

# American Beauceron Code of Ethics (ABC CoE)

This code establishes a standard of conduct to be followed by all members of the ABC in the normal course of owning, exhibiting, judging, breeding and selling Beaucerons. Recognizing the impossibility of covering every situation that may arise, it is the spirit, rather than the letter of the Code that shall apply.

The main emphasis for breeding Beaucerons will be to preserve the herding and working ability and other outstanding qualities of character of this breed, as well as its appearance.

Measures should be taken to acquaint the general public with the contents of this Code so that they may not become innocent partners in improper breeding practices, and a detrimental use of the Beauceron.

Responsibilities as a member of the ABC:

1. Support and abide by the American Beauceron Club Constitution and By-laws.
2. Support and abide by the ABC Code of Ethics.
3. Support and abide by the AKC standard for the Beauceron.
4. Abide by all AKC rules and regulations where they pertain.
5. Consider the health and welfare of the animals in your care, as well as the health and welfare of the breed in general, as uppermost in importance.
6. Whenever possible, maintain contact with the breeder of your dog advising him/her of the dog's progress, any training or health problems that may occur.
7. Never to abandon or dispose of your Beauceron in a shelter or a pound. If unable or unwilling to care for your dog, to contact the breeder or the ABC to enlist his/her support in finding a new home.
8. Support Beauceron Rescue programs to the best of your ability realizing it serves as the final safety net for Beaucerons facing life-threatening situations.
9. Conduct yourself in a manner to reflect credit upon yourself, the breed and the Club whether at home, at shows or traveling by:
  - Displaying good sportsmanship at all times.
  - Refraining from false or malicious criticism (hurtful or mean-spirited comments) about a competitor's dog, breeder or owner.
  - Refraining from false or malicious criticism about a judge's decision. No member shall make false or malicious comments to any judge in writing, in public or in private regarding dogs belonging to others.

- Practicing and promoting responsible dog ownership to include the conduct and control of your dog in public places.
- Respecting the property of others, including facilities used for dog events, especially by use of proper sanitary measures.

Should any violation of the above occur at an AKC licensed or member club event or at an AKC sanctioned event, it shall be handled as an AKC disciplinary matter.

10. No Officer, Director or other member shall knowingly represent his/her personal opinion to be the official position of the ABC or of its Board of Directors in the media or other means of public communication.

11. Any contract disputes will be resolved between the contracting parties, not American Beauceron Club or its Board of Directors.

Responsibilities as a Beauceron breeder:

Code of Ethics breeders agree to breed in a discriminate manner and only upon strong evidence of the possibility of finding suitable homes for the resulting puppies. In addition to their responsibilities as members described above, breeders:

1. Should be fully familiar with the AKC Standard and breed to preserve breed characteristics.
2. Demonstrate honesty and fairness in dealing with other breeders, purchasers of dogs and the general public.
3. Use breeding stock of sound temperament, with no major hereditary defects, free of parasites and communicable disease All Beaucerons that are to be used for breeding purposes must be free of degenerative joint disease: rated excellent, good or fair by Orthopedic Foundation for Animals, or an equivalent rating as judged by a reputable Veterinarian controlled registry. Breeders will also strongly consider the following tests: an echocardiogram, CERF registration, a recognized Temperament Test and a Brucellosis test.
4. Provide appropriate documentation to all concerned regarding the health of the dogs involved in a breeding or sale, including reports of examinations such as those applying to hips and eyes.
5. Refrain from further use of any dog/bitch that has produced serious defects detrimental to the animal's well being, affecting normal functions or impairment of vital functions and produces like results with a different mating partner.
6. Make full use of AKC Limited registration in selling puppies with disqualifying faults or, in the breeder's opinion, lacking the quality adequate for breeding.
7. Follow AKC requirements for record keeping, identification of breeding stock, and registration procedures.
8. Screen prospective buyers to ascertain their potential to properly care for a large, active, dog. Inform prospective puppy buyers of the lifelong responsibilities of Beauceron ownership: training, grooming, socializing, veterinary expenses, equipment needs, spatial needs, and exercise.

9. Provide complete information to new owners including instructions on feeding, medical records, training and socialization needs. Urge buyers to attend puppy socialization and obedience classes. Also provide a three generation pedigree, AKC registration papers, which may be provided after spaying or neutering per contract, and a copy of the AKC breed standard.

10. Use clear concise contracts to document the sale, co-ownerships, the use of stud dogs and lease arrangements including the use, when appropriate, of non-breeding agreements, spaying/neutering contracts and/or Limited Registration.

11. Understand and agree that you are willing to take back or assist in finding a new home for any dog you produce at any time in its life, if requested to do so. The owner of the sire, having a vested interest in the litter produced, should also be consulted in matters arising that may affect the health and welfare of the offspring.

12. No member or breeder shall, either singly or in litter lots: (i) knowingly consign, donate or sell dogs to commercial dog wholesalers, franchised commercial facilities, brokers, pet shops, puppy mills, laboratories, or agents of the forgoing, (ii) offer, or donate or sell any dog to be offered as a prize in any form of raffle, contest or other like activity or for sale in a mail order catalog.

13. Ensure that all of their advertising shall be truthful and ethical. Any claims made must be provable.