

# Border Collie Club of Northern California

## Code of Ethics

### Introduction

This is the most current revision of the Code of Ethics of The Border Collie Club of Northern California (BCCNC). The Code's nature is not punitive, but rather a guideline that is informational and states the accepted norm in Border Collies.

New members, by their application, agree to abide by and follow the guidelines outlined in the Code of Ethics. Current members, by their annual membership renewal, reaffirm their agreement to follow the guidelines of this Code. The Border Collie Club of Northern California endorses the following Code of Ethics for its members.

### Responsibilities As A Dog Owner

Members must ensure that their dogs are kept safe and under control at all times. Members should properly train their dogs so that they are an asset to their community and not a nuisance. Dogs must be maintained with their safety and good health in mind at all times, including adequate and appropriate attention, socialization, grooming, feeding, veterinary care, housing, and exercise.

### Responsibilities As A Member Of BCCNC

Members must keep in mind that they and their dogs represent the breed, BCCNC, and the sport of purebred dogs in general. They are expected to maintain good sportsmanship at all events and competitions, abiding by the applicable rules and regulations. Members' conduct should always be in accordance with the objectives and intent of the BCCNC Bylaws (available at [BCCNC.org](http://BCCNC.org)).

Members are urged to accept the Border Collie Standard as approved by the American Kennel Club (AKC), as the description of the ideal temperament and physical qualities by which the breed is to be judged. Members are also encouraged to take opportunities when available to educate the public about the breed.

## Responsibilities As A Breeder

### General Guidelines

#### I. Overview

BCCNC members who breed Border Collies are encouraged to maintain the purpose of the breed, and select breeding stock with the objectives of BCCNC in mind; that is:

Recognizing that the Border Collie breed was developed as a working and herding dog, to encourage improvement by careful and selective breeding of Border Collies that possess the appearance, structure, soundness, temperament, natural ability, and personality that are characterized in the standard of the breed, and to do all possible to advance and promote these qualities.

#### II. Dealing with Others

BCCNC members are expected to demonstrate fairness and honesty including full disclosure in dealing with other owners and breeders, purchasers of dogs, and the general public. Owners of dogs involved in a breeding or sale should ensure that appropriate documentation is readily available to those concerned regarding results of screening examinations as recommended below. If any such examinations have not been done, this should be stated; and any major past or present health or temperament concerns should be disclosed.

### III. Responsibilities to the Dogs

Members who breed should sell puppies, permit stud service, and/or lease dogs only to individuals who give satisfactory evidence that they will give proper care and attention to the dogs concerned, and who may be expected to act within the intent of the statements of this Code of Ethics. Members should not sell dogs at auction, or to brokers or commercial dealers. Breeders should understand that they may need to take back, or assist in finding a new home for, any dog they produce at any time in its life, if requested to do so.

### IV. Record keeping

BCCNC members are expected to follow AKC requirements for record keeping, identification of dogs, and registration procedures. They are encouraged to use clear, concise, written contracts to document the sale of dogs, use of stud dogs, and lease arrangements; including the use, when appropriate, of non-breeding agreements and/or Limited Registration.

## Specific Guidelines

### I. Dogs selected for breeding should:

1. Exhibit temperament typical of the breed, i.e., energetic, intelligent, keen, alert, and responsive. An intense worker of great tractability, is affectionate towards friends but may be sensibly reserved towards strangers. When approached, the Border Collie should stand its ground. It should be alert and interested, never showing shyness, fear, dullness or resentment.
2. Exhibit conformation typical of the breed.
3. Be in overall good health, and be physically and mentally mature (which is generally not until two years of age).
4. Possess examination reports and certifications to evaluate and document status concerning recommended screening examinations

## II. The following health clearance reports are suggested:

1. Hips – a report from the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals (OFA) or PennHIP at 24 months of age or older.
2. Elbows – a report from the OFA at 24 months of age or older.
3. Eyes – a report from a Diplomat of the American College of Veterinary Ophthalmology. Examinations should be done within 12 months prior to a breeding, and results should be recorded in a database.
  1. Dogs that produce offspring should continue to have ophthalmology examinations on a yearly basis for their lifetime, and if the findings permit recertification, the results should continue to be recorded in a database.
  2. For frozen semen from deceased dogs, either an ophthalmology examination within 18 months of the date of death, or status that was in compliance with the Code of Ethics in effect at the time of the dog's death, will be considered current.
5. Deafness - (BEAR) Beginning at the age of 7-8 weeks and prior to sale, pups should be BAER tested for hearing loss.
6. Raine Syndrom - Canine dental hypomineralization is a genetic disorder affecting the Border Collies. The disorder causes severe tooth wear resulting in pulpitis and requiring extraction of those teeth.
7. DNA tests are available for several diseases that affect Border Collies and more will certainly be added over time. Considerations such as: the seriousness of the disease, the reliability of the test, the prevalence of the disease in the breed, and the presence of affected or carrier dogs in the vertical pedigree. The ideal use of DNA tests is to prevent producing affected puppies, while at the same time maintaining genetic diversity and gradually decreasing the prevalence of the disease gene(s) in the breed. DNA tests should include:
  1. Collie Eye Anomaly (choroidal hypoplasia, CEA)
  2. Neuronal Ceroid Lipofuscinosis (CL)
  3. Trapped Neutrophil Syndrom (TNS)

## Other Considerations

Consideration should also be given to other conditions that may have a genetic component, including but not limited to: cancer, epilepsy, hypothyroidism, skin disorders, allergies, longevity, swallowing disorders, and orthopedic disorders such as osteochondritis dissecans (OCD). Recognizing that no dog is genetically perfect; that maintaining a rich and diverse gene pool is important for the long-term health of the breed; and that good breeding decisions must balance many factors, it is suggested that breeders give the highest health priority to selection against heritable disorders that significantly decrease quality of life and that have the greatest likelihood for improvement through careful breeding decisions. Members' highest motivation is their love for their dogs, and difficult decisions should be resolved in a manner that places the best interests of the dogs and the breed at the forefront.

Adopted by the BCCNC Board of Directors on \_\_\_\_\_