

## Valley of the Sun West Highland White Terrier Club - Code of Ethics

The VSWHWTC recognizes its responsibility to preserve and protect the West Highland White Terrier breed. It further recognizes that the quality and reputation of the breed rests solely in the hands of its Breeders. Therefore, as guidance to the public and its Member-Breeders, the VSWHWTC sets for below certain Standards of conduct to be followed by its members. Membership in the VSWHWTC assumes absolute acceptance of and adherence to this Code.

1. No member shall knowingly sell or donate dogs or puppies to dog wholesalers or retailers or unethical breeders, nor sell to any buyer where there is reason to believe that the dog or puppy will not be properly cared for. Furthermore, no member will sell to anyone in litter-lots for resale.
2. A Member-Breeder will be familiar with the American Kennel Club (AKC) rules governing record keeping, registration and sale and transfer of dogs and will abide by those rules. Any warranties or other agreements pertaining to the sale of a West Highland White Terrier will be documented in writing with copies of the documented agreement provided to both the buyer and seller.
3. As a club committed to pet population control, the VSWHWTC actively promotes and strongly encourages spaying and neutering companion animals as a healthy and responsible demonstration of dog ownership.
4. Members will keep their dogs in an environment and under a regime that, as much and far as possible, ensures the well-being of the dog.
5. A member selling a dog or puppy, which he knows to have a physical condition or notable deviation from the Standard of the Breed, which indicates that the breeding of the animal would be detrimental to the welfare of the animal and therefore the breed, will so inform the buyer. The sale will be made with an agreement in writing, signed by both the buyer and seller, that the dog is not to be bred. Additional agreement pertaining to the spaying or neutering of the animal is strongly encouraged and advised.
6. All breedings will be planned and aimed at the improvement of the breed. The Member-Breeder will be familiar with the Standard and will do everything within their power to discourage breeding of inferior specimens of the breed. Members will not breed their dogs to any unregistered dogs. No dogs exhibiting a disqualifying hereditary defect, unsound temperament or poor health will be bred.
7. It is highly recommended that no bitch be required to have more than six litters with due regard given to the number of puppies whelped. No bitch shall be mated at more than two out of three successive seasons and never without due regard for the well-being of the bitch. No bitch shall be mated before her second season and/or before the age of fourteen months nor after the age of seven years without veterinary advice.
8. If the dog or bitch produces offspring with one or more reoccurring defects detrimental to the animal's well-being, including but not limited to genetic disease or disorder, blindness, deafness, lameness or impairment of the vital functions from litters by three different mating partners, the member owning that dog or bitch will refrain from further use of that animal for breeding.
9. All dogs, bitches and studs used for breeding shall be in good overall health and condition and with no communicable diseases as well as disqualifying genetic faults. It is recommended that the overall health and condition of dogs, bitches and studs are verified by a veterinarian.
10. Advertising by members will be as factual as possible. Intentionally misleading statements, exaggerations and misrepresentations that guarantee Show potential will not be used.
11. No Member-Breeder will breed a bitch without having adequate time and facilities to devote proper care and attention to the physical and emotional development of the puppies and to the well-being of the dam. No member should provide stud services without full satisfaction that the owner of the bitch has such time and facilities necessary to provide proper care and development of the puppies. It is strongly recommended that the earliest placement of any puppy not occur before it is ten weeks of age. No puppy will be placed in a new home before the pup is weaned, tested clear of internal parasites, and had at least its first vaccination.
12. Members will urge all buyers to have a purchased puppy examined and verified by a licensed veterinarian within forty-eight hours. Or within a mutually agreed upon period of time, after receipt. Said examination to be paid for by the buyer or as previously agreed. A period of forty-eight hours, or a mutually agreed upon period of time is granted to a buyer to return an animal for reasons of health or, in case of the purchaser not having been able to see the animal prior to shipping, or for any valid reason upon visual examination.
13. Members will refrain from making unfair or untrue statements about the dogs or practices of others.
14. It is the sole responsibility of the seller to check the suitability of each prospective buyer whether local or abroad.

The VSWHWTC reserves the right to refuse membership to or expel or suspend from membership any individual(s) who knowingly and/or persistently acts in breach of the above defined Code of Ethics. Any revocation of membership shall be recorded and supported by written documentation. Enforcement of the above Code of Ethics will be per Article VI, Section 2, of the Constitution and By-laws of the VSWHWTC.

I/We have read and understand this Code of Ethics and agree to abide by them as set forth.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_, date \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_, date \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name \_\_\_\_\_