

# POTOMAC VALLEY SAMOYED CLUB BREEDERS' CODE

## SUMMARY

The breeder's code has four sections:

1. The first section basically calls for behavior on the part of the breeder to protect the dogs and the breed.
2. The second section sets out rules governing the brood bitch, including immunizations, hips cleared free of dysplasia, breeding frequency, and a recommendation for examination for Progressive Retinal Atrophy.
3. The third section sets out rules governing the stud dog, including hips cleared free of dysplasia and a recommendation for examination for Progressive Retinal Atrophy. It also covers stud agreements.
4. The fourth section covers rules covering the puppy: health; age at time of sale; and written health agreements between buyer and seller.

## DETAIL

1. GENERAL *The Breeder Should:*
  - Breed pure bred Samoyeds of such conformation, soundness, and temperament to conform as closely as possible to the Samoyed standard as approved by The American Kennel Club. Breeding should be planned to aim for improvement in overall quality by the reinforcement of good features and the elimination of faults.
  - Maintain the best possible standards of health and care for the dog.
  - Refuse to deal knowingly with unethical breeders, dog wholesalers or retailers. No Samoyed to be supplied for raffles, prizes, or similar projects.
  - Maintain and pass on to the buyers of puppies or adult dogs factual health, breeding, registration and pedigree records.
  - Withhold registration certificate, only by mutual written agreement between the breeder and the buyer, when a puppy or adult dog for sale has hereditary faults of such a nature as to make his or her use for breeding detrimental to the furtherance of the breed.
  - Refuse to deal with any buyer when there is a reason to believe that adequate facilities are not available for the dog, or that the dog will not receive proper care.
  - When shipping dogs, preferably ship by air freight on a nonstop or through flight.

## 2. BROOD BITCH *The Bitch Should:*

- Be sound in body and temperament, of good conformation with no disqualifying or major hereditary faults (e.g. blue eyes, hip dysplasia, cow hocks, extreme shyness or nervousness).
- Be in good health and weight, and adequately immunized against distemper, hepatitis and leptospirosis; free of external and internal parasites, and any other communicable diseases.
- Not be bred until a clear radiograph reading is received from a board certified radiologist, or the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals. OFA certification is not being given to dogs less than 2 years old. The club will accept board certified radiologist readings of an animal over 1 year old. Breeders using radiologist readings are encouraged to re-X-ray and obtain OFA certification after the age of 2.
- Be bred only to stud dogs conforming to Section 3 of this code.
- Not be bred her first season if this occurs before one year of age, and ideally should be mated for the first time between 1 1/2 and 2 years of age.
- Not be bred more often than two out of three seasons; if bred twice in one year must be rested one year.
- Receive adequate diet, vitamin-mineral supplementation, and exercise, with veterinary medical care and supervision as needed, during gestation, whelping, and lactation.
- When a brood bitch is leased or sold, the hip dysplasia agreement is between the parties concerned.
- As a recommended procedure, should be examined by an ophthalmologist prior to breeding and certified clear of PRA.

## 3. STUD DOG *The Stud Dog Should:*

- Be sound in body and temperament, of good conformation with no disqualifying or major hereditary faults (see Brood Bitch)
- Be in good health and weight, and adequately immunized against distemper, hepatitis and leptospirosis; free of external and internal parasites.
- Not be used at stud until a clear radiograph reading is received from a board certified radiologist, or the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals. OFA certification is not being given to dogs less than 2 years old. The club will accept board certified radiologist readings of an animal over 1 year old. Breeders using radiologist readings are encouraged to re-X-ray and obtain OFA certification after the age of 2.
- Not be used at stud so often as to decrease fertility.
- Be used only with bitches conforming to Section 2 of this code.
- When utilized, be accompanied by the issuance of a stud contract. This contract, which is to be signed by both parties, should:

- State the stud fee in cash and time of settlement, or choice of puppy or puppies, of specified age and sex.
- Provide for a free return service if the stud fee has been paid in cash, in the event the bitch fails to conceive and the stud is still in good health and available.
- When a puppy is accepted in lieu of a stud fee, a dysplasia agreement may or may not be given.
- Provide a copy of this Breeders' Code to the owner of the brood bitch.
- As a recommended procedure, the stud dog should be examined by an ophthalmologist prior to breeding and certified clear of PRA.

#### 4. PUPPIES *Puppies Should:*

- Receive good general care and adequate diet with appropriate vitamin-mineral supplementation when weaned.
- Be checked for external and internal parasites and receive treatment, if necessary, under the supervision of a veterinarian.
- Receive immunization against distemper, hepatitis, and leptospirosis, minimum requirement of immune globulin (puppy or temporary shot) prior to and at such time so as to be effective on the date of sale.
- Be examined by a veterinarian at selling age to ascertain good health, normal growth and development, and absence of discernible abnormalities. A guarantee of good health will be in effect only if the puppy is examined by the buyer's veterinarian within 72 hours after leaving the breeder's premises.
- Preferably have all dewclaws removed.
- Remain with the dam and littermates until at least seven to eight weeks.
- Be sold with a written "Hip Dysplasia and PRA Agreement", which will, as a minimum, include the following:
  - A provision for sterilization or euthanasia if dysplasia or PRA is found present.
  - A provision for refund of a stated amount or replacement, as agreed upon at time of purchase, to be given only after the first provision has been met.