



GUIDELINES AND STATEMENT OF POLICY

FOR THE SAINT BERNARD CLUB OF AMERICA

The basic reason for breeding and exhibiting Saint Bernards is the improvement of each generation of the breed over the previous generations. All breeding and exhibiting activities should be viewed in this light. In keeping to this aim, the following practices are suggested.

1 – Breeders shall strive for perfection of the Saint Bernard accordance with the official standard set by the American Kennel Club. In this regard they shall:

- A. Maintain high standards of health, care, safety and humane treatment of their dogs.
- B. Remember that a very small percentage of Saint Bernards are of breeding quality.
- C. Use only physically sound stock, free from crippling hip dysplasia, eye malformations and poor temperaments. Saint Bernards with outstanding defects should be spayed or neutered.
- D. Refuse stud service to any bitch that is unregistered or shows any of the above obvious defects.
- E. Study and know the good and bad points of their own stock -- never doubling-up on known or visible faults, or faults represented in the pedigrees of the dogs concerned.
- F. Ideally, X-ray for evidence of hip dysplasia at the age of one year or older, treating the mild cases as they would any other fault, and excluding from breeding programs dogs with evidence of severe hip dysplasia. X-rays should be read by recognized authorities on the disorder. Not every veterinarian is competent to take or pass upon such x-rays.
- G. Refrain from breeding the bitch until her second season, preferably waiting until at least 18 months of age. A bitch shall be bred no more than two out of three seasons; this depending upon the size of the litter whelped and her condition. It is suggested that in most cases a period of one year lapse between litters.

2 – Breeders shall not sell stock or offer stud services without true representation to the public, nor use misleading or untruthful statements verbally, in writing or in advertising.

3 – No member shall buy or sell Saint Bernards through brokers, agents, or commercial pet outlets, nor buy or sell in litter lots, nor sell to persons whose activities tend to degrade the breed.

4 – Puppy buyers should expect from their breeder a packet containing the following: a truthful four-generation pedigree, a vaccination and health record, written instructions concerning the care, feeding

and training of the dog purchased (Basic Care booklets are useful here), a bill of sale, application for registration in accordance with AKC requirements (with limited registration category used when appropriate), copy of the SBCA Illustrated Commentary, SBCA tri-fold standard, an application blank for SBCA subscriber status, referral to the SBCA web page, contact information about the SBCA Advisor Program, and lastly – a contract stipulating what is the breeder's policy regarding the rare situation where a puppy cannot be kept by the purchaser. It is intended that no dog from an SBCA member shall ever end up in Rescue or in an Animal Shelter.

5 – Purchasers shall be urged to spay or neuter Saint Bernards not suitable for breeding.

6 -- Registration papers shall be supplied without extra charge with every AKC dog. If the dog is not for breeding, this may be agreed to in a contract between the buyer and seller, and/or placed with AKC's Limited Registration status.

7 – A breeder shall guarantee the health of his/her stock subject to a veterinarian's examination within 48 hours of the sale.

8 – Breeders shall price their dogs in accordance with local rates for quality Saint Bernards. Undercutting the price of Saint Bernards eventually will make it impossible to breed good dogs for the return that can be expected.

9 – A breeder shall try to keep in touch with the progress of this breeding in order to better analyze his/her own program.

10 – Breeders shall exhibit at dog shows where feasible. In doing so, they shall show a spirit of good sportsmanship and behave and dress so as to enhance public opinion of the breed.

11 – Members shall not degrade any other kennel or member. It is the obligation of all to give advice and assistance to less experienced fanciers in a spirit of kindness and courtesy.

12 – No puppy shall be placed prior to being wormed and inoculated in accordance with standard veterinary practices.

13 – Breeders shall not place their puppies prior to seven (7) weeks of age.

14 – It is our intent that no dog bred by a member of the SBCA shall be homeless, be turned in to a rescue organization, or be surrendered to an animal shelter. Breeders will be responsible for their dogs, bitches and puppies that are, or have been, owned, co-owned or whelped by them.