

January 1, 1994; revised April 4, 2014

Code of Ethics of Versatility In Poodles, Incorporated

As a guide both to the public and its members, Versatility in Poodles, Inc., sets forth below certain standards of conduct to be followed by its members. Membership in the corporation assumes acceptance of and adherence to this code.

A. We, the members of Versatility In Poodles, Inc., are dedicated to the preservation of the poodle as a happy, healthy, versatile, active dog that displays proper conformation and shows a desire to please.

B. We will at all times act in the interest of the breed and in the interest of the well-being of individual dogs and in a manner in keeping with the interests of Versatility In Poodles, Inc., including urging members and the general public to purchase dogs from persons who use genetic and health testing to lower the incidence of disease.

C. We will keep our dogs in an environment and under a regimen that will ensure the well being of the dogs.

D. We believe that it is our responsibility to educate the general public, puppy buyers, trainers and ourselves on responsible dog ownership.

E. We are dedicated to having a corporation which operates in a democratic and open manner for the good of the breed and not for the sake of any individual or group of people.

F. All members are encouraged to partake in general discussions, either in writing, by electronic mail or in person at meetings.

G. Our philosophy of training includes the use of humane, motivational methods.

H. We are dedicated to continually educating ourselves in all aspects of the poodle.

I. We are dedicated to preserving the intelligence of this breed by breeding dogs which can excel in and enjoy performance events.

J. We will not knowingly sell a poodle of any age to any pet shop, catalogue house, laboratory, or any wholesale dealer in dogs, or to any person who sells to pet shops, catalogue houses, laboratories, or wholesale dealers (a dealer being a person who regularly buys stock for sale at profit). We will not in any way knowingly aid or abet the sale of any poodle through a pet shop or catalogue house. We will not knowingly offer stud service to wholesale dealers or to any person involved with pet shops, catalogue houses, or laboratories.

K. Any warranties or other agreements pertaining to the sale of a poodle will be put in writing, with a copy to the buyer.

L. A member selling an adult dog or puppy which he/she believes would be detrimental to the breed if bred, shall so inform the buyer in writing. The sale shall be made with agreements in writing, signed by both buyer and seller, stating that it is advisable that the dog not be bred.

M. All breedings will be planned with consideration given to type, temperament, health, and soundness. All members will be familiar with the Standard of the Breed in their country.

N. If a dog or bitch produces offspring with a serious defect or genetically transmitted disease, the owner must disclose the information to the prospective breeder or stud owner when negotiating another breeding.

O. Members will not breed a bitch unless they have the time and facilities to devote to proper care and well-being of the dam as well as the physical and emotional development of the puppies. Members will not place a puppy in a new home before it is weaned, tested clear of internal parasites, and has had appropriate vaccination(s). Members will not provide stud service unless they are satisfied that the owner of the bitch has the time and facilities necessary for proper development of the pups.

P. Members will not breed a bitch any more than two out of three successive seasons (assuming that litters result) and never without due regard for the health and well-being of the bitch.

Q. Advertising by members will be as factual as possible. Misleading exaggerations or unfounded implications of superiority will not be used.

R. Members will refrain from knowingly making unfair or untrue statements about the dogs or practices of others.

S. It is **not** our goal to compete with any other organized dog organization nor to duplicate the efforts of other organizations.

Enforcement of this Code of Ethics is as enumerated in Article XI, Section 2 of the By-Laws.