

Bedlington Terrier Club of the West Code of Ethics

1. Preamble

The Bedlington Terrier Club of the West was formed, in part, to encourage and promote responsible ownership of and quality breeding of Bedlington Terriers and to protect and advance the interests of the breed. The Club wants members who will encourage and promote the responsible breeding, exhibiting, and care of Bedlington Terriers. Members should always be cognizant that pet ownership is a privilege, not a right, and can easily be taken away if we are not mindful of our behavior and considerate towards others. The anti-dog people are numerous and we do not want our activities- or lack thereof- to provide incentive for them. This Code of Ethics is established to set a standard of acceptable behavioral limits for Bedlington Terrier Club of the West members.

2. General Conduct

Members of the Bedlington Terrier Club of the West shall:

- a. Conduct themselves in a manner designed to reflect credit on themselves, their breed, and on the Bedlington Terrier Club of the West, the Bedlington Terrier Club of America and the American Kennel Club.
- b. Adhere to the constitution and bylaws of the Bedlington Terrier Club of the West, the Bedlington Terrier Club of America and the applicable rules of the American Kennel Club.
- c. Abide by all applicable state, county, city and local laws and regulations governing the breeding, owning, and maintenance of dogs.
- c. Practice and promote responsible dog ownership including:
 - 1.) Proper control/restraint of their dogs at all times,
 - 2.) Picking up litter/feces created by their dogs,
 - 3.) Avoiding allowing their dogs to engage in excessive barking while outdoors,
 - 4.) Providing each dog with clean, disease free living quarters;
 - 5.) Allowing each dog adequate space for exercise
 - 6.) Feeding, and providing water and exercise for each dog daily;
 - 7.) Providing outside shelter from the sun, wind, and other elements;
 - 8.) Not leaving dogs outside 24 hours a day. Bedlingtons are people dogs and need human contact;
 - 9.) Inspection daily for conditions needing medical attention;
 - 10.) Providing prompt veterinary care when needed and regular veterinary care including vaccinations as recommended, and
 - 11.) Providing crates of sufficient size to allow the dog to lie down, stand up without crouching and move about without being cramped. Bedlingtons should not be crated for more than eight hours at a time.
- d. Observe the highest standards of sportsmanship; conduct themselves in such a manner as to reflect positively on the sport of showing dogs; and exhibit good will at all competitive events. It is expected that all members will use good manners and be courteous to others and will respect the property of others, including facilities used for dog events.

- e. Refrain from maligning other Bedlington Terrier fanciers by making false or misleading statements regarding their dogs, breeding practices, or personal lives. Members shall refrain from false or malicious criticism (hurtful or mean spirited comments) about a competitor's dog, a breeder, an owner, or a judge or that judge's decision(s). Members should follow the Golden Rule: Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.
- f. Refrain from breaking majors or pulling entries without good cause.
- g. Not communicate in a false or misleading manner by means of the Internet, telephone, or mail. Members are reminded that they should be especially careful when communicating by these instantaneous and far-reaching media. In the interest of sportsmanlike conduct, one's opinion should always be presented as only one's personal opinion, and presented without malice. No officer, board member or committee member should present personal viewpoints via a public medium and indicate they represent the membership of the Club as a whole.
- h. Be truthful in advertising and not mislead prospective buyers or misrepresent their dogs.

3. Breeding

Breeders shall:

- a. Maintain the highest standards of cleanliness, care and health for their animals and care of the facilities in which they are housed.
- b. Be familiar with the breed and its standard, and breed only those specimens that conform to it.
- c. Plan each mating with the paramount intention of the improvement of their stock, preservation of the breed, and production of Bedlington Terriers of exceptional conformation and temperament.
- d. Know about the genetic makeup of their breeding stock.
- e. Have appropriate registry certification numbers for all dogs and should see to it that all blood tests and/or examinations necessary for heritable defect screening of conditions prevalent in Bedlingtons have been completed.
- f. Be familiar with and abide by AKC rules concerning recordkeeping, registration, sale and transfer of dogs.
- g. Use for breeding only those dogs that are healthy, free from all internal and external parasites and communicable diseases and free from serious congenital and hereditary defects.
- h. Limit breeding bitches between the ages of 18 months –10 years and dogs between 1 year –12 years. A bitch should not be bred before her second season or 18 months of age, whichever occurs first. A bitch should have no more than five litters in a lifetime, and only if the bitch remains in good health.
- i. Initiate each stud service with a written stud contract in accordance with AKC guidelines.
- j. Produce puppies only when the breeder has the time and facilities to provide adequate attention to physical and emotional development and retain or house only the number of dogs for which they have adequate facilities

- k. Assume an ongoing commitment for the Bedlington Terriers they produce. This a lifetime commitment. A Bedlington bred by a member should not become a rescue dog.

3. Placement/Sales

Members shall:

- a. Not sell or otherwise place puppies to pet shops either outright or on consignment; supply puppies for auctions, raffles, or other such enterprises; and will not sell to persons whose intention to resell is known or suspected.
- b. Refrain from placing puppies prior to 8 weeks of age.
- c. Not misrepresent or fail to disclose known hereditary defects, health and physical condition of any stock offered for sale
- d. Provide purchasers of adults or puppies with a written sales agreement as to whether a guarantee is provided and setting forth any terms, conditions or limitations thereto and which all parties sign. The bill of sale should include the breeder's address, telephone number, and e-mail address to facilitate the new owner in contacting the breeder.
- e. Inform and instruct new and prospective owners of the responsibility and proper care of a puppy or adult Bedlington Terrier. Each Bedlington Terrier placed should be accompanied by the following:
 - 1.) Feeding instructions and dog food recommendations;
 - 2.) Medical records including vaccination dates and vaccines used;
 - 3.) Copies of parasite exams and treatment, if necessary;
 - 4.) A minimum of four generation pedigree;
 - 5.) A copy of the breed standard;
 - 6.) AKC registration papers, unless written agreement is made at the time of the sale that papers will be withheld;
 - 7.) Explanation of limited registration if that is the way a dog is registered; and
 - 8.) Grooming instructions.
- f. Encourage new owners to keep in contact and inform the breeder of the development of the puppy and to contact the breeder concerning any health issues, physical abnormalities, and/or death of the animal.
- g. Agree to take back any Bedlington that is unwanted for any reason, at any time for the life of the dog.