

## Texas Livestock Guardian Dog Association

### Code of Ethics

This Code of Ethics is presented as a guide for breeders of Livestock Guardian Dogs, whose aim is the welfare and improvement of working Livestock Guardian Dogs. It is designed to protect and advance the interest of working Livestock Guardian Dogs for all breeders and ranchers.

#### **As a conscientious breeder and member, I promise to conduct my activities as follows:**

1. I will plan each litter based on the sire's and dam's health testing, stable temperament, sound physical qualities and innate working aptitude.
2. Before producing a litter, I will consider the possibilities of properly placing puppies which I cannot keep.
3. I will keep accurate breeding records of mating's and pedigrees of all my dogs and litters and will register breeding stock with my breed club and/or appropriate registry.
4. Buyers will be provided a written record of litter sire and dam, date of birth, vaccinations, parasite (internal and external) treatments including product and date.
5. I will use for breeding only those dogs which are healthy, free from congenital defects and/or disqualifying faults, have proof of health testing, are of sound temperament, and are working livestock guardian dogs.
6. I will only breed mature bitches and dogs. Maturity and time prove their ability for working aptitude and allows age appropriate health testing.
7. I will not sell puppies whose sire may not have been a livestock guarding dog breed.
8. I will encourage spay/neuter for dogs that are placed as pets or as working dogs at the appropriate age (8-12 months).
9. I will health test all breeding stock before breeding and maintain a high standard of health for all my dogs. I will provide the health testing results to potential buyers. Health testing requirements and recommendations as prescribed by the breed's individual breed club for hip dysplasia, and strongly suggested for elbow dysplasia and for eye diseases.
10. I will be responsible for my dogs' safety through proper containment, identification, and supervision. I will not allow my dogs to infringe on the rights of others by running loose or being a nuisance.
11. I will be responsible for my dogs' quality of life by providing basic training, attention, and a commitment in my time and guidance to my dogs and any litters produced.
12. I will handle and socialize each litter of puppies, and provide all proper care, food and medical treatments as deemed appropriate by my veterinarian, including age applicable vaccinations and de-worming.
13. I will responsibly screen potential puppy buyers and freely offer my advice and experience to help new owners to deal with problems before they occur. I will assist in rehoming, or will take the dog back, should the buyers ever become unable to keep it.

14. I will refrain from letting puppies leave my possession until they are at least 8 weeks of age (state law) and I will provide buyers with written details on feeding, general care, and health records.
15. My advertising of dogs/puppies will be factual and honest, both in substance and implication.
16. I will always conduct myself in a manner that will protect and advance the interest of working Livestock Guardian Dogs.

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*Signature*

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*Date*

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*Print Name*