

THE CODE OF CONDUCT

We, the members of the Irish Water Spaniel Club of America, have accepted the responsibility of protecting the purebred Irish Water Spaniel in the United States of America.

We have joined this organization because we are committed to defining and maintaining an official standard that celebrates this breed's unique qualities and preserves them for the future; to promoting the Irish Water Spaniel as a versatile companion; and to furthering the understanding of the diseases, defects, injuries, and other ailments that afflict dogs in general and Irish Water Spaniels in particular.

A number of actions, if undertaken by a member, could jeopardize either the wellbeing of the breed or the club's ability to conduct activities.

1. Breeding the purebred Irish Water Spaniel with a non-purebred Irish Water Spaniel can jeopardize the continuance of the unique characteristics of the breed.
2. Inflicting cruelty on a dog in the form of abuse or neglect will jeopardize the physical and emotional health of the Irish Water Spaniel.
3. Behavior directly resulting in any venue preventing us from using their facilities jeopardizes the future activities of the club.

It is our desire that the Board of Directors take appropriate action against any member who does not uphold these basic tenets. The Board of Directors will consider the totality of the circumstances in the determination of action.

As a member of the Irish Water Spaniel Club of America, I acknowledge my agreement with this Code of Conduct.

Signed: (each IWSCA member will be asked to sign yearly—or indicate acknowledgement of the Code of Conduct and the Addendum Guidelines in yearly renewals)

ADDENDUM TO THE CODE OF CONDUCT

GUIDELINES

The Irish Water Spaniel Club of America is dedicated to protecting the purebred Irish Water Spaniel, promoting the breed to the public, and educating our members and the public about the proper care, treatment, breeding, health, development and training of IWS. The club is involved with activities that showcase the conformation, intelligence, trainability, working ability, and temperament of our dogs. Membership in the club is voluntary, and continuing the club's activities requires many volunteers working collaboratively to achieve desired outcomes. The following guidelines are presented as best practices for protecting our dogs, educating the public, and working cooperatively. Some of the guidelines are directives or suggestions from the American Kennel Club, and some are aspirational.

Culture

Our Members are the lifeblood of the Irish Water Spaniel Club in America. They are a diverse group of people, brought together by a common interest in Irish Water Spaniels.

Members should protect the best interests of the breed by conducting themselves in a manner designed to reflect credit upon themselves, their dogs, and the club.

The Owners and Exhibitors are the club's ambassadors to the world. Due to the breed's small numbers, we must recognize that one contact, good or bad, can determine how the public views our breed.

Breeders determine the future of the Irish Water Spaniel by today's actions and decisions. Breeders should work to protect the best interests of the Irish Water Spaniel by breeding to meet our standard and to improve the overall health and temperament of the breed. This may only be accomplished by knowing the inherited problems of our stock and of the breed, by working to control or eliminate these problems, by finding suitable homes for all of our puppies and by communicating openly and honestly with those who intend to buy our stock or use it for breeding.

Conduct

All members should treat and speak of others as they would hope to be treated and spoken of. They should avoid making derogatory comments and personal criticisms.

Owning an Irish Water Spaniel is a commitment to that dog for a lifetime. If circumstances don't allow a member to keep the dog he or she should make arrangements for it to be placed in a good home or released to IWSCA Rescue rather than taken to a shelter. Ideally, the breeder should be notified before any changes of ownership occur.

Members should keep their dog's breeder informed of health or temperament problems as they develop, as advice from a knowledgeable breeder can often stop small problems from becoming major problems.

Responsible owners will provide their Irish Water Spaniels with necessary vaccinations, parasite control, and other veterinary care as needed. They will provide good quality food and ample fresh water. They will provide housing that will protect their dog from extremes of temperature and keep them safe and under control.

They should keep their Irish Water Spaniels clean and groomed to present an attractive picture and maintain healthy coat and skin, so their appearance will reflect well on the breed. The grooming style can be appropriate for the dog's activities and comfort.

Members should train their Irish Water Spaniel so it is a credit to the breed and a joy to own. Dogs that are poorly behaved or out of control do our breed a disservice. Members should keep their dog socialized from puppyhood on so that it can enjoy meeting new people and dogs and all of the other adventures that life holds.

Members should promote their Irish Water Spaniels in activities that present the breed in a positive light.

As Exhibitors, members should conduct themselves in every venue in a way that reflects well on the club and on the breed. They should treat their fellow exhibitors, judges, stewards, and all other officials with

respect. They will treat their Irish Water Spaniel with the same consideration and respect. Win or lose, our dogs deserve the best from us.

Members should remember that spectators are potential future Irish Water Spaniel owners and club members. Members should be courteous and kind at all times. They should be generous with their time and knowledge whenever possible.

Members must abide by all AKC rules and regulations relevant to their activities.

Breeders

Breeders will commit to striving for excellence in their breeding program. They should only breed Irish Water Spaniels that are healthy, mature, and mentally sound with the goal of producing dogs that conform as closely as possible to the approved AKC standard for the Irish Water Spaniel.

Responsible breeders will test their breeding stock for known genetic problems when such tests exist. They will ensure that all breeding stock is CHIC-compliant to those standards set by the Irish Water Spaniel Club of America (it is understood that some breeding stock may be exempt from CHIC compliancy. Irish Water Spaniels born before January 1st, 2000 or those deceased before January 1st, 2010 are exempt. Foreign-bred stock must have the equivalent of US CHIC health screenings, conducted and published in their country of residence). Ideally all CHIC test results for sire and dam will be published before the breeding occurs.

Breeders should care for their breeding stock so that all litters are the result of deliberate choices and not accidents.

Advertising from breeders and stud dog owners must be factual and clear. Puppies produced from a cross breeding must be publicized as such. New owners of cross bred puppies should agree to neuter the dogs at an appropriate age.

Breeders have a responsibility to place all puppies in suitable homes and will refuse to sell to wholesalers or retailers or participate in puppy raffles or auctions. A suitable home is an informed home. Education should start before the sale is made. An Irish Water Spaniel is not the right breed for every owner or for every situation.

Breeders should provide their new owners with feeding instructions, complete health records, a suggested schedule of inoculations and parasite control, AKC registration applications, and contracts stating the terms of purchase. Contracts, verbal or written, should adhere to the principles of this code; written contracts should be signed by all parties, with each receiving a copy.

Breeders should encourage new owners to join the Irish Water Spaniel Club of America.

Responsible breeders should be prepared to answer questions, offer advice, and either take back or help place dogs of their breeding that need rehoming.