

THE MALTESE NATIONAL CANINE FEDERATION

CODE OF ETHICS - RULES FOR BREEDING

All breeders who register their puppies, and new owners who register ownership of their dogs with the Maltese National Canine Federation,(MNCF), accept the jurisdiction of the Federation and undertake to abide by its General Code of Ethics.

Owners/Breeders:

- Will properly house, feed, water and exercise all dogs under their care and arrange for appropriate veterinary attention if and when required.
- Will agree without reservation that any veterinary surgeon who performs an operation on any of their dogs which alters the natural conformation of the animal, or who carries out a caesarean section on a bitch, may report such operations to the Maltese National Canine Federation.
- Will agree that no healthy puppy will be culled (put down). Puppies which may not conform to the Breed Standard should be placed in suitable homes.
- Will abide by all aspects of the Animal Welfare Act and local laws.
- Will not create demand for, nor supply, puppies that have been docked illegally.
- Will agree not to breed from a dog or bitch which could be in any way harmful to the dog or to the breed.
- Will Abide with the Maltese laws and legislations regarding dogs as amended from time to time.
- Will **NOT** mate a bitch until she is at least 12 months old and over the age of 8 years old and if she already had 6 litters (**Legal Notice 199 of 2011, paragraph 10 (3)**)
- Will **NOT** mate a bitch if she had another litter within the previous 12 months. (**Legal Notice 199 of 2011, paragraph 10 (3)**)
- Will **NOT** breed from dogs having faults which are hereditary such as bad mouths (overshot or undershot are undesirable in many breeds), monorchids (dogs not having two apparently normal testicles fully descended into the scrotum), bad tempered, etc.
- Will not allow any of their dogs to roam at large or to cause a nuisance to neighbours or those carrying out official duties.
- Will ensure that their dogs are microchipped and wear properly tagged collars and will be kept leashed or under effective control when away from home.
- Will clean up after their dogs in public places or anywhere their dogs are being exhibited.
- 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.
- Will supply written details of all dietary requirements and give guidance concerning responsible ownership when placing dogs in a new home.
- Will duly register all puppies bred by him/her with the MNCF.
- Will ensure that all relevant MNCF documents are provided to the new owner when selling or transferring a dog, and will agree, in writing, to forward any relevant documents at the earliest opportunity, if not immediately available.
- Will not sell any dog to commercial dog wholesalers, retail pet dealers or directly or indirectly allow dogs to be given as a prize or donation in a competition of any kind. Will not sell by sale or auction MNCF registration certificates as stand alone items (not accompanying a dog).
- Will not knowingly misrepresent the characteristics of the breed nor falsely advertise dogs nor mislead any person regarding the health or quality of a dog.

The MNCF has the right to ask any dog breeder/owner to have their dog/s inspected by MNCF officials or other MNCF entrusted personnel for any visible hereditary defects such as bad mouths, monorchids, bad temperament etc. The MNCF will not accept registrations of puppies bred from dogs carrying such hereditary defects. Those refusing their dogs from being inspected will be banned from registering their dogs/puppies with the MNCF, and any dogs already registered with that person will not be transferable once person is banned. Also, the MNCF has the right to ask for a DNA profiling for any dog, failure to abide will result in a ban from future registrations and transfers. Also, any person caught breeding from a bitch under 12 months old or 8 years old, or mating a bitch more than once in a 12 month period, will be banned from future registrations and transfers. Those caught registering puppies resulting from a bitch being mated more than once in a 12 month period, even if registering alternating litters with other clubs/entities, in breach of this regulation, will be banned from future registrations and transfers of dogs. This also applies for those breaching the MNCF Code of Ethics as listed above.