

**Old-Time Scotch Collie Association**  
**Breeder's Code of Ethics**  
**[2022]**

The purpose of the Old-Time Scotch Collie Association (OTSCA) Breeder's Code of Ethics is to:

1. identify core values of the OTSCA with respect to ethical breeding practices;
2. promote the health and welfare of the Old-Time Scotch Collie landrace and individual dogs;
3. set forth the ethical principles and standards for breeding;
4. educate breeders of OTSCA registered dogs ("Breeders") about the values, principles, and ethical standards of the OTSCA; and
5. help assure puppy buyers that Breeders who subscribe to the Code of Ethics are held to high standards.

**In subscribing to the Code of Ethics, Breeders of registered dogs agree to adhere to the standards set forth below.**

**1. Registration, Pedigrees, and Health Reports**

- A. Breeders shall ensure that dogs identified as OTSC breeding dogs are fully registered (full registration or appendix registered if other parent is fully registered)
- B. Breeders shall maintain honesty on parentage and be responsible for ensuring correct parentage in registration with the OTSCA. If the sire is uncertain, a DNA test shall be required to register the litter with the OTSCA.
- C. Breeders shall not falsify or misrepresent parentage of a dog.
- D. Breeders shall clearly report genetic or other health testing results to registration profile and ensure that results are not falsified or misrepresented.

**2. Breeder Conduct and Business Practices**

Breeders shall conduct their breeding, husbandry and business trade practices with integrity and the highest ethical standards, including but not limited to the following:

- A. All services, sales, transfers, or other agreements shall be mutually agreed upon, stated either verbally or in writing and signed by all parties involved, including but not limited to: stud service, puppy contracts, guardianship homes, breeding rights agreements, and co-ownership.
- B. Breeders shall fulfill breeding agreements and/or contracts.

- C. Breeders shall maintain the highest standards of canine health, cleanliness and care in all stages of life.
- D. Breeders shall conduct all advertising for kennels and puppies honestly, and not in any way misrepresentative, fraudulent, or misleading of health, registration, abilities, and relationship with OTSCA.
- E. Breeders shall conduct themselves professionally through their conduct and words on public forums related to OTSC.

### **3. Dog Health and Environment**

All dogs shall be kept in a clean and safe environment and shall have clean water available, sufficient and appropriate food for their life stage, and a dry, clean, wind-free location available for shelter. If kennels are used, they must be kept clean and maintained in safe working order. Mothers and puppies shall be housed in order to keep them in and predatory animals out. Puppies from birth up to when physiologically independent from their mother (usually considered 6-8 weeks of age) shall be provided with appropriate: temperatures; clean bedding; a surface that provides traction for them to crawl, stand, and walk; food and water when old enough to drink and eat solid food; shelter; and a physical environment that supports their physical and mental health. Mothers shall be able to move freely into and out of the whelping box or pen. The mother's health shall be monitored and issues addressed in a timely manner.

### **4. Standards of Breeding**

- A. No female dog shall be intentionally bred before her second heat cycle nor shall be bred in such a manner as to endanger her physical or mental health or well-being, or the physical health or well-being of her puppies. This could include but is not limited to repeatedly breeding a female such that she experiences negative health consequences, or breeding a dog that is too young, too old, or is in poor health. If this is called into question, Breeder shall provide a verifiable note from a veterinarian to the OTSCA who has examined the dog and affirms the health of the female and her ability to breed.
- B. All dogs shall be bred with the intention of conserving the OTSC landrace and bettering the OTSC. Breeders shall not be purely motivated by monetary or commercial gains.
- C. Breeders shall honestly evaluate the quality of all dogs or puppies sold, transferred, or offered for stud service and fairly represent that evaluation.
- D. Euthanizing at any age is conducted only as an act of mercy.

- E. Dogs or puppies considered “pet quality,” or that the Breeder knows at the time of placement with the new owner to be unsuitable for breeding in a manner that would advance the OTSC landrace, shall be sold or transferred with written agreement to have the animal spayed/neutered.

## **5. Genetic Conditions and Diseases**

- A. Breeders shall stay educated on genetic conditions/diseases common to the herding/pastoral breeds (see Addendum 1). The OTSCA maintains a list of genetic diseases or disorders that it highly recommends that breeders test both parents for prior to the breeding.
- B. Breeders shall consider a dog's genetic weaknesses when selecting a mate and breed toward the goal of reducing genetic diseases in their line and within the breed. Breeders shall also consider a dog's general traits, such as temperament and disposition, teeth, trustworthiness around livestock, and conformation, with the goal of maintaining or enhancing desirable traits and reducing undesirable traits in their line and within the breed.
- C. Breeders that are unsure of whether a dog that carries a known genetic condition should be bred can request an advisory opinion from the OSTCA prior to breeding. Breeder can contact [Membership@scotchcollie.org](mailto:Membership@scotchcollie.org)
- D. First degree relatives (parent to offspring, brother to sister) shall not be intentionally mated to each other.

## **6. Puppy Sales or Gifts**

- A. No puppies shall be knowingly sold to commercial/retail store front facilities (“Pet Shops”), or agent thereof.
- B. No puppies shall be knowingly sold to a distributor or agent who obtains puppies in bulk from breeders and re-sells them to retailers (“Puppy Broker”).
- C. No dogs shall be sold or given to a commercial dog breeding facility, or agent thereof, that engages in dog breeding in which the conditions and welfare of the dogs and puppies is disregarded in order to maintain a low overhead and maximize profits (“Puppy Mills” or “Puppy Farms”);
- D. No dog shall be offered as a prize in any form of raffle, contest or like activity, nor shall be offered for sale in a mail order catalog.
- E. No puppies shall be sold in litter-lot sales.

## **7. Puppy Placement & Lifetime Commitment**

- A. Puppies shall not be placed until after 7 weeks of age (or in accordance with the laws of the Breeder's locale).

- B. Breeders acknowledge their lifetime commitment to the dogs they produce. Breeders shall help to rehome dogs they have bred if the purchaser/owner cannot keep the dog and/or cannot find a suitable home.
- C. Breeders shall notify the OTSCA of dogs that need homes so that the OTSC network can be utilized to find a suitable placement to avoid any OTSCs ending up in shelters/rescues.

## 8. Grievances

If a Breeder or buyer has a complaint about a Breeder, a formal letter that details the facts and allegations of the complaint may be composed to the OTSCA Board of Directors and submitted electronically to [shep@scotchcollie.org](mailto:shep@scotchcollie.org), or by USPS anonymously; *OTSCA, PO Box 10701, Austin, TX, 78766*. Upon request, the Board shall shield the identity of the complainant from the Breeder that is the subject of the complaint. The complaint may be submitted confidentially to one or more Board members if the complaint is against a current or former Board member. The Board shall keep all complaints confidential. The Board shall review the facts and allegations contained in the complaint and provide the Breeder with an opportunity to respond. The Board of Directors will base its decisions on the substantiated facts presented and its stated purpose for the Code of Ethics. If the Board determines that the Breeder has not adhered to any material term of this Code of Ethics, the Board may take appropriate actions that are proportionate to the specific circumstances, including penalties such as written warning, temporary or permanent loss of privileges to register puppies or dogs with the OTSCA, or temporary or permanent removal from the OTSCA.

**Adopted by the Old-Time Scotch Collie Association Board of Directors on August 22, 2022.**

Anne Stevens, President

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Lara Sullivan, Vice President

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Tera Stone, Treasurer

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Kayla Franklin, Secretary

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**Members at Large:**

Leslie Allen

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Christina Chen

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Iotis Even

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Amanda Irene

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## ADDENDUM 1

The following genetic/health conditions are known to exist within the herding/pastoral breeds:

- Collie Eye Anomaly (CEA )
- Multi-Drug Resistance 1 (MDR1)
- Degenerative Myelopathy (DM)
- Dermatomyositis (DMS)
- Progressive Retinal Atrophy (PRA- rdc2 and PRA-prcd)
- Cyclic Neutropenia (CN)
- Von Willebrand Disease (vWDII)
- Bloat
- Hip dysplasia
- Elbow dysplasia