

**CODE OF ETHICS**  
**THE RUSSELL TERRIER ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA**

This Code of Ethics is established to set a standard of acceptable behavioral limits for the Russell Terrier Association of America members. The Code is designed to protect the interests of the club and to protect and preserve the Russell Terrier.

The Russell Terrier Association of America was formed and exists to encourage and promote the responsible breeding and ownership of Russell Terriers and to protect and advance the interests of breed. Toward these ends, The Russell Terrier Association of America recommends the following practices as ethical.

- Abide by the Constitution and By-laws of the Russell Terrier Association of America and the rules of the American Kennel Club.
- Maintain the animal(s) in an environment and under a regimen that as far as possible ensures the well being of the dog.
- Make use of available DNA testing and health screening when needed in order to reduce genetically transmitted defects as much as possible.
- Familiarize oneself with the AKC Standard of the Breed and strive to breed only Russell Terriers of characteristic type, sound structure and temperament, directing ones efforts to producing dogs in conformity to the AKC Standard.
- Keep accurate breeding records and registration information in accordance with American Kennel Club regulations.
- Breed bitches in good condition and health according to AKC recommendations.
- Only undertake the breeding of a bitch when one is prepared to keep the resultant puppies until they are suitably placed. Members offering a dog at stud should require similar assurances from the owners of bitches.
- Puppies should not be sold prior to 8 weeks of age. Puppies and adults should be sold with appropriate vaccinations for their age.
- Members should provide stud service only when satisfied that the owner of the bitch has such time and facilities necessary for the proper development of the puppies.
- Should not misrepresent or fail to disclose known hereditary defects, health and physical condition of any stock offered for sale or breeding purposes. .
- Not knowingly sell a Russell Terrier of any age to a pet shop, catalog house, laboratory or any wholesale dealer in dogs (a dealer being a person who regularly buys dogs for sale at profit), or to any person who sells to any of the above. Members will not knowingly offer stud service to wholesale dealers or to any person involved with pet shops, catalog houses or laboratories. No Russell Terrier will be provided for use in raffles, auctions or similar enterprises.
- Assume an ongoing responsibility for the Russell Terriers that they produce. A Russell Terrier in need of a new home, who is owned by, bred by or sired by a dog owned by a member of the RTAA should not become a rescue dog. Whenever feasible this dog should become the responsibility of the owner, or breeder.
- Engage in advertising that is as factual as possible. Misleading exaggerations or unfounded implications of superiority shall not be used.
- Refrain from knowingly making unfair or untrue statements about the dogs or practices of others.