

**The Miniature Australian Shepherd Club of America, Inc
(MASCA)**

CODE OF ETHICS

MASCA in keeping with its paramount aim of breeding the Australian Shepherd of the miniature variety 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 fanciers, while encouraging good sportsmanship and cooperation toward the improvement and advancement of the Australian Shepherd of the miniature variety.

ALL MEMBERS OF MASCA AND THOSE BREEDERS AND OWNERS UTILIZING THE MASCA REGISTRY ARE REQUIRED TO SUBSCRIBE TO AND UPHOLD MASCA'S CODE OF ETHICS.

PRIOR TO DOG REGISTRATION OR MEMBERSHIP APPROVAL, AN INDIVIDUAL MUST READ, AGREE TO ABIDE BY, AND SIGN THE MASCA CODE OF ETHICS.

The objectives and purpose of the Club shall be:

A) To promote and breed for the Australian Shepherd of the miniature variety 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 organizations, registries, or persons whose beliefs and/or actions might result in practices considered detrimental to the Australian Shepherd of the miniature variety.

C) To insure that members, owners and breeders accept and breed in accordance with only one standard for the Australian Shepherd of the miniature variety as approved by MASCA. Members can not register a MASCA registered Australian Shepherd as a different, separate breed with another registry. In addition, members, owners and breeders cannot register another breed (registered with an outside registry) with MASCA as an Australian Shepherd of the miniature variety.

D) To provide and maintain a registry for the Australian Shepherd of the miniature variety which will include: individual dog records, pedigree records, stud dog, bitch, and breeder records. The above documentation will prevent the introduction of any factors that would oppose the MASCA Mission Statement and prove detrimental to MASCA and the integrity of the registry.

Article 1: Records

1. Each member who breeds his/her bitch or uses his/her stud for services must keep accurate breeding records of the following: stud services, leases, pedigrees, all litters produced, sales of dog/puppies, and all exchanges involving Australian Shepherds of the miniature variety for a minimum of five (5) years.
2. Any member who falsifies a registration or knowingly misrepresents a pedigree must be reported to the MASCA Board of Directors. The Board of Directors will determine any further actions.

Article 2: Breeding

1. A breeder should plan each breeding with the paramount intention of improving the Australian Shepherd of the miniature variety.
2. A breeder should select a stud and matron with an eye towards correct conformation, natural working ability, and temperament. The breeder must take into regard the MASCA Breed Standard, pedigrees and basic principles of genetics.
3. A breeder shall refrain from breeding any dog or bitch under the age of twelve (12) months. Offspring of any dog and/or any bitch under the age of twelve (12) months but over the age of nine (9) months shall be eligible for Provisional Registration only. Offspring of any dog and/or any bitch under the age of nine (9) months shall not be eligible for MASCA registration. Two (2) years is the preferred minimum age for breeding any dog or bitch.
4. Before entering into any breeding agreement, a breeder must scrutinize the pedigree, conformation, and working potentials of both sire and dam, keeping in mind the requirements for the ideal Australian Shepherd of the miniature variety as described in the MASCA Breed Standard.
5. A breeder should refuse any breeding if, in his/her opinion it is not in the best interest of the breed. Should he/she refuse the breeding, an explanation of his/her reasoning should be given to the owner of the bitch/dog. A breeder should use for breeding purposes only those individuals that are free from defects such as monorchidism, cryptorchidism, deafness, hereditary eye or hip defects and other disqualifying defects. A breeder must further refrain from breeding any individual dog, who although free from defects, consistently produces afflicted puppies.

Article 3: Health

1. A breeder must maintain high standards of health care and shelter for his/her dogs. A breeder must guarantee the health of puppies at the time of sale.

Article 4: Sales

1. A breeder must be discriminatory in the sale of his/her puppies and be concerned with the type of homes in which they are placed. A breeder must thoroughly screen all prospective puppy buyers. With this in mind, Australian Shepherds of the miniature variety shall not be donated for raffles, sold to wholesalers or retailers such as pet shops, or sold at public auction.
2. A breeder should, for his/her own protection as well as that of the buyer, provide adequate written contractual proof of sale and guarantees.
3. A breeder should provide a minimum of one (1) year written guarantee against handicapping congenital defects on all puppies sold. With the sale of breeding stock, he/she should guarantee against all hereditary defects and disqualifying faults according to the MASCA Breed Standard for a like period of time.
4. A breeder should provide a spay/neuter contract withholding registration papers until proof of spaying or neutering is submitted, or the breeder can provide early spay/neuter on all puppies sold as pets only.
5. A breeder must be willing to take back and find alternative homes for any dog of his/her breeding in the event the buyer may be unable at any point to provide proper care for it.
6. A breeder should transfer all applicable registration papers at said time when the purchase agreement is completed and agreeable to both parties or in a timely manner if waiting for proof of spaying or neutering.
7. Upon the sale of a puppy/dog the breeder should provide the buyer/buyers with a three (3) or more generation pedigree with the following information: coat color, eye color and indication of naturally bobbed tail occurrence (if known), diet and care information, health guarantees (including preliminary eye exam results) and worming/inoculation records (including date and type of serum.)
8. A breeder should refrain from releasing a puppy until it is at least seven (7) weeks of age.

Article 5: Advertising

- 1. The breeder agrees that all advertising of puppies/dogs should be factual and honest in both substance and implication.
- 2. The breeder should be cautious in encouraging buyers about the breeding potential of a dog; as the breeding of Australian Shepherds of the miniature variety is not to be taken lightly.

Article 6: Member Relations

- 1. The exhibition of dogs being a sport, MASCA members shall be expected to express good sportsmanship in all activities involving the Australian Shepherd of the miniature variety. Unsportsmanlike conduct must be reported to the MASCA Board for further actions.
- 2. MASCA members must refrain from unnecessary criticism of another person's dog(s).
- 3. As a matter of ethics, the MASCA member pledges to help educate the general public as well as graciously assist the novice breeder with correct and pertinent information regarding the Australian Shepherd of the miniature variety.

Article 7: Implementation

- 1. Any infractions of this Code of Ethics should be reported, in writing, to the MASCA Board of Directors in accordance with the By-laws. Correspondence to the Board of Directors should be sent to: **MASCA, PO Box 248 Roanoke, Indiana 46783.**
- 2. If and when a breeder deviates from these ideals: is uncooperative in rectifying their dog(s)' information, falsifies said information (in accordance with the By-Laws and COE), acts in a manner unbecoming to a MASCA member, then written evidence should be presented to the Board of Directors for disciplinary action. Infractions may result in termination of membership and/or revocation of MASCA registration privileges for all members, owners, breeders, and/or dogs.

Printed Name of Member_____

Signature of Member_____ Date_____

Printed Name of Member_____

Signature of Member_____ Date_____