



**AUSTRALIAN COBBERDOG SOCIETY**

## **Code of Ethics**

The Australian Cobberdog Society (ACS) comprises a dedicated community of breeders (full members) and owners/enthusiasts (participants) committed to the long-term enhancement, sustainability and health of the Australian Cobberdog. ACS members acknowledge that the future of the Cobberdog depends on those who nurture, raise and responsibly breed these dogs. The ACS Code of Ethics serves as a directive for its members, underscoring their collective responsibility toward the welfare of the breed and the individual dogs produced within their breeding programs. This Code of Ethics articulates the values and vision of the ACS, defining the rights and obligations of its members and establishing a clear minimum standard of conduct.

Membership in the ACS inherently includes the understanding and acceptance of this Code of Ethics as a prerequisite. In instances where regional laws conflict with the ACS Rules, Regulations, or Code of Ethics, these regional laws will take precedence.

ACS members are expected to adhere to the principles below.

### **Principle 1 - Commitment to the ACS Community**

- Provide support to fellow members in our collective mission of global collaboration for the advancement of the Australian Cobberdog breed.
- Provide mentorship to provisional breeders wishing to seek full accreditation with the ACS.
- Consistently communicate truthfully and respectfully about other breeders and their animals, whether in person, in writing, or on social media (in alignment with the ACS Social Media policy).

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### Principle 2 - Commitment to the Breed

- Prioritise the health and soundness of Australian Cobberdogs by breeding only those animals that are healthy and exhibit sound physical and temperamental characteristics, consistent with the ACS minimum breed standards policy.
- Adhere to principles that maximise genetic diversity to sustain the breed's health.
- Engage in continuous education regarding the Australian Cobberdog breed, encompassing genetics, positive training, inherited diseases, temperament, and conformation.
- Comply with the ACS's mandatory health testing requirements, breeding only those animals that meet these standards.
- Maintain precise and accurate breeding and litter records, consistent with the ACS minimum breed standards policy.

### Principle 3 - Commitment to Purchasers

- Accurately represent the qualities of Australian Cobberdogs, refraining from making any unfounded guarantees pertaining to 'assistance animals' or dogs being described as 'non-shedding'.
- Ensure that all dogs receive exemplary healthcare, including but not limited to annual veterinary checks (to assess overall health, inclusive of an oral health examination and heart assessment), parasite prevention and control protocols, high quality nutrition and access to a veterinarian.
- Ensure every puppy is raised in an environment that promotes physical, mental, and social well-being.
- Make every effort to place puppies and dogs in homes that are free from abuse, neglect, and mistreatment.
- Accurately disclose the parentage of any puppies produced.
- Ensure all breeding animals are listed with accompanying photographs on their website/social media page.

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### **Principle 4 - Commitment to the ACS Organisation**

- Respect and adhere to this Code of Ethics, affirming compliance annually as part of the membership renewal process.
- Seek written approval from ACS for any deviations from this Code of Ethics.
- Serve as an ambassador for the breed and the ACS, promoting its values and mission.
- Include the ACS logo on your website and social media pages.

**Failure to comply with the Code of Ethics will result in disciplinary action as per the constitution and may result in revocation of membership.**