

Löwchen Club of America, Inc. Code of Ethics

Each member agrees to abide by this Code of Ethics when accepting membership into the Löwchen Club of America, Inc. (LCA). Membership carries with it an obligation to abide by the Constitution of the LCA as well as this Code of Ethics. Each member also agrees to abide by the rules and regulations of the American Kennel Club (AKC).

General Practices:

- Support the Breed Standard as approved by the American Kennel Club.
- Exhibit good sportsmanship at all times as described by the AKC Code of Sportsmanship.
- Refrain from making false or malicious criticism of an LCA member, a competitor, a competitor's dog, an owner, or a judge verbally, written, or on social media.
- If a disagreement or dispute arises, it should be handled privately and professionally between the parties involved. If it cannot be resolved, issues may be taken to the board via the format stated in the constitution.
- Social media must not be used to air grievances or undermine the board, the Club, the members, or their dogs.

As a breeder I will:

- Be fully familiar with the AKC breed standard and breed only to improve the breed.
- A breeder should be familiar with the rules and regulations of the American Kennel Club governing record keeping, registrations, and sale and/or transfer of dogs.
- Truthfully and realistically represent any Löwchen being bred, sold and/or placed in terms of temperament, quality, health and genetic history.
- Test for possible hereditary defects in eyes, hips, and patellas are strongly recommended. These results should be made available to buyers and owners of animals that may use these dogs in a breeding program.
- It is strongly recommended that breeders obtain a Canine Health Information Center (CHIC) number by performing all of the recommended health tests listed on the CHIC website before breeding a Löwchen.
- Use health testing as a guideline to choose complimentary mates that do not exhibit the same heritable defects or genetic diseases.
- It is strongly recommended that breeders refrain from breeding Löwchen females until they are 24 months of age and from using males for stud before 12 months of age.
- It is strongly recommended that breeders do not breed animals that exhibit strong deviations in temperament from the breed standard.

Care and Sale of Litter:

- No member may knowingly sell to commercial wholesalers, retail brokers, or research laboratories.
- Puppies should not be donated for auctions, raffles, giveaways, or fundraisers.
- It is recommended all puppies be placed with a contract. Make full use of AKC's "Limited Registration" in selling puppies with disqualifying faults or, in the breeder's opinion, lacks the quality necessary for breeding.
- Clear and concise contracts are recommended for the sale of any puppy or adult. Included in this contract should be a provision that should the owner ever be unable to keep this dog, that they will notify the breeder first and never place this dog in an animal shelter or similar facility. The breeder should be prepared to reclaim this dog or provide for its re-homing.
- It is recommended that puppies not be placed in their new homes until at least 8 weeks of age.
- Place each puppy or dog, to the best of your knowledge, healthy and free of communicable diseases and parasites and with age appropriate vaccinations deemed necessary.
- Requiring and checking references of prospective buyers is strongly recommended. Educating buyers as to the nutritional requirements, care, grooming, activity level and training necessary for this breed is also strongly recommended.
- Supply the new owner with an AKC registration certificate, immunization and veterinary records, and suggested future immunizations.
- It is recommended that the new owner is given information on joining LCA.
- All puppies produced should be permanently identified.
- Should a Löwchen bred by any member of LCA end up in Rescue, the member should endeavor to do one, or all, of the following: take back the dog; assist Rescue in re-homing the dog; and/or make a donation to Rescue to the extent the member can afford to do so in order to assist in the care and re-homing of the dog.
- Breeders should strive to maintain contact with the new owner(s) of the Löwchen puppy throughout the life of the dog.

Violations to the code of ethics shall be considered prejudicial to the best interest of the Club and the breed. The process for filing charge is addressed in the Constitution and By-laws. Any proven violation can result in the disciplinary action such as suspension of membership or expulsion from the club.

Signed_____ Date_____

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