

Willamette Valley Great Dane Club **CODE OF ETHICS**

The Willamette Valley Great Dane Club (WVGDC) is dedicated to the following:

1. Promoting the standard of the breed, in accordance with the Great Dane Club of America's standard.
 - a) Members must be in good standing with AKC, GDCA and other affiliate clubs.
 - b) Members will follow and adhere to the GDCA breeder's code of ethics and AKC code of sportsmanship.
 - c) Members will use the breed standards created by GDCA and adopted by AKC for the Great Dane to assess suitability of dogs' temperament and type for exhibition in AKC and club events and for Breeding.
2. Advancing the goals, objectives and integrity of the club.
 - a) Members will adhere to AKC, GDCA and WVGDC rules, regulations and requirements pertaining to the sport of dogs.
 - b) Members will share knowledge truthfully, constructively and respectfully when conveying information about breeders, their breeding programs and individual Great Danes.
 - c) Members will display good sportsmanship and conduct themselves in a manner that gives credit to GDCA, AKC and the breed by showmanship and dress.
 - d) Members will encourage and promote public awareness of responsible pet ownership and ensure that dogs' welfare takes precedence over considerations of breeders, trainers, owners, organizations, sponsors and officials.
 - e) Members will participate in activities and programs sponsored by WVGDC.
3. Protecting the interests of the breed and individual dogs.
 - a) Members will keep only as many dogs as they can provide for with a high standard of health care, shelter, nutrition, attention, affection and overall care.
 - b) Members will provide appropriate training, exercise and supervision to ensure their dogs are well mannered, kept in safe conditions and are never abused nor neglected.
 - c) Members will guarantee the health of a dog they place subject to Vet exam at a minimum within 72 hours of placement and provide assistance to dogs of their breeding in need of rehoming.
 - d) Members will conduct background checks, make home visits either personally or by someone they trust, and discuss the health care and behavior management required for the dog with prospective owners prior to placement.
 - e) Members will ensure that any person they agree to collaborate with as a co-breeder or any person they allow to use one of their stud dogs meets the same high standards of conduct, responsible animal welfare, and responsible breeding decisions as referenced in this Code.
4. Promoting quality and integrity in breeding programs, purebred dogs.
 - a) Members will assess whether prospective breeding candidates and immediate relatives are affected with and/or are carriers of hereditary diseases for which there is diagnostic testing such as: hip/elbow dysplasia, eye disease, thyroid disease, and heart disease and follow OFA's recommendation of health testing of Great Danes.
 - b) Members will use dogs for breeding which are of a mature age, have sound temperament, structure, conformation, type and have been evaluated and have no disabling defect or hereditary disease.
 - c) Member will ensure dogs are not brokered, consigned or involved with Pet shops, puppy mills, auctions or any other commercial enterprise; this includes studs/broods.
 - d) Members will make every effort to microchip and register every puppy prior to transferring to new owner.
 - e) Members will transfer puppies to new owners in accordance with laws of their state and meet a minimum federal standard for transporting puppies.
 - f) Members will undertake the task of educating and encouraging all newcomers to the world of purebred dogs no matter their interest; pet-owner, exhibitor, trainer or breeder.

The Willamette Valley Great Dane Club takes seriously its role as a steward of the Great Dane breed. The following question is intended to provide the Club with information to evaluate a member/prospective member's appropriateness for Club membership in accordance with items 3a and 3b above.

Have you ever been charged with animal cruelty, animal abuse, or animal neglect?

No _____ Yes _____

If you answered "Yes" please list the Charge(s), the situation that caused the Charge(s), and the outcome(s).

NAME: _____ SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

By signing above, the member/prospective member confirms their honest answer to the above question and agrees to adhere to the Code of Ethics as detailed above.

The Code of Ethics is established to further the objectives of the WVGDC as set forth in the WVGDC Constitution and By-Laws. {adopted X/XX/2020}