

Eurasier Club of Canada, Inc.

Breeder's Code of Ethics

The Eurasier Club of Canada, Inc., hereafter referred to as the ECC, Inc., or the club, is a national organization devoted to the welfare and preservation of the Eurasier breed, as it is described in the original FCI, and subsequent CKC standard. ECC Code of Ethics Breeders are required to act in the best interests of the individual Eurasier, and the Eurasier breed, by adhering to this set of ethical principles to produce a Eurasier that is well-balanced and typical for the breed, sound of mind and body, and suited to its original purpose as a companion dog.

General Breeding Practices

1. The goal of breeding is to produce quality Eurasiers that most closely reflect the ideal established in the CKC/FCI standard; and Eurasiers that are healthy and sound, both in structure and temperament. However, breeding should be considered a secondary goal only – breeding should not be considered as a primary source of income, and Eurasiers should not be exploited in such a manner. Eurasiers retired from breeding are expected to remain as members of the family, not be re-homed or disposed of in any other way.
2. The decision to breed is a serious responsibility and should never be taken lightly. To this end, every ethical breeder or prospective breeder must be willing to embrace the following general principles:
 - a) Be prepared to make a serious commitment of both time and financial resources in order to ensure that a proper breeding program can be carried out.
 - b) Plan litters well in advance and thoroughly screen prospective owners to ensure satisfactory quality homes for future Eurasier puppies.
 - c) Research from recommended sources (breeding books, guides, DVD's etc) and be familiar with the breeding and whelping process - to have a basic knowledge of pregnancy, whelping and puppy-rearing issues. It is strongly recommended that inexperienced or first time breeders engage the services of another breeder of proven reliability and experience who can be counted on to provide valuable advice and/or hands on assistance at any time. However, it is also recommended the novice breeder make arrangements ahead of whelping, to be in contact with an emergency vet in case of complications.
 - d) Adhere to the guidelines established in the "Litters - Minimum Care" policy.
 - e) Be prepared to provide for the special health and nutritional needs of brood bitches and their litters.
 - f) Every mating should be planned with the intention of improvement, yet preservation of the breed; thus it's a given the breeder will have carefully studied the breed standard and the pedigrees of the mating dogs, and will have a basic knowledge of genetics.
 - g) Artificial Insemination may be used as an option at the breeder's discretion in certain circumstances, provided that the ECC Executive is informed in advance.

- h) Ensure that all necessary breeding documents, personal records and registrations are available for inspection and are completely in order.

Breeding Criteria

A dedicated, responsible Eurasier Club of Canada Code of Ethics Breeder must give priority to the following:

- a) Both sire and dam should conform to the approved CKC/FCI standard to the highest possible degree.
- b) Type of both sire and dam.
- c) Co-efficient of inbreeding (the ECC recommends no greater than 4% inbreeding coefficient)
- d) Both sire and dam must have stable temperament.
- e) Both sire and dam must be of sound health with no clinical evidence of serious illness, disease or structural deficiency.
- f) Both sire and dam have reached such maturity that they can produce and raise a healthy litter.

The breeder is also urged to consider:

- a) The relative strengths of each breeding partner per the CKC standard
- b) The relative shortcomings of each breeding partner per the CKC standard
- c) Compatibility of structure, temperament and type.

Careful consideration of compatibility reveals that not all Eurasiers which are acceptable according to the breed standard are suitable as breeding partners. Every effort should be made to avoid amplifying individual shortcomings in breeding dogs.

1. Breeding Age

An ECC Code of Ethics Breeder must be able to provide proof that the Sire & Dam were of appropriate age for breeding. The breeder agrees that:

The optimal initial age for breeding a female Eurasier is on or after her second birthday. The earliest acceptable age for breeding a Eurasier female is 18 months. The oldest acceptable age that a Eurasier female should be bred is on or before 9 years old, without special permission. The first litter should occur before the female reaches the end of her fifth year of life. With females, the time between litters must be at least 12 months. Usually, this would mean that breeding could take place on every second heat, but for dogs with long cycles, it is permitted to breed the dog on its first heat after last whelping, provided veterinary permission has been received and the ECC Executive has been notified.

The optimal breeding age for a male Eurasier is 18 months of age. The youngest acceptable age for breeding a Eurasier male is one year of age. The oldest acceptable age of breeding a Eurasier male without proof of his fertility is 12 years of age.

If a breeding occurs with a dog or bitch that is over or under the above minimum and maximum ages, either through breeder's intent or from an accidental breeding, the breeder must provide a notarized affidavit stating the circumstances of the breeding to the Club. This letter will be a permanent part of the records of the ECC. The ECC also has the option to require DNA testing to determine proof of parentage.

2. Health Tests

An ECC Code of Ethics Breeder must be able to offer evidence (documented certifications) that prior to mating and at no sooner than 12 months of age, that health examinations* were completed for the Sire & Dam. These include:

- a) Hip dysplasia
- b) Patella luxation
- c) Eyes (CERF or specialist in ophthalmology preferred; minimal exam: entropion, ectropion and distichiasis)

The following test may also be considered:

- a) Elbow dysplasia

Only those dogs with favorable results should be used for breeding. Favorable is defined as:

- a) Hips rated HD-A1, HD-A2, or HD-B1, or equivalent.
- b) use of C hip dogs to a potential A hip mate, may be considered on a case by case basis, with Club approval required, but the focus should remain on using only those dogs with no worse than a B1 equivalent as a means of enhancing future generations as the objective of any breeder is to improve the breed.
- c) Patellas rated normal (0/0). Patella rated at 1/1 may be considered on a case by case basis, with Club approval required, but the focus should remain on using only those dogs with a patella rating of 0/0.
- d) Eyes rated clear
- e) Elbows rated normal

In addition, breeders will not permit a male to be used excessively for breeding (more than 3 litters) without health checks on as many offspring as possible at no earlier than 18 months. If the offspring meet the health and breed standard requirements, the stud will then be allowed continue being used for breeding. For the purposes of restricting the use of stud dogs, a litter consists of 4 or more puppies.

* Certifications are accepted from a recognized organization such as the University of Pennsylvania Hip Improvement Program (PennHIP), the Ontario Veterinary College (OVC), the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals (OFA) or a Federation Cynologique Internationale (FCI) approved authority.

It is highly recommended that breeders also encourage their future puppy owners to have their dogs' hips, patellas and eyes examined once the dogs reach the recommended age for the health tests to be performed. The examination results are crucial for breeders to ensure the continued health of the breed in Canada.

3. Health Defects/ Faults

The following health defects/ faults will exclude a Eurasier from breeding:

- a) Temperament issues (aggression, nervousness, shyness, excessive suspiciousness)
- b) Hip Dysplasia (subject to conditions specified above)
- c) Patella Luxation (subject to conditions specified above)
- d) Distichiasis, Entropion, Ectropion or other hereditary eye defects
- e) Exocrine Pancreatic Insufficiency (EPI)
- f) Thyroid problems
- g) Various tooth faults (congenital absence or very small teeth)
- h) Overbite or underbite
- i) Kinked tail
- j) Floppy or pendulous ears
- k) Pure white color, pintos, white irregular patches, liver color
- l) Poor pigmentation (pink nose, light colored eyes, eye rims, lips, nails, etc.)
- m) Cryptorchid and/or lack of correct gender characteristics
- n) Diabetes mellitus
- o) Cancerous tumors

Any Eurasier that shows a serious defect in type, structure or temperament, or which exhibits current or historical clinical evidence of deleterious health defects, as described herein, must not be considered for breeding.

If a sire or dam has produced any offspring with serious defects in type, structure or temperament, or offspring with clinical evidence of deleterious health defects as described herein, and produces like results with a different breeding partner, it is in the best interest of the breed that the owner refrain from further breeding of this Eurasier.

Health Guarantees

Eurasier puppies must be at least eight weeks or older before being released to the new owner(s) to make the necessary adjustment to a new home safely. Eurasier puppies or adults released to the new owner(s) should be in good health to the best of the breeder's knowledge. Breeders must inform prospective puppy owners about all known defects prior to final sale. Any Eurasier puppy or adult, which is considered to have a serious defect in type, structure, temperament or a serious deviation from the standard, **MUST** be sold with registration papers marked non-breeding, with a mandatory spay/neuter requirement, supported by a veterinary certificate.. No adult or puppy shall be sold without adequate immunization against disease, and a complete health record shall accompany each animal to its new owner at the time of sale.

1. Breeders must provide a written health guarantee, and a return or replacement policy. In the event a Eurasier develops evidence of a serious congenital defect within 2 years after date of the sale, this guarantee would provide for certain specified compensations, to which the breeder must abide.
2. Breeders should recommend that Eurasier owners obtain pet insurance as a means of providing additional protection and compensation if needed.

Sales, Responsibilities and Contracts

1. Sales

Prospective breeders should have pre-approved homes for the anticipated litter, but should also be prepared for the possibility of caring for puppies for several months until quality adoptive homes can be found.

ECC Code of Ethics breeders shall be discriminating in the placement of puppies. This includes thorough screening of prospective buyers to determine their suitability for ownership of a Eurasier.

The Eurasier Club of Canada, Inc. does not consider ethical any of the following practices:

- the over-breeding of bitches for profit, with no regard for the quality of the offspring or the health of the bitch;
- the consignment or sale to a third party such as pet shops, catalogue houses, animal brokers, other commercial sources of distribution, or research facilities;
- knowingly selling a Eurasier to anyone suspected of using dogs for illegal/immoral purposes (dog fighting, laboratory experimentation)
- the wholesaling of Eurasier litters to puppy brokers or pet shops, or the sale of an entire litter to a single individual;
- the donation of Eurasiers as prizes for raffles, auctions, or contests;
- accepting commissions on sales of puppies for other breeders (assisting other breeders in placement of their litters is not to be construed as brokering as long as the sales agreement, contracts and guarantees are between the breeder and the puppy buyers).

The sale of a Eurasier to person(s) known or suspected of such practices is considered detrimental to the breed.

2. Responsibilities

- Breeders should be available to their buyers in a timely manner for ongoing consultation, advice and assistance after completion of a sale.
- Each ECC Code of Ethics Breeder has a lifetime responsibility for all puppies produced - a permanent obligation to each and every puppy, to provide a stable environment that protects the pup's physical and emotional well being.
- If, at any time, the owner of a dog decides to relinquish that dog for any reason, the breeder will arrange to take the dog back promptly or will offer full assistance in re-homing the dog as per mutually agreed arrangements.
- The breeder shall evaluate and initiate any necessary rehabilitation or retraining.
- Any provisions for refunds or shipping charges in this instance shall be handled in the contract between breeder and owner.

- If a Eurasier needs to be re-homed, the breeder can request help from Eurasier Rescue, and agree to provide some financial assistance as negotiated with NAEC Eurasier Rescue. If a Eurasier is surrendered to Eurasier Rescue, without the breeder's knowledge, the breeder can take back the dog, assist with its care while a new home is located, or make a monetary contribution to the North American Eurasier Committee Eurasier Rescue fund to cover the costs of re-homing the Eurasier.
- No breeder will surrender any puppy or adult Eurasier to an animal shelter or pound unless required to do so by law.
- If a recovered Eurasier presents a danger to itself, its owner, other people or other dogs, it may have to be humanely destroyed. Such a decision can only be made by the owner of record, or law enforcement agency. If this is necessary, the breeder agrees to file a letter to the Club notifying date of death and reason for euthanasia.
- The breeder will maintain comprehensive and truthful records on every dog owned and/or co-owned as well as on every puppy produced. These records shall include a complete record of each pup produced which shall include date of birth, number in litter, gender, color with description of markings, birth anomalies (if any), final disposition of pup (sold, kept, given away, died), name and contact information of the new owner if applicable, and date of transfer.
- The breeder should inform the club about any planned breedings and about any litters born within one week of the occurrence so that the ECC can advise anyone interested in obtaining a puppy where litters were or will be born.
- For statistical purposes, the breeder should provide information on all litters to the Club database administrator within three months after birth, including, but not limited to color, sex, any noted deviations from the breed standard; province, state or country the pups in which the pups will be living; family name and address, if consent has been provided by the new owners.

3. Contracts

Breeders shall provide a written contract to the puppy buyer at the time of sale, which outlines specific arrangements between the buyer and seller, including a policy to accept the return of a puppy, or assistance in finding it a new home, in the event the new owners are unable to keep it.

Breeders are encouraged to include in their contract a stipulation for 'health deposits' from puppy owners that would be reimbursed to the owners once proof of completion of the required tests (hips, patellas, eyes) has been provided.

The breeder is requested to submit the health test results, and other health information (illness, disease, allergies, etc) to the database administrator for statistical purposes.

Breeders are encouraged to sell all companion Eurasiers with a CKC non-breeding agreement.

Breeders must provide CKC registration papers for their puppies to the new owners within six months from the date of sale.

Ideally, breeders should also provide to buyers a three-generation pedigree, and instructions on care, including grooming, feeding, house-training, and health.

Breeders will encourage each of their puppy buyers to apply for membership in the Eurasier Club of Canada, or if a resident of the U.S., with the United States Eurasier Club, with the breeder acting as one of the applicant's sponsors.

Breeders will use a written contract for all stud service agreements and agree to sign a litter application form once the requirements of the stud agreement have been met. The breeder will require that the bitch's owner be a member in good-standing of the Eurasier Club of Canada or equivalent recognized club. The breeder will also recommend that the bitch's owner sell all resulting puppies that are of companion quality with a CKC Non-Breeding agreement.

Breeders should always try to assist the serious novice in his/her understanding of the breed with regards to conformation, training, socialization, grooming, routine veterinary care, and in the exhibition of the Eurasier at recognized events such as shows, agility and obedience trials etc.

Advertising

Breeders are encouraged to advertise puppies available for sale through their website, other breeders, or word of mouth contact, rather than through newspapers or magazines. Any advertising of Eurasiers, either verbal and/or written, will be truthful and shall in no way conflict with the goals of good breeding practices as set forth in this Code of Ethics.

If promoting the Eurasier through advertisements, the breeder will list the Eurasier Club of Canada as the affiliated Parent Breed Club such as: ECC Code of Ethics Breeder.

Violations

Reported, verifiable violations of the requirements of this Code of Ethics shall be subject to any or all of these forms of actions taken by the Executive as described in Article 13 of the Eurasier Club of Canada Constitution:

- a letter of warning or reprimand from the Executive
- removal from the list of Code of Ethics Breeders List
- a public statement to appear in the Eurasier Club Newsletter and/or web site describing the removal of the breeder;
- suspension and possible expulsion from the club as described in the bylaws of the ECC, Inc.