

Approval Signature /Date Christine Robinson 18 OCT 2021

Approved By Title President

Approval Date 10 / 08 / 2021  
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## BRTCA CODE OF ETHICS

The Black Russian Terrier Club of America, Inc., has established this Code as a standard of conduct for all dog related practices in the course of ownership, breeding, selling, buying, and exhibiting the Black Russian Terrier.

Responsibilities of Member owners/breeders:

1. The ultimate goal of the responsible breeder should be to breed carefully and with discrimination to improve the breed by producing attractive, healthy puppies with good temperaments, whether for pet or show.
2. Breeders should have a basic knowledge of genetics, the breed, dog breeding in general, and the specific faults and virtues of their chosen genetic lines. They should also be aware of potential health problems associated both with the breed itself, and the specific line. This is to encourage improvement of the breed by using top quality stock, along with extensive researched knowledge.
3. A breeder should be discriminating in the placement of his/her stock. A breeder should not sell or aid in selling a Black Russian Terrier to any person who he/she has reason to believe will not provide proper care and environment or who may use the dog in a fashion which is detrimental to the dog itself or to the breed.
4. Breeders are not to sell puppies under the age of eight (8) weeks and/or without proper documented immunization and health protection for their age.
5. Breeders are to be honest and forthright in answering questions pertaining to their Black Russian Terriers.
6. Breeders should recommend future immunization and worming schedules, as well as ways to deal with various health or behavioral problems that might occur. Breeders should also inform new owners of any health clearances that have been performed on one or both of the parents.
7. The BRTCA encourages all Black Russian Terrier owners that breed Black Russian Terriers to assume more responsibility for dogs produced throughout their lives rather than just until the sale.
8. Member owners/breeders are to maintain the best possible health, safety, cleanliness, and veterinary care for their animals as well as proper nutrition and socialization and should pass these recommended measures along to new owners.
9. All agreements should be in writing.
10. We encourage breeders to contractually require "pet" owners to prevent unwanted, accidental breeding. We recommend that pet owners do everything possible to prevent unwanted/accidental breeding through kenneling, sequestering, age-appropriate altering, and other non-surgical options for altering pets.
11. Breeding animals should be screened prior to breeding.

The BRTCA recommends the following health and trait screening tests for all breeding stock. Dogs meeting these basic screening requirements will be issued Canine Health Information Center (CHIC) numbers. For CHIC certification, all results do not need to be normal, but they must all be in the public domain so that responsible breeders can make more informed breeding decisions. Dogs are not required to have CHIC numbers, but test and screening results should be made available to potential buyers at the breeder's discretion.

#### Health Screening:

Hip Dysplasia screening by radiograph after the age of 24 months.  
Elbow Dysplasia screening by radiograph after the age of 24 months.  
Eye Examination by a boarded ACVO Ophthalmologist after the age of 12 months  
Cardiac Evaluation after the age of 12 months, may be Standard Congenital Cardiac Exam, Basic  
DNA Testing Juvenile Laryngeal Paralysis & Polyneuropathy (JLPP)

#### TEMPERAMENT TESTING

The BRTCA, recommends and encourages temperament testing.

#### NON-COMMERCIAL ACTIVITY

No Member owner/breeder shall engage in the sale of animals or the provision of stud services/brood matrons to commercial operations, including puppy mills, pet shops, brokers, laboratories, auctions, raffles, or contest give-a-ways.

Motivation for breeding the Black Russian Terrier should be the improvement of the breed by selecting dogs for desirable health, temperament, and type, rather than solely for financial gains.

#### BRTCA RULES COMPLIANCE

- Complete and accurate records must be kept, and those necessary forwarded to new owners according to AKC's Record Keeping Requirements.
- Member owners/breeders agree to abide by all BRTCA rules and regulations, whether pertaining to breeding, exhibiting, record-keeping, or any other aspect of purebred dog ownership.
- Member owners/breeders will make every effort to not cross breed Black Russian Terrier dogs with other breeds.

#### EDUCATION

- BRTCA Members should encourage public education, represent the breed honestly to prospective buyers, and help people make informed canine related decisions.
- Member breeders should make themselves available to the purchaser after the sale has been consummated to help with education, counseling, grooming and other care questions as well as solving behavior problems.
- Member breeders should make available to fellow breeders any information they have that might aid in that breeder's efforts to improve the breed.
- BRTCA Members should be an example of leadership and reach out to encourage proper ethical behavior.
- No BRTCA Officer, Director or other Member shall knowingly represent his/her personal opinion to be the official position of the BRTCA or its Board of Directors in the media or other means of public communication.

#### SPORTSMANSHIP

- Maligning of others or other's dogs is inappropriate. Good sportsmanship is appropriate at all times.

In general, all dog owners have a responsibility to their canine companions to provide proper care and humane treatment at all times, whether a multiple or a single dog household. Proper care and humane treatment include an adequate, nutritious diet, clean water, clean comfortable living conditions, regular veterinary care, kind and responsive human companionship, appropriate exercise, socialization and training for appropriate behavior. Dogs should not be kept in circumstances or numbers where all of these needs cannot be adequately fulfilled.

To further promote responsible and competitive principles of purebred dog events, the BRTCA encourages all to be familiar with and put to practice the AKC Code of Sportsmanship.

#### INFRACTIONS

Violations or infractions to the Code are to be brought to the Board's attention and dealt with in the manner prescribed by the BRTCA's Constitution and By-Laws, by referring the matter directly to the BRTCA's Corresponding Secretary.

END

NOTE 1: No portion of this document shall be construed to be applicable if not in compliance with AKC rules and regulations and local, state, and federal laws. If any portion of this document conflicts with AKC rules and guidelines or law, the AKC rule(s) or law shall take precedence in all cases and this procedure should be removed from use and revised immediately as necessary.

NOTE 2: Anyone can suggest changes to this document at any time. This can be done via email and by referencing this procedure by document number, title, and section number that needs to be changed or by printing out this procedure and documenting your changes on the lines below or within the text of the document and then submitting the proposed changes to the Corresponding Secretary for bringing before the Board. Include a brief explanation of why you believe the changes are necessary, the date of your request, your name, and a preferred method by which someone can contact you regarding your changes. Thank You!

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