

Four Paw Performance Club of North Georgia Code of Ethics

One of the objectives of the Four Paw Performance Dog Club of North Georgia (the Club) is to promote cooperation and good sportsmanship in dog training, exhibition, and competition. These things should be a way of life for Club Members.

Member Relations

- Members will at all times, whether at home, traveling, at shows or at motels, display good sportsmanship and conduct themselves in such a manner as to reflect credit upon themselves, their dog(s), the sport of dogs, and the Club; members shall treat hotels and show grounds with respect and leave them in a clean and undamaged condition at all times.
- Members shall refrain from unnecessary and unconstructive criticism of another's dog and from personal attacks upon a fellow member.
- Members shall bear in mind that a Code of Ethics is more than just a set of rules; it is a commitment to a high standard of practice in owning and that adherence to the spirit of the Code is as important as adherence to its law.
- Members shall be diligent in the handling of their dogs in public places and shall do so in a manner to minimize the risk of trauma or danger to any human being or animal.

Health and Breeding

- Members shall maintain the highest possible standards of health, cleanliness, and care of all dogs in their care. Good health will include but is not limited to providing the appropriate exercise opportunity for their breed, insuring current vaccinations or their equivalent, providing regular veterinary care and providing socialization opportunities. No member will act in a manner contrary to the best interest of a dog.
- Members shall make every effort to confine all dogs in their care within safe restrictions when they cannot personally supervise their safety, and shall not allow their dogs to roam freely off the owner's property.
- The member shall breed only dogs that are in good health and conform as closely as possible to the breed standard, both physically and mentally.
- Members shall adhere to recommendations from the parent club in regard to breeding, testing and screening of discoverable genetic defects prior to breeding. Members shall further adhere to parent club recommendations regarding the breeding of afflicted animals.

Education

- Members shall encourage public education, represent their own breed honestly as to characteristics, health concerns, and temperament to the general public and make an effort to help people make informed canine-related decisions.

AKC Rules Compliance

- Members shall agree to abide by all American Kennel Club (AKC) rules and regulations, whether pertaining to breeding, exhibiting, record keeping, or any other aspect of purebred dog ownership.

Discipline

All suspected infractions of the Constitution, By-Laws, or Code of Ethics should be reported in writing with signature to the Club president. The complaint shall be handled within the guidelines set forth in the By-Laws and the following shall be the disciplinary actions imposed:

- First Offense: Six (6) month suspension of membership privileges
- Second Offense: Two (2) year suspension of membership privileges
- Third Offense: Five (5) year suspension of membership privileges
- Fourth Offense: Permanent suspension from the Club
- If for any reason the AKC suspends a Club member, the Club will adhere to the same disciplinary action as the AKC.

(Adopted January 2000)