

**AMERICAN ROTTWEILER CLUB**  
**MANDATORY PRACTICES**

**INTRODUCTION**

These Mandatory and Recommended Practices are established in accordance with the objectives of the American Rottweiler Club (ARC), as detailed in Article I Section 2 of the Constitution of ARC. This document applies to all ARC members. The practices pertaining to the health, husbandry, breeding, sale, or other disposition of Rottweilers apply to all Rottweilers owned or co-owned by ARC members as well as all Rottweilers ARC members choose as breeding partners. If you desire further clarification, please contact a member of the Board of Directors prior to any breeding.

There are two sections in this document: **Section I. Mandatory Practices**, which must be followed, and **Section II. Recommended Practices**, which are strongly encouraged.

**SECTION I. MANDATORY PRACTICES**

1. Maintain the highest possible standards of health, cleanliness and care of all Rottweilers. Rottweilers shall be safely contained when the breeder/owner cannot personally supervise their safety.
2. Observe the highest standards of sportsmanship and good will at all events. Assist all newcomers to the breed so that they may be guided in the ways that can best conserve and improve the Rottweiler.
3. Any docking of tails shall be done within seven days of birth. This does not apply to re-docking of an already docked tail. Rottweilers whose tails are left undocked, by seven days of age, may only be docked at a later date as a result of a medical necessity as certified by a veterinarian.
4. Study and strive to conserve and improve the breed in structure, health, temperament and working ability, never sacrificing one for the other.
5. Unless required to do so by law, no puppy or adult Rottweiler bred or owned by an ARC member shall be disposed of in an animal shelter or pound or knowingly be allowed to remain in the care of a rescue organization. Rottweilers shall not be given as prizes, offered in raffles, or sold at auctions, nor shall Rottweilers be exploited in any detrimental manner.
6. Plan all litters with the goal of improving the Rottweiler breed, giving consideration to individual health benefits and concerns. Breed only Rottweilers having stable temperaments and no disqualifying physical faults according to the American Kennel Club (AKC) Rottweiler Standard (entropion, ectropion, overshot, undershot, wry mouth, 2 or more missing teeth, unilateral cryptorchid or cryptorchid males, long coat, any base color other than black, absence of all markings). Exception: Missing Teeth. A Rottweiler that is missing more than one adult tooth may be bred if the Rottweiler is listed, at the time of breeding, in the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals (OFA) Dentition Database as having no more than one missing tooth.

Any Rottweiler used for breeding that resides in the United States must be AKC registered. Any Rottweiler residing outside the United States used for breeding must meet all the requirements to be eligible for registration with AKC.

7. No Rottweiler born after 1/1/2008 that is owned or co-owned by a member of ARC may be bred unless all breeding partners meet the following requirements prior to the breeding:
  - A. A Canine Health Information Center (CHIC) number must be issued. To be issued a CHIC number, results of all parent club-required tests must be released for public review, whether pass or fail, and the Rottweiler must be permanently identified (by microchip or tattoo) at the time of testing. The requirements for a CHIC number are detailed in 7.B. through 7.E.
  - B. An OFA Hip Certification number (indicating an evaluation of Excellent, Good or Fair) from x-rays taken at 24 months of age or older.
  - C. Elbows x-rayed at 24 months of age or older and recorded with OFA with results released for public review regardless of pass or failure. It is strongly recommended to breed only normal elbows to normal elbows, or Grade 1 DJD to normal elbows.
  - D. An evaluation of "Cardiac Normal" at 24 months of age or older with results submitted to and recorded with OFA. It is strongly recommended that the cardiac evaluation be performed by a Board-Certified Cardiologist and strongly recommended that the certification be done by echocardiogram.
  - E. An OFA Companion Animal Eye Registry (CAER) number (example "RO-EYE240/20M-VPI") or Canine Eye Registry Foundation (CERF) number (example "RO-383170") issued and based on an eye exam performed at 24 months of age or older by an American College of Veterinary Ophthalmologist (ACVO) Board-certified ophthalmologist. Re-examination and re-certification must be performed at a minimum of every three years and must be dated within three years prior to being bred. In the case of frozen semen being used from a dog born on or after January 1, 2008, the eye certification must be dated within three years prior to the date of collection.
  - F. In addition to obtaining a CHIC number by meeting the requirements listed in 7.A. through 7.E., ARC members must avoid producing puppies affected by the deadly DNA mutation Juvenile Laryngeal Paralysis and Polyneuropathy (JLPP). The best way to avoid producing affected puppies is to DNA test all breeding stock and to ensure that two carriers are never bred together. DNA test results must be recorded with OFA and must reflect the individual's AKC number and name.

All breedings done by an ARC member MUST have at least one parent clear of carrying the DNA mutation. A Rottweiler can be established as CLEAR by the following options:

- Clear by DNA test, recorded with OFA (example RO-LPP123/3F-PI);
- Clear by parentage, recorded with OFA (example RO-CBP123/3F-PI); and/or
- Clear by parentage, when BOTH sire and dam of the Rottweiler being bred are recorded with OFA as clear by DNA test (example RO-LPP123/3F-PI), proving both parents are clear of the DNA mutation.

8. Foreign Rottweilers “Foreign Rottweilers” are defined as Rottweilers residing outside of the US and/or Canada. Once a Rottweiler is imported to the US or Canada, it MUST have requirements completed as listed in 7.A. through 7.F.; that is; health screenings identical to Rottweilers born and residing in the US and Canada.

The requirements in subsections 7.A. through 7.F. apply to all Rottweilers born outside the United States or Canada. However, the ratings/results certification age of hips and elbows shall be as allowed by the certifying foreign counterpart to OFA of the country in which the Rottweiler resides.

Foreign Rottweilers must be over 24 months of age at the time of breeding.

Foreign Rottweilers born after 1/1/2008 shall not be required to have a CHIC number, but shall be governed by the following requirements at the time of breeding:

- A. Hip and elbow evaluation ratings/results that are issued by a foreign counterpart to OFA (ie: ADRK, FCI, BVA, to name a few) must be recorded with OFA for public review. Copies of the Rottweiler’s foreign counterpart certifications must be obtained and retained by the ARC member using the individual for breeding, and the ratings/results must be disclosed in advertising. Ratings/results of foreign counterparts, while different than those used by OFA, can generally be compared to those used by OFA, and equivalent ratings/results to those of OFA are required for Rottweilers used for breeding.
- B. Eyes must be examined at 24 months of age or older, certified “Normal” or “Passing”, and certification recorded with OFA.
  - Examination and certification must be performed by an ophthalmologist certified by the European College of Veterinary Ophthalmologists (EVCO) or other ECVO Diplomate, or by OFA.
  - If the exam is performed using the International Ophthalmic Exam, OFA will not issue a certificate or number but normal results will be recorded by OFA on their database.
- C. Heart must be evaluated at 24 months of age or older, certified “Normal” or “Passing”, and certification recorded with OFA.
  - Examination and certification should be performed by European College of Veterinary Internal Medicine – Companion Animals (ECVIM-CA) accredited veterinarians. It is strongly recommended that the evaluation be performed by a European Society of Veterinary Cardiology (ESVC) Diplomate and strongly recommended that the evaluation be by echocardiogram.
- D. DNA testing for the genetic mutation known to produce JLPP must be performed and a copy of certification of results obtained.

With regard to JLPP, breeding partners must be selected following one of the options in 7.F.

9. Rottweilers being used for breeding that were born prior to January 1, 2008 must meet the health requirements from the 1999 Mandatory Practices. Dogs and bitches must have OFA certified hips (or HD-free hips as certified by foreign counterparts of OFA). Imported Rottweilers must have OFA hip certification within 6 months after arrival in USA. If frozen semen is used from an imported Rottweiler, the dog must be x-rayed and certified by the OFA or foreign counterpart at no less than 24 months of age.
10. Dogs offered at stud must be mature, healthy, free of communicable disease, and meet all the applicable requirements for breeding in these Mandatory Practices. Stud service must be offered only by written and signed breeding contract. Stud dog owners must refuse stud service to a bitch that does not meet the applicable requirements for breeding in these Mandatory Practices.
11. Bitches must not be bred without a written and signed breeding contract with the stud dog owner. Both bitch and stud dog must meet the applicable requirements for breeding in these Mandatory Practices.
12. Bitches shall not be allowed to produce litters in more than two consecutive seasons. Bitches bred to more than one sire during a single season must adhere to the AKC regulations governing multiple sire litters found at <http://www.akc.org/dna/multisire.cfm>
13. All Rottweilers are to be sold on a written and signed contract between the breeder(s) and buyer(s). All adults and puppies sold must be guaranteed to be in healthy condition, including adequate protection against known diseases. Breeders or sellers should keep and provide buyers with up-to-date and accurate health, breeding and registration records and pedigree records of at least 3 generations. Registration papers may be withheld and/or breeder’s rights retained only by mutual agreement in writing, signed by all parties. All Rottweilers not purchased as show and or breeding stock shall only be provided with the AKC limited registration form (AKC allows breeders to remove limitation at a later date if warranted). Breeders should release puppies to their new home only after they reach a minimum of seven (7) weeks of age.

14. Sellers should honestly evaluate adults and puppies offered for sale, according to the AKC Rottweiler Standard, and state clearly to the potential buyer(s) the quality of any Rottweiler sold. All advertising of adults and puppies for sale shall be honest and informative and shall in no way misrepresent the animals offered. Prices shall be based on the individual merit of the adults and puppies offered and shall not be included in any advertising.
15. Rottweiler adults and puppies should be sold only to responsible persons. Sellers must avoid knowingly selling to any person or entity which engages in any activity that might exploit the individual and/or the breed.
16. Breeders must recognize that they have a LIFETIME responsibility for puppies produced by their brood bitch or stud dog. Breeders and stud dog owners recognize the inherent obligation to provide a stable environment that protects each puppy's physical and emotional well-being. This includes helping to relocate to a new home a puppy or adult with which the owner is dissatisfied or accepting the return of any puppy or adult. Any provisions for refunds or reimbursement of expenses shall be handled in the sale contract between breeder(s) and owner(s).

## **SECTION II. RECOMMENDED PRACTICES**

1. Encourage working titles to retain the Rottweiler's correct working temperament. Encourage the showing of future breeding animals in the conformation ring, keeping in mind that the purpose of such shows is to improve the breed by objective evaluation of the animals in competition according to the Breed Standard.
2. Encourage participation in health studies which are listed by the Rottweiler Health Foundation ([www.rottweilerhealth.org](http://www.rottweilerhealth.org)).
3. Encourage all Rottweilers, even those not being used for breeding, to be tested for the various health clearances, signing authorization to release abnormal result, in order to provide better statistical results. It is suggested that any of these tests be performed at the same ages **required in Section I. 7.**
4. It is strongly recommended that ALL Rottweilers, especially those used for breeding, have a Canine Good Citizen Certification and/or pass an ATTS test.
5. It is strongly recommended that Stud dog owners should disclose any health and potential Standard disqualification problems in the dog's pedigree, which are known to them, to any bitch owner requesting stud service. It is also strongly recommended that bitch owners should disclose any health and potential Standard disqualification problems in the bitch's pedigree, which are known to them, to any stud dog owner from whom they are requesting stud service.
6. It is strongly recommended that any known health and potential Standard disqualification problems in the pedigree be disclosed to a puppy/adult Buyer.
7. It is strongly recommended that puppy contracts require that the registration form, full or limited, must be submitted to AKC.
8. It is strongly recommended that when breeding decisions are made, consideration be given to disorders that may have a genetic component including, but not limited to, cruciate ligament injuries, von Willebrand disease, hypothyroidism, and orthopedic disorders such as osteochondritis. Consideration should also be given to potential Standard disqualifications, such as missing teeth, long coat, etc.
9. It is strongly recommended that prospective breeding candidates and their immediate relatives be tested for any hereditary disease and/or breed standard disqualifications for which there is diagnostic testing; e.g. Coat length, Degenerative Myelopathy; Uric Acid (Hyperuricosuria).
10. It is strongly recommended that stud dogs be limited to 24 or fewer breedings (each resulting in three or more live puppies) in a 12-month period to allow opportunity to realize their contribution (both positive and negative) to the gene pool.
11. It is strongly recommended that Rottweilers being used for breeding should have an AKC DNA profile or OFA/CHIC DNA repository number completed. This may be done at any age but is strongly recommended to be done and reported prior to being bred.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

As a member of the American Rottweiler Club, I acknowledge I have read and understand this document and agree to adhere to all MANDATORY PRACTICES detailed herein. I understand that the MANDATORY PRACTICES detailed herein are applicable to all Rottweilers owned, co-owned or leased by or from me, as well as any breeding partners. I further agree to abide by the RECOMMENDED PRACTICES detailed herein to the best of my ability.

I understand and agree that upon receipt of sufficient written proof of violations of these MANDATORY PRACTICES, the Board of Directors of the American Rottweiler Club will proceed according to the American Rottweiler Club Bylaws, Article VI. Discipline. I further understand and agree that should I, through no fault of my own, be in violation of any of MANDATORY PRACTICES, I shall have recourse to the Board of Directors.

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