



# CODE OF ETHICS

NEWLY REVISED  
FEBRUARY 2018

## CODE OF ETHICS

### PREAMBLE

The objectives of the Boykin Spaniel Society® (the "BSS") are set forth in its Constitution. Those objectives are to:

- Maintain records of all Boykin Spaniels registered with the BSS (the "Boykin Spaniel Registry®");
- Urge BSS members and breeders of Boykin Spaniels to use the breed standard in the selection and breeding of the Boykin Spaniel;
- Encourage and promote the breeding of purebred Boykin Spaniels and to do all to perpetuate their natural hunting ability; and
- To do all in its power to protect and advance the interest of the breed by encouraging sportsmanlike conduct.

The By-Laws of the BSS require that BSS members uphold those constitutional objectives as well as the By-Laws and this Code of Ethics of the BSS. This Code of Ethics and other BSS rules and regulations are intended, among other things, to outline with particularity the duties and responsibilities of all members of the BSS, including those members who choose to breed Boykin Spaniels, as those duties and responsibilities are envisioned in the Constitution and By-Laws. Failure to adhere to this Code of Ethics, or failure to adhere to the BSS Constitution, By-Laws or other BSS rules and regulations, can result in expulsion or termination of membership in the BSS or in other, lesser sanctions which are outlined below.

### MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES

It is the paramount responsibility of all BSS members to perfect through selection, breeding and training the type of dog most suitable in all respects for work as a companionable gundog and to do all in their power to protect and advance the interest of the Boykin Spaniel in every endeavor. A member's conduct must always be consistent with the objectives of the BSS Constitution and By-Laws and this Code of Ethics. In particular, all members have a responsibility to:

- Educate the general public about the breed, keeping in mind that they and their dogs represent the breed, the BSS and the sport of purebred hunting dogs in general

- Willingly offer assistance and encouragement to new owners and novice competitors by recognizing the need for mentoring and support within the Boykin Spaniel community;
- Accept and support the written Breed Standard as approved by the BSS as the definitive standard description of the physical and temperamental qualities by which the Boykin Spaniel is to be judged;
- Support and advance the Boykin Spaniel Registry® as the principal and official registry of the Boykin Spaniel;
- Support and participate in the efforts of the BSS to assess continually the health, longevity and hunting ability of the Boykin Spaniel through testing, research, health surveys and other such efforts;
- Maintain a safe, clean and sanitary facility for all dogs, including but not limited to: appropriate food, water and shelter; puppy socialization; necessary veterinary care; health care vaccines; testing for and controlling pests and parasites; proper disposal of waste; and other such practices and to meet all federal, state and local laws, regulations or other requirements in this regard. Violations of any such laws or regulations may be reported to the appropriate enforcement agency and a conviction for any such violations will be deemed to be a breach of this Code of Ethics and grounds for termination of membership; and
- Maintain good sportsmanship at all events and competitions, abiding by all applicable rules and regulations set forth by the governing bodies for such events and competitions.

### BREEDER RESPONSIBILITIES

Members of the BSS who choose to breed Boykin Spaniels are expected to promote and maintain the attributes and standards of the Boykin Spaniel as set forth in the Breed Standard relative to the breed's hunting ability, interaction with the family and home and, most importantly, the breed's overall health. A breeder is defined as any member who allows the use of a Boykin Spaniel, whether owned or leased, to sire or produce a litter of puppies.

Recognizing that the Boykin Spaniel was developed as a useful gundog, the goal of this Code of Ethics, as it pertains to breeders, is to assure

that by careful and selective breeding the Boykin Spaniel will continue to possess the appearance, structure, soundness, temperament, natural ability and personality that are characterized in the Breed Standard and further to strive to perfect those qualities.

With the foregoing in mind this Code of Ethics establishes the following additional expectations of those members who choose to breed Boykin Spaniels:

- Owners of breeding animals shall provide appropriate documentation to all concerned parties which accurately and completely discloses the overall health of dogs in a breeding or sale. Concerned parties entitled to receive appropriate documentation shall include all owners of animals selected for breeding as well as all prospective purchasers of a dog or puppy. Appropriate documentation for animals selected for breeding includes the following health clearance examination reports:
  - ✓ Hips: appropriate report from the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals; PennHip; or at least a written report from a board certified veterinarian radiologist (Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Radiologists).
  - ✓ Patellar luxation: appropriate certificate from the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals.
  - ✓ Eyes: appropriate report from a Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Ophthalmology
  - ✓ Heart: appropriate certificate from the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals.
  - ✓ Exercised Induced Collapse ("EIC"): appropriate report(s) from a recognized testing entity.
  - ✓ Collie Eye Anomaly ("CEA"): appropriate report(s) from a recognized testing entity.
  - ✓ Degenerative Myelopathy ("DM"): appropriate report(s) from a recognized testing entity.

Breeders should also consider additional examinations relating to other disorders that may have a genetic component, including but not limited to, epilepsy, hypothyroidism, skin disorders (allergies), and orthopedic disorders such as elbow dysplasia. If no such examinations have been performed then this fact must be disclosed in writing and included in the contract of sale or lease referenced below.

- Breeders must use every effort to sell dogs to permanent, stable homes and must be prepared to take back or assist in finding a new home for any dog they produce at any time in its life if requested to do so. Breeders who relinquish Boykin Spaniels to Boykin Spaniel Rescue or other similar rescue enterprises or to an animal shelter, for placement or termination and continue to breed Boykin Spaniels and register subsequent litters with the BSS will be deemed

to be in direct violation of the letter and spirit of this Code of Ethics and therefore subject to the disciplinary actions set forth below.

- Breeders should make every effort to sell puppies, permit stud services or lease any stud dogs or brood bitches only to individuals who provide satisfactory evidence that they will give proper care and attention to the animals concerned and who may be expected to act consistently with this Code of Ethics.
- Breeders are expected to be fair, honest and ethical in all matters relative to the sale of dogs and at no time misrepresent or mislead in any manner the public or potential buyers about the health, temperament, abilities, parentage, pedigree or registration status of any dog. Breeders shall disclose known health defects or other such issues affecting the dog, its ancestors or its offspring when breeding or selling.
- Breeders are expected to utilize clear and concise written contracts to document the sale of dogs, the use of stud dogs or lease arrangements. The contract of sale or lease should clearly state the nature and details of any guarantee given and/or any provisions for refund or return and replacement. Any provisions relative to non-breeding and/or limited privileges must also be clearly documented.
- Breeders shall provide new owners with instructions on proper care of the animal, including proper nutrition and feeding requirements, required inoculations, training and grooming instructions.
- Breeders shall not sell or donate dogs or puppies at auction or sell or donate dogs or puppies that that will be awarded in raffles.
- Breeders shall not sell, barter or transfer dogs to brokers, commercial dealers, retail pet stores, retail distribution outlets or research laboratories.
- Breeders are expected to follow and comply with all BSS requirements for record-keeping, identification of animals and registration procedures. Since May 25, 2006, the BSS has not and will **not** register dogs to multiple owners. Therefore, the **only** type of ownership recognized by the BSS is Single Ownership.
- Policies with respect to the registration and transfer of dogs which are consistent with the

BSS Constitution, By-Laws and this Code of Ethics may be adopted or amended from time to time by the BSS Board of Directors or designated committee thereof, which policies will take into account the interests of the BSS, its members and the Boykin Spaniel.

- All animals selected for breeding shall be in good health, including freedom from communicable disease and possess the temperament of the Boykin Spaniel breed: stable, friendly, trainable and willing to work.

## ENFORCEMENT

A condition of membership in the BSS is the member's agreement to adhere to the expectations and standards of conduct mandated by the Society's Constitution, By-Laws and this Code of Ethics. As stated above, violations of those expectations and standards of conduct can result in sanctions up to and including termination of membership and the privileges attendant to that membership, including the right to register dogs with the BSS. This Code of Ethics specifically outlines expected standards of conduct and members are advised that their agreement and commitment to observing the overall spirit and intent of this Code of Ethics is as important as adhering to its specific provisions. Any amendments to this Code of Ethics shall be adopted in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution and By-Laws. The By-Laws of the BSS have delegated to the Board of Directors the responsibility for implementing and administering this Code of Ethics. These responsibilities include enforcement. Therefore, suspected violations will be referred to the Board of Directors for review and resolution. In the event that the Board determines that a member's conduct has breached this Code of Ethics it shall take appropriate disciplinary action. Among the range of actions available to the Board are letters of reprimand and temporary suspension or permanent termination of membership. The Board will, at all times, attempt to resolve all disputes amicably but in the event that termination of membership, whether temporary or permanent, is appropriate then the procedures for membership termination established in the By-Laws shall be followed.

*Amended by the Board of Directors  
February 4, 2018*