addition to this Code.

