

Breed Welfare Code of Ethics

USACTC, Inc. is an organization devoted to the preservation and welfare of the Coton de Tuléar breed. The purpose of these guidelines are to promote the ideals and principles necessary to properly maintain and protect the Coton de Tuléar breed.

With this in mind, each member must consider the welfare of the breed when engaged in any activities involving competition, breeding and selling of the Coton de Tuléar and must refrain from any activity that would be detrimental to the best interests of the breed and of the Club.

Our goal is to produce a Coton that is uniform in type, sound of mind and body, and suited to its purpose as a small versatile companion.

The USACTC endorses the following guidelines as the ethical requirements for Coton de Tuléar breeders. The breeders' responsibilities are in two parts:

Part I - USACTC Guidelines for conducting an ethical breeding program.

Part 2 - Agreement and Requirements, certifying a breeder's commitment and obligation to adhere to the USACTC code standard.

Violations of this code of conduct may result in loss of membership privileges.

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PART I – GUIDELINES

A. **Compliance**

1. Federal. USACTC breeders are responsible for staying informed of the federal Animal Welfare Act (AWA) which was signed 2 Sep 2013 and went into effect 2 Nov 2013. Subject to US Department of Agriculture, breeders are responsible for complying with federal licensing laws defining hobby breeders and retailers in the sale of puppies.
2. State. USACTC breeders are responsible for complying with state, County and residential zoning regulations for conducting a breeding program.
3. AKC. By registering litters with AKC, USACTC breeders will comply with the AKC breeding program. This includes utilizing AKC forms for dog ownership and breeding records, and the maintaining of such records for a period of five years after a Dam or Sire has been retired/removed from a breeding program.
4. USACTC breeders will review and operate a breeding environment in compliance with AKC rules for inspections of records, kennel conditions, cleanliness, and health of all dogs on premise. Failure to comply or any fines imposed by federal, state or AKC is the responsibility of the breeder.
5. Applying for Listing on **the** Breeders Directory, applicant must first apply for membership and be approved. As a USACTC member, application for Breeders Directory can be made.
6. Applicant's Breedable Cotons must meet USACTC health testing requirements prior to application, and certification numbers assigned to these tests listed on OFA (offa.org). USACTC COE and Health Committee Chairpersons will assist in this process and mentor applicant, if requested.
7. Applicant must have all breedable dogs registered with AKC when making application for the clubs Breeders Directory.
8. **Breeding:** Each member should understand and accept the AKC breed standard as presented by the USACTC and should, whenever breeding a litter or allowing the use of a stud dog, direct all possible efforts to producing individuals of quality that conform to that standard.
9. *All breeding stock should:* Be of characteristic type, exhibit sound structure, show stable temperament (neither shy nor vicious), be in good health and condition, Be free of communicable diseases and genetic defects.
10. *NOTE: In multi-sire households containing intact males of any breed, all males should be DNA certified through AKC and be issued a DNA Profile Number to identify correct paternity of any puppies produced.*
11. Members should make every effort to stay current in their knowledge of genetic problems present in the breed. Utilize available testing procedures to detect genetic defects. Refrain from breeding any dog that displays or tests "affected" of known genetic disorders.
12. Every mating should be planned with the intention of conforming to the ideals of the breed standard: type, temperament, health, co-efficient of inbreeding, age. Careful consideration to the conformation of both Sire and Dam, with careful research of the pedigrees of the mating dogs, and genetics.

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B. Health Testing

The following health screening tests will be performed on all dogs being evaluated and or used for breeding.

Requirements -Results registered with OFA

Eye Examination-ACVO Ophthalmologist

Patellar Luxation

Hip Dysplasia

Elective (3 of the following) by approved Lab or Specialist

Congenital Cardiac Exam

Advanced Cardiac Exam

OFA Elbow Evaluation

OFA Thyroid

DNA-Based- approved Labatory w/ results registered with the OFA

vWD (von Willebrand's)

NCA (Bandara's Syndrome)

DM (Degenerative Myelopathy)

CMR(Canine Multifocal Retinopathy)

Other Recommended/Suggested Tests (Optional)

OFA Legg-Calves-Perthes evaluation

DNA -Based approved Labatory w/ results registered with the OFA

PH (Primary Hyperoxaluria)

HU (Hyperuricosuria)

CDPA (Chondrodysplasia)

CDDY (Chondrodystrophy)

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C. Kennel Management

1. Ethical breeders shall be physically and financially able to provide for the special health and nutritional needs of brood bitches and their litters before breeding.
2. Breeders agree to maintain the best possible standards of canine health, sanitary living conditions, and veterinary care. Breeders agree to provide proper socialization and to provide a mentally stimulating environment for their dogs.
3. Breeders understand that all dogs owned by them should have some form of permanent identification, i.e. tattoo, microchip, and/or DNA profile.

D. Sales

1. Ethical breeders shall be discriminating in the placement of their Coton de Tuléar puppies. This includes thorough screening of all prospective buyers to determine their suitability for Coton de Tuléar ownership.
2. USACTC considers the following practices un-ethical:
 - Over-breeding of bitches for profit, with no regard for the quality of the puppies. or health of the female.
 - Consignment or sale outright to pet shops, catalogue houses, animal brokers, or other commercial sources of distribution.
 - Donation of Coton de Tuléar as prizes for raffles, auctions, or contests.
 - Wholesaling of Coton de Tuléar litters to puppy brokers and pet shops.
3. USACTC breeders should provide buyers with:
 - Instructions on care to include grooming, feeding, house-training, and complete health care.
 - Puppies or adults in good health with a Veterinarian health certificate in states where required.
 - Consultation after completion of a sale.
 - Assistance, sponsorship and/or mentoring in regard to Club membership, breeding, conformation, training, socialization, and exhibition of the Coton de Tuléar, if requested.
 - A sales contract indicating guarantees, warranties, condition of refunds or replacement, and conditions of spay/neuter and registrations.
 - A copy of a USACTC membership application.

E. Waivers/Exceptions

- USACTC breeders may have ethical considerations they adhere to in addition to those mentioned here. It is recognized that legitimate exceptions to this code of ethics may arise from time to time.
- In such cases, a member may request the situation be reviewed by the President, or the President’s designee(s). The President (or designee) will make a recommendation to the Board of Directors. Upon sufficient evidence and under conditions where the welfare of the breed is assured, the Board of Directors may waive any of the foregoing provisions.

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I accept the following terms and conditions of a responsible USACTC COE Breeder:

1. I will observe and comply with the rules and regulations of The American Kennel Club, AKC Good Sportsmanship, the Constitution and Bylaws of the United States Of America Coton De Tuléar Club, Members Code of Conduct and this Breed Welfare Code of Ethics.
2. I understand and accept the breed standard as presented by the United States Of America Coton De Tuléar Club and should, whenever breeding a litter or allowing the use of a stud dog, direct all possible efforts to producing individuals of quality that conform to that standard.
3. I will be a member in good standing of the USACTC.
4. I will register every Coton I own and/or co-own by 18 months of age and every litter produced by me by 8 weeks of age with the American Kennel Club.
5. I will comply with the AKC breeder regulations for record keeping and identification of dogs.
6. I will utilize the AKC Dog Ownership and Breeding Record forms and retain them in a binder for a period of 5 years after a breeding Coton is retired.
7. By registering my dogs and litters with AKC, I accept the **AKC breeder program** and I am subject to both records and kennel/environment living condition inspections.
8. As the owner of a stud dog, I agree that I will use a written contract for all stud service agreements and agree to sign an AKC litter application form once the requirements of my stud agreement have been met. I will require that the bitch's owner sell all resulting puppies that are of companion/non-breeding/limited quality with a spay/neuter agreement.
9. I will utilize testing procedures to detect genetic defects in my breeding Cotons and refrain from breeding any dog that either displays or is known to be "affected" by identified diseases.
10. I will only breed a bitch or stud that is in excellent physical condition and has full breeding registration with the AKC.
11. I will complete OFA forms and send results to OFA to be posted on their website for all of my breeding Cotons.
12. If a breeding occurs where a bitch has multiple partners either through a breeder's intent or from an accidental breeding, then I will perform DNA sampling of all males and all puppies to assign correct parentage of the prodigy.
13. I will sell every Coton de Tuléar that is produced by me with a sales contract and an application for USACTC membership.
14. I will sell all provisional Coton de Tuléar puppies with a contract requiring mandatory health testing.
15. I will sell all non-breeding/limited registration Coton de Tuléars with a spay/ neuter agreement.
16. I agree that any advertising of my Cotons, either verbal and/or written, will be truthful and shall in no way conflict with the goals of good breeding practices.

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17. I will not engage in the wholesaling of litters of Coton de Tuléar puppies, or the sale of breeding stock or individuals to pet shops or other commercial sources of distribution.
18. My personal website will have a link to the USACTC website.
19. I will be of assistance to all newcomers to the breed, if requested, so they may be guided in the way that will best serve the Coton de Tuléar.
20. I agree to be discriminating in the placement of my Coton de Tuléar puppies and adults. I agree to screen prospective buyers to determine their suitability for ownership of a Coton de Tuléar.
21. If, at any time, the owner of a puppy decides to relinquish that puppy for any reason, I shall offer full assistance in placing the puppy in a good home.
22. I will accept the responsibility for each Coton de Tuléar bred by me for its lifetime, and will do whatever is necessary to ensure their welfare. I will unconditionally accept the return of any puppy produced by me.
23. Should a Coton de Tuléar turn up in a rescue situation, I should do whatever is necessary to ensure the welfare of the dog, either retrieving the dog personally or assisting rescue in every way possible.
24. I will observe the highest standards of sportsmanship, conduct and good will at conformation shows, obedience and agility trials and any other event involving the Coton de Tuléar, and will present my Coton De Tuléar in proper condition and free from infectious diseases and shall attend to their health and well being at all events.
25. I will be respectful and observe the highest courtesies toward others and/or when discussing other breeder's programs, dogs, pedigrees, associations and reputations. This will include any form of media, technical communications, emails, Facebook, twitter, texting or any chat group. To this end, I will not bring disgrace on USACTC or any of its goals, objectives, or policies.
26. As a USACTC member, I will be responsible for my actions and I will not malign my competition by making false, misleading, and/or harassing statements regarding a competitor's dog, breeding practices, or person, whether at a competitive event or online on public forums.
27. I will not bring disgrace to myself, USACTC, or any of its goals, objectives, or policies. This will include any form of media, technical communications, emails, Facebook, twitter, texting or any chat group. I will not engage in actions that constitute conduct prejudicial to the best interests of the Club or of the Breed. I will be respectful and will not discredit the reputation of my club, our officers or its members in the execution of his/her duties. I will support the USACTC Board of Directors as the vehicle through which this organization operates under the laws of the state of incorporation. Any attempt to
28. undermine or devalue the reputation, success, purpose, advancement or goals of the club will not be tolerated regardless the public medium used to communicate those negative actions.

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Additional Acknowledgements, USACTC Commitment & Signature Page 1 of 1

Additional Acknowledgements

1. I understand that recognition in the breeder's directory is a privilege that is granted to me by the Board of the USACTC.
 2. I understand that approval granted by the Board is based upon my agreement to follow the requirements listed above for Code of Ethics breeders.
 3. I understand that by agreeing to this Code of Ethics, does not constitute the Club's obligation to endorse my application for listing on the USACTC breeder's directory.
 4. I understand that members of the Board of Directors or officers of the Club may not take an active part in decisions that personally affect them.
 5. I understand that if an un-ethical complaint is filed against me or my kennel, that I will be able to dispute any allegation(s) in writing and appeal any sanction against me.
 6. Prior to acceptance by the Board for listing in the Breeders' Directory, I understand that I must complete the breeder's application and remit the necessary fees.
 7. By the voluntary submission of my application for the Breeder's Directory, I understand and agree to all requirements, guidelines, and acknowledgements herein. I agree to abide by the above Breed Welfare Code of Ethics to the best of my ability, putting the welfare and advancement of the Coton De Tuléar breed first and foremost.
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USACTC's Commitment to COE Breeders

Any request, recommendation, appeal or challenge will be fairly and respectfully treated. A breeder's right will be fairly acknowledged.

The Board of Directors will guide, assist, advise and direct all requests for mentoring of any new, approved breeder.

By submitting this application, I have read and agree to follow all rules, regulations, and codes of conduct/ethics as described in these documents. Sign below, return by mail this page (7) along with the Breeders Directory Application.

Make check for \$150 to

Treasurer, USACTC

Lynn Baron, 130 Cricket Ln., Orange CT 06477 (203) 298-0428

Date: _____

Signature of Applicant: _____