

# THE FLATCOATED RETRIEVER SOCIETY

Affiliated to the Royal Kennel Club, The Field Trials Liaison Council, The B.A.S.C., The National Gamekeepers Organisation and International Gundog League Retriever Society

## GENERAL CODE OF ETHICS

All members of the Flatcoated Retriever Society undertake to abide by its Code of Ethics and therefore:

1. Will properly house, feed, water and exercise all dogs under their care and arrange for appropriate veterinary attention if and when required.
2. Will agree, without reservation, that any Veterinary Surgeon performing an operation on any of their dogs which alters the natural conformation of the animal or who carries out a caesarean section on a bitch may report such operation to the Royal Kennel Club.
3. Will agree that no healthy puppy will be culled. Puppies which may not conform to the Breed Standard should be placed in suitable homes.
4. Will abide by all aspects of the Animal Welfare Act.
5. Will not create demand for, nor supply, puppies that have been docked illegally.
6. Will agree not to breed from a dog or bitch which could be in any way harmful to the dog or the breed.
7. Will not allow any of their dogs to roam at large or to cause a nuisance to neighbours or those carrying out official duties.
8. Will ensure that their dogs wear properly tagged collars and will be kept leashed or under effective control when away from home.
9. Will clean up after their dogs in public places or anywhere their dogs are being exhibited.
10. Will only sell dogs where there is a reasonable expectation of a happy and healthy life and will help with the re-homing of a dog if the initial circumstances change.
11. Will supply written details of all dietary requirements and give guidance concerning responsible ownership when placing dogs in new homes.
12. Will ensure that all relevant Royal Kennel Club documents are provided to the new owner when selling or transferring a dog and will agree, in writing, to forward any relevant documents at the earliest opportunity if not immediately.
13. Will not sell any dog to commercial wholesalers, retail pet dealers or directly or indirectly allow dogs to be given as a prize or donation in a competition of any kind. Will not sell by sale or auction any Royal Kennel Club registration certificates as stand alone items (ie not accompanying the dog).
14. Will not knowingly misrepresent the characteristics of the breed, falsely advertise dogs or mislead any person regarding the health or quality of a dog.
15. Members shall at all times maintain a high standard of health and care for their Flatcoats.
16. A breeder will only breed from those Flatcoats believed to be clear from any known serious hereditary defects and which are not suffering from any acute problems, To this effect all

breeding stock, including **imported dogs, should have had their hips radiographed and scored and their eyes examined** for Goniodysgenesis, Hereditary and Progressive Retinal Atrophy under the BVA/KC health schemes. If a bitch is taken abroad to be mated the owner of the bitch must be satisfied that the dog has passed health checks for the same conditions in the country in which he resides. **At all times, the improvement of breeding stock must be the primary consideration.** Stud dog owners must satisfy themselves as to the suitability of the bitch's breeding and the conditions under which the litter/s would be reared. A stud dog owner must be satisfied that the bitch has had the necessary health checks as should the dog. Extensive use of any particular stud dog is actively discouraged. Bitches should not be bred from until at least two and half years old. Normally no bitch should be expected to produce more than three litters. There should be at least a year between each litter bred from a bitch The Royal Kennel Club will only register litters born to bitches over eight years old if there are exceptional circumstances. Members should not mate siblings, half siblings, mother to son or father to daughter. It is required by law from 6th April 2016 that all puppies aged eight weeks and over must be microchipped.

17. Dogs that are picking up, beating or training on private ground are exempt from wearing collars.

18. Puppies should not change hands before the age of eight weeks. All puppies sold over twelve weeks of age should, if possible, be fully inoculated. If bitch puppies are sold on breeding terms a "Breeding Term Contract" should be endorsed by the Royal Kennel Club.

19. The breeder of all puppies shall, at the time of sale, provide a satisfactory diet sheet, complete health record, details of worming carried out and a copy of the pedigree with the parents' hips and eye certificates available for inspection. Advice regarding inoculations should also be given. The Royal Kennel Club endorsements on puppies should be explained in detail to potential new owners.

20. Dogs requiring rehoming are subject to the Flatcoated Retriever Society Rescue, Rehoming and Welfare Scheme rules which state that registration papers are not passed on to the new owner/s.

21. Members should not knowingly sell to laboratories.

22. When exporting overseas all sellers of puppies should ensure the suitability of the owners and the environment for a Flatcoat. The ethics of the country with regard to dogs should also be taken into account.

23. Breeders/owners shall at all times be extremely careful when advertising or selling Flatcoats.

24. Members should give very serious consideration before proposing or seconding new Members for entry into the Society.

Breach of the provisions above may result in expulsion from club Membership, and/or disciplinary action by the Royal Kennel Club and/or reporting to the relevant authorities for legal action as appropriate.

Revised November 2025