

The Yorkshire Terrier Club of America, Inc.

Code of Conduct

- 1) Assistance and encouragement shall be willingly offered by members to Show Novices and others needing advice and guidance. The welfare of the breed will be in their hands in the future.
- 2) All dogs will be kept under safe and sanitary conditions, be given proper nutrition, protection, and maximum health care including regular inoculations as advised by the member's veterinarian.
- 3) Healthy spacing between litters will be a priority and unsplayed bitches will be protected from unplanned matings. Bitches will in no case be bred before their second heat or before they are at least eighteen (18) months of age, whichever comes first, nor be placed at risk by an unreasonable number of cesarean sections and then only with the concurrence of a veterinarian.
- 4) Puppies will not be sold or consigned to pet stores, agents, or other commercial enterprises nor sold to disreputable breeders, and neither puppies, adult dogs, nor stud services will be offered as prizes or for raffles.
- 5) Prospective buyers will be screened as thoroughly as possible to determine their intent, as well as their ability and interest in providing a safe, adequate, loving environment and a long term relationship with a puppy or adult dog.
- 6) All puppies and dogs offered for sale will be sold with written sales agreements to include clear terms and conditions and be signed by the seller and buyer. The contract will request that the seller be contacted in the event that at any time the owner is unable to keep the dog, it will be the obligation of the seller to assist in the placement of the dog in question.

7) Purchasers will be required to neuter/spay all puppies sold as pets. If specified in the written sales contract, the seller will promptly release limited registration forms upon receipt of a veterinarian's certification of such spaying or neutering.

8) All puppies leaving the breeders possession will be a minimum of twelve (12) weeks of age to facilitate adequate socialization as well as appropriate emotional and temperament development through interaction with siblings, dam and other dogs.

9) Breeders will provide puppy buyers with written details of feeding, general care, date and types of a minimum of two (2) inoculations, as well as dates of wormings, grooming instructions, etc. and be available to offer future advice as needed.

10) Stud service will be offered only by and to AKC Full Registered, or registered with an AKC approved foreign registry, healthy, mature dogs and bitches, respectively, and only of sound temperament. The dogs and bitches should be free of serious congenital and hereditary defects. Stud service will be refused for any mating which is considered to not be in the best interest of the breed which includes dogs and bitches with Q Registration in their pedigrees, and dogs and bitches of any color, or combination of colors not specified in the standard. Members will not sell dogs of such colors as exotic or rare.

11) Animals recently exposed to the risks of Infectious diseases and bitches with nursing whelp will not be exhibited.

12) Members realize that they represent the dog fancy in general and Yorkshire Terriers specifically to the general public. Members will act in a professional and good sportsmanlike manner at all times and will respect the rules of hotels/motels, other show sites and of all show sponsors.



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Legislative Issues

www.ytca.org

When it comes to Legislative issues, we encourage everyone to take ownership of what is happening in their individual areas. If help is needed in a given area, we can all step in and assist in sending letters/emails, making phone calls, or any other means of communicating our concerns. However, we have found that your elected officials first take notice of what their constituents have to say. That is where they get the vote.

The importance of Education cannot be emphasized enough. Engage your elected officials and their staff, pet owners, vet clinic employees, friends and neighbors and educate them about good legislation, bad legislation, and responsible dog ownership. Let's come together and protect our rights as responsible fanciers and stewards of our beloved Yorkies.

Speaking of rights, legislative issues can affect us in many ways. In this brochure, we have included three areas of extreme importance.

Limit Laws

Many responsible and loving animal owners, as well as their animals can be harmed by such legislation. People engaged in showing, field work, hunting and rescue often have a number of dogs and provide a good environment for them. Limiting the number of dogs could significantly harm these individuals. For example, people engaged in rescue are often fostering dogs until permanent homes can be found. They take dogs out of the shelters, spay and neuter and reduce the unwanted pet population. The emphasis should be on the conditions in which the dogs are kept and the enforcement of the existing animal control ordinances, such as leash laws, clean-up ordinances, and nuisance regulations, as well as increasing public education to address the issue of irresponsible dog ownership.



Breed-Specific Legislation

There are no bad dogs, only bad owners. No specific breed is a dangerous breed. A dangerous dog is a direct reflection of how they have been treated by their owners. There are other options to address dangerous dog control. Breed neutral laws should be established to hold owners accountable for their dog's behavior and appropriate penalties imposed on irresponsible owners. In addition, laws should include a fair process to identify a dangerous dog by its actions, and not the breed or mixture of breeds.

Spay/Neuter Legislation

Mandatory spay and neuter legislation is not the answer to the problem of overflowing shelters. These laws are ineffective, difficult and expensive to enforce, and disproportionately affects ethical breeders without impacting irresponsible breeders. As fanciers, we abhor the number of dogs that are euthanized. We ask that you look at where the problem originates and to differentiate between fanciers, backyard breeders and negligent pet owners. We support voluntary, low-cost, or free non-government controlled spay/neuter programs for companion animals.

As fanciers, we are not producing dogs for profit. Our goal is the betterment of our breed, both in conformation, health and temperament. We jealously guard our dogs and their reproduction. As stated in our Code of Conduct, we do not sell pets that can be bred. We always take back a puppy we have sold, no matter the age, if the pet owner cannot keep it. Additionally, we rescue, pulling Yorkies out of shelters, rehabilitating them (all medical and spay/neuter) and re-home them.



Drawing by Elissa Taddie



You may find the following resources helpful:

YTCA

A complete list of the YTCA Legislative Committee can be found on the YTCA website at the following link:

www.ytca.org/frame_index2.html.

We have also provided sample letters, with talking points, that address these three areas of great concern. Keep in mind that it is also very important to send Thank You letters to your elected officials, and their staff, for the hard work and hours spent on all legislative issues good or bad.

The American Kennel Club

The AKC website under Government Relations provides additional information on legislative issues.

For example: Legislative Alerts and Taking Command, a monthly newsletter on legislative issues nationwide.

Link to AKC legislative information:

www.akc.org/canine_legislation/

National Animal Interest Alliance

Link to NAIA Legal and Legislative Resources:

www.naiaonline.org/resources/legislative.htm.