



## HARRIER CLUB OF AMERICA CODE OF ETHICS

As a member of the Harrier Club of America, I recognize that I am often faced with decisions about courses of action that can impact the health and well being of my own dogs and the preservation of the Harrier breed as a whole.

To that end, the Harrier Code of Ethics is for both owners and breeders to:

- Protect the welfare of individual Harriers.
- Strive to insure that Harriers are not bred or used for purposes detrimental to the breed.
- Promote higher standards in breeding, training, and showing Harriers in the field, show ring, and performance ring.

I also understand that these principles are to encourage cooperation among owners and breeders of Harriers. I will strive to be ethical in all matters with the public and with my peers.

As a Harrier owner I will:

- Comply with all American Kennel Club (AKC) and Harrier Club of America (HCA) rules and regulations, and abide by the AKC Code of Sportsmanship.
- Maintain a high standard of health care and cleanliness for Harriers in my care.
- Study and learn the conformation of my Harriers, looking to their structure, health, temperament, and hunt ability.
- Strongly consider permanently identifying all Harriers that I own with either microchip or tattoo by the time the dog is six (6) months of age.
- Strongly consider performing testing for certification of hips, after the Harrier has reached twenty-four (24) months of age, by Orthopedic Foundation for Animals (OFA), PennHip, foreign or other registries; and eye testing by a Diplomat of the American College of Veterinary Ophthalmology (AVCO) for hereditary eye diseases. (Certification by Canine Eye Registration Foundation [C.E.R.F] preferred.)

- Consider DNA fingerprinting for all my Harriers.

As a Harrier breeder, I will:

- Truthfully and realistically represent the Harrier being bred, sold and/or placed in terms of temperament, quality, health, and genetic history.
- Consult with my breeder and/or with knowledgeable, experienced members of the HCA, regional clubs, or local kennel club to broaden my understanding and knowledge of the history of the breed BEFORE beginning a Harrier breeding program.
- Be discouraged from breeding a Harrier that is known to have serious inheritable defects or genetic diseases, such as but not limited to:
  - \* Canine hip/elbow dysplasia
  - \* Primary epilepsy
  - \* A seizure disorder
  - \* Eye disorders
  - \* Heart defects
  - \* Undescended testicles
  - \* Extreme shyness or viciousness
- Perform testing for certification of hips after the Harrier has reached twenty-four (24) months of age, by Orthopedic Foundation for Animals (OFA), PennHip, foreign or other registries; and eye testing by a Diplomat of the American College of Veterinary Ophthalmology (AVCO) for hereditary eye diseases. (Certification by Canine Eye Registration Foundation [C.E.R.F] preferred.)
- Be encouraged to only breed Harriers that have been certified free of hip dysplasia.

In addition, OFA elbow and OFA thyroid tests are strongly recommended. Other health tests such as brucellosis, OFA Cardiac, OFA Patella and other unspecified tests should be declared in agreement between the owners of the sire and dam prior to breeding.

The testing and registries should not be limited to those listed here. As veterinary medicine advances in areas such as genetic mapping and in the development of newer or better testing tools for a wide variety of genetic issues, these tests may be superseded by new ones at some future date.

As a breeder, I am also strongly encouraged to:

- Share all health results, good and bad, with the public.
- Refrain from breeding Harriers until they are twenty-four (24) months old.
- Refuse to knowingly sell to commercial wholesalers, retail brokers, or research laboratories.
- Have dewclaws removed soon after birth.
- Give shots and worming in accordance with my Veterinarian's current protocol, prior to the sale of the Harrier puppies.
- Supply the buyer with a four (4) generation pedigree, registration certificate, information on all veterinary care, and instructions for the care, feeding, and training of the Harrier, and information on the Harrier Club of America.
- Sell all Harrier puppies with a contract.
- Use spay/neuter agreements and/or consider limited registration if selling or placing a pet Harrier, or if it is known or believed the dog might manifest hereditary defects detrimental to the breed.
- Remember that my responsibility as the owner of the sire or the dam does not end with the sale of the puppy. As a breeder I will strive to have contact with the buyer of a pup throughout the life of the dog.
- Permanently identify all Harrier litters that I produce with either a microchip or tattoo.
- Accept the return of a Harrier that I breed at any stage in its life.

The long-term interest and well being of the Harrier should be the goal of every Harrier owner.

\*Pending AKC approval