

**Code of Ethics**

The High Desert Labrador Retriever Club of CA, Inc., believes that its membership has an obligation to the Labrador Retriever to preserve the purpose and heritage of the breed without exploiting it. In addition, it believes that this club owes an obligation to future members and others interested in the Labrador Retriever, and thereby sets forth this Code of Ethics for decision making with regard to the breeding, exhibition, husbandry, and representation of the breed.

Responsibilities of members:

* Read the American Kennel Club official breed standard for the Labrador Retriever, and agree to make all breeding decisions with the understanding that this standard is the blueprint for the breed.
* Support and abide by the rules of the American Kennel Club.

* Assume the responsibility to maintain the best possible standards of proper feeding, health, veterinary care, and training of all Labrador Retrievers in your care.
* Always conduct yourself at any dog event in a manner which will reflect well upon HDLRC and the Labrador Retriever breed.

* Refrain from public criticism or maligning of other members or their dogs, as well as other Labrador Retriever clubs.
* Never knowingly place a Labrador Retriever with persons who would not provide proper and humane care to the dog; sell any Labrador Retriever to a pet shop, research facility, or wholesale dealers in dogs; or offer for auction any Labrador Retriever.
* Breed only Labrador Retrievers registered with the American Kennel Club, Canadian Kennel Club, or comparable other foreign registry and keep accurate records of ownership, health, stud services, and litters.
* Never breed to, or permit a breeding to your stud dog, any breed other than a Labrador Retriever.
* Maintain the natural ability and personality of the Labrador Retriever for work as a gun dog.

* Breed a litter only when it is conscientiously felt that such breeding will result in improvement or preservation of the qualities inherent in the breed. Prior to any breeding, owners of the bitch and dog shall supply to each other accurate and complete information on their dog or bitch with respect to all genetic testing, or undesirable characteristics of which they are aware.
* Breed only those dogs tested for the following disorders, per the OFA CHIC requirements and recommendations for Labrador Retrievers: <https://www.ofa.org/recommended-tests?breed=LR>

REQUIRED

* Joint disease
* Hip clearance (**Fair, Good, or Excellent rating**) required at two years of age by one of the following: OFA evaluation or [PennHip](http://www.vet.upenn.edu/pennhip/) Distraction Index.
* Elbow clearance (**Normal**) required at two years of age by an OFA evaluation.
* Males bred before the age of two years should have preliminary hip certification of Good or Excellent rating; and preliminary elbow certification of Normal by OFA evaluation after one year of age and within one year of the breeding.
* Inherited eye disease
* Current eye clearance is required (up to the age of 8 years) indicating that the dog is **free from evidence of any inherited eye disease** on an examination report. Current eye clearance is defined as having been completed within one year prior to the breeding.
* Board certification by the American College of Veterinary Ophthalmology is considered the benchmark of clinical proficiency, and examination by a Diplomate of this specialty board is required.
* Genetic testing is also required indicating that the dog is **Not Affected** for prcd-PRA.
* Heart disease.
* Certification required indicating the dog is **free of inherited heart disease** by Doppler ultrasound examination after the age of 1 year.
* Board certification by the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine, Specialty of Cardiology is considered the benchmark of clinical proficiency for veterinarians in clinical cardiology, and examination by a Diplomate of this specialty board is recommended. Other veterinarians may be able to perform these examinations, provided they have received advanced training in the subspecialty of congenital heart disease.
* Exercise Induced Collapse.
* Genetic testing required indicating that the dog is **Not Affected** for EIC.
* Color dilute factor.
* Genetic testing required indicating that the dog is **Clear** for D locus dilute factor.

OPTIONAL

It is recommended to breed only those dogs who have been tested **Not Affected** for the following diseases:

* Hereditary Nasal Parakeratosis (HNPK)
* Centronuclear Myopathy (CNM)
* Degenerative Myelopathy (DM)
* Macular Corneal Dystrophy
* Retinal Dysplasia
* Skeletal Dysplasia (Dwarfism)
* Any dog which has had genetic testing indicating that they are a **Carrier** for any trait in the sections above must be bred to only other Labrador Retrievers who have tested **Clear** for that trait.
* No bitch shall be bred before the age of two years to allow for physical and emotional maturity, nor shall she have more than one litter in a 12-month period or more than 5 litters in her lifetime.
* Screen all prospective purchasers to assure that each puppy will have a safe and loving home. Each breeder shall accurately represent each puppy to the prospective purchaser and furnish prospective purchasers with information on appropriate genetic clearances on the sire and dam, as well as health records on the puppy. Details on feeding and proper care shall be provided to the purchaser.

* Release puppies to new homes no earlier than the age of eight weeks.
* Provide the buyer of any puppy not sold as a show or breeding animal with an AKC Limited Registration for that puppy.
* Accept responsibility for those animals that are the result of your breeding and are at risk of abandonment, in need of rescue, or found in an animal shelter.

Failure to abide by the HDLRC Code of Ethics is subject to disciplinary actions up to and including loss of membership through the process of complaint in the club ByLaws. Letters of verification of membership will be provided only to those members who sign (electronically or in writing) this Code of Ethics.

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Signature Date