

# **Eurasier Club of Canada, Inc.**

## **Breeder's Code of Ethics**

The Eurasier Club of Canada, Inc., hereafter referred to as the ECC, Inc., or the club, is a national organization devoted to the welfare and preservation of the Eurasier breed, as it is described in the original FCI, and subsequent CKC standard. ECC Code of Ethics Breeders are required to act in the best interests of the individual Eurasier, and the Eurasier breed, by adhering to this set of ethical principles to produce a Eurasier that is well-balanced and typical for the breed, sound of mind and body, and suited to its original purpose as a companion dog.

### **General Breeding Practices**

1. The goal of breeding is to produce quality Eurasiers that most closely reflect the ideal established in the CKC/FCI standard; and Eurasiers that are healthy and sound, both in structure and temperament. However, breeding should be considered a secondary goal only – breeding should not be considered as a primary source of income, and Eurasiers should not be exploited in such a manner. Eurasiers retired from breeding are expected to remain as members of the family, not be re-homed or disposed of in any other way.
2. The decision to breed is a serious responsibility and should never be taken lightly. To this end, every ethical breeder or prospective breeder must be willing to embrace the following general principles:
  - a) Be prepared to make a serious commitment of both time and financial resources in order to ensure that a proper breeding program can be carried out.
  - b) Plan litters well in advance and thoroughly screen prospective owners to ensure satisfactory quality homes for future Eurasier puppies.
  - c) Research from recommended sources (breeding books, guides, DVD's etc) and be familiar with the breeding and whelping process - to have a basic knowledge of pregnancy, whelping and puppy-rearing issues. It is strongly recommended that inexperienced or first time breeders engage the services of another breeder of proven reliability and experience who can be counted on to provide valuable advice and/or hands on assistance at any time. However, it is also recommended the novice breeder make arrangements ahead of whelping, to be in contact with an emergency vet in case of complications.
  - d) Adhere to the guidelines established in the "Litters - Minimum Care" policy.
  - e) Be prepared to provide for the special health and nutritional needs of brood bitches and their litters.
  - f) Every mating should be planned with the intention of improvement, yet preservation of the breed standard without negatively impacting genetic diversity; thus it's a given the breeder will have carefully studied the breed standard and the pedigrees of the mating dogs, and will have a basic knowledge of genetics.
  - g) Artificial Insemination may be used as an option at the breeder's discretion.

- h) Ensure that all necessary breeding documents, personal records and registrations are available for inspection and are completely in order.

It is highly recommended that breeders also strongly encourage their future puppy owners to have their dogs tested for thyroid issues, and have their hips, patellas and eyes examined once the dogs reach the recommended age for the health tests to be performed. The examination results are crucial for breeders to ensure the continued health of the breed in Canada and will be submitted to the club for statistical purposes.

## **Breeding Criteria**

A dedicated, responsible Eurasier Club of Canada Code of Ethics Breeder must give priority to the following:

- a) Both sire and dam should conform to the approved CKC/FCI standard to the highest possible degree.
- b) Type of both sire and dam.
- c) Co-efficient of inbreeding (the ECC recommends no greater than 5% inbreeding coefficient over 5 generations, or 25% inbreeding coefficient over 25 generations)
- d) Both sire and dam must have stable temperament.
- e) Both sire and dam must be of sound health with no clinical evidence of serious illness, disease or structural deficiency.
- f) Both sire and dam have reached such maturity that they can produce and raise a healthy litter.

The breeder is also urged to consider:

- a) The relative strengths of each breeding partner per the CKC standard
- b) The relative shortcomings of each breeding partner per the CKC standard
- c) Compatibility of structure, temperament and type.

Careful consideration of compatibility reveals that not all Eurasiers which are acceptable according to the breed standard are suitable as breeding partners. Every effort should be made to avoid amplifying individual shortcomings in breeding dogs.

### **1. Breeding Age**

An ECC Code of Ethics Breeder must be able to provide proof that the Sire & Dam were of appropriate age for breeding. The breeder agrees that:

The optimal initial age for breeding a female Eurasier is on or after her second birthday. The youngest acceptable age for breeding a Eurasier female is 18 months. The oldest acceptable age that a Eurasier female should be bred is on or before 9 years old, without

special permission. The first litter should occur before the female reaches the end of her fifth year of life.

The dam should be given adequate time to recover between litters and deemed physically healthy before the next breeding takes place. It's recommended that the standard maximum number of litters per dam should be no more than four over her lifetime, but extenuating circumstances could allow for an additional litter.

The optimal breeding age for a male Eurasier is on or after his second birthday. The youngest acceptable age for breeding a Eurasier male is one year of age subject to acceptable preliminary health test results. The oldest acceptable age of breeding a Eurasier male without proof of his fertility is 12 years of age.

If a breeding occurs with a dog or bitch that is over or under the above minimum and maximum ages, either through breeder's intent or from an accidental breeding, the breeder must provide a notarized affidavit stating the circumstances of the breeding to the Club. This letter will be a permanent part of the records of the ECC. The ECC also has the option to require DNA testing to determine proof of parentage.

## **2. Health Tests**

An ECC Code of Ethics Breeder must be able to offer evidence (documented certifications) that prior to mating and at no sooner than 12 months of age, that health examinations\* were completed for the Sire & Dam. These include:

### **Required tests:**

- a) Blood test for autoimmune thyroiditis - minimum age 12 months or within 2 years before breeding (must include TgAA, freeT4 and cTSH)
- b) OFA (or FCI, BVA equivalent) hip dysplasia evaluation, minimum age 12 months – preliminary acceptable, certification preferred.
- c) OFA elbow dysplasia evaluation, minimum age 12 months – preliminary acceptable, certification preferred.
- d) OFA patellar luxation evaluation, minimum age 12 months – certification required.
- e) AVCO/CAER (or FCI, BVA equivalent) eye exam, minimum age 12 months.
- f) Dandy Walker-Like Malformation DNA test - no age limit. DNA test not required if clear by parentage.

Only those dogs with at least “Acceptable” results should be used for breeding.

### **Acceptable results are defined as (according to current ECC requirements):**

- a) Thyroid - TgAA negative.
- b) Hips rated Excellent, Good, Fair, or equivalent (HD-A1, HD-A2, or HD-B1). The focus should remain on using only those dogs with no worse than a Fair (B1 equivalent) as a means of enhancing future generations, as the objective of any

- breeder is to improve the breed.
- c) Elbows rated normal (no worse than 0/1)
  - d) Patellas rated normal (no worse than 0/1)
  - e) Eyes rated OFA or equivalent normal (breeder option acceptable)
  - f) DWLM – negative/ unaffected. Carriers of DWLM may breed, but only to non-carriers.

\* Certifications are accepted from a recognized organization such as the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals (OFA) or a Federation Cynologique Internationale (FCI) approved authority.

**3. Health Conditions** that develop during a dog's lifetime that will exclude a Eurasier from breeding:

- a) Exocrine Pancreatic Insufficiency (EPI)
- b) Megaesophagus
- c) Gastric Torsion (Bloat)
- d) Gastric cancer (adenocarcinoma)
- e) Cushing's Disease
- f) Addison's Disease
- g) Diabetes Mellitus
- h) Idiopathic Inflammatory Bowel Disease

Disqualifying Faults:

- a) Single or more incisor or canine tooth missing; single or more premolars 3 or 4 missing, or single or more molars 1 or 2.
- b) Overbite or underbite
- c) Kinked tail
- d) Pure white color, piebald/pintos,
- e) Human-focused aggression
- f) Cryptorchid - Male animals should have two apparently normal testicles fully descended into the scrotum. Only functionally and clinically healthy dogs, with breed typical conformation should be used for breeding
- g) Non-erect ears
- h) Eyes set too deep or eyes set too small
- i) Tarsal joints knuckling over (tarsal joint = the hock joint)

Any Eurasier that shows a serious defect in type, structure or temperament, or which exhibits current or historical clinical evidence of deleterious health defects, as described herein, must not be considered for breeding.

If a sire or dam has produced any offspring with serious defects in type, structure or temperament, or offspring with clinical evidence of deleterious health defects as described herein, and produces like results with a different breeding partner, it is in the best interest of the breed that the owner refrains from further breeding of this Eurasier.

## Health Guarantees

Eurasier puppies or adults released to the new owner(s) should be in good health to the best of the breeder's knowledge. Breeders must inform prospective puppy owners about all known defects prior to final sale. Any Eurasier puppy or adult, which is considered to have a serious defect in health, type, structure, temperament or a serious deviation from the standard, **MUST** be sold with registration papers marked **non-breeding**. No adult or puppy shall be sold without adequate immunization against disease, and a complete health record shall accompany each animal to its new owner at the time of sale.

1. Breeders must provide a written health guarantee, and a return or replacement policy. In the event a Eurasier develops evidence of a serious congenital defect within 2 years after date of the sale, this guarantee would provide for certain specified compensations, to which the breeder must abide.
2. Breeders should recommend that Eurasier owners obtain pet insurance as a means of providing additional protection and compensation if needed.

## Sales, Responsibilities and Contracts

### 1. Sales

Eurasier puppies must be at least eight weeks or older before being released to the new owner(s) to make the necessary adjustment to a new home safely. Prospective breeders should have pre-approved homes for the anticipated litter but should also be prepared for the possibility of caring for puppies for several months until quality adoptive homes can be found.

ECC Code of Ethics breeders shall be discriminating in the placement of puppies. This includes thorough screening of prospective buyers to determine their suitability for ownership of a Eurasier.

The Eurasier Club of Canada, Inc. does not consider ethical any of the following practices:

- the over-breeding of bitches for profit, with no regard for the quality of the offspring or the health of the bitch;
- the consignment or sale to a third party such as pet shops, catalogue houses, animal brokers, other commercial sources of distribution, or research facilities;
- knowingly selling a Eurasier to anyone suspected of using dogs for illegal/immoral purposes (dog fighting, laboratory experimentation)
- the wholesaling of Eurasier litters to puppy brokers or pet shops, or the sale of an entire litter to a single individual;
- the donation of Eurasiers as prizes for raffles, auctions, or contests;
- accepting commissions on sales of puppies for other breeders. Assisting other breeders in placement of their litters is not to be construed as brokering as long as

the sales agreement, contracts and guarantees are between the breeder and the puppy buyers.

The sale of a Eurasier to person(s) known or suspected of such practices is considered detrimental to the breed.

## **2. Responsibilities**

Breeders should be available to their buyers in a timely manner for ongoing consultation, advice and assistance after completion of a sale.

- No breeder will surrender any puppy or adult Eurasier to an animal shelter or pound unless required to do so by law.
- The breeder shall evaluate and initiate any necessary rehabilitation or retraining.
- If a recovered Eurasier presents a danger to itself, its owner, other people or other dogs, it may have to be humanely euthanized. Such a decision can only be made by the owner of record, or law enforcement agency. If this is necessary, the breeder agrees to file a letter to the Club notifying date of death and reason for euthanasia.
- The breeder will maintain comprehensive and truthful records on every dog owned and/or co-owned as well as on every puppy produced. These records shall include a complete record of each pup produced which shall include date of birth, number in litter, gender, color with description of markings, birth anomalies (if any), and final disposition of pup (sold, kept, given away, died). This information must be provided to the club.
- ECC breeder owners must ensure that breeding dogs meet ECC health testing requirements.
- Breeders must provide CKC registration papers for their puppies to the new owners within six months from the date of sale.
- Ideally, breeders should also provide buyers with a three-generation pedigree, and instructions on care, including grooming, feeding, house-training, and health.
- Breeders will pay (at a reduced rate) for the first year of membership in the ECC for each puppy buyer residing in Canada.
- Breeders should always try to assist the serious novice in his/her understanding of the breed with regards to conformation, training, socialization, grooming, routine veterinary care, and in the exhibition of the Eurasier at recognized events such as shows, agility and obedience trials etc.

## **3. Contracts**

Breeders shall provide a written contract to the puppy buyer at the time of sale, which outlines specific arrangements between the buyer and seller, including a policy to accept the return of a puppy, or assistance in finding it a new home in the event the new owners are unable to keep it.

These following stipulations MUST be part of a breeder contract:

- If, at any time, the owner of a dog decides to relinquish that dog for any reason, the breeder will arrange to take the dog back promptly or will offer full assistance in re-homing the dog as per mutually agreed arrangements.
- If a Eurasier needs to be re-homed, the breeder can request help from the Eurasier Club of Canada and agree to provide some financial assistance.
- Any provisions for refunds or shipping charges in this instance shall be handled in the contract between breeder and owner.

Breeders are encouraged to sell all companion Eurasiers with a CKC non-breeding agreement.

Breeders will use a written contract for all stud service agreements and agree to sign a litter application form once the requirements of the stud agreement have been met.

### **Advertising**

Breeders are encouraged to advertise puppies available for sale through their website, personal social media pages, other breeders, or word of mouth contact. Any advertising of Eurasiers, either verbal and/or written, will be truthful and shall in no way conflict with the goals of good breeding practices as set forth in this Code of Ethics.

If promoting the Eurasier through advertisements, the breeder will list the Eurasier Club of Canada as the affiliated Parent Breed Club such as: ECC Code of Ethics Breeder.

### **Violations**

Verified violations of the requirements of this Code of Ethics shall be subject to any or all of these forms of actions taken by the Executive as described in Article 12 of the Eurasier Club of Canada Constitution:

- a letter of warning or reprimand from the Executive
- removal from the Code of Ethics Breeders List
- suspension and possible expulsion from the club as described in the bylaws of the ECC, Inc.