

Maremma Sheepdog Club



of America



April 1, 2015

Maremma Sheepdog Club of America
Kristi Zwicker, Correspondence Secretary
31606 NE 40th Ave.
La Center, WA 98629

To the Members of the MSCA - Message from the President, Deborah Reid:

Thank you for continuing to support the Maremma Sheepdog Club of America! The new Board of Directors have been busy working on the club, bringing registrations current, revising and updating the Club policies, and moving the MSCA forward into a bright, new future for the Maremma Sheepdog breed. None of this would be possible without the support of the Members!

Updating the Club policies is one of the first tasks addressed by the Board. Attached you will find the revised Code of Ethics. The new CoE addresses the primary goals and standards for a Code of Ethics breeder.

What is the MSCA Code of Ethics and why is it important?

The Code of Ethics is a set of principles designed to guide breeder's conduct with honesty and integrity, for the protection and preservation of the Maremma Sheepdog breed, outlining the core values of the Club and the ethical principles in breeding to which Code of Ethics breeders will be held. The Code of Ethics is also a tool to encourage discussion of responsible breeding and improve breeder practices.

The MSCA Code of Ethics is an open disclosure of breeding guidelines for behavior, conduct and principles, which reflects the MSCA's commitment to the Maremma Sheepdog breed. The Code of Ethics is entirely optional. A breeder voluntarily signs it and by that signing agrees to uphold the MSCA Code of Ethics.

The Code of Ethics is considered the "Gold Standard of Breeding Practices" and the MSCA believes in the ethics outlined in the Code as the preferred breeding standards. The MSCA recognizes those breeders who have agreed to uphold these ethics by distinguishing them on the breeders list. Code of Ethics breeders are held to the stipulations of the Code of the Ethics and violations of the Code removes their CoE Breeder Status.

How does a breeder become a MSCA Code of Ethics Breeder?

“Understanding the importance of this Code is as relevant as the adherence to the letter of this Code.” The mission of the Maremma Sheepdog Club of America is to encourage breeder’s understanding and acceptance of the Code of Ethics for the betterment of the Maremma Sheepdog breed, as well as ethical breeding practices associated with sales, conduct, health, care, etc.

Code of Ethics Breeders are required to submit proof of hip certification for their breeding stock. This can be done by providing the MSCA with a copy of the dog’s hip certification from either OFA (www.offa.org) or PennHip (www.pennhip.org), or to provide the link to the dog’s OFA page.

By signing the MSCA Code of Ethics, the breeder acknowledges their understanding and agreement with the contents of the Code, and their agreement to abide by the principles set forth in the Code.

We have attached a copy of the new Maremma Sheepdog Club of America Code of Ethics and CoE Enforcement Guidelines. We encourage all members to read through the CoE. If you have any questions, please email Deborah Reid at debir1966@hotmail.com.

Current Code of Ethics breeders will retain their CoE Status by signing the new CoE and mailing it by May 1st, 2015 to:

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Remember to include a copy of your breeding dog’s hip certifications and/or the link to their OFA page for verification (this applies to current Code of Ethics breeders as well). Future hip certifications of all breeding dogs should be sent to the club prior to breeding so that there is no loss of CoE Breeder Status.

Thank you,

Deborah Reid
President, MSCA