

Code of Ethics

of the

American Polish Lowland Sheepdog Association, Inc.

(APLSA)

(adopted November 27,2017)

The American Polish Lowland Sheepdog Association, Inc., is a not-for-profit association of fun-loving Polish Lowland Sheepdog (PON) owners whose main goal is to maintain the integrity, health, protection, and standard of the Polish Lowland Sheepdog (PON) while providing social, charitable, and educational opportunities for all its members.

This requires the well-being of the breed and individual dogs through careful breeding and responsible ownership by its members, and includes engaging in any lawful act or activity which provides assistance to the improvement, health, shelter, safety, and protection of the Polish Lowland Sheepdog. As stewards of the breed, all APLSA members agree to read, sign and abide by the basic principles contained in this Code of Ethics.

Responsibilities and Requirements for All Members

1. Abide by the Constitution and Bylaws, Code of Ethics, and Code of Conduct of the APLSA and the rules of the American Kennel Club (AKC).
2. Make every effort to assist the novice Polish Lowland Sheepdog owner and the public with good education by providing information beneficial to the general well-being of the breed, including traits, characteristics, standard, health, temperament, grooming, and training.
3. Adhere to the Polish Lowland Sheepdog standard as adopted and approved by the AKC . FCI or other APLSA approved registries, to assess for temperament and type selection of Breeding stock, and for exhibition in conformation, companion, and performance Events.
4. Maintain the highest standards of health and sanitation, safety and security for any PON under their care, and keep only as many dogs for which they can provide the highest standard of care, attention, and affection, and provide appropriate training, exercise, and supervision to ensure their dogs are well mannered, kept in safe conditions, and are not abused or neglected.
5. Make a reasonable effort to participate in health studies in the breed.
6. Make a reasonable effort to participate in activities and programs sponsored by the APLSA, Including seminars and webinars.

7. Promote the Association, not individuals, when representing the APLSA in an official capacity.
8. Display good sportsmanship and conduct in all public places in a manner that gives credit to the APLSA and the breed. (See the separate document called the Code of Conduct of the American Polish Lowland Sheepdog Association, Inc.)
9. Encourage and promote public awareness of responsible pet ownership and care.
10. Share knowledge truthfully, constructively, and respectfully when conveying information concerning an individual PON or member of the APLSA.
11. To not engage in false or misleading advertising or any other misrepresentation of their Polish Lowland Sheepdog and/or the APLSA.
12. Neither use, give away, nor sell the APLSA membership list and/or logo without written consent of the APLSA's Board.
13. Sponsor new member applicant(s) by having more than a casual acquaintance with them; actually knowing the applicant(s) and the living conditions of their dogs is the sole responsibility, obligation, and duty of each sponsor. Home visits are encouraged by APLSA members.
14. Ensure that in all dog related care and activities, the PON's welfare takes precedence over considerations of the breeder, trainers, owners, organizations, sponsors, and officials
15. Ensure that all PONS they place are not brokered, wholesaled or consigned through a pet shop, auction, or other commercial establishment and are not offered as prizes in contests, raffles, or fundraising events.
16. All breeders (both the owners of the stud and bitch) should understand the basic laws of genetics, be familiar with the standard(s) of the breed and known health problems within the breed, and should strive to produce physically and temperamentally sound offspring. It is highly recommended that each breeder consider the factors at AKC's Responsible Breeding Program found at <http://www.akc.org/dog-breeders/responsible-breeding/#litter>

In addition it is recommended that after having a litter, breeders consider becoming a part of AKC's Bred with a H.E.A.R.T. program found at <http://www.akc.org/dog-breeders/bred-with-heart/>

17. Adhere to AKC rules applying to litter and individual registrations, ensuring that any litter they produce is eligible for AKC registration. In addition, agree to adhere to AKC rules applying to age limitations for breeding, use of frozen semen, and DNA profiles for stud and/or imported PONS.
18. Breeders are responsible for breeding only dogs or bitches in good health, of characteristic type, sound structure, and a steady temperament. The breeding adults must have a permanent or preliminary OFA or Penn Hip certifying that the dog or bitch exhibits no evidence of hip dysplasia and have a current passing CERF examination from a Board Certified Veterinary Ophthalmologist within the last 24 months if under age 8 or within the last 12 months if over the age of 8. Breeders must make every effort to produce healthy puppies and protect the genetic diversity of the breed, and should carefully consider genotype for known major hereditary disease when selecting a mate or deciding if an animal should be bred.

No female shall be bred during or until after her first season. As per AKC litter regulations, "No dog or litter out of a dam under eight (8) months or over twelve (12) years of age at the time of mating, or by a sire under seven (7) months or over twelve (12) years of age at the time of mating, will be registered unless the application for registration shall be accompanied by an affidavit or evidence which shall prove the fact to the satisfaction of the American Kennel Club. (Contact AKC or APLSA for Specifics.)

Because some abnormalities are not evident until PONS mature, APLSA recommends that no breeding take place for a male or female until age two (24 months); however, it also recognizes that those are decisions that will be made by the breeder(s) with the help of their veterinarian, and will take into consideration the maturity of the dog, accidental breedings, environmental decisions, and other factors.

19. No stud dog or brood bitch Polish Lowland Sheepdog owner should be directly or indirectly involved with any dog broker, puppy mill, pet shop that retails dogs, auction, litter lot or sales, or any other commercial enterprise whose business is involved in these activities.
20. Strongly recommending having a written contract when leasing a bitch, offering stud services, or being involved in co-ownership. As per AKC recommendations, APLSA does not recommend co-ownership of PONS, however, it is at the discretion of the breeder.
21. It is recommended that healthy bitches may be bred throughout their lifetime, dependent upon their physical and reproductive health, preferably as determined by a veterinarian.
22. Perform health screening tests (CERF, OFA, and /or Penn Hip) to determine genetic soundness, of the dog or bitch prior to breeding. Thyroid, PRA, and genetic diversity testing are also strongly recommended. APLSA can update required tests as needed.

Any owner who does not disclose unfavorable health test results of their breeding stock to anyone that would be directly affected by such knowledge is engaging in unethical behavior.

23. Raise well-socialized puppies and adults in a clean, safe, and secure environment and be prepared to keep puppies and adults until suitable homes are found.
24. Register litters with an APLSA approved registry (preferably AKC) for litters whelped in the USA and maintain complete health and breeding records on all breeding stock and on each resultant litter. All puppies should have a veterinary examination and age-appropriate inoculations before they leave the breeder's home. Preferably, puppies should have permanent identification by microchip or tattoo or otherwise) prior to being transferred, or placed. All puppies should have permanent identification no later than six months of age.
25. Adequately screen potential owners and make careful placements of PONS. Discuss common health issues in the breed and any known health issues or faults in a puppy or adult being placed or sold to a potential owner. In addition, prior to placing any PON, discuss with the prospective owner the health, care, and behavior management need for the dog and provide recommendations for general care.
26. Agree not to place, or transfer, puppies earlier than eight (8) weeks of age. Transferring puppies to new owners should be in accordance with the law(s) of the breeder's state and at least meet the minimum federal or international standard for transporting puppies.
27. Include a complete medical record, a minimum of a three-generational (preferably six or more) pedigree, an AKC registration form, instructions on feeding, health care, training, and grooming, and a written sales agreement or contract with any puppy or adult placed, transferred, or sold. APLSA is against any contract requiring a puppy or adult back from a future litter. Such limitations and any other specific terms attached to the sale should be made by written agreement and signed by both the breeder and the buyer. The written sales agreement should also state whether a guarantee of any nature is provided and, if so, set forth its terms and conditions or limitations. Also, provide new owners the APLSA membership application, health and veterinary care history, copies of the individual's and/or sire and dam's APLSA required health certifications, and recommendations for general care and training.
28. Promptly transfer AKC registration papers to new owners, unless otherwise stated in a written agreement (i.e. spay-neuter contract). Puppies and adults of "companion" or pet quality should be placed or sold on AKC "Limited" registrations. A spay/neuter requirement is additionally recommended.
29. Maintain a supportive dialogue after a placement or sale to ensure the dog's welfare and answer the new owner's questions regarding any aspect of its behavior, health, or

appearance. Members/breeders have an obligation to notify buyers of any genetic health problems in their line about which they become aware after the placement or sale. Agree to follow up on puppies after the sale to insure their continued care and remain available for advice, when sought, for the lifetime of the dog.

30. Include in the written agreements (contract/sales agreement) whereby the breeder will accept the return of any dog or be responsible in finding a new home for any dog they have produced or sold regardless of circumstances or age. Stud dog owners also agree to provide assistance to dogs of their breeding in need of re-homing whether through a shelter, auction, rescue organization or an individual.
31. Refrain from repeating any specific breeding that produced an inherited life-threatening condition in the puppies or reflected a genetic defect that affects the quality of life of a Polish Lowland Sheepdog (PON).
32. Mentor those to whom they place or sell any Polish Lowland Sheepdog (PON).
33. Participate in AKC recognized and APLSA recognized and/or approved competitions and seminars as a means to evaluate breeding stock
34. Not indulge in the practice of making “kennel majors”, or exhibiting filler dogs that they know themselves to be unworthy of championships, for the purpose of finishing dogs. Such practices lessen the meaning and value of a championship and do not serve the breed.
35. Breeders agree to attend APLSA or other approved seminars on a yearly basis.

The following are grounds for immediate disciplinary action:

36. Neglecting or abusing any Polish Lowland Sheepdog in the care of a member, as documented by the affidavits of three (3) witnesses.
37. Breeding or attempting to sell Polish Lowland Sheepdogs whose litter cannot be AKC registered .
38. Knowingly registering, or attempting to see, or aiding or abetting in the AKC registration of non-purebred Polish Lowland Sheepdog(s).
39. Breeding for personal profit or commercial exploitation of the breed.
40. Behaving irresponsibly at show sites, trial sites, hotels and motels or treating judges, officials, spectators, and other dog owners and their dogs with disrespect. Incidents must be documented.

41. Brokering a Polish Lowland Sheepdog or accepting monetary consideration for placing a puppy for a breeder or for finding a puppy for a potential buyer.
42. Not accepting lifetime responsibility for the welfare of a Polish Lowland Sheepdog (PON) that one produces and refusing to take back or to re-home that dog.
43. Placing, selling, or aiding and abetting in the sale of a Polish Lowland Sheepdog (PON) to a laboratory, pet shop, wholesale dealer, broker, virtual pet outlet, auction, or any other inappropriate situation. Offering or aiding and abetting in a stud service or leasing a bitch to a wholesale dealer or brokering to any person involved with a laboratory, pet shop, or virtual pet outlet, or any other inappropriate situation. Offering any Polish Lowland Sheepdog as a prize. Displaying a Polish Lowland Sheepdog in public places for of immediate sale.
44. Not returning American Polish Lowland Sheepdog Association, Inc., property or official records as described in the APLSA Constitution and Bylaws and/or the APLSA Policies and Procedures Handbook.

Enforcement:

By signing this Code of Ethics and the Code of Conduct, I/ we acknowledge that I/ we understand and agree with the mission of the American Polish Lowland Sheepdog Association, Inc., and that I / we will do my/ our best to promote the best interest of the Polish Lowland Sheepdog and the American Polish Lowland Sheepdog Association, Inc. Furthermore, I / we will conduct myself/ourselves in a manner of good sportsmanship at conformation, companion and performance events, ~~so as~~ to reflect positively on the sport of purebred dogs. I/ we understand that violation of this Code of ethics and the Code of Conduct can subject me/ us to the disciplinary process provided by the APLSA Constitution and Bylaws.

Signature of Member or Applicant

Date

Signature of Member or Applicant

Date

Signature of Parent or Guardian for a
Junior Member (under age 18)

Date

-----*Below this line APLSA Board Use ONLY*-----
Date of Approval _____

Notes: