



Breed Welfare Code of Ethics

Updated 12/2019

USACTC, Inc. is an organization devoted to the preservation and welfare of the Coton de Tuléar breed. The purpose of these guidelines is to promote the ideals and principles necessary to preserve and protect the unique 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/placing of the Coton de Tuléar. Responsible breeders 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 de Tulear 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 USACTC Coton de Tuléar breeders. Breeders' responsibilities are outlined in two sections of this document:

Section 1 - USACTC Guidelines for conducting an ethical breeding program.

Section 2 - Requirements and Agreement, certifying a Code of Ethics Breeder's commitment and duty to adhere to USACTC's ethical code of conduct.

Violations of the USACTC Breed Welfare Code of Ethics and/or Member Code of Conduct/Ethics may result in loss of COE membership privileges.

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Section 1 – GUIDELINES

A. Compliance

1. **Federal.** USACTC breeders are responsible for staying informed of the federal Animal Welfare Act (AWA) which was signed September 2, 2013, and went into effect November 2, 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 maintenance 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 are the responsibility of the breeder.
5. To apply for a listing on the COE Breeders Directory, the applicant must first be a current member in good standing. Only USACTC Regular, Household, Foreign and Lifetime members in good standing are eligible to apply.
6. Applicants' breedable Cotons must have AKC Full Registration privileges when making application for the club's COE Breeders Directory.
7. **Breeding:** Each member should understand and accept the AKC Coton de Tulear Breed Standard, and should, whenever breeding a litter or allowing the use of a stud dog, strive to produce quality puppies which may conform to the AKC Breed 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 physical condition, as well as free of communicable diseases.
10. 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 verify paternity of any puppies produced.
11. Members should make every effort to stay current in their knowledge of genetic problems present in the breed, and utilize available testing procedures to detect potential "at risk" dogs.
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, and age. Careful consideration of the conformation of both Sire and Dam, along with pedigree research of the mating Cotons and their ancestors is paramount.

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B. Health Testing

1. Applicants' breedable Cotons are health tested for breed-specific conditions appropriate to their lines.
2. The USACTC strongly encourages their Breeders to follow current CHIC test guidelines for the Coton de Tulear breed at: <https://www.ofa.org/recommended-tests?breed=CDT>.
3. Breeders should make every effort to stay current in their knowledge of ongoing genetic research pertinent to the breed, as well as, potential emerging genetic issues, and utilize scientifically proven, breed-specific testing procedures as a tool to maintain breed health in a relatively small worldwide gene pool.

C. Kennel Management

1. Ethical breeders shall be physically and financially capable of providing 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 a mentally stimulating environment for their dogs and puppies.
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 UNETHICAL:

- *Over-breeding of bitches for profit, with no regard for the quality of puppies or health of the female.*
- *Consignment or outright sale 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, pet shops.*
- *Purposeful cross-breeding with dogs which are NOT purebred Cotons de Tulear.*

3. USACTC breeders should provide buyers with:

- Instructions on care including grooming, feeding, house-training, and complete healthcare.
- Puppies or adults, in good health, with a Veterinary Health Certificate, in states requiring certification of veterinary health inspection upon entrance.
- Consultations 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.

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- A sales contract indicating guarantees, warranties, condition of refunds or replacement, conditions of spay/neuter and registration.
- A copy of a USACTC Membership Application for Cotons designated as Show and/or Breedable quality.

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 conduct may arise from time to time.

In such cases, a member may request the situation be reviewed by the President, who 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.

SECTION 2 – Responsibilities, Stewardship and Ambassadors

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, USACTC Members Code of Conduct/Ethics and this Breed Welfare Code of Ethics.
2. I understand and accept the AKC Breed Standard as presented by the United States of America Coton De Tuléar Club, and whenever breeding a litter or allowing the use of a stud dog, make every attempt to produce quality Coton puppies which conform to that Standard.
3. As a COE Breeder listed in the club's Breeders Directory, I will be a Regular, Household, Foreign or Lifetime Member in good standing with 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. By registering my dogs and litters with AKC, I accept the AKC breeder program; and therefore am subject to both records and kennel/environment living condition inspections.
6. 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. Further, 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.
7. I will utilize testing procedures to detect "at risk" Cotons in my breeding plans.

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8. I will only breed a bitch or stud that is in excellent physical condition and has full breeding registration privileges with the AKC.
9. If a breeding occurs where a bitch has multiple partners I will perform DNA sampling of all males and all puppies to verify correct parentage of the progeny.
10. I will sell every Coton de Tuléar that is produced by me with a sales contract. Each new owner of a "potential" Show/Breedable Coton will receive an application for USACTC membership upon acquisition of the Coton.
11. I will require mandatory health testing in my sales contracts for all Coton de Tuléar puppies sold with AKC Full Registrations.
12. I will sell all non-breeding, AKC Limited Registration, Cotons de Tuléar with a spay/ neuter agreement in contracts.
13. 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.
14. I will not engage in the wholesaling of litters of Coton de Tuléar puppies, or the sale of breeding stock or dogs to pet shops or other commercial sources of distribution.
16. I will only breed my Cotons to other purebred Cotons de Tulear mates, avoiding purposeful cross-breeding.
17. My personal website will have a link to the USACTC website.
18. For the future welfare of the Coton de Tulear breed, I will be mentor any newcomers to the Breed, if requested.
19. 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.
19. If at any time the owner, of a puppy you produced, decides to relinquish that puppy for any reason, I shall offer full assistance in placing the puppy in a good home.
20. 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.
21. Should a Coton de Tuléar, which I produced, turn up in a rescue situation, I will do whatever is necessary to ensure the welfare of the dog, either retrieving the dog personally or assisting rescue in every way possible.
22. I will observe the highest standards of sportsmanship, conduct and good will at conformation shows, obedience and agility trials and any other events involving the Coton de Tuléar. My Coton De Tuléar will be presented in proper condition, free from infectious diseases. I shall attend to their health and well being at all events.

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23. I will be respectful and observe the utmost courtesy toward others when discussing other breeders' programs, dogs, pedigrees, associations and reputations. This will include any form of media, technical communications, emails, Facebook, Twitter, texting or any chat group.
23. As a USACTC Member, I will be responsible for my actions. I will not malign my competition by making false, misleading, and/or harassing statements regarding a competitor's dog, breeding practices, or persona, whether at a competitive event or online.
24. 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 undermine or devalue the reputation, success, purpose, advancement or goals of the club will not be tolerated.

Additional Acknowledgements

1. I understand that recognition in the COE Breeder's Directory is a privilege that is granted to me by the USACTC Board of Directors.
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 Ethical Conduct does not constitute the Club's obligation to endorse my application for listing in the USACTC Breeder's Directory.
4. I understand that if an unethical 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.
5. Prior to acceptance by the Board for listing in the Breeders' Directory, I understand that I must complete the COE Breeder's Directory Application and remit the necessary fees.
6. By the voluntary submission of my application for a COE Breeder Directory Listing, 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 USACTC COE Breeder.

AGREEMENT

By submitting the USACTC Breeders Directory Application, you have read, understand, and agree to follow all rules, regulations, the Member Code of Conduct and Breed Welfare Code of Ethics as described in this document.