

American Belgian Laekenois Association Breeders Code of Ethics

Signing the Code of Ethics is recommended for each breeder of Belgian Laekenois, but is not required for membership in ABLA.

As a breeder and member of the American Belgian Laekenois Association, I will endeavor to adhere to the following Code of Ethics:

1. I will maintain sportsmanlike behavior in all canine endeavors and will work toward the betterment of the Belgian Laekenois breed. I will notify the ABLA Board of Directors of breeders whose actions, in my opinion, do not appear to be in the best interest of the breed.
2. I will maintain high standards in the care of my dogs. I will provide each dog in my care with individual attention and strive to bring each dog to its full potential as a companion and in whatever activity areas are chosen.
3. I will maintain accurate records.
4. I will strive to breed only dogs and bitches of sound temperament and structure, good health and characteristic type as described in the AKC (ABLA) Standard for the Belgian Laekenois. I will breed Laekenois only at age two or older.
5. I will breed only those dogs which have been certified free of hereditary eye diseases by the Canine Eye Registration Foundation (CERF) and free of hip and elbow dysplasia by the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals (OFA).

Exceptions may be made in the case of hip and elbow certifications if frozen semen is used from a deceased stud dog that had never been diagnosed with hip or elbow dysplasia by a qualified veterinarian, or when using a dog in another country as long as that dog is certified free of hip and elbow dysplasia in his home country. The CERF requirement may be waived if the dog or bitch is over 8 years of age with a previous passing examination by a qualified veterinarian, or when using frozen semen from a deceased stud dog that had never been diagnosed as having a hereditary eye disease by a qualified veterinarian.

Additional health checks which should be considered are: thyroid*, patella*, cardiac screen*. An asterisk (*) indicates that problems are known to exist in Laekenois, but are not widespread at this time.

In all cases, I commit to providing a truthful presentation of all health check results (pass or fail) for my dogs (breeding stock, and offspring if known). I support the reporting of all results (pass or fail) to OFA's open registry.

6. I will raise my puppies in a healthy environment with adequate socialization. All puppies will be inoculated and dewormed in accordance with veterinary recommendations. Prior to placement I will permanently identify every puppy, by either tattoo or microchip. No puppy will be placed in a new home before the age of seven weeks, or eight weeks if a state requirement exists.
7. I will screen each puppy buyer and strive to place each dog in a permanent home. Under no circumstances will I engage in wholesaling litters, nor will I knowingly sell to puppy mills, pet dealers or retailers, catalog houses, commercial breeding operations or buyer/broker, or supply puppies or dogs for raffles, lotteries, auctions, or laboratories.
8. I will provide each purchaser with a bill of sale, a three-generation pedigree, health record, registration (unless it is withheld by written agreement of both parties), and instructions for care

and feeding. I will also supply a written health guarantee detailing conditions for replacement or reimbursement. Each dog or puppy that exhibits a disqualifying feature as described in the breed standard will be placed with a spay/neuter contract with all conditions in writing and signed by both buyer and seller.

9. I will provide written agreements for all co-ownership, stud services, and conditional sales.

10. I am aware that there is a surplus of dogs in today's society and will undertake breeding with a lasting commitment to the dogs I produce. I will help the purchaser in every reasonable way for the life of the dog. In the event the purchaser must give up the dog, I am prepared to take the dog back and to be responsible for placing the dog in another suitable home.

11. I will offer at stud only dogs which are mature, conform to the breed standard, have been certified free of hip and elbow dysplasia, certified free of hereditary eye defects and which are not known to carry any genetic defects.

12. As a stud dog owner I will accept only those bitches for stud service which meet the same criteria as the stud, and whose owners are prepared to accept the responsibilities outlined in this code of ethics.

13. I will require and provide a DNA profile for a dog or bitch used for breeding (including dogs whose sperm is to be frozen) in accordance with AKC requirements.

14. I pledge to help educate the public in the standard and the care of the Belgian Laekenois and in all other areas where I am qualified.

Reputable breeders will provide you with documentation on the sire and dam's registration, OFA (or other) certifications, and CERF certifications, a three-generation pedigree, and a purchase agreement (contract). The purchase agreement should stipulate the health guarantee, price, in the case of a pet puppy the requirements for spay or neuter, and any other terms to which the seller and purchaser have agreed.

_____ Signature _____ Date

_____ Printed Name