

**THE OLD ENGLISH SHEEPDOG**  
**CLUB OF SCOTLAND**  
**GENERAL CODE OF ETHICS**

All members of The Old English Sheepdog Club of Scotland undertake to abide by its general Code of Ethics.

**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 or who carries out a caesarean section on a bitch, may report such 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 docked illegally.
- 6) Will agree not to breed from a dog or bitch which could be in any way harmful to the dog or to 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 responsible ownership when placing dogs in a new home.
- 12) Will ensure that all relevant Kennel Club 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.
- 13) 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 Kennel Club registration certificates as stand alone items (not accompanying a dog).
- 14) 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.

Breach 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, as appropriate.

The following are the code of ethics in place with the OES Club of Scotland. They are a guideline as to the expected conduct and behaviour of its members.

- 15) The minimum age for bitches to be mated is twenty-four months. But not if this is the bitches first season. A bitch must not be mated for its first litter after its fifth birthday.
- 16) A bitch must not be mated after its seventh birthday for its last litter.
- 17) Three litters maximum only in a bitch's lifetime.
- 18) Maximum number of litters for K.C. Registrations annually should not exceed two. These will only be accepted when made by the registered owner irrespective of the number of bitches owned by that kennel.
- 19) A bitch should not produce puppies from more than two consecutive seasons.
- 20) All animals used for breeding should be sound physically and of excellent temperament and as true to breed type as possible.
- 21) All animals used for breeding should have been x-rayed and scored under the B.V.A./KC/HD Scheme in an attempt to prevent the spread of hereditary defects. Eye checks should have been undertaken in the B.V.A./KC Eye scheme.
- 22) A dog should not be used at stud under twelve months of age. The maximum number of matings in any twelve months shall not exceed twenty. This does not include re-mates.
- 23) No O.E.S. puppies to be "knowingly" sold on to pet shops, puppy dealers, laboratories, or any person dealing in live stock for a living.
- 24) Members must sell only to carefully vetted or recommended homes, giving detailed instructions on general management and, most important, a Diet Sheet which carries further information on feeding beyond the puppy stage. Prospective owners should also be made aware of the problems of owning an O.E.S. and given guidance on training and exercising, and grooming.
- 25) Seven to nine weeks is soon enough for the puppies to leave their dam.
- 26) When selling overseas, sell only if the buyer is known or recommended and residing in a country having similar or better standards of animal welfare as in the United Kingdom.
- 27) Members should encourage buyers to keep in touch with them throughout the life of the dog and encourage them to become members of a breed club, even if they are not interested in showing.
- 28) Members should never breed or keep more dogs than can be looked after personally with individual attention either by yourself or a kennel assistant. The practice of placing bitches out on breeding terms is unacceptable. A Member must be prepared to take back any dog whose home may no longer be able to cope with it and if necessary to buy back on a reasonable basis.