

CODE OF ETHICS

Miniature Schnauzer Club of Atlanta

This Code of Ethics is intended to serve as a guide for all members of the Miniature Schnauzer Club of Atlanta. The premise of this Code is to provide a standard of excellence, rules of conduct that set the MSCA member apart from the ordinary dog fancier. The MSCA member has a common interest in the protection and well-being of the breed. In addition, MSCA member breeders recognize and practice their critical role as guardians of the Miniature Schnauzer breed type, as well as the importance of responsible breeding practices.

GENERAL:

- I will maintain high standards of health and care for my dogs.
- I will comply with the rules and regulations of the American Kennel Club.
- I will use all available resources to learn about the structure, anatomy, action, inherited traits, and behavior of the dog, and particularly the Miniature Schnauzer.

BREEDING:

- I will at all times breed for the improvement of the breed as exemplified by the American Miniature Schnauzer Club breed standard.
- I will use for breeding only mature adults that exemplify the breed standard.
- I will provide relevant information on the known or suspected genetic status of my breeding stock to parties interested in stud services or in purchasing a Miniature Schnauzer for breeding purposes.

REGISTRATION and SALES or TRANSFERS OF OWNERSHIP:

- All puppies and adult dogs that I sell will be sold with a written contract, outlining the conditions of the sale and the obligations of both myself and the buyer.
- I will provide a written health guarantee, a vaccination record, care and feeding instructions, a three generation pedigree, and registration papers for all puppies and adult dogs that I sell, pursuant to the conditions of the sales contract.
- I will do everything within my power to prevent any puppies not intended for reproduction or adult dogs that I place as pets from ending up in the hands of commercial or unscrupulous breeders, including, but not limited to, selling each dog with a spay/neuter agreement and holding registration papers until I have received proof from a licensed veterinarian that the spay/neuter has been performed.
- I agree that I will remain responsible for the welfare of every dog that I breed, sell, or place for the lifetime of that dog. This means making myself available to aid the new owner, if and when needed. The new owner will be instructed to contact me if in the future the owner is not able to care for or keep the dog, and I agree to take responsibility to either take the dog back or find the dog a new home.
- All puppies and adult dogs that I sell will be represented by me as accurately as possible with regard to health status and temperament.
- I will not sell or dispose of any dog through pet shops, wholesalers, commercial dealers or paid agents.
- I will educate the buyer as to the correct characteristics of the Miniature Schnauzer and make available to the novice the benefit of my advice and experience.

SPORTSMANSHIP:

- I will conduct myself in a manner that is in the best interest of the breed and the Miniature Schnauzer Club of Atlanta. I will exhibit professionalism and good sportsmanship at all dog events. I will treat other exhibitors, judges, and spectators with courtesy, fairness and respect. I will accept victory and defeat with equal grace and dignity. I will be mindful that I represent the Miniature Schnauzer Club of Atlanta at all times.
- I will use the official breed standard when evaluating and breeding my own stock and will encourage its application in judging.

HEALTH/HERITABLE CONDITIONS

- I will continually strive to learn about advances in canine health and will make breeding decisions based on the principles of reducing and eliminating health issues within the breed.
- I commit to having all breeding animals tested, using scientifically valid and accepted testing protocols, for the presence of phenotypic evidence and/or genetic mutations which may cause diseases or conditions known to afflict the Miniature Schnauzer. I realize that it is in the best interest of the breed to perform available health screenings, even if my own dogs have not produced affected puppies or are not themselves symptomatic.
- I commit to having a slit lamp examination of all puppies by a board certified American College of Veterinary Ophthalmologist (ACVO) to rule out the presence of congenital cataracts, retinal dysplasia, and other eye defects. I will make an effort to have a board certified ACVO examine all show and breeding animals annually.
- I will send reports of any adverse test results to the Health Committee of the American Miniature Schnauzer.

Member Signature

Date