



Majority of National Breed Clubs Advise Not Selling to Pet Stores

Summary:

In January 2013, The HSUS researched 263 national or “parent” dog breeding clubs in order to understand responsible breeders’ codes of ethics. The vast majority of these national breed clubs’ codes of ethics specifically recommend that members in good standing not sell puppies to pet stores, and/or sell only to buyers they have met in person.

Of the parent breed clubs that represent the 178 AKC-recognized breeds, **96%** (170/178) had ethics statements that prohibited sales to pet shops.

Below are quotes from the national breed clubs which represent the top ten most popular dog breeds, according to the AKC’s 2012 registry statistics.

Quotes from the Top Ten National Breed Clubs¹:

1. **Labrador Retriever Club, Inc.:** Recommends that “The **breeder shall screen all buyers** for their ability and intent to properly care for a dog” – implies that good breeders will meet their individual puppy buyers personally.
2. **German Shepherd Dog Club of America:** Code of Ethics states that breeders shall “Refuse to sell or recommend breeders who do not conform to the ideals and obligations expressed in this Code and refuse all sales to dog wholesalers and retailers. **Do not sell, supply, donate or surrender any dog for which they are responsible to a pet shop,** catalogue house, wholesale dealer in dogs, Humane Society or to a laboratory.”
3. **Golden Retriever Club of America:** Code of Ethics states: “Members who breed should sell puppies, permit stud service, and/or lease any stud dogs or brood bitches **only to individuals** who give satisfactory evidence that they will give proper care and attention to the animals concerned [...] **Members should not sell dogs at auction, or to brokers or commercial dealers.**”
4. **National Beagle Club:** On Membership Application: “**I refuse to raffle dogs or to sell individuals or litter lots to pet wholesalers, laboratories, pet shops,** or any buyer who, I have reason to believe, will not provide proper care for the puppy/dog.”
5. **Bulldog Club of America:** Members must pledge: “**I will not to my knowledge sell a Bulldog to any commercial facility, puppy broker, pet shop or agent thereof.**”

¹ AKC registration statistics, 2012: www.akc.org

6. **Yorkshire Terrier Club of America, Inc.:** “Puppies will not be sold or consigned to pet stores, agents, or other commercial enterprises nor sold to disreputable breeders...”
7. **American Boxer Club, Inc:** Code of Ethics states that “the following infractions are considered to be actions contrary to the best interest of the breed and/or the American Boxer Club: Selling, consigning or disposing of a puppy or an adult Boxer to a pet shop, chain of pet shops or any commercial kennel for resale.”
8. **Poodle Club of America, Inc:** Code of Ethics states that “Buyers will be carefully screened” and “The Breeder is responsible for any and all poodles that he/she has bred for the life of each poodle”, and stipulates that a responsible breeder shall take back a puppy if the buyer ever becomes unable to care for it. [Implies that good breeders meet their buyers in person.]
9. **American Rottweiler Club:** Code of Ethics does not mention retail pet stores but states that members shall sell only to well-screened buyers: “Sell only to responsible persons and not knowingly sell to anyone or any entity who engages in any activity which might exploit the breed.” Also, “Breeders recognize that they have a LIFETIME responsibility for puppies produced...”. [implies that good breeders will meet their individual puppy buyers personally.]
10. **Dachshund Club of America, Inc:** Code of Ethics states that members shall “never supply a Dachshund to pet shops, commercial brokers or dealers, raffles or similar projects.”

Quotes from National Breed Clubs whose Breeds are Commonly Found in Puppy Mills:

- **American Maltese Association, Inc:** “I will not knowingly deal with dog wholesalers, commercial retailers [pet stores], brokers or unethical dog breeders...”
- **American Pomeranian Club, Inc:** “I will not sell my puppies to pet shops or commercial pet mill establishments, nor will I donate puppies for raffles or auctions.”
- **American Shih Tzu Club, Inc:** “I will not sell my puppies to pet shops or commercial pet mill establishments, nor will I donate puppies for raffles or auctions.”
- **American Spaniel Club:** Breeders shall “Refrain from selling puppies to pet shops either outright or on consignment; refrain from supplying puppies for auctions, raffles, or other such enterprises; refrain from selling to persons whose intention to resell is known or suspected; refrain from breeding litters primarily for the pet market.”
- **Chihuahua Club of America, Inc.:** “I pledge to be responsible for all Chihuahuas that I have produced for their entire life-time by: never buying, selling or trading my/our Chihuahuas to research laboratories, pet stores, or to auctions nor placing them in rescue groups.”
- **Pug Dog Club of America:** “No member shall EVER sell or donate dogs for auctions or raffles, or to pet shops, catalog houses, brokers or for resale purposes.”

- **Siberian Husky Club of America, Inc.:** “I will refuse to deal with dog wholesalers or to sell puppies or dogs to pet shops, and will include in all stud contracts an agreement to be signed by the owner of the bitch that no puppies resulting from the mating will be wholesaled or sold to pet shops.”