

NORTHERN ENGLAND FLATCOATED RETRIEVER ASSOCIATION
GENERAL CODE OF ETHICS.

All members of the Northern England Flatcoated Retriever Association undertake to abide by its code of ethics (which are listed below).

Club Members:

1. Will properly house, feed, water and exercise all dogs under their care and arrange for appropriate veterinary attention if and when required.
2. Will agree, without reservation, that any veterinary surgeon performing an operation on any of their dogs which alters the natural conformation of the animal may report such an operation to the Kennel Club.
3. Will agree that no healthy puppy will be culled. Puppies which may not conform to the breed standard should be placed in suitable homes.
4. Will abide by all aspects of the Animal Welfare Act.
5. Will not create demand for, nor supply, puppies that have been illegally docked.
6. Will agree not to breed from a dog or bitch which could be in any way harmful to the dog or the breed.
7. Will not allow any of their dogs to roam at large or to cause a nuisance to neighbours or those carrying out official duties.
8. Will ensure that their dogs wear properly tagged collars and will be kept leashed or under effective control when away from home.
9. Will clean up after their dogs in public places or anywhere their dogs are being exhibited.
10. Will only sell dogs where there is a reasonable expectation of a happy and healthy life and will help with the re-homing of a dog if the initial circumstances change.
11. Will supply written details of all dietary requirements and give guidance concerning reasonable ownership when placing dogs in a new home.
12. Will ensure that all relevant Kennel Club documents are provided to the new owner when the earliest opportunity if not available.
13. Will not sell any dog to commercial dog wholesalers, retail pet dealers or directly or indirectly allow any dogs to be given as a prize or donation in a competition of any kind.
14. Will not knowingly misrepresent the characteristics of the breed nor falsely advertise dogs nor mislead any person regarding the health or quality of the dog.
15. A breeder will only breed from those flatcoats believed to be clear of known serious hereditary defects and which are not suffering from any acute problem.

At all times the improvement of breeding stock must be the primary consideration.

Stud dog owners must satisfy themselves as to the suitability of the bitch's breeding and where possible, the conditions under which the litter/s would be reared. A stud dog owner must be satisfied that the bitch has had the necessary health checks as should the dog.

Bitches should not be bred from until at least 2½ years old, normally no bitch should be expected to produce more than three litters and there should be at least a year between each litter bred from a bitch. The Kennel Club will only register litters born to bitches over eight years old if there are exceptional circumstances.

Members should not mate siblings, half siblings, mother to son or father to daughter

16. Dogs that are picking up, beating or training on private ground are exempt from wearing a collar.
17. Puppies should not change hands before the age of seven weeks. All puppies sold over twelve weeks of age should, if possible, be fully inoculated.

If bitch puppies are sold on breeding terms, a "Breeding Term Contract" should be endorsed by the Kennel Club.

18. The breeder of puppies shall at the time of sale provide satisfactory diet sheet, complete health record, details of worming carried out and a copy of the pedigree with parents hip scores and eye certificates available for inspection. Advice regarding inoculations should also be given.

Kennel Club endorsements on puppies should be explained in detail to potential new owners.

19. Dogs requiring re-homing are subject to the Flatcoated Retriever Society Rescue, Re-homing and Welfare scheme rules which state that registration papers are not passed to the new owners.
20. Members should not knowingly sell to laboratories.

When exporting overseas, all sellers of puppies should ensure the suitability of the owners and the environment for a Flatcoat. The ethics of the country with regard to dogs should also be taken into account.

21. Breeders / Owners shall at all times be extremely careful when advertising or selling Flatcoats.
22. Members should give very serious consideration before proposing or seconding new members for entry into the Association.

Breach of any of these provisions may result in expulsion from club membership and / or disciplinary action by the Kennel Club and / or reporting to the relevant authorities for legal action if appropriate.