



AMA Member Code of Ethics

This Code of Ethics (COE) is intended to guide members of the American Maltese Association (AMA) as protectors, breeders and representatives of our Maltese and in dealing with each other and with the public. It is our expectation that AMA members will comply with this Code of Ethics willingly and with pride because of their love for our breed. The American Maltese Association recognizes that it is impossible to police our membership in adhering completely to our Code of Ethics, however, blatant disregard of this Code may be addressed by disciplinary action.

1. As a member of the American Maltese Association, I will breed to the ideals of the Maltese standard and will act in accordance to the objectives and purposes of the AMA. I will abide by and uphold the principles of the Club's Constitution, By-laws, this Code of Ethics and the American Kennel Club (AKC) Code of Sportsmanship and will consider the best interest of the breed when engaged in any activities involving Maltese. I will not knowingly cross breed or advertise for sale puppies/dogs that have been crossbred, such as designer dogs, or any dogs from any registry not sanctioned by AKC. I agree to support legislative efforts that will ensure the continuation of a purebred dog registry.
2. I will keep alert for and endeavor to control or eradicate inherited problems that are particular to my breed. I will strive to screen my breeding stock for hereditary problems using the current available and generally accepted techniques.
3. If any of my Maltese need to be euthanized, it will be done in a humane manner by a veterinarian. It will not be done at a dog pound, humane society or experimental lab, nor will they be left alive at any of these facilities.
4. I will provide adequate diet, exercise and veterinary care for all of my dogs, as well as proper supervision and facilities for pre-natal, whelping and post-natal care of the dam and puppies and supervision during gestation, whelping and lactation.
5. I will not knowingly deal with dog wholesalers, commercial retailers, brokers or unethical dog breeders, nor supply dogs for raffles, "give away" prizes or other such projects.
6. I will keep accurate breeding and stud records as required by AKC.

7. My puppies will receive quality health care and nutrition. They will be handled regularly, properly socialized and accustomed to human contact.
8. I will not sell a puppy before it has been given a veterinarian health examination and has received any vaccines as guided by my veterinarian. A puppy will remain in my possession until at least 12 weeks of age. I will refer potential puppy purchasers to other reputable breeders and be helpful and courteous to those who request information about the breed.
9. I will provide pet buyers with written, audio visual and/or other media details on feeding, general care and nutrition and a health record with data on veterinary attention.
10. I will provide limited registration on puppies sold as pets or have signed spay-neuter agreements. If AKC papers are not received at the time of the sale, I will provide written information on the puppy's sire, dam and date of birth. I am responsible for any and all puppies that I have bred for the entire life of each animal. If at any time the owner cannot keep the dog, I will take the dog back and decide what is best for the dog in question, including placing or euthanizing the dog. This is my responsibility, and it helps take the burden off Maltese rescue groups.
11. I will refrain from publicly making or publishing, including on social media, any false or malicious statements about another member or members and will refrain from seeking to impair the reputation of another member. I will be courteous and helpful to people who contact me. I will conduct all advertising in an honest manner that will not, in any way, misrepresent, defraud or mislead.
12. Regarding dog information, offer assistance to serious novices and serve as an example of good sportsmanship in every aspect of the sport of dogs.
13. While staying in a hotel/motel during specialty shows and all-breed shows, I will obey the rules, regulations and policies pertaining to dogs. Upon proof of violations of the rules, regulations and/or policies, I assume the risk of suspension from the AMA with a letter of grievance filed with the AKC recommending disciplinary action.
14. I will conduct myself in such a manner as to reflect credit on myself, the Maltese breed and the AMA.

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