

Belgian Shepherd Dog Club of NSW

Code of Ethics Policy

1.0 Commencement Date: 1st July, 2022

2.0 Purpose: This Policy is intended to provide members of the Belgian Shepherd Dog Club of NSW (BSDCNSW) with clarity on the values and principles which are essential to adhere to regarding their guardianship of the Belgian Shepherd Dog within Australia, and their behaviour as representatives of the BSDCNSW.

By adhering to this Code of Ethics the BSDCNSW will achieve its objective of ensuring the positive profile and the improvement of purebred Belgian Shepherd Dogs in the wider NSW and Australian community.

3.0 Who does this Policy apply to: This Policy applies to all members of the BSDCNSW who represent the club and the Belgian Shepherd Dog breed in many facets of their daily lives, with repercussions for the reputation of the breed and the wider canine community in the case of non-compliance.

4.0 Policy

4.1 Non-compliance with the BSDCNSW Code of Ethics can have serious consequences for the BSDCNSW, Dogs NSW, its staff and its members, and the reputation of the Belgian Shepherd breed and other owners.

4.2 All reports of noncompliance with the BSDCNSW Code of Ethics will be actioned in accordance with the Dogs NSW Complaints Procedure. See <https://www.dogsnsw.org.au/media/3301/complaint-procedure-form.pdf>

4.3 Accordingly, disciplinary action may be taken in accordance with the Dogs NSW Complaints Procedure, and could include:

4.3.1 Issuing a formal warning and suspension of membership from BSDCNSW.

4.3.2 Referral of the matter to Dogs NSW; and/or

4.3.3 Information being provided to the NSW Police Service.

Attachment one

Belgian Shepherd Dog Club of NSW Code of Ethics

The primary objective of this code of ethics is to express the values and principles which are essential for members of the Belgian Shepherd Dog Club of NSW (BSDCNSW) to adhere to regarding their guardianship of the Belgian Shepherd Dog within Australia, and their behaviour as representatives of the BSDCNSW.

1.0 ETHICAL CARE – BSDCNSW members will abide by the following guidelines in the care of their Belgian Shepherd Dogs:

- 1.1** Dogs NSW Guide for Care and Management. See <https://www.dogsnsw.org.au/media/3704/part-14-guide-for-care-mgmt-nov-20.pdf>
- 1.2** By local and state laws and legislation regarding, but not limited to, ensuring dogs under their control are properly contained within a fenced area or suitable enclosure, properly housed, fed, watered, exercised, and receive proper veterinary attention, if and where required, and that they fully comply with breeding and housing codes of practice.

2.0 ETHICAL BREEDING - BSDCNSW members will abide by the following guidelines when undertaking a breeding program:

- 2.1** The BSDCNSW Health Policy, including breeding recommendations and health certification of their breeding stock.
- 2.2** By local and state laws and legislation regarding, but not limited to, ensuring dogs under their control are properly contained within a fenced area or suitable enclosure, properly housed, fed, watered, exercised, and receive proper veterinary attention, if and where required, and that they fully comply with breeding and housing codes of practice.
- 2.3** Dogs NSW Code of Practice for Breeders and Record Keeping. See <https://www.dogsnsw.org.au/media/3603/code-of-practice-record-keeping-info-booklet-13-jan-2021.pdf>

3.0 ETHICAL BEHAVIOUR - BSDCNSW members will comply with the following expectations regarding their conduct as representatives of the BSDCNSW:

- 3.1** They must act in a way which falls within the community expectations of good and appropriate manners on club social media, at club events and meetings.
- 3.2** They must be polite and respectful to BSDCNSW, Dogs NSW, its staff members, its members, its affiliates of and any other related parties, including Judges, officials and attendees at club events.
- 3.3** They must not criticise, disparage, or make derogatory or negative comments about BSDCNSW, Dogs NSW, its staff members, members or affiliates, or any domestic or international Judges, officials and attendees at club events, either expressly or implicitly.
- 3.4** They must respond to others' opinions respectfully and professionally at club events and on club and breed social media.

- 3.5** They must not harass, bully, or intimidate, nor will they create a perception of harassment, bullying or intimidation towards any person or organisation while representing the club or the Belgian Shepherd Dog breed.
- 3.6** They must not make negative or adverse comments about any person, on the basis of their race, religion or sexual preference while representing the club or the Belgian Shepherd breed.
- 3.7** They must not make derogatory or negative comments pertaining to the dogs of another member of BSDCNSW, Dogs NSW or any of its affiliates, or create such comment that would be perceived as being derogatory or negative against dogs of another member of Dogs Australia or any of its affiliates.
- 3.8** They must not utilise abusive, profane, obscene, or sexually explicit language or material at club events and on club and breed social media.
- 3.9** They must not engage in any conduct that could be reasonably considered to be:
 - 3.9.1** Dishonest, malicious, vexatious or scandalous or contrary to law;
 - 3.9.2** Discreditable to the member concerned or any other member;
 - 3.9.3** Prejudicial or injurious or tending to prejudice or injure any person interested in canine affairs;
 - 3.9.4** Prejudicial or injurious or tending to prejudice or injure the interests, image or standing of the Dogs NSW; or
 - 3.9.5** Contrary to the spirit and intent of the Constitution, Rules and Code of Ethics or any other code, resolution policy or direction of Dogs NSW or BSDCNSW.
- 3.10** BSDCNSW members can find further guidance in regards to how to conduct themselves in the following documents:
 - 3.10.1** The BSDCNSW Constitution and Rules.
 - 3.10.2** The Constitution and Rules of Dogs NSW, including but not limited to:-
 - Dogs NSW Code of Ethics;
<https://www.dogsnsw.org.au/media/4103/part-13-code-of-ethics-july-2021.pdf>
 - Dogs NSW Bullying Prevention and Guidelines
<https://www.dogsnsw.org.au/media/3033/dnsn-bullying-prevention-management-guidelines-statement.pdf>

Adopted at Special General Meeting via phone link up on 06/07/2022 unanimously.