



## *United Kingdom Miniature American Shepherd Club*

### Code of Ethics

The United Kingdom Miniature American Shepherd Club ('UKMASC') in keeping with its aim of breeding and maintaining the breed to the highest standard for working ability, health, versatility, and conformation has adopted the following Code of Ethics to promote and foster the highest standards among breeders, owners, and enthusiasts, while encouraging good sportsmanship and cooperation toward the improvement and advancement of the Miniature American Shepherd (the 'Mini American'.)

ALL MEMBERS OF UKMASC ARE REQUIRED TO SUBSCRIBE TO AND UPHOLD THE CODE OF ETHICS. PRIOR TO MEMBERSHIP APPROVAL, AN INDIVIDUAL MUST READ, AGREE TO ABIDE BY, AND SIGN THE UKMASC CODE OF ETHICS.

The objectives and purpose of the Club are:

- A) To promote and breed the Mini American as a versatile working dog with the required herding ability, intelligence, structure, strength, stamina, temperament, and agility to perform any tasks presented to the dog.
- B) To oppose the influence by any organisation, registry, or person whose beliefs and/or actions might result in practices considered detrimental to the Mini American.
- C) To insure that members, owners and breeders accept and breed in accordance with only one standard for the Mini American as defined by MASCUSA and AKC.

#### **Article 1: Ownership**

1. A member must maintain high standards of health care and shelter for their dogs.
2. A member must adhere to a regular, fair and appropriate scheme of training and socialisation for their dogs.
3. Each member is individually responsible for their own compliance with laws and by-laws concerning dogs.
4. Members are individually responsible for making their own arrangements for insurance in respect of their liabilities regarding their dogs whether participating in any event organised by, or on or off any premises in use by, the Club.

#### **Article 2: Breeding**

1. Every breeding must be planned with the paramount intention of improving the Mini American.
2. Before entering into any breeding agreement, a breeder must scrutinise the pedigree, conformation, working potentials and sound temperaments of both sire and dam, keeping in mind the basic principals of genetics and the requirements of the AKC Breed Standard.
3. A breeder should refuse any breeding if, in his/her opinion it is not in the best interest of the breed. Dogs used for breeding should be free from health or disqualifying defects. A breeder must cease to breed from any dog who consistently produces affected puppies.
4. No dog or bitch may be bred under the age of two years.
5. Breeders must keep accurate records of all matters pertaining to the breeding of their dogs.

### **Article 3: Sales**

1. A breeder must be discriminatory in the sale of puppies and be concerned with the type of homes in which they are placed.
2. A breeder must thoroughly screen all prospective puppy/dog buyers. No puppy/dog shall be sold to wholesalers, retailers or third parties.
3. A breeder agrees that the advertising of puppies/dogs will be factual and honest in both substance and implication.
4. For the mutual protection of breeder and buyer, a breeder must provide adequate written contractual proof of sale and any guarantees derived from the health tests of the parents.
5. Unless specifically discussed and agreed by prior arrangement, a breeder should provide a spay/neuter contract, with endorsements against breeding which are fully explained at the time of purchase.
6. A breeder must specify in their sales contract that no puppy/dog of their breeding shall ever be registered as a breed other than a Miniature American Shepherd.
7. A breeder must be willing to take back and find alternative homes for any puppy/dog of their breeding in the event the buyer is unable at any point to provide proper care for it.
8. A breeder should transfer all applicable registration papers when the purchase agreement is completed and agreeable to both parties, or in a timely manner if the registration certificate is not yet available
9. Upon the sale of a puppy/dog the breeder should provide the buyer with a minimum three generation pedigree, plus diet and care information, and copies of health testing certificates of the parents.
10. A breeder should not release a puppy until it is at least seven weeks of age.

### **Article 4: Member Relations**

1. Members are expected to display good sportsmanship in all activities involving Miniature American Shepherds. Unsportsmanlike conduct must be reported to the UKMASC Committee for further action.
2. Members must refrain from unnecessary criticism of other members or their dog(s).
3. As a matter of ethics, the UKMASC member pledges to help educate the general public and graciously assist with correct and pertinent information regarding the breed.

### **Article 5: Implementation**

1. In the event of
  - (i) any contravention of the Code of Ethics
  - (ii) any action considered as deleterious to the welfare of dogs in a member's care
  - (iii) behaviour or actions (canine or human) construed as antisocial towards the club or it's members, UKMASC membership and membership privileges of all members, owners, breeders, and/or dogs concerned may be revoked immediately, without further discussion or remuneration.

I have read and hereby agree to abide by the UKMASC Code of Ethics in its entirety.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_