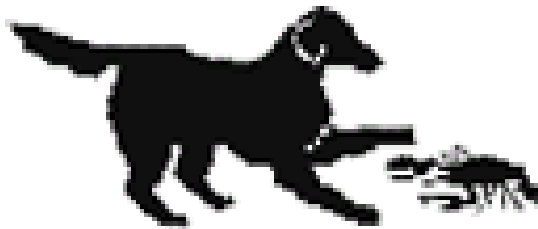


Please note ...

You must sign and submit  
both the application and the  
Code of Ethics to  
complete the application.





## **CODE OF ETHICS**

*As adopted by the Northeast Flat-Coated Retriever Club on February 8th, 1992*

The welfare and protection of the Flat-Coated Retriever breed is the duty of all who are in any way associated with it. This includes pet owners, breeders, hunters, competitors, trainers, handlers; - any and all who are in contact with the breed in an ongoing manner. The Flat-Coat is a breed that has been carefully nurtured over the years in the hands of a few dedicated breeders and owners. As a result, we have a generally sound, healthy breed that is able to function in most aspects of canine activity. It is a dog that is a source of pleasure to his/her owner and asks only a close human bond, and that we understand and accept this need.

### **OWNERS RESPONSIBILITIES:**

**ROUTINE ATTENTION TO YOUR DOGS GENERAL HEALTH AND WELL BEING IS THE SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT RESPONSIBILITY OF DOG OWNERSHIP**

#### **I. HEALTH:**

- o Yearly checkups and maintenance are a must.
- o Whenever signs of unexplained illness occur, see your veterinarian.
- o Do not expose other dogs to your unhealthy Flat-Coat.

#### **II. CARE:**

- o Make sure that fresh water is always available.
- o Provide warm, dry quarters in cold weather, and plenty of shade in hot weather.
- o Set aside a daily period for "quality time: with your Flat-Coat.

#### **III. SURROGATE CARE:**

- o Know your caretakers, whether as kennel operators or as sitters that come to your home.
- o Be sure these people understand the Flat-Coat and its needs.
- o Keep in constant touch with them.

#### **IV. GOOD NEIGHBOR:**

- o Train early and consistently.
- o Confine your Flat-Coat to his/her own property, preferably in a safe enclosure.
- o Never tie a dog out unless under close supervision.
- o Control unnecessarily long periods of barking.
- o Always clean up after your Flat-Coat whether at home or away.

### **BREEDERS:**

**DO NOT PLAN TO BREED YOUR FLAT-COAT AT ALL UNTIL YOU KNOW THE BREED WELL, AND HAVE BEEN IN IT FOR SEVERAL YEARS.**

#### **I. Planning:**

- o Only consider breeding if your Flat-Coat has the potential to contribute to the preservation and improvement of the breed.
- o Always work within the framework of the breed standard.
- o Thoroughly research pedigrees.
- o Consult knowledgeable people who have many years of Flat-Coat experience and who are in a position to know what is behind the dogs in your planned breeding.
- o Consider physical and mental health, as well as temperament.
- o The owners of the Stud Dog and Brood Bitch should be completely willing to discuss all positive and negative traits of their respective dogs, and not suppress information which might be to the detriment of the breed.
- o Be sure all breeding stock is in excellent physical and mental health with no discernible inherited defects.
- o Hips should be certified after the age of two, patellas checked, and any other known physical problems cleared up before breeding.
- o Eyes should be checked annually by a qualified veterinarian.
- o Breed only after the age of two when the bitch/dog has matured and is old enough to withstand the stress of breeding.
- o Breed a bitch once a year at the most.

## II. Puppy Placement

- o Breed only if you have responsible buyers for the pups who understand the needs of this special breed.
- o Use spay/neuter contracts, or limited AKC registrations for those Flat-Coats that have nothing to add to the gene pool.
- o Breed only if you are willing to be responsible for your pups from birth to death.
- o Send off a puppy to its new home with all pertinent papers:
  - oo AKC registration application.
  - oo Health record with all give shots and wormings.
  - oo Four generation pedigree.
  - oo Information on general care and feeding instructions.
  
- oo Put all agreements in writing - even with your best friend.
- oo Keep in touch with your puppy people. Be a good listener and keep careful records.

## EXHIBITOR/COMPETITORS:

**REMEMBER THAT YOUR FLAT-COAT IS NOT JUST A POSSESSION THAT ALLOWS YOU TO BASK IN THE REFLECTION OF HIS ACCOMPLISHMENTS, WHETHER IN THE SHOW RING, THE FIELD, OR OBEDIENCE.**

- o Always keep your Flat-Coat's physical comfort and mental well-being uppermost in mind.
- o Train humanely, reward meaningfully, let him know how pleased you are.
- o Do not confine your Flat-Coat in a crate for hours on end. Give him some release time to stretch his/her muscles and mind.
- o Always put his/her needs before yours during times of stress such as a weekend of shows or a week of intense field competition.
- o Know your trainers and handlers. Be sure they understand those idiosyncrasies of the breed that help to make it special.
- o Do not tolerate any unnecessarily harsh training methods or living conditions.
- o Keep in frequent touch.
- o Accept your dog's limitations and, if necessary, place him in a home better suited to his mental and physical requirements.

Above all, do not keep a constant parade of Flat-Coats going in the front door and out the back because you can't find one to fit your ambitions. Better to get another breed.

## GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP:

- o Quite simply, observe the golden rule - "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you".
- o Be both a kind winner and a generous loser.
- o Do not talk or gossip about people, and especially about their dogs.
- o If you have a comment to make in the spirit of helpfulness, take the owner/exhibitor aside to do it.

As a member of the Flat-Coat fraternity it is also our duty to be willing to lend a helping hand if it need be. To be ready to help those in dealing with a Flat-Coat problem. If not able to help, be ready to refer someone more experienced for assistance. To be aware of any known unethical breeders, or of any known abuse or abandonment, and upon documentation, be willing to report all such activities to those most able to deal with them. We are all in this breed together and must stand as one for the good of our beloved Flat-Coats.

**I have read and agree to abide by the NEFCRC Code of Ethics**

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_