

# **Shiba Club of Southern California**

## **Code of Conduct and Ethics**

This document clarifies the responsibilities that the Shiba Club of Southern California (SCSC) and its members have to each other, to the Shiba Inu breed, to the public and our communities. It helps us understand the responsibilities we share, and alerts us to important legal and conduct issues that may arise. Included herein, are the basic values and principles by which the SCSC has chosen to govern itself.

The purpose of the Shiba Club of Southern California is to protect and advance the interests of the Shiba Inu breed. This Code of Conduct and Ethics is designed to establish a standard of conduct to be followed by all members of SCSC, in order to promote the highest ideals among Shiba Inu owners and breeders and aim for the continuous improvement of the breed within the framework of the National Shiba Club of America (NSCA) and the American Kennel Club (AKC) approved breed standard, as well as to honor the Japanese Nihonken Hozonkai tradition and principles.

No part of this code may be waived or suspended without SCSC Board approval.

Code:

1. All members of SCSC shall conduct themselves, at all times, in a manner which will reflect credit upon themselves and upon the Club and breed regardless of the location or circumstances. This includes the ethical behavior within the context of direct public contact, written or electronic correspondences, social media or any other form of communication. This is especially the case when attending dog club meetings, special events, or shows, whether as an exhibitor, participant, volunteer or a spectator and will promote goodwill among fellow members and other owners of the breed. If it is deemed inappropriate or damaging to SCSC, its members or the general public at large, then the SCSC Board is to act immediately for the welfare of the Club or other parties. These aforementioned principles are considered the first priority for all members' conduct of ethical behavior and conduct as a member of SCSC.
2. Each member of SCSC will consider the welfare of the breed when engaged in any activities involving the breeding, exhibiting, selling of Shiba Inu's and will refrain from any actions which would be prejudicial to the best interests of the breed and of SCSC. Breeders should accept responsibility for those animals that are the result of their breeding, whether they are abandoned, found in shelters or if any owner finds themselves unable/unwilling to care for a dog.

3. No member of SCSC shall engage in wholesaling (puppy milling) of litters or individual sales of puppies or adults to pet shops, or other commercial establishments, nor shall they be given as prizes in contests, nor exploited to the detriment of the breed or of purebred dogs, nor any other type of wholesale outlets, including, but not limited to mail order houses, dog agents, federally licensed dog dealers in the U.S. or any foreign country or act as a finder for an agent/broker, or by internet auction, or sell to institutions involved in research.
4. All violations and/or infractions to the Code of Conduct and Ethics are to be brought to the attention of the SCSC Board of Directors. The first code of the Code of Conduct and Ethics is an offense pertaining to human-to-human behavior warranting immediate action by the SCSC Board of Directors because of the nature of and means of global exposure and potential damages. If found to be of unethical or unprofessional violations and/or infractions, as stated above, the member(s) are to be barred from further SCSC involvement or association. Other than the first Code of Conduct and Ethics listed, all will be dealt with in the manner prescribed by the SCSC Constitution and By-laws.
5. Agree to follow the regulations as set forth by the AKC and NSCA and its breeding standards.
6. Agree to abide by and uphold the principals of the Constitution and By-laws and Code of Conduct and Ethics of SCSC.
7. Establish a reputation of trust and honor among my fellow Club members and all interested parties.
8. Try at all times to show good sportsmanship and keep in mind that the good of the breed comes before any personal benefits.