

# **Code of Ethics**

Our breed club is founded on the principles that govern our nation: that of a free market economy constrained by the rule of law. The Objectives and the Code of Ethics of this club fulfill a role for our Club similar to that played by our nation's Constitution and Bill of Rights in laying out the governing principles shared by all Club members. Our American approach minimizes issues of conflict of interest while allowing breeders to adapt to the varied demands of the hunting public. In structuring our breed club, we will be guided by the principles of transparency, accountability, objectivity and comprehensiveness.

The Small Munsterlander Pointer Club of America has been formed for the purposes of enhancing the welfare of the Small Munsterlander Pointer. It falls to its members to see to it that the gene pool for this breed expands in such a manner that the performance qualities of the breed equal or exceed those of the parent FCI breed club in Germany while both adapting to American hunting conditions and improving the reliability of the breed with regard to issues of health, temperament and longevity.

To these ends, the SMPCA puts forth the following standards of behavior and practice for its members:

## **All Members**

1. All members will familiarize themselves with the Club's Bylaws and Code of Ethics and abide by them. All members interested in breeding will also familiarize themselves with the Breed Standard for the Small Munsterlander Pointer.
2. All members will put the well being of their dogs and the breed as a whole before any personal gain and will strive to ensure humane treatment—including proper feeding, physical conditioning, health care, training and opportunities to perform according to the purpose of the breed—for their own animals.
3. All members will conduct themselves honorably and exhibit good sportsmanship at all times. Members will never knowingly make unfair or untrue statements regarding the dogs or practices of others.
4. In order to maintain the highest standards of integrity, all club officers will take any steps necessary to prevent conflict-of-interest issues.
5. Should any member become aware of the mistreatment, abuse, or need for relocation of any Small Munsterlander Pointer, they will make every effort to notify the Secretary of the SMPCA as soon as possible.
6. Members will be familiar with the standard of the breed; stay informed of medical, behavioral, and genetic developments which will influence breeding; and will do everything in their power to discourage irresponsible breeding.
7. Members will strive to provide comprehensive and timely input concerning their own dogs to the Breed's database.

## **Sales**

8. Members will be familiar with AKC rules governing record keeping, registrations, sales and transfers of dogs, and shall abide by these rules.
9. No member shall knowingly be involved in the sale of dogs through pet shops or any other wholesale outlets.

10. All advertising shall be factual. It should not be worded so as to attract buyers who are not in agreement with the Clubs Code of Ethics and Constitution. It should not encourage raising and selling dogs for profit, nor should it include misleading information regarding the background or potential of puppies for sale.

### **Breeding**

11. Breeders will not produce a litter from any dog or bitch that has not received a medical verification of normal hips and, if possible, elbows. Before commencing a breeding, breeders are required to provide to the Club Secretary either 1) a Penn Hip report with a Distraction Index (DI) less than .5 and no evidence of dysplasia taken after the age of 14 months, 2) a report from a recognized veterinary orthopedic facility certifying “clinical normalcy” and freedom from hip and elbow dysplasia taken after the age of 30 months, or, if the first two alternatives prove impractical 3) an OFA hip rating of fair or better and elbow rating of good or excellent taken after the age of 24 months (later is better).
12. Breeders will not produce a litter from any dog or bitch that has not had an AKC approved DNA test completed and documented before the breeding. Members are required to provide proof of Penn Hip or OFA certification and a DNA certificate (as required by the Code of Ethics) to the secretary of SMPCA before any breeding takes place. It is the responsibility of each breeding owner to make sure that the other dog's information has been received by the SMPCA before any breeding takes place. If the other parent animal resides outside the United States, Mexico or Canada, it is the responsibility of the owner of the resident animal to provide comparable information concerning the foreign parent to the Secretary of the SMPCA. The information must be supplied for every breeding.
13. No dog exhibiting unsound temperament, behavior or disqualifying hereditary defect as defined by the breed standard and affecting performance will be used for breeding. Any exceptional breeding that may impact the breed's gene pool because a dog exhibits only disqualifying conformational defects in the breed's standard but offers improvement in breed performance, will be undertaken under professional supervision and with careful scrutiny by the Board of Directors who must be responsible for the long term integrity of the breed standard.
14. No dog will be bred with a serious illness that can be passed on to its offspring. If a dog or bitch produces offspring with the same serious defect detrimental to the animal's well-being—such as blindness, deafness, lameness, or impairment of bodily functions—from the litters by two different mating partners, the member owning that dog or bitch will no longer use that animal for breeding. The puppies from any breeding with documented possibility of such defects, or any puppy for whom the breeder has any question concerning health, temperament or performance should be sold on limited registration.
15. Breeders will not produce litters from their bitches before the age of two or breed bitches on or after their eighth birthday and will have the option to produce litters from two breedings back to back if the first litter is unusually small, but will not produce more than two litters without resting the bitch for one cycle. In no event may a bitch produce more than 5 litters of 3 or more puppies in her lifetime. Breeding of any bitch should not take precedence over her function as a performance animal.
16. Breeders will not produce litters from their males before the age of 18 months, and after their eighth birthday will supply evidence of viable sperm motility before a prospective breeding.

17. Breeders will limit the number of litters bred by each of their males to 5 litters per year in order to maintain diversity of the gene pool. This limitation is subject to some revision as the gene pool increases. This and related code items help assure that breeders will responsibly evaluate which breedings to undertake to prevent degradation or skewing of the gene pool.
18. Breeders will take care to evaluate prospective buyers for suitability of the home being provided.
19. Breeders will inform prospective owners of both the advantages as well as the disadvantages of the breed and the individual puppies under consideration and emphasize the performance requirements of the breed. Breeders will require that the buyer of a pet quality puppy or one not intended to be tested and used for breeding, neuter that animal before breeding age as suggested by their veterinarian.
20. Breeders will not release any puppies for sale before they are seven weeks of age and thoroughly socialized with people and dogs and exposed to both water and loud gunshot-like sounds as produced, for instance, by banging pans at feed time.
21. Breeders will provide the purchaser with a written contract good for at least two years offering to refund the purchase price or replace any puppy found to have a disabling or life threatening genetic, birth or early traumatic defect (occurring before sale), including human aggression, which prevents the dog from fulfilling its purpose.
22. Breeders will furnish the buyer with a detailed 3 generation pedigree—if possible, medical and immunization records, AKC registration application, feeding schedule and general care instructions. Health certifications of sire and dam should be available to buyers if requested.
23. Breeders will encourage all buyers, whether club members or not, to provide buyer feedback as well as performance, temperament and other database input about their dog in order to optimize the Breed gene pool.
24. Breeders should maintain contact with all their puppy buyers and should encourage them to: i) provide humane treatment—including proper feeding, physical conditioning, health care, training and fun performance activities; ii) participate in Small Munsterlander Pointer activities such as hunt tests, obedience trials, tracking tests, agility and conformation shows; and iii) join the SMPCA.